

## Call for Postdoctoral Fellowship Applications (FAPESP)

**Program/Project:** Decentralized Energy Communities for a Digital Economy -  
DECODE

**FAPESP Process No. 2025/07881-0**

**Host Institution and Location:** São Paulo School of Business Administration /  
EAESP / FGV - Brazil

**Fellowship Type:** Postdoctoral Fellowship

**Supervision:** Eduardo Henrique Diniz (EAESP/FGV)

**Deadline for document submission:** June 30, 2026

**Expected start date (subject to adjustment):** August 1, 2026

**Duration:** 1 year, with the possibility of extension up to a total of 3 years, in  
accordance with FAPESP rules for Postdoctoral Fellowships.

### 1. Project Context

Cities are facing growing energy demands, ambitious climate targets, and energy security issues related to geopolitical tensions. The transition to decentralized energy systems, supported by tokenized digital economies, has the potential to strengthen urban sustainability and resilience.

Digital tokens operate as a “purpose-specific currency”, designed to promote specific goals within community energy systems. Their digital nature offers three main advantages:

- transaction visibility, making it possible to identify energy inefficiencies;
- programmability, allowing adjustments in response to inefficiencies or changes in local conditions; and
- data generation to support the modeling of public policy interventions, enabling community-oriented forms of governance.

The DECODE project aims to investigate how tokens can represent and quantify the value of local energy generation, reduced electricity consumption during peak hours, peer-to-peer energy trading, and energy storage. It will also analyze their use

as a medium of exchange in local and international markets, such as decentralized renewable energy certificates, and their connection with other domains, such as the circular economy, to generate broader social and environmental value.

DECODE will develop three pilots focused on challenges faced by two municipalities, in Norway and Portugal, and by a residential community in Brazil. These pilots will provide scalable solutions and demonstrate the feasibility of a token-based energy economy in different local contexts.

## **2. Fellowship Theme**

DECODE is an internationally coordinated, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary applied research project that proposes rethinking how energy and value can be co-generated, governed, and circulated within communities.

Grounded in participatory research, systems thinking, and open-source technological development, the project presents an innovative approach to decentralized energy transitions by seeking to understand how energy community tokens can be co-designed and implemented.

### **Participating institutions in the project**

Brazil - FGV, UFPB, UFRJ, Banco Comunitário Jardim Botânico

Norway - NTNU, Ørland Kommune

Portugal - Espaço Municipal, Municipality of Maia

Sweden - Lund University, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Netherlands - Enaccess, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences

Austria - Technische Universität Wien

## **3. Objectives and Research Plan**

The project objectives include:

- Developing, through a participatory and bottom-up approach, a token-based digital economy adapted to local energy markets, community benefits, and environmental sustainability.
- Implementing three token-based energy communities, including two municipal pilots and one residential community pilot.
- Creating innovative financing mechanisms and business models for token-based community energy systems, integrating their local digital currencies with decentralized renewable energy certificates.
- Developing robust polycentric governance models capable of strengthening coordination and decision-making across multiple levels, from local to regional, national, and international.
- Developing open-source strategies and tools that allow tokenized energy communities to be replicated in different urban contexts, ensuring a balance between local autonomy and multilevel governance.

#### **4. Eligibility (FAPESP) and Requirements**

Applicants eligible for this fellowship are researchers from any higher education or research institution in Brazil or abroad who obtained their doctoral degree less than 7 (seven) years before the fellowship start date, have relevant academic output in the field, and will conduct research at an institution located in the State of São Paulo. For more detailed information on requirements and obligations, applicants should consult FAPESP's general criteria for Postdoctoral Fellowships (<https://fapesp.br/en/postdoc>).

#### **Requirements for participation in the project**

1. PhD in Business Administration, Economics, Social Sciences, Engineering, or Computer Science
2. Fluency in written and spoken English
3. Academic output aligned with the topic of local currencies and/or energy transition

4. Experience with advanced qualitative and quantitative methods, ethnography, and participatory research methods in underserved communities
5. Full-time and exclusive dedication
6. Availability for in-person activities in São Paulo/SP and hybrid activities in João Pessoa/PB, Brazil, as well as possible visits to the pilots in Ørland (Norway) and Maia (Portugal), or other meetings with the international research team
7. Availability for national and international travel

## 5. Main Activities

- Carrying out the approved research plan
- Producing manuscripts and presenting results
- Contributing to knowledge-transfer products
- Participating in meetings and activities of the research group/project
- Supporting the training and mentoring of students involved in the project

## 6. Applications

Applications must be submitted by June 30, 2026 or until the position is filled, by completing the online form and uploading the required documentation, in English, through the following link:

[https://survey.fgv.br/jfe/form/SV\\_9ZXx9nys72S4xuu](https://survey.fgv.br/jfe/form/SV_9ZXx9nys72S4xuu)

- i. Short CV (maximum 4 pages) or FAPESP CV Summary
- ii. Motivation/cover letter (1-2 pages)
- iii. Brief proposal describing previous engagement with the research topic (1 page)
- iv. Most relevant publications from the last 5 years (1 or 2) (links only)
- v. Reference contacts (optional)

## 7. Selection Process

The selection process will take place in two stages.

1. Eligibility and project-fit screening (eliminary).
2. Merit-based evaluation of documents and interview (classificatory).

**Evaluation criteria**

1. Fit with the project theme and research plan (30%)
2. Quality and feasibility of the research plan (30%)
3. Academic background and scholarly output (25%)
4. Potential contribution to project deliverables (15%)

**8. Timeline**

**Applications:** June 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026

**Interviews:** July 2026

**Result:** By July 31, 2026

**Estimated start date:** August 2026 (subject to FAPESP procedures and approval)

**9. Contact**

Researcher Support Office, FGV EAESP

[eaip@fgv.br](mailto:eaip@fgv.br)

**Note:** the implementation of the fellowship depends on FAPESP's review and approval through SAGe.