

Working Group 1 and 4 workshop in Zadar, Croatia

Report

Venue: Zadar municipal library

Time: 19th and 20th September 2019

Participants: Tareq Abu Hamed, Roberto Barrella, Françoise Bartiaux, Philipp Biermann, Raül Castano, Malgorzata Dereniowska, Audrey Dobbins, Ute Dubois, Marielle Feenstra, Richard Filcak, Katrin Großmann, Rachel Guyet, Jasna Hivziefendic, Ana Horta, Nikolas Katsoulakos, Ioanna Kyprianou, Milan Lipovac, Slobodan Luković, Fernando Martín Consuegra, Lina Murauskaite, Massimo Palombo, Louiza Papamikrouli, Charlie Roarty, Ivana Rogulj, Anca Sinea, Ana Stojilowska, Majda Tesanovic, Nikolaos Thomaidis, Lidija Zivcic.

Minutes by: Raül Castano, Audrey Dobbins, Ute Dubois, Marielle Feenstra, Katrin Großmann, Rachel Guyet, Anca Sinea, Lidija Zivcic.

This workshop was organized as a follow-up of the WG1-WG4 meeting that was held in Brussels in June 2019. Exchanges were organized in the form of meetings on specific topics on which discussions had started being discussed in June 2019. Several new topics have been raised. In particular, the participants have expressed a strong interest for the transport energy poverty.

In terms of organisation, it has been decided that the production research outputs will be coordinated by sub-group leaders. In addition, Philipp Biermann will coordinate the sub-groups, which will allow a follow-up of the progress made on each topic.



Summary of topics discussed:

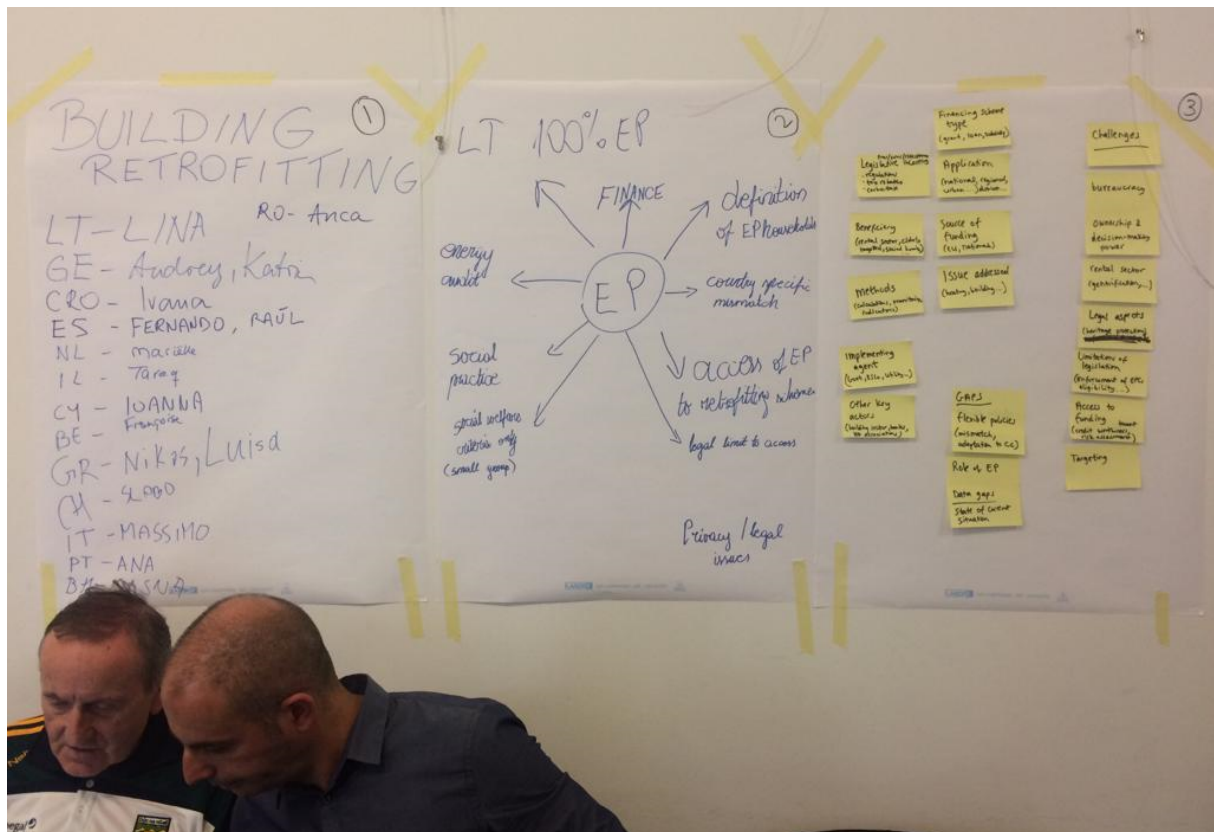
Topic	Start of work	Working group	Coordinators	Expected outputs
Climate change and winter EP	New sub-group	1 and 4	Dusana Dukopilova	One academic paper (September 2020)
Climate change and summer EP	New sub-group	1 and 4	Raul Castano	Survey on data sources
EP and trust	March 2019	1 and 4	Katrin Grossman and George Jigla	One academic paper
Energy communities	New sub-group	1 and 4	Marielle Feenstra and Rachel Guyet	Not defined yet
Transport EP	New sub-group	1 and 4	Marielle Feenstra and Raul Castano	One policy brief (summer 2020) and a conference in October 2020
Linking debates	March 2019	4	Ana Stojilovska and Lidija Zivcic	A WG4 case study (literature review)
EP and health	New sub-group	1 and 4	Ute Dubois and Caroline De Paoli	One policy brief
Buildings	New sub-group	1 and 4	Audrey Dobbins and Lina Murauskaite	One academic paper

1. Climate change and winter EP

Climate change raises the question of vulnerability of people to its effects. However, the participants noted that there is a difference between climate vulnerability and energy vulnerability. Therefore, one interesting question is: when do people become energy poor due to climate? People that are normally not in EP might become energy poor due to climate change.

The participants have agreed to work on three main topics. Firstly, describing the austere weather conditions and their physical impact on homes, consumption, etc. Secondly, analysing the types of fuel and their substitutes in relation to climate change. Thirdly, developing various forms of winter EP mappings. Two smaller topics were identified as well: the causal chain of winter EP and policy related questions.

The group coordinator was presented to be **Dusana Dokupilova**. She is going to coordinate the group and its outputs. Dusana will report on activity progress to Philipp Biermann. The group needs to put out at least an academic article by the end of September 2020.



2. Climate change and summer EP

The cooling of houses is mainly an issue in the European South. While summer EP becomes increasingly important on the agenda for the Mediterranean countries, countries in the European North are increasingly affected. Thermal insulation (for the winter) can be a problem for isolating houses against heat. Therefore, the issues of winter and summer EP should be integrated.

A first step will be to see how serious the issue is and how different regions are affected. We need data in temporal and spatial perspectives on temperatures which will allow calculating cooling degree-days. The group should perform a survey on data sources.

Another aspect that has been discussed are differences in mentality and culture in terms of the use of AC. Under the current circumstances of climate change, even the buildings that are designed to accommodate heat waves do not have the capacity to do it anymore. It would be interesting to see if there is a change of habits at play or if there is a combination of climate change and change of economic situation, a trend of demanding more. Raw data might be available in that sense. It should be determined what data might be useful.

The group coordinator was determined to be **Raul Castaño**. He is going to report on activity progress to Philipp Biermann. The group needs to put out at least an academic article by the end of September 2020.

3. EP and trust

This group has started exchanging on the topic at the Erfurt workshop in March 2019. Participants have been asked to interview energy poor households on the issue of trust (in particular on trust in institutions). The meeting allowed the participants to exchange on their first findings. A new agenda of priorities was identified at the end of the discussion:

- By the end of 2019 all countries need to have 5 interviews each.
- Greece will be added to the list. Ana Stojilovska will take care of this;
- A consistent lit review on trust will need to be performed (to be determined by Katrin & George);
- A lit review on organizational theory will be performed (Anca)
- Maybe guidelines need to be revised;
- The methodology needs to be clarified (to be determined by Katrin & George);
- Structure will be refined (to be determined by Katrin & George);
- A Dropbox might need to be established;
- To meet for a Skype call on Jan. 14th 2020 at 09.00-12.00



4. Energy communities

After a discussion on the definition of energy communities and on the aspects of energy poverty which should be addressed by energy communities, the participants decided to focus on three main questions:

- How to make the energy transition more just and more inclusive?
- What is the understanding of energy communities and alternative business models?
- How to use technologies to alleviate energy poverty?

The participants agreed to map good practices and to check whether the justice framework can be operationalised on the basis of this mapping.

The group coordinators are **Marielle Feenstra and Rachel Guyet**.

5. Transport EP

Transport energy poverty is an emerging theme both in research as in policy development. With an emphasis on sustainable mobility in urban areas, transport patterns are a concern for urban planners, but the affordability issues are often overlooked. Giulio Mattioli (University Dortmund) has different datasets and published several articles on this subject. He emphasises the importance of distinguishing forced and voluntarily transportation costs. In our discussion at the Zadar workshop, we added the urban/rural dimension and the distinction between car-using data and commute data. Energy poverty and transport is the interrelation of cost burden in household perspectives, cheap housing and basic living standards. Poverty is pushing citizens out of the more-expensive city centres to the sub-urban areas increasing their mobility challenges and affordable commute options. Transport consumption patterns of vulnerable consumers and their coping mechanisms are a blind spot for urban planners and policy makers.

After a discussion, the participants agreed to start an Engager research-workgroup on transport and energy poverty. The proposal is to put out a call for master students at affiliated universities to study transport and energy poverty from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Students are encouraged to use the Engager network to collaborate with students from different universities and backgrounds. This process will be stimulated by organising webinars and online discussions. The findings of these studies could feed into a policy brief (summer 2020). Early October 2020 an attempt will be made to organise an event in Brussels (maybe during the sustainable energy week) in which researchers, policy makers and students discuss transport and energy poverty. A liaison will be initiated with the Covenant of Mayors (energy poverty is now included).

The group coordinators were determined to be **Marielle Feenstra and Raúl Castaño**.

6. Linking debates

The group discussed an existing compilation of literature review parts on how energy poverty is linked to a number of related debates such as renewable energy production, housing markets and urban planning or gender, to name just a few. The discussion centred around the question where to go with this compilation and how this can be meaningfully but also efficiently be turned into an academic publication and potentially into a policy brief afterwards. Options like an academic article or a more open collection of the reviews in the fashion of a reference work with lexicon-like entries was discussed. Also, these ideas can be followed stepwise.

Decision: The group decided to deepen the literature review with a clear common methodology; so it can be published as a case study deliverable of WG4 by March, employing the reference work/ lexicon idea. The group coordinators (**Ana Stojilovska, Lidija Zivcic**) provide a new set of guidelines, authors elaborate more/revise by end of November.

7. EP and health

The discussion started with a presentation of the Irish experience in linking EP and health. In most other countries, the participants noted that it is still difficult to mobilise policy makers and health professionals to acknowledge and to address the links between EP and health. Frequently, policy makers are asking for quantitative evidence on the health benefits of EP alleviation. The participants agreed that quantifying these health benefits would be a difficult exercise. However, there seems to be a significant amount of literature on various EP-health relations in the different countries. Therefore, the objective of this sub-group could be to show how health is a critical aspect of EP alleviation.

The expected output of the work of this sub-group could be a policy brief, which will help raising awareness on the relation between EP and health among policy makers. The group coordinators will be **Caroline De Paoli** and **Ute Dubois**.

8. Buildings

The group discussion opened with introductions from members of the various Member States about the issues facing lower income households and households experiencing energy poverty with regard to their ability to access capital or financing mechanisms to implement building refurbishments. These issues were categorized and presented in a follow-up meeting the next day with the view of going further into depth about the types of research questions we wanted to focus. The interests of the group were distilled by exploring different perspectives on the topic, and were narrowed down to

financing mechanisms and limitations in available data. The main idea is to work on a review type article focusing on how energy poverty is specifically addressed/accounted for in each member state in relation to building retrofit schemes.

The coordinators, **Audrey Dobbins** and **Lina Murauskaite**, will feedback to participants and the wider group with minutes from the meeting and further manage the contributions from interested members as well as decide on a timeline for a publication.