



SUPERVISOR INFORMATION	
First and Last name	João Catalão
URL of supervisor webpage	https://sigarra.up.pt/feup/pt/func_geral.formview?p_codigo=568353
Department	DEEC
Field(s) of research	Behavioural energy economics; incentive design; social rewards and non-monetary benefits; community energy governance; uplift modelling; fairness-aware learning; program evaluation; participation and retention metrics.
PROJECT PROPOSAL	
Title (optional)	Hybrid Incentive Portfolios: Combining Monetised Energy Credits with Social Rewards for Inclusive Community Participation
Brief project description	
<p>This project develops and evaluates hybrid incentive portfolios that combine monetised energy credits with social rewards (recognition, collective-benefit visibility, community status signals) to sustain participation in community energy schemes. The motivation is that purely monetary incentives may fail to engage certain groups and may even amplify inequity if benefits concentrate among those with flexible assets. Hybrid incentives are treated as a design space where different members respond to different mechanisms; hence, the “best” incentive may be context- and segment-dependent.</p> <p>The project delivers a structured methodology to decide when and how social rewards should complement monetary credits, with explicit attention to vulnerable groups and the prevention of paternalistic or coercive nudging. The work emphasises measurable outcomes: retention, contribution to collective objectives, perceived fairness, and burden-related indicators.</p> <p>Expected results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hybrid incentive framework with decision rules, KPI sets, and governance guidance. • Evidence on when social rewards outperform purely monetary schemes for participation and trust. • Practical implementation templates for community operators. <p>Alignment and exploitation</p> <p>This proposal supports INNO-TREC by strengthening the incentive layer around energy credits participation (including non-monetary pathways where appropriate), and it supports EU-DREAM by centring acceptance, vulnerability, and inclusion in the design and evaluation of community-facing mechanisms. The outputs can be integrated as incentive design modules and monitoring playbooks in both ecosystems.</p>	