

# **SOCIETAL ACCEPTANCE OF NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: CRITICAL ENGAGEMENTS IN ENERGY TRANSITION AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

**Ana Prades**

**CISOT-CIEMAT, Spain**

**Ana Delicado**

**Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal**

**Marc Poumadère**

**Inst. Symlog, France**

**Elisabeth Dütschke**

**Fraunhofer ISI, Germany**

**Jussara Rowland**

**Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal**

## **Abstract:**

The climate crisis is upon us, and the both positive and concerning outcomes of COP26 (26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties) shape futures in energy use. Energy choices, security and prices have become almost permanent features in the headlines in the mainstream media throughout Europe. Technological solutions have been called to play a major role in the transition towards a carbon neutral society. From energy production to transportation, from industrial processes to geoengineering, innovative proposals to reduce, sequester or altogether avoid emissions are under discussion or even experimentation.

A key component in this pathway towards the energy transition and climate change mitigation deals with the societal acceptance of these emergent technologies. How do citizens perceive and engage with them? How willing are citizens to adopt new technological devices or to welcome new technological infrastructures in their communities? How are risks and benefits envisaged and assessed? What role do dimensions such as knowledge, procedural and distributive justice, affect, or trust play in social acceptance? What narratives evolve around the solutions proposed and how do they interact with how technological development is driven forward? How is acceptance/acceptability influenced by policies, incentives, cultural values, socioeconomic drivers? Which steps are taken by technologists and governance actors to ensure responsible research and innovation, with its ethical and pragmatic requirements of education, open science, consultation and co-construction?

This panel invites contributions on the societal acceptance of energy technologies and technological developments that may play a role in the energy transition and/or in the climate change mitigation processes. Proposals can include conceptual approaches and models, methodological developments, or empirical studies on the social acceptability of specific technologies and/or technological

developments, case studies or comparative approaches. We welcome proposals from PhD students and under-represented geographical contexts.

We aim to have a final session devoted to stimulate discussion on the main research gaps and tentative agendas for the future. A deliberative/participatory exercise will be proposed to identify the key topics for further research.

**Key words:**

Energy; Climate change; Acceptance