

I. Description:

This call for 2021 Research Grants of the Sustainable Energy Transitions Initiative is now open to support **early-stage projects** under the scope of the collaborative, with the aim to promote new research ideas that support the energy access and transition around the world.

These grants are mainly meant to support exploratory work that aims to generate new project proposals that may seek bigger funding opportunities within and outside the Environment for Development Initiative network and that encourage multi-country collaboration to solve major energy-development issues affecting society.

II. Scope:

SETI seeks research ideas satisfying the following criteria:

1. Research considering the **human dimension of energy**, that is how energy interacts with, influences, and impacts individuals and societies. Moreover, studies should apply an environmental and resource economics perspective, although studies from other fields may be also accepted (e.g., health and sociology).
2. Research focused on **low and low-middle income countries**. Upper middle and upper countries may only be considered if they serve as an example for other countries and are part of a comparison or clear research translation effort towards less developed countries (e.g. technology has potential to be applied in low-income countries).
3. Apply an **energy service perspective**, e.g., cooking, income generation-industry, heating, lighting, transportation, appliances, cooling, agriculture, income generation-household, although the work may involve a range of possible technologies. Works on an energy technology not linked to an energy services perspective will not be considered.
4. Consider **impacts** on any of the following dimensions (non-exclusive): gender, human health/health facilities, education, attitudes, demographics, migration, time allocation, income, consumption/expenditures, school facilities, air quality, forest, ecosystems, climate, waste production/management, among others.
5. **Special attention** will be given to the following topics:
 - a. Supply chain, information, and behavioral obstacles that inhibit improved energy use (e.g., in cooking), and the policy implications of those behavioral obstacles.
 - b. Studies related to firm productivity and broader income impacts in low-income countries.
 - c. Innovative service delivery models and improvements that allow off-grid renewables to support energy services other than lighting, phone charging, and entertainment, and how those translate into impacts.
 - d. Projects that elucidate important mechanisms and linkages at the nexus of gender and energy.
 - e. Multidisciplinary and multi-country ideas.

III. Expected deliverables

1. A summary report on the work carried out in the exploratory project, that explains the nature and importance of the issue being considered from a research and policy perspective, and describes a) the approach taken during the exploratory phase to explore the issue, b) the partners involved, c) the results obtained, and d) the plan for next steps, that is, the future research agenda and funding source to be applied to/network building/stakeholders involved in the project, plus references. This report should be approximately 6-8 pages excluding references.
2. A blog to be posted by SETI/Energy Access Project at Duke.

IV. Grants

Research ideas will compete for two grants of 5000 USD each, to be used for the implementation of the early-stage project.

V. Eligibility:

Researchers applying to these grants:

1. Should be junior researchers: postgraduate students and PhD researchers up to 2 years after they graduated (a document proving this requirement must be provided).
2. Must be affiliated to an EfD center. Note that transfers will be made directly to the EfD center.
3. Must consider a 3 page pdf concept note that includes the following (template provided on the website):
 - Introduction and justification.
 - General and specific objectives.
 - Methods and timing.
 - Expected outputs and deliverables.
 - Policy impact.
 - Further agenda.
 - References are not included in this page limit.
4. The research idea must consider the scope described in section II.
5. The project must be completed within 1 year upon funding reception. An extension of 6 months could be considered if necessary.
6. In addition, it must indicate further steps after the early-stage project is completed (e.g. this grant will allow the application for a bigger funding opportunity – specify where, it will serve as a network building for a bigger research endeavor, it will allow the connection with stakeholders).

VI. Submission, deadline and results

To submit your proposal, you must send an email to SETI@udec.cl, including the following documentation:

1. Project template, that may be accessed here:
2. Curriculum vitae/Resume.
3. Documentation proving you are a junior researcher.

The deadline for applications is January 21, 2022. Application results will be available on February 28, 2022. The execution of the project will start on March 2022.

VII. Conditions

1. This grant will be transferred after the sign-up of an agreement between the EfD Chile center and the receiving EfD center.
2. This grant allows the hiring of research assistants, field work expenses, small equipment, and other small expenses.
3. This grant does not allow PI/institutional salary or admin, and the purchase of large equipment (e.g. computers).

VIII. Contact information

If you want more information about this call or if you want to connect with other researchers from the SETI network to elaborate a joint proposal, please contact Cristóbal Vásquez (Project Coordinator) at SETI@udec.cl.