



**L'Institut français des relations
internationales (Ifri)**

Programme Europe du Sud - Est



**London School of Economics
and Political Science (LSE)**

**LSEE: Research on South East
Europe**

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

THEME

Addressing Energy Poverty in South East Europe: Status Quo and Policy Options

The Ifri's South East Europe Program and the LSEE invite researchers with a recognized interest in contemporary South East Europe to submit an application for funding in order to carry out a project on the theme highlighted above. This call has been made possible by the funding generously provided by the Latsis Foundation, to which we wish to record our gratitude. This new initiative is consistent with the Ifri's South East Europe Program's mission to promote public policy research and to foster academic collaboration and networks, in cooperation with its partner the London School of Economics (LSE).

The Call is opened to all researchers with a university affiliation, Master minimum or comparative research experience. They have to be fluent in English.

Applications from groups of researchers are welcome, but in this case all member of the research team should meet the eligibility criteria.

Research grants of up to 12000€ in total will be awarded to the successful applicants for research on energy poverty in South East Europe, to be undertaken normally within a period of one year. The participants will be invited to present the results in a conference in Brussels, in early summer 2010. They shall also send an interim report to Ifri and LSEE, demonstrating the state of progress.

Payments will be made in two equal installments, the first on commencement of the project and the second on completion of the defined outputs. The successful applicant(s) must provide a relevant research account in their host institution for the transfer of the grant.

Applications should be submitted electronically by the deadline of **Monday 30th November 2009** (5pm GMT) to info.bruxelles@ifri.org. The subject line of the email should read "IFRILSEE Call 2009" only and all application material should be in MS Word format. Applicants who are unable to submit their application in this form must contact the Ifri Office on +32 (0)2 238 51 10 at least 10 days before the advertised deadline.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The award will be made by a Selection Committee appointed by the Ifri and LSE solely on the basis of the application materials submitted. All applicants must provide (a) a project proposal (of up to 5 pages), detailing the research question, the conceptual framework and methodology, the empirical data, and the expected outputs; (b) an indicative budget (see below); (c) a copy of the CVs of all applicants; and (d) a cover letter, summarizing the competencies of the applicant and/or research team in relation to the proposed research. For group applications, an additional document highlighting the structure of the team and the allocation of tasks across its members is required.

The indicative budget should justify the costs identified for the project. All types of costs are allowed - including costs for fieldwork, data, travel, consumables and research staff - insofar as they can be accepted as essential parts of the proposed research. Overhead costs of up to 15% are allowed, but these should be included in the budget (**the total budget cannot exceed 12,000 €**). The Selection Committee has the right to request additional information regarding budget costs and to award a smaller amount than the one requested or advertised. Awards must be used solely for the purposes set out in the application.

The Selection Committee is solely responsible for approving the eligibility of applications and reserves the right to request additional information from the applicants. Shortlisted applicants may be asked to participate in a telephone interview. In all cases, the decisions of the Selection Committee will be final. The Committee reserves the right not to make any award or to adjust the number of awards it makes.

The successful researcher(s) / research team will be required to provide an 'Interim Progress Report' (at the end of the 3rd month of the project), a 'Final Report' (at the end of the project) and a full research/policy paper presenting the results of the project, in a manner suitable for publication in an international academic/scientific journal. The prospect of additional publications, in other outlets, stemming from the research project will be a significant criterion for the evaluation of the applications submitted. The successful applicants will be invited to present the results in a conference in Brussels, in early summer 2010.

The Ifri's South East Europe Program and LSEE will also cover the basic costs for the researcher (or one team member) to present the research findings in Brussels. The researcher/ research team will be obliged to give full acknowledgement to Ifri, LSEE and Latsis Foundation in all publicity and outputs related to the project, copies of which should be sent to Ifri and LSEE. The Ifri's South East

Europe Program and LSEE also retain the right to publish a summary of the results, with full acknowledgement to the authors of the research, on its website and in its other publicity outlets.

Call for Research Tender 1/2009

Project Title: *Addressing Energy Poverty in South East Europe: Status Quo and Policy Options*

Energy policies are decisive for the development of a country. Limited or unequal access to resources is one important obstacle to development and has to be overcome via appropriate policy measures. As the UNDP and IEA state, "access to energy services is an indispensable element of sustainable human development. Without access to modern and commercial energy, poor countries can be trapped in a vicious circle of poverty, social instability and underdevelopment".¹

South East Europe is particularly exposed to the problem of energy poverty: an important setback took place during the Nineties, when wars destroyed also energy infrastructure, insufficiently reconstructed since, and economic activity was hampered at large. This setback which enhances fragmentation and the collapse of governance is the main factor explaining energy poverty today. Instead of improving since 1992, the situation is worsening. Regional differences and the rift between cities and the country-side represent an important factor that needs to be taken into consideration while assessing energy poverty. The citizens of the South Eastern countries do not experience solidarity with their states or governments and find it legitimate to commit energy related crime, like energy theft or vandalism on infrastructures. Consequently, no investors are willing to take the risk to develop new infrastructures, despite the fact that entire populations are not connected to any grid. Energy poverty is a vicious circle.

Estimates from the IEA quote some 16% of the population in South East Europe as concerned by the phenomenon, but available statistics are insufficient today, due to a poor state of statistical authorities.² In some parts of the region more than 40% of the households face insufficient heating supply and important indoor pollution as one consequence, according to IEA's Report on Energy in the Western Balkans (2008).

The specific character of energy poverty in South East Europe is inadequate access to energy services, lack of reliable electricity supply, and the inefficient use of energy. Energy Poverty in South East Europe, while being a major preoccupation of organizations like the Energy Community South East Europe, based in Vienna, remains underresearched today. And insufficient attention is paid to it

¹ Quoted from The Baker Institute Energy Forum: Poverty, Energy and Society, <http://www.rice.edu/energy/research/poverty&energy/index.html>

² IEA, Energy in the Western Balkans. The Path to Reform and Reconstruction, in cooperation with the UNDP, Paris OECD/IEA 2008:97

in policy design, even if most governments have developed national “Poverty Reduction Strategies”. It is important to analyze regional data and to put policy options under closer scrutiny. Tackling energy poverty in the region requires

- A mapping of the energy poverty in the country, taking regional and local differences into account
- An analysis of today's political responses, both from the region, as those applied in other comparable regions. What is the potential role of prices, taxes, subsidies, increased energy efficiency but also renewables, in order to eradicate energy poverty in the region and to open the path for sustainable development?
- Studying the regional context, the added value of interconnection, exchange, and the realistic definition of a common strategy. Here, the action of the Energy Community South East Europe which has identified energy poverty as a key priority is important with respect to standards and policy design and should be taken into account.

Researchers are invited to present projects

- addressing energy poverty specifically on one or two countries of the region (eventually a city or a county). The IEA report on Energy in the Western Balkans (2008) is recommended as a basis for the enquiry, which should be completed with regional data. How does the country deal with energy poverty? Which are the measures developed, if so, in terms of fiscal policy, targeted poverty relief, energy efficiency, renewables? The researchers should develop policy recommendations.
- Evaluating regional solutions to tackle energy poverty. How could a regional approach help overcome energy poverty in the fragmented space? What is the role of the countries outside the region? Which are the common standards to be applied? What is the potential input of renewables? What roles can stakeholders and institutions- national, international play? Finally, what is/ should be the impact of the European Commission and the Energy Community South East Europe?

For more information please refer to the General Guidelines of this Call or contact the Ifri Office at info.bruxelles@ifri.org.

