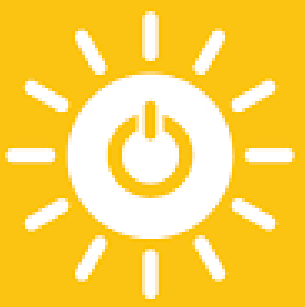


# What energy-related features are necessary in and around a home to provide a dignified standard of living for all people in a low-carbon future?

## Goal 7:

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and



### Research problem

! 'Access to essential energy' **not well defined** and subject to interpretations

→ policies risk (re)producing energy poverty

### Capability Approach

- Evaluates freedoms & achievements of **valued doings or beings** (Sen 1979)
- Functionings express 'what matters' (Nussbaumer et al. 2011)



EU project evaluating **health** benefits of energy poverty interventions

### Methods

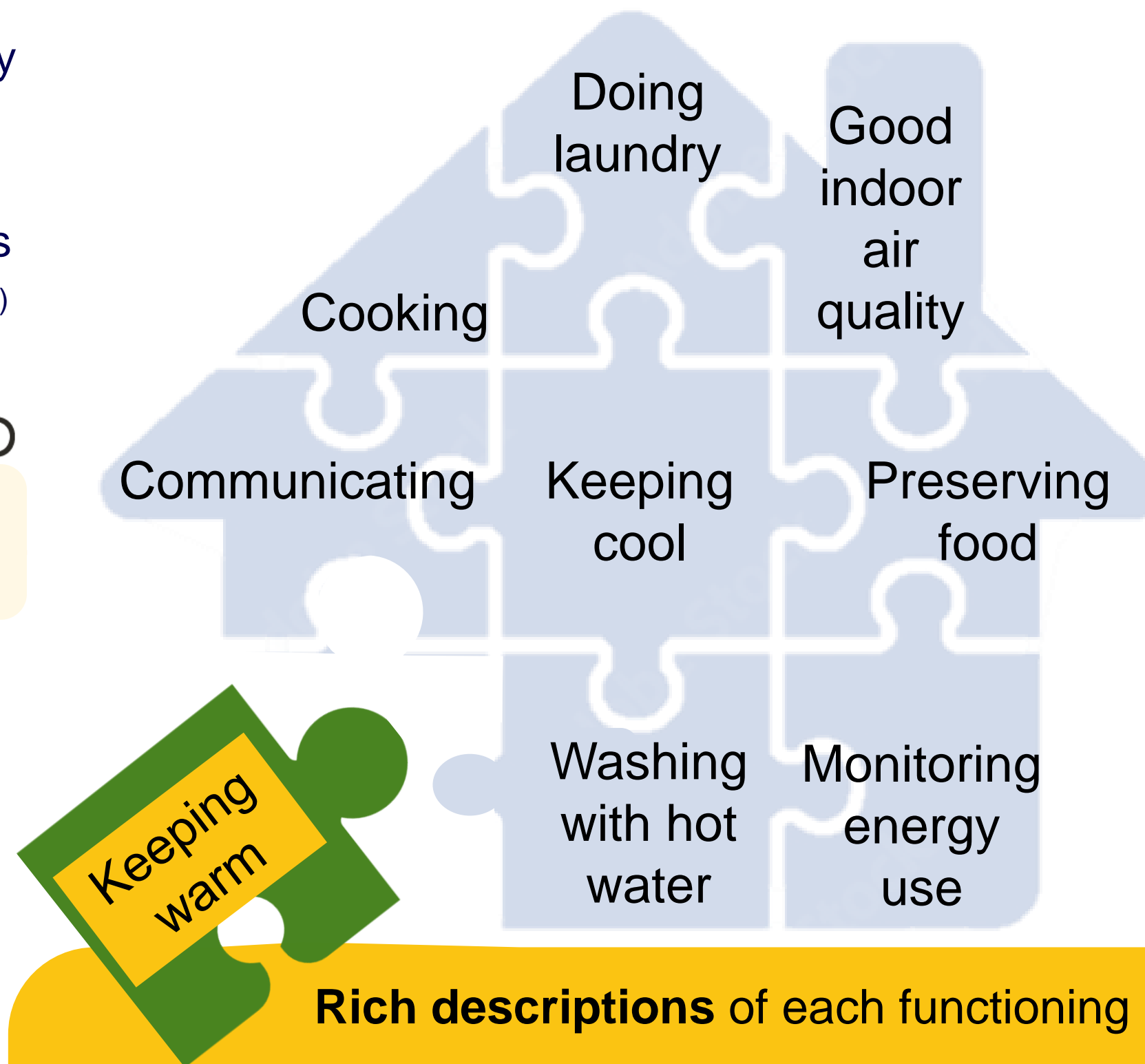
6 **Focus groups** with WELLBASED professionals (31 participants)

**Urban tours**, incl. 7 home visits in 4 WELLBASED cities



### Findings

Set of **functionings** that are relative to the human physical, emotional and social nature across contexts



### Rich descriptions of each functioning

- warmth, health, survival
- **fixed** heating system (all)
- able to heat **all rooms** (all),
- individually **controllable** (J, H, L, O)
- with quick response times (L)
- fire **safe** (V)
- billed
  - according to household consumption (J, O)
  - in close proximity to real time (H, V)
- **affordable** through
  - efficiency (H, L)
  - free choice in heating supplier (J)
  - flexibility in fuel sources (J, E)

### Discussion

- **Complementary** perceptions - differentiation evident in priorities
- **Convergence** of perceptions across the six locations → supports the principle of "universality" of functionings
- 'Rich description' → Better recognition of 'what matters'

### Recommendations

→ **support advocacy** initiatives, e.g. 'right to energy'

### References

Nussbaumer P, Bazilian M, Modi V and Yumkella KK (2011) *Measuring Energy Poverty: Focusing on What Matters*. OPHI Working paper No. 42, University of Oxford, Oxford.  
 Sen A (1979) 'Equality of what?', in McMurrin S (ed) *Tanner Lectures on Human Values*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

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