

Social Research Call 2020

Selected projects

Title: Mapping and providing cost effective solutions for tackling energy poverty

Acronym: EnePoMAP

Project leader: Jon Terés-Zubiaga

Host organisation: University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)

Main purpose of the project: This project aims to develop a GIS-based methodology, using open data for detecting areas with risk of energy poverty, and identifying potential solutions for reducing it. Different building energy renovations and implementation of renewable energy sources will be considered as potential solutions for alleviating energy poverty.

Design/methodology/approach: A 2-stage methodology will be developed: the first stage, focused on quantifying the energy poverty vulnerability at district scale, defining specific indicators. The second, for proposing cost-effective solutions and quantifying their potential to reduce the vulnerability of those areas. This methodology will be implemented in Spanish and Portuguese case studies.

Potential results: This methodology aims to support the different stakeholders (public administration, housing associations...), both in developing policies and strategies, and in decision making processes, identifying vulnerable areas, adequate solutions, and assessing weaknesses and strengths of different funding schemes. Indirectly, this will also promote the creation of local energy communities.

Social relevance of the research: Energy poverty is an increasing problem in Spain and Portugal, which is being made even worse because of the COVID pandemic. The project will help to identify and implement effective strategies to tackle it, boosting building energy renovations, facilitating their upscaling and integrating renewable solutions.

Originality/value of the project: Open data will be used in a unique procedure for calculating the key indicators, mapping the energy poverty risk using a GIS-based tool, and providing recommendations on cost-effective solutions. Furthermore, EnePoMAP includes a participatory procedure for considering the motivations of the involved stakeholders and building bridges to dialogue between them.