



ENGAGER

ENERGY POVERTY ACTION

ENGAGER Training School 2: Mainstreaming innovative EP metrics

Call for applications



European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation – ENGAGER (COST Action)

ENGAGER Training School 2: Mainstreaming innovative EP metrics

26-30 April 2021, at five hubs across Europe and online
Call for applications for fully-funded participation

The [ENGAGER Training School 2](#) addresses the challenge of mainstreaming innovative energy poverty (EP) metrics. It covers complementary aspects of the overarching theme: digitisation, composite indices, transport energy poverty, cooling and hidden energy poverty, all in relation to impact at scale. We build on our [Training School 1 on mobilising data for energy poverty](#) research and action, held during June 2019.

Given the pandemic circumstances, this training school employs a trend-setting model of parallel hubs. We will gather small national groups in five European cities, each open to applicants who are able to spend the week at that location. We will also accept a small number of applications for remote participation based in other countries. Most training school content will be subsequently made available online for anyone to use.

Each hub anchors one day of the training school on five focus areas within the theme:

26 April: EP metrology and digitisation for low-carbon energy infrastructure (Bergen, Norway)

27 April: Composite EP indicators and popularising innovative datasets (Birmingham, UK)

28 April: Measuring transport energy poverty and impact on wellbeing (Magdeburg/Dortmund, Germany)

29 April: Mainstreaming EP metrics into NECPs including cooling (Lisbon, Portugal)

30 April: EP indicators, policy impact and hidden energy poverty (Getafe/Madrid, Spain)

Stavanger hub: EP metrology and digitisation for low-carbon energy infrastructure
Theme anchor: [Siddharth Sareen](#). **Additional trainers:** [Tomas Skjølsvold](#), [Tor Håkon Inderberg](#)

As low-carbon energy transitions advance, energy infrastructure becomes increasingly digitised. Rapid evolution is apparent in European cities where retail electricity is remotely monitored and controlled through digital data flows of real-time use down to household scale. Applications across sectors are emerging, for instance with distributed rooftop solar photovoltaic generation and smart charging of electric transport solutions. Yet this digitisation risks excluding the energy poor or exacerbating existing disparities, unless it is explicitly designed to ensure just distributive effects. The Stavanger hub will draw on fieldwork in urban Norwegian contexts to illustrate scope to make digitisation for low-carbon energy infrastructure an inclusive and fair process. It will bring forth examples of emerging metrics and principles that can be widely applied as more contexts undergo digitisation in key energy infrastructure. The module will feature emerging insights from the JPI Climate funded project [Responsive Organising for Low Emission Societies](#) (ROLES) on socially inclusive digitisation of energy infrastructures.

Birmingham hub: Composite EP indicators and popularising innovative datasets
Theme anchor: [Harriet Thomson](#). **Additional trainers:** [Caitlin Robinson](#), [Danielle Butler](#)

As a highly multidimensional issue, composite indicators have an important role to play in how we measure and understand the distribution and intensity of energy poverty. The Birmingham hub will begin with a conceptual exercise about designing composite indicators of energy poverty, combining insights from both qualitative and quantitative research. During the exercise participants will map out key themes of interest, considering how we can select innovative indicators that best represent each theme. We will also reflect on the aggregation and weighting of different indicators. Participants will then design and visualise their own composite indicators using pan-European data, e.g. EU Energy Poverty Observatory indicators. These composite indicators will provide a starting point for discussion about what data we are missing in Europe, both thematically (i.e. which aspects of energy poverty are we unable to represent with quantitative indicators?), and spatially (i.e. for which regions do we have a good understanding?). Our discussions will inform an application for a European Social Survey rotating module on energy poverty in 2022.

Magdeburg/Dortmund hub: Measuring transport energy poverty and impact on wellbeing

Theme anchors: [Philipp Biermann](#), [Giulio Mattioli](#)

While the focus of energy poverty research remains overwhelmingly on domestic energy consumption and affordability, similar issues in the transport sector are drawing increasing attention. Developing transport energy poverty metrics, however, requires more than just applying existing energy poverty metrics to a new sector. The Magdeburg/Dortmund hub will focus on this new area, and will be structured in three components: i) a critical discussion and examination of existing transport energy poverty metrics; ii) a review of studies that have attempted to measure 'double energy vulnerability', i.e. the overlap between domestic and transport energy poverty; and iii) an introduction of empirical approaches to measure the impact of domestic and transport energy poverty on subjective well-being. The session will rely on empirical studies conducted in France, the UK, Germany and Australia. We will engage with quantitative welfare assessment and survey data analysis with a focus on transport energy poverty indicators.



Lisbon hub: Mainstreaming EP metrics into NECPs including cooling

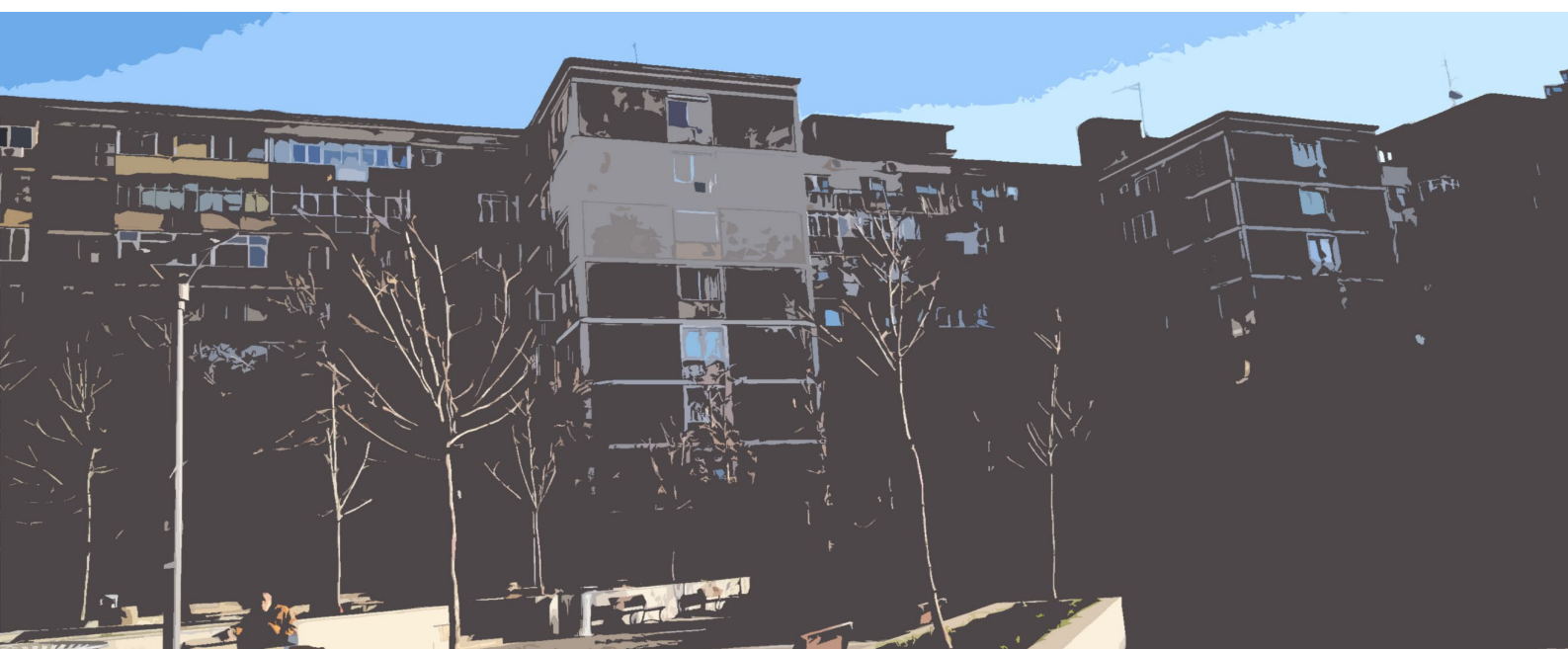
Theme anchors: [Miguel Brito](#), [Marta Panão](#). **Additional trainers:** [Ana Horta](#), [João Pedro Gouveia](#)

National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP) should tackle how nations can address and mitigate EP in the years to come. However, the EU Energy Poverty Observatory reported that EP is recognised by the NECPs in 18 out of 26 European countries, and only 14 of them explicitly mention the EP indicators used for monitoring. Summer energy poverty is a crucial challenge, especially for Southern European Countries, but it is only expressly addressed in the France NECP. The Lisbon hub will identify and discuss the main EP indicators used in various NECPs. Using examples at different spatial scales in Portugal, we will consider: i) which data sources can be drawn for EP assessment; ii) how to identify EP households and vulnerable districts; iii) how to quantify the impact of EP policies (e.g., subsidised energy bills, buildings renovation); iv) which indicators or indexes should be combined for a comprehensive understanding of summer and winter EP and allow its monitoring; and v) how to decrease EP in a sustainable manner aligned with NECP and carbon neutrality goals.

Getafe/Madrid hub: EP indicators, policy impact and hidden energy poverty

Theme anchors: [Raúl Castaño](#), [Sergio Tirado Herrero](#)

Following the legislative mandate of Directive 2019/944, EU member states have put in place monitoring and reporting frameworks that contribute to a better recognition of energy poverty. These metrics, however, emphasise indoor thermal discomfort, low incomes and high energy bills, which are symptoms rather than causes. This comes at the expense of hidden aspects (recognised in the literature, but not in practice) of the lived experience of energy poverty, such as household indebtedness, disconnections and precarious, informal or irregular connections. In this vein, the Getafe/Madrid hub aims to critically examine existing institutional indicators and to discuss new metrics for better civic engagement and policy-making. The hub session will rely on ongoing work of the host institution (UC3M) in the [Energy Poverty Intelligence Unit \(EPIU\) project](#) – an [Urban Innovation Action](#) that seeks to identify hidden energy poverty and establish advanced and innovative support mechanisms for vulnerable households in two neighbourhoods of the municipality of Getafe in Spain's Madrid region.



Application logistics and eligibility

Please apply to a hub where you can be physically present during 26-30 April 2021. We will have live sessions across hubs during 10-13 CET (9-12 GMT) on all days. Email a 500 word letter of application and 2-page CV as one PDF file with the subject line “ENGAGER TS2” to siddharth.sareen@uis.no including your institutional affiliation and location. If applying as a remote participant, specify this as well. Applications are accepted up to 23:59, Friday, 5th March 2021.

Applications are welcome from early career researchers (up to seven years past PhD) as well as practitioners based at institutions with relevance to energy poverty research. Civil society workers are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be based in COST or COST Associated countries, and ITC applicants will be prioritised for remote participation. Physical participation will be reimbursed in line with applicable [COST Vademecum](#) rules. Travel, board and lodging costs will be covered for the training school dates based on standard COST country rates. Local participants will be reimbursed a flat rate (currently €40 per day) for catering in addition to local travel costs. Those located more than 50 kilometres from their participating hub will be entitled to boarding, lodging and domestic travel in accordance with COST rates.

