

Press release: ENERGISE Living Labs Closing Event

Where: Horse and Jockey Hotel, Thurles, County Tipperary, Ireland

When: Thursday 27th June 2019



ENERGISE Living Labs conclude in 8 countries, among them Ireland: have participants managed to reduce the number of laundry cycles and indoor temperatures?

In response to the increasingly urgent climate change challenge, Ireland is promoting several climate and energy targets with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonising the economy. However, the current pace and scale of change is insufficient to achieve the necessary sustainability transitions in energy systems; there is an increasing realisation that meeting energy targets is highly dependent on several complex aspects of final energy consumption patterns or energy demand. Increasingly, households are seen as playing a role in energy transitions – which implies challenging social norms and habits around energy usage in the home.

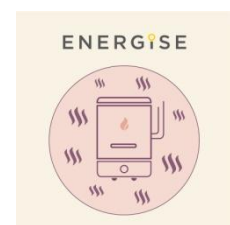
In response, [ENERGISE](#) – funded under the EU Horizon 2020 programme – launched Energy Living Labs to develop, test and assess options for a bottom-up transformation of energy use in households and communities across Europe. Based on an assessment of over 1,000 European sustainable energy initiatives and consulting with stakeholders, two Energy Living Labs were co-designed, involving both individual and collective approaches among households in 8 countries¹, including Ireland.



Hundreds of households were involved in the ENERGISE Living Labs from September to December 2018, and took on two main challenges:



- a laundry challenge to halve the number of laundry cycles they do every week; and
- a heating challenge to reduce indoor temperature in their living-rooms to 18 °C.

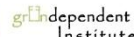


¹ Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Switzerland, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom



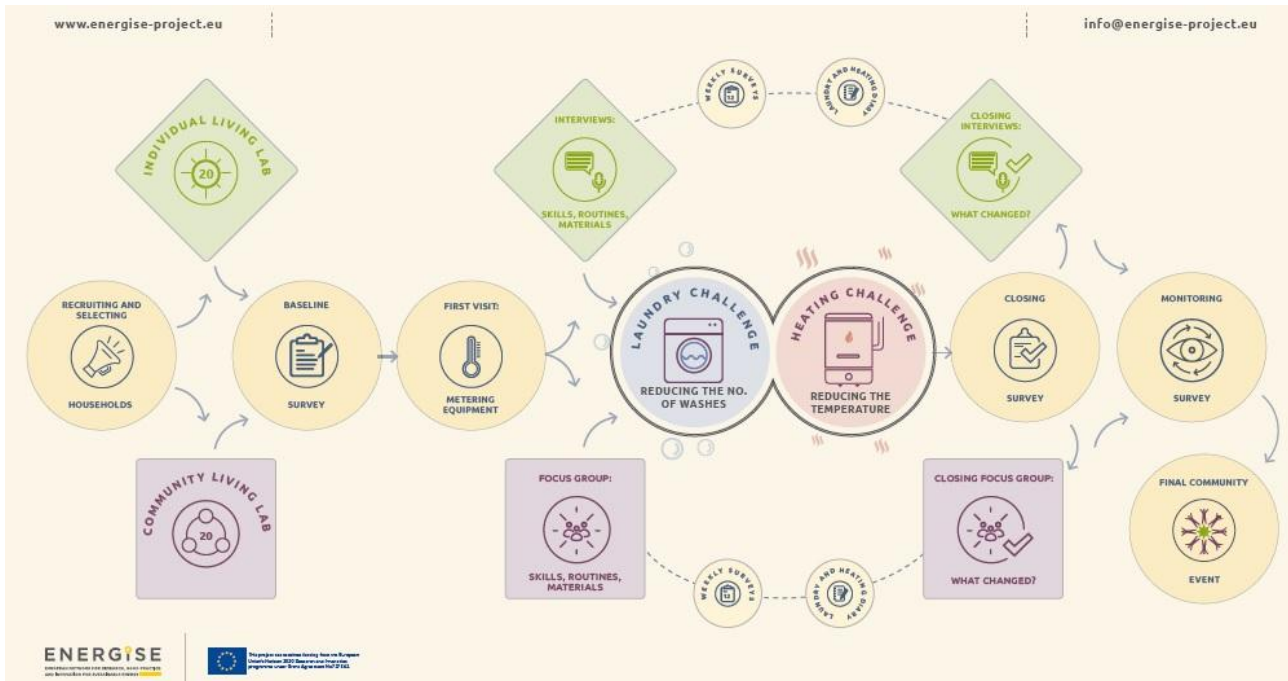
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727642.

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These challenges were intended to create disruption in the everyday laundry and heating practices of households to help the research team and the participants themselves understand the role of the social norms, skills, competencies, materials and infrastructures in our daily energy use.

Researchers from NUI Galway, with support from implementation partners Tipperary Energy Agency and Scoil Ruain, Killenaule, guided households through the multi-method living lab process as shown in the figure below.



ENERGISe Living Labs concluded in December 2018. We are now nearing the end of the ENERGISe project, which concludes in November 2019. Our fieldwork and analysis from our Living Labs is complete with over 300 households participating across 8 European countries (38 of these in Tipperary, Ireland). We already see that our results have generated exciting new insights into social and cultural influences on household energy use, as well as advancing the notion of ‘energy sufficiency’.

The NUIG ENERGISe team are currently organising the Living Labs Closing Event in Ireland, which will take place in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Thurles, County Tipperary on Thursday the 27th of June 2019 from 2.30pm to 5.00pm (Session 1) or 5.30pm to 8.00pm (Session 2). The NUIG ENERGISe team will present and discuss both high-level and local-level findings from the project. The results will have implications for policy makers at the local, national and European level.

IF YOU WISH TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENERGISe LIVING LABS, OR ATTEND THE EVENT PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!

You can register for the event by emailing: eimear.heaslip@nuigalway.ie

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Learn about the ENERGISE and our Living Labs in general by visiting our website at: <http://energise-project.eu/>

CONTACT

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ENERGISE

- ENERGISE stands for European Network for Research, Good Practice and Innovation for Sustainable Energy
- Coordinated by the National University of Ireland, Galway
- Funded by the European Union's Horizon2020 programme
- Web: <http://www.energise-project.eu/>, Email: info@energise-project.eu



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