



# Energy Poverty Advisory Hub Annual Conference

**Open call for  
sessions organisers**

*15-16 October 2024, Barcelona, Spain*



**Diputació  
Barcelona**



European Committee  
of the Regions

**ecoserveis**



# Event description

Organised by the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission in collaboration with the Provincial Deputation of Barcelona (Diputació de Barcelona), the European Committee of the Regions and with the support of the Ecoserveis association, the **Energy Poverty Advisory Hub international annual conference is taking place on 15-16 October 2024 in Barcelona, Spain**. This year, at its fourth edition, the event is focused on "*Turning the Tide: Paving the Way for Energy Poverty Alleviation*". This annual meeting promises to be a crucial gathering of local governments, policymakers, experts, and stakeholders dedicated to addressing energy poverty and fostering sustainable solutions at the local level.

National and local governments in Spain are mobilised to address energy poverty, including by applying for technical assistance to develop local actions through the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub calls. Barcelona, a leader in the climate and energy transition, has made addressing energy poverty a key priority. The city stands out for its proactive sustainability initiatives, comprehensive social services, and commitment to affordable housing. Barcelona's support for renewable energy projects, green infrastructure, and innovative housing solutions demonstrates its dedication to a sustainable future. By hosting the 2024 Energy Poverty Advisory Hub international annual conference in Barcelona, we aim to reflect on their strong commitment to sustainable policies and initiatives. Our objectives include:

- ▶ Share practical experiences and strategies between cities with varying track records of tackling energy poverty.
- ▶ Assess and disseminate the insights gained throughout the initiative.
- ▶ Emphasise the urgent requirements of local governments, drawing from EPAH results and, in particular, the technical support provided.

The detailed **agenda** of the event will be announced after the selection of the sessions. Participants will be able to attend:

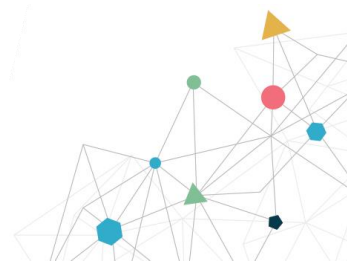
**High-level Opening Sessions** with interventions from influential policymakers, decision-makers, and senior representatives from EU, national and local level.

**Panel Discussions** that will be in thought-provoking debates and interactive sessions to exchange ideas, share experiences, and identify innovative approaches for tackling energy poverty.

**Workshops.** During those interactive sessions the aim is to gain practical insights, get inspired, learn and share good practices from stakeholders working on the ground.

**Site Visit** to experience firsthand the impact of successful energy poverty initiatives in Barcelona through a guided visit to local actions that have made a significant difference in its community.

**Networking Area** to connect with like-minded professionals, stakeholders, and experts in the field and foster collaboration.



# Open call for session organisers

The Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH) is the leading EU initiative aiming to eradicate energy poverty and accelerate the just energy transition of European local governments. EPAH's mission is to be the central platform of energy poverty expertise in Europe for local authorities and all stakeholders interested in taking action to combat energy poverty in Europe by **building a collaborative network of stakeholders interested in taking action to combat energy poverty in Europe**.

Following the positive experience during the last conference, EPAH has decided to reinforce its collaborative network by **calling upon all interested entities to apply for a session under the umbrella of its annual conference**. The goal is to bring together likeminded organisations, institutions, projects, initiatives and all interested stakeholders to share their experiences and ultimately support local governments in their efforts to tackle energy poverty.

## Sessions' format and requirements

Interested applicants can find here information about the format and requirements for the sessions.

**Duration:** The allocated time per interactive workshop and panel discussion will be fixed to 1 hour and 30 minutes.

### Format

The sessions will be organised in two formats: interactive workshops and panel discussions. Additionally, initiatives will have the option to apply for networking area presentations. Each session must focus on showcasing experiences, best practices, and tips for local governments, or debating policies and measures at the national, regional, or local level. Sessions can feature up to four speakers, including the moderator. Sessions will be conducted in English, Spanish, and Catalan. Proposals can be submitted in any of these languages.

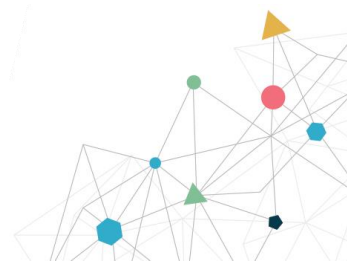
The primary audience for the conference consists of local government representatives and practitioners. Therefore, session organisers are strongly encouraged to structure their proposals in a way that benefit local governments and should include practical case examples from cities and regions in action.

If you wish to present running initiatives, programmes and projects during the session, it is necessary to share tangible results, outputs and lessons learned.

Difference between an Interactive Workshop, a Panel Discussion, and Networking Area Presentation:

### Interactive Workshop:

Structure: An interactive workshop is a highly engaging and participatory session designed to actively involve attendees in the learning process. It typically includes practical activities, group work, and hands-on exercises.



**Goal:** The primary aim is to facilitate learning through direct involvement, allowing participants to practice new skills, solve problems collaboratively, and share their experiences.

**Activities:** These sessions must incorporate at least one interactive activity lasting a minimum of 30 minutes.

**Outcome:** Participants leave with actionable insights and practical knowledge they can immediately apply to their work in local government settings.

### **Panel Discussion:**

**Structure:** A panel discussion is a more traditional format where a group of experts, including a moderator, discusses a specific topic in front of an audience. The format is typically less interactive, focusing on dialogue between the panelists.

**Goal:** The main objective is to provide diverse perspectives on a given issue, encourage debate, and share expert knowledge and insights with the audience.

**Activities:** While primarily discussion-based, these sessions may include Q&A segments where the audience can ask questions, and the panelists can respond, fostering some level of interaction.

**Outcome:** Attendees gain a broader understanding of the topic through exposure to multiple viewpoints and expert analysis, aiding in informed decision-making and policy development.

### **Networking Area Presentations:**

**Structure:** This format involves delivering a presentation or conducting an activity in a designated networking area, allowing for a more informal and interactive engagement with attendees.

**Goal:** The primary aim is to facilitate networking and knowledge sharing in a less formal environment, encouraging spontaneous discussions and direct interaction with participants.

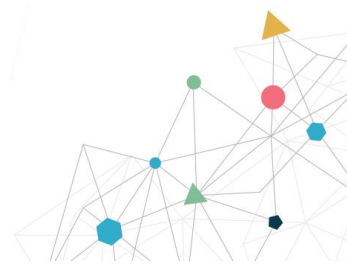
**Activities:** Presentations or actions can include demonstrations, interactive displays, short talks, or live feedback sessions. The focus is on creating an engaging and dynamic experience that stimulates conversation and networking.

**Outcome:** Participants benefit from direct access to presenters, gaining insights through informal discussions, networking opportunities, and the exchange of ideas and experiences in a casual setting.

## **Themes**

The conference is focused on the implementation of energy poverty measures, policies and actions at all levels of governance. Suggested sessions need to fit under one of the following themes. More specifically, the conference aims to:

- ▶ Focus on tangible experiences and results from EU, national and local initiatives.
- ▶ Highlighting the results of implemented actions to combat energy poverty. This includes initiatives related to renewable energy communities, behavioral change and awareness campaigns, one-stop-



shops (energy advice points), home renovations and energy efficiency improvements, regulatory incentives, and financial measures, among others.

- ▶ Highlight initiatives focused on effective impact monitoring.

## Who can apply

- ▶ Initiatives and consortiums of partners of EU or local projects and initiatives
- ▶ Local and regional governments
- ▶ Civil Society Organisations (NGOs)
- ▶ Academic and research institutions
- ▶ Energy agencies
- ▶ EU institutions and committees
- ▶ Private organisations
- ▶ Public organisations

**Number of partnering entities per session:** At least 2 and maximum 4 entities can partner up together to submit a session proposal.

## Selection criteria

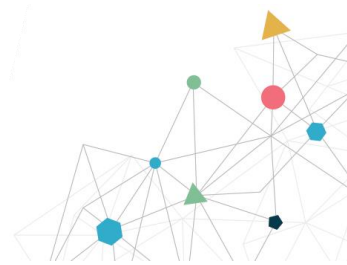
The final agenda of the conference will consist of sessions led by the event organisers as well as sessions selected through this open call. To ensure that a session proposal is successfully chosen, it must adhere to the following requirements:

**Theme relevance:** The session proposal should demonstrate a clear connection to the conference theme and its significance for local governments. It should address key challenges or opportunities that local governments face and provide valuable insights or solutions.

**Relevance to multiple stakeholders:** The session should have relevance and appeal to a broad range of stakeholders, such as local government officials, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and community representatives.

**Speakers:** The proposal should specify the number of speakers and their relevance in terms of expertise. The speakers should possess in-depth knowledge and experience related to the session's topic. Moreover, it is important to ensure a balanced representation in terms of gender among the speakers.

**Number of partnering organizations:** The proposal should indicate the involvement of partnering organizations, if any. Collaborations with relevant organizations can enhance the session's credibility, diversity of perspectives, and potential impact.



**Innovation and Novelty:** The proposal should demonstrate a fresh and innovative approach to addressing challenges or opportunities for local governments. Sessions that introduce new ideas, methodologies, or technologies are highly encouraged.

**Practicality and applicability:** The session should provide practical insights, tools, or strategies that local governments can readily implement. It should offer actionable takeaways and guidance that can be applied in real-world scenarios.

**Diversity and inclusion:** The proposal should emphasize diversity and inclusion in terms of perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds. Sessions that promote inclusivity and address issues related to underrepresented groups or marginalized communities are particularly welcomed.

**Interactive and engaging Format:** The session proposal should outline a dynamic and interactive format that encourages audience engagement. Innovative presentation styles, interactive activities, group discussions, or Q&A sessions can enhance the overall learning experience.

**Clear learning objectives:** The proposal should clearly state the session's intended learning outcomes and objectives. Attendees should gain specific knowledge, skills, or insights by participating in the session.

**Practical case examples:** Including practical case examples from cities or regions on the ground can provide concrete illustrations of successful initiatives or approaches. Proposals that highlight tangible results or best practices are highly desirable.

**Travel and accommodation costs:** Session organisers are responsible for covering the costs associated with their speakers' travel and accommodation at the conference location. This includes expenses related to transportation and accommodation to and from the location of the conference. By submitting a session proposal, the organiser acknowledges and agrees to assume these financial responsibilities for their speakers. The conference organisers will provide logistical support and guidance but will not be responsible for covering the expenses of individual speakers. During the event, the conference organisers will provide the venue, IT equipment and catering. It is important for session organisers to plan and budget accordingly to ensure the participation of their speakers. After the selection, a session organiser can be excluded in case they fail to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the speakers of their session.

**Please note that, depending on the number and quality of applications received, EPAH reserves the right to suggest merging sessions with similar themes.**

## How to apply

Interested applicants can submit their session proposals between **11 June to 12 July 2024** (extended) through the [online application form](#).

Selected sessions will be notified by **26 July 2024**. None selected sessions will be provided feedback.

Applicants can contact the [EPAH helpdesk](#) for further information.

