

European Energy Poverty

Agenda Co-Creation and
Knowledge Innovation



Engaging with energy poverty in times of crisis

Final conference of the ENGAGER COST Action

Online / Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary; 11 – 13 April 2022

Energy poverty research in Europe has seen a surge in activity, interest and collaborations over the course of the last decade. Conceptual and methodological developments are transforming the ways in which societies understand domestic energy deprivation while also exposing its many cross-sectoral links with housing, climate change, low-carbon transitions, social welfare and public health. At the same time, effectively tackling energy poverty and pushing the limits of policy action is, at a time of multiple crisis, more needed than ever

The ENGAGER COST Action - a network of over 200 energy poverty researchers and practitioners across 41 countries in Europe and neighbouring regions - is genuinely contributing to this shared effort by fostering partnerships across energy poverty research and action energy since its onset in November 2017. The Action is coming to end in May 2022, and it is now time to showcase and assess the network's achievements throughout its four and a half years of existence, and to put forward a proposal for a future research and action agenda. There is also an urgent need to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine invasion crises on energy vulnerable populations across Europe. With these aims in mind, we welcome all COST Action members to the ENGAGER final conference.

Venue and modes of participation: The ENGAGER final conference will take place at the Budapest campus Central European University (Nádor u. 15, Budapest, 1051 Hungary) on 11-13 April 2022 as a hybrid event allowing for both online and in-person participation. It will run from morning to afternoon with plenary sessions, working group break-up sessions and time allocated for informal networking and a field visit in Budapest 8th district.

The ENGAGER final conference is co-hosted with Habitat for Humanity Hungary and CEU's Energy Policy Research Group (EPRG):



AGENDA

DAY 1: Monday 11 April 2022

8:45 - 9:30h **Welcome and reception** (with coffee and pastries)

9:30 - 10:00h **Institutional welcome**

[Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 1](#)]

- Mariëlle Feenstra (Chair of the ENGAGER COST Action; University of Twente)
- Benedek Jávör, Head of Representation of Budapest City Council to the EU
- Zsolt Szegfalvi (Habitat for Humanity Hungary)
- Michael LaBelle (Central European University)

10:00 - 11:00h **Setting the scene: Energy poverty in times of crisis**

[Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 1](#)]

Energy cultures and the geopolitics of energy justice and transitions: Michael LaBelle (Central European University)
ENGAGER 2017 – 2022: Contributions to a changing research and policy landscape: Harriet Thomson (Vice-chair of the ENGAGER COST Action; University of Birmingham)

11:00 - 11:15h **Coffee break**

11:15 - 13:00h **Perspectives on energy poverty in Central and Eastern Europe**

[Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 1](#)]

Chaired by George Jiglau (Babeş-Bolyai University) and Sergio Tirado-Herrero (Autonomous University of Madrid)

11:15 - 11:30h

Results of a household survey in Bulgaria, Hungary, North Macedonia, Lithuania and Ukraine: Éva Gerőházi (Metropolitan Research Institute)

11:30 - 12:20h: Country profiles

Ukraine: Anatoliy Goncharuk (International Humanitarian University)

Hungary: Anna Bajomi (Habitat for Humanity Hungary)

Slovenia: Lidija Živčič (Focus Association for Sustainable Development)

Romania: Anca Sinea and George Jiglau (Babeş-Bolyai University)

Slovakia: Dušana Dokupilová (Slovak Academy of Sciences)

Lithuania: Lina Murauskaite (Lithuanian Energy Institute)

Poland: Jakub Sokołowski (Institute for Structural Research) and Jan Frankowski (Polish Academy of Sciences; Institute for Structural Research)

North Macedonia: Ana Stojilovska (Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences Centre of Excellence)

Croatia: Slavica Robić (North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency)

12:20 - 13:00h Open discussion about the impact of COVID and energy price crises in the region and related policies and measures

13:00 - 14:00h **Conference lunch at CEU**

14:00 - 15:15h **ENGAGER Working Group 1 session: Transforming the state of the art**

[Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 1](#)]

Chaired by Anca Sinea (Babeş-Bolyai University) and Ute Dubois (ISG International Business School)

Based on the main outputs of WG1, this session will be dedicated to (1) analysing the main achievements of the working group in light of the recent crises and (2) discussing the need for further research collaboration on energy poverty.

The ENGAGER book on energy poverty in post-communist Europe:

- George Jigla (Bábes Bolyai University, Cluj): Main lessons from the book
- Hedvika Kodoušková (Masaryk University, Brno): Insights from recent work on the Czech Republic

The EP-pedia website (www.eppedia.eu):

- Philipp Biermann (Otto von Guericke Universität, Magdeburg): Origins of the project and main aims of EP-pedia
- Dušana Dokupilová (Slovak Academy of Sciences): Discussion of suggestions for the future

The ENGAGER Café:

- Mariëlle Feenstra (University of Twente): Aims and outcomes of the Café
- Lina Murauskaite (Lithuanian Energy Institute) and Jiri Karásek (SEVEN Energy): The experience of the Café and suggestions for future topics

15:15 - 15:30h **Coffee break**

15:30 - 17:30h **Matchmaking session: opportunities for future collaboration**

[Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 1](#)]

Chaired by Mariëlle Feenstra (University of Twente) and Slavica Robić (North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency)

Following the ENGAGER Café format of an open and transparent exchange of ongoing research, we will share our work in progress in a networking and playful setting. The following ENGAGER researchers are invited to present their ongoing work on energy poverty:

- Íñigo Antepara (University of Basque Country)
- Ioanna Kyprianou (Cyprus Institute)
- Nóra Feldmár (Habitat for Humanity Hungary)
- Hyerim Yoon (University of Girona)
- Irene González-Pijuan (Sheffield Hallam University)

[Wine and nibbles served at the end of the session for informal networking]

DAY 2: Tuesday 12 April 2022

9:00 - 10:15h

Keynote session: New research avenues

[Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 2](#)]

Chaired by Siddharth Sareen (University of Stavanger)

With contributions by:

- Katrin Grossman (Univ. of Appl. Sciences Erfurt): [Energy poverty and dignity](#)
- Marlies Hesselman (University of Groningen) and George Jiglau (Babeş-Bolyai University): [Energy as a right](#)
- Siddharth Sareen (University of Stavanger): [Double energy vulnerabilities – transport and domestic energy services](#)

10:15 - 11:30h

ENGAGER Working Group 2 session: Developing an operational European energy poverty framework

[Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 2](#)]

Chaired by Harriet Thomson (University of Birmingham) and Siddharth Sareen (University of Stavanger)

10:15-10:30 - Overview of WG2 outputs papers, policy briefs, policy events and inputs, capacity building (training schools) by WG2 co-leads Siddharth Sareen and Harriet Thomson

10:30-11:00 - Metrical evolution - what's next? With contributions by Carmen Sánchez-Guevara (Polytechnic University of Madrid, TBC) and Marine Cornelis (Next Energy Consumer, TBC) and Siddharth Sareen

11:00-11:30 - Joint discussion: Reflections on WG2 contributions to current crises and next steps. Thematic micro-discussions initiated by chairs with audience contributions.

11:30 - 11:45h

Coffee break

11:45 - 13:00h

ENGAGER Working Group 3 session: Dialogues – Co-producing emancipatory research and practice

[Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 2](#)]

Chaired by Marlies Hesselman (University of Groningen) and Sergio Tirado-Herrero (Autonomous University of Madrid)

Advocating for energy rights in times of crisis

11:45 - 12:00h - Overview and assessment of ENGAGER WG3 activities and outputs

12:00 - 12:15h - Energy poverty in the COVID-19 era: Mapping global responses in light of momentum for the right to energy (Marlies Hesselman, University of Groningen)

12:15 - 12:30h - Energy rights in practice: the experience of the Alliance against Energy Poverty in Catalonia (Maria Campuzano and Irene González-Pijuán)
12:30 - 12:45h - EU advocacy on energy rights: the Right to Energy Coalition (Martha Myers, TBC)
12:45 - 13:00: Joint discussion: Reflections on WG3 research and action agendas and their contributions to current challenges.

13:00 - 14:00h **Conference lunch at CEU**

14:00 -15:15h **ENGAGER Working Group 4 session: Innovation – Introducing path-breaking perspectives to the understanding of energy poverty**

[Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 2](#)]

Chaired by Katrin Grossman (Fachhochschule Erfurt) and Rachel Guyet (Sciences Po; CIFE European Institute)

Introducing the WG4 approach, achievements and main messages concerning the WGs objective to think outside the box.
Interactive presentations with contributions by WG4 members Rachel Guyet, George Jigla, Ana Stojilovska, Lidija Živčič, Katherine Mahoney, and Katrin Grossmann on the following lessons learnt:

- Innovative solutions combine technology with empowerment;
- Linking energy poverty with to other scholarly debates
- (Dis-)trust is a driver and an outcome of energy poverty,
- the potential of Ombudspersons and energy poverty;
- Right to energy: Bring energy under the social contract
- Energy communities are often not inclusive:
- A just transition with the people: who is the “no one” who should “not be left behind”?

15:30 - 19:00h **Field trip to Budapest 8th district**

16:00h Meeting at Budapest 8th district [RenoPont](#) and welcome from Gábor Erőss (Deputy Major of Budapest 8th district) (TBC)

16:00 - 16:40h Presentations by [RenoHUB](#) and [PowerPoor](#) projects

16:40 - 19:00h District 8th walking tour with tour guides of the by [Uccu Roma Informal Educational Foundation](#)

19:00 - 19:10h Arrival at [Gólya community centre](#) and presentation of renewable solar energy project (TBC)

19:10- 19:40h **Welcome drink and host introductions**

Habitat for Humanity roundtable with György Sümeghy, Zsolt Szegfalvi and Lili Vankó

19:40h **Conference dinner at Gólya community centre**

DAY 3: Wednesday 13 April 2022

- 9:00 - 10:15h **The EU context in a time of transformation**
- [Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 3](#)]
- Chaired by João Pedro Gouveia (NOVA University Lisbon)
- Speakers:
- Teresa Aristegui (European Commission, DG Energy): [European Commission and energy poverty](#)
 - Giorgos Koukoufikis (European Commission, Joint Research Center): [Energy poverty - An analysis of EU data and socioeconomic indicators](#)
 - João Pedro Gouveia (NOVA University Lisbon): [EPAH - The EU Energy Poverty Advisory Hub](#)
- 10:15 - 11:45h **Breakout sessions by ENGAGER working groups: Setting a future research and action agenda**
- 11:45 - 12:00h **Coffee break**
- 12:00 - 12:30h **Plenary discussion on future research and action agendas**
- 12:30 - 13:15h **Roundtable discussion with the ENGAGER Core Group: Final reflections of the ENGAGER network**
- [Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 3](#)]
- Chaired by Mariëlle Feenstra (Chair of the ENGAGER COST Action; University of Twente) and Harriet Thomson (Vice-chair of the ENGAGER COST Action; University of Birmingham)
- 13:15 -13:30h **Closing remarks**
- [Available for online participants: [Zoom link DAY 3](#)]
- 13:30 - 14:30h **Conference lunch at CEU**
- [Early finish of the conference for participants to work on pending ENGAGER assignments or for departure to airport/train station]