



**Annex 1**

**AWARD APPLICATION**

**1. Candidate**

**Name:** Oprea

**First name:** Simona-Vasilica

**PhD. Year:** 2009

**Current position:** Associate professor

**Institution:** Bucharest University of Economic Studies

**Mobile phone:**

**Email address:**

**2. “Gala Cercetarii Romanesti” Edition: 2024**

**3. The prize and the category for which it is applied:** Științe sociale și economie – Premiul “Mattei Dogan”, Research team

**4. Team leader:** Simona-Vasilica Oprea (SV Oprea), associate professor, habilitated since 2021

**5. Team member:** Adela Bâra (A Bâra), professor, habilitated since 2015

**6. Research team scientific achievements - brief description.** This team has been consolidated since 2010. The significant achievements of SV Oprea and A Bâra, as reflected in their publications, span various aspects of energy systems, electrical markets and data science applications. These achievements demonstrate a comprehensive approach to energy system management, blending technical innovation with an understanding of market dynamics, consumer behavior, and environmental impacts. Their work is characterized by a strong foundation in data science and machine learning, applied to practical and theoretical problems in energy systems and markets. SV Oprea and A Bâra have made significant contributions to the fields of energy systems, electrical markets and data science. Their work demonstrates a deep integration of technical expertise, innovative methodologies, and practical applications.

Their 10 most significant key accomplishments include:

**1. Innovative Software Architectures and Applications:** The development of PV-OPTIM, a software for prosumer management in solar energy systems, reflects a significant advancement in the field. Their work on software architecture for energy management and forecasting showcases a blend of technical acumen and practical application. Development of advanced software solutions: Their



creation of PV-OPTIM, a sophisticated software architecture, represents a significant stride in solar energy systems management. This tool is specifically designed for prosumers (producer-consumers), indicating a focus on the evolving landscape of energy production and consumption. Their other contributions in software development for energy management and forecasting demonstrate an adeptness in combining technical skill with practical utility.

**2. Integration of Machine Learning and Big Data in Energy Markets:** Their research on predicting electricity market prices, incorporating macroeconomic factors and machine learning techniques, stands out as a pioneering approach to energy market analysis. Pioneering machine learning applications in energy markets: Their research in predicting electricity market prices using machine learning and macroeconomic factors is groundbreaking. It exemplifies the effective use of advanced analytical techniques to understand and forecast complex market dynamics, a crucial aspect in today's volatile energy markets.

**3. Advancements in Photovoltaic (PV) Forecasting:** The embedding of Weather Prediction Errors (WPE) into PV forecasting using deep learning techniques represents a significant contribution to improving the accuracy of renewable energy forecasts. Innovations in renewable energy forecasting: Embedding WPE into PV forecasting marks a significant advancement in renewable energy integration. This innovation improves the accuracy and reliability of solar power predictions, which is vital for efficient energy management and grid stability. The two researchers published several papers on this topic in prestigious journals, such as: Applied Soft Computing (Elsevier), Computers in Industry (Elsevier), Knowledge and Informatic Systems (Springer) and Journal of Forecasting (Wiley).

**4. Climate Change and Air Quality Studies:** Their interdisciplinary work in understanding climate change impacts and air quality, using news and weather data, indicates a holistic approach to environmental issues. Interdisciplinary approach to climate change and air quality: Their work in analyzing climate change and air quality through the lens of news and weather data processing reflects an interdisciplinary approach. This research highlights the importance of understanding environmental issues from multiple data sources and perspectives.

**5. Financial Market Insights:** The examination of Bitcoin volatility and the analysis of on-chain metrics and social media data offer valuable insights into the intersection of energy, technology, and finance. Exploration of financial markets and cryptocurrency: Investigating the volatility of Bitcoin and analyzing social media and on-chain metrics demonstrates their ability to apply their expertise beyond traditional energy domains. This work offers insights into the interconnected nature of finance, technology, and energy sectors. The two researchers published several papers on this topic in prestigious journals, such as: PeerJ Computer Science, Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence (accepted), Electronic Commerce Research (accepted).

**6. Designing Solutions for Energy Communities:** Their research on value sharing methods for heterogeneous energy communities and the development of digital twin models for energy coordination showcases their understanding of the social and technical challenges in energy distribution. These contributions are crucial for creating sustainable and efficient energy communities. Holistic energy community solutions: Their work on value sharing methods for



heterogeneous energy communities and digital twin models for energy coordination reflects a deep understanding of the societal and technical aspects of energy distribution. A new method for Value Sharing (VS) is introduced to allocate the value among Energy Community (EC) members based on their individual contributions to the overall surplus or deficit. This method takes into account each member's load-generation profile, rewarding those who enhance the EC's revenue with a larger share. Conversely, members who increase the EC's costs due to high demand, either met by shared generation or grid supply, receive a smaller share. The effectiveness of various allocation approaches is assessed using the Fairness Index (FI). Additionally, to guide the EC's strategy, which may shift over time, a decision model is formulated. This model employs an objective function that integrates FI with the Self-Sufficiency Index (SSI), adjusted by specific weighting coefficients. The approach is encapsulated in an algorithm that autonomously computes and assigns the profits. For the VS method under consideration, the FI ranges from 0.81 to 1, indicating its effectiveness and fairness in value distribution. Both researchers published papers on this topic in prestigious journals such as: Energy Policy, Utilities policy, Expert Systems with Applications, iScience, Knowledge-based Systems, etc.

**7. AI-Powered Forecasting in Electricity Markets:** Their application of AI for enhancing market strategies and price forecasting in electricity markets demonstrates a fusion of cutting-edge technology and economic insights. Utilizing AI for enhanced electricity market strategies: This approach leverages state-of-the-art technology to provide practical solutions in energy trading and market analysis. Their studies delve into the recent dynamics of electricity prices in Romania's Balancing Market (BM), a critical segment of the East-European electricity markets. The aim is to decipher and forecast price trends within the current economic and geopolitical landscape. This analysis is particularly crucial for electricity producers as they strategize the allocation of their output among various segments such as the wholesale electricity market, ancillary services markets, and the BM, with the objective of maximizing value and fostering sustainable economic growth. One of their papers introduces an innovative AI-powered methodology for forecasting electricity prices in the BM. This methodology leverages a range of standout Machine Learning (ML) algorithms, including both classifiers and regressors, to predict BM prices. The forecasting approach is structured into two distinct phases. The initial phase focuses on determining the sign of the imbalance, which plays a pivotal role in enhancing the overall accuracy of the price prediction. Subsequently, the method offers valuable insights for market participants, presenting two distinct prediction solutions to inform trading decisions. The first prediction solution involves an average of the outcomes from five ensemble ML algorithms. The second solution adopts a more intricate approach, applying weights to the predictions of these five ML algorithms. These weights are derived either through linear regression or a decision tree algorithm. By integrating both supervised and unsupervised ML algorithms, the study lays the groundwork for developing optimal bidding strategies for market players in the electricity market. This comprehensive approach not only aids in understanding market dynamics but also assists in creating more informed and effective market participation strategies. Both researchers published papers on this topic in prestigious journals, such as Applied Intelligence.



**8. Innovative Use of Blockchain and IoT Technologies:** The conceptualization of a blockchain solution for e-voting and the development of architectures that integrate edge, fog, and cloud computing for IoT in smart metering indicate their expertise in adapting emerging technologies for practical solutions. Blockchain and IoT Applications: One of their paper focuses on the burgeoning relevance of e-voting, propelled by the digitalization wave across various sectors and underscored by the necessity to minimize crowds during pandemic situations. E-voting emerges as a practical alternative to traditional voting methods, offering the convenience of utilizing digital devices like laptops, mobile phones, or tablets. This digital approach not only streamlines the voting process but also addresses key issues associated with manual voting, such as human counting errors and potential fraud. The primary objective of this research is to delineate the critical specifications of an e-voting application, tailored specifically for university elections. The paper aims to develop a solution for this context and conduct a comparative analysis with existing e-voting systems. The proposed solution is anchored on a conceptual architecture that incorporates encrypted functions and is structured into two main stages: voting and validation. This architecture emphasizes the separation of layers and roles, ensuring a robust and secure framework. A distinctive feature of the proposed e-voting system is its reliance on blockchain technology, which facilitates secure and transparent interactions between the involved parties—voters and the voting committee. The system architecture integrates two main software components: a web application and a database. This combination ensures a seamless and secure voting experience. To enhance understanding and facilitate replication, the paper presents the conceptual architecture through various Unified Modeling Language (UML) diagrams. These diagrams provide a comprehensive and formalized representation of the system's structure and workflow. Moreover, the paper includes an initial implementation phase of the proposed solution, serving as a proof of concept. This implementation showcases the practical applicability and effectiveness of the e-voting system, marking a significant step forward in digitalizing and securing the voting process in academic institutions.

**9. Empirical Analyses and Theoretical Contributions:** Their empirical analysis of the impact of lockdowns on e-commerce and theoretical contributions to understanding electricity market dynamics showcase their ability to combine practical data analysis with theoretical modeling. One of their papers presents a detailed empirical analysis of e-commerce data derived from Google Analytics (GA) for two small businesses in Romania: an IT components company and a tourism agency. The study spans a critical period from January 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, to mid-February 2023, offering a comprehensive view of the pandemic's impact and seasonal variations over four years. The approach to data analysis is twofold, tailored to the unique characteristics of each business. For the IT company, the study categorizes GA metrics into groups that reflect website performance, site accessibility, and user behavior. In contrast, the analysis for the tourism agency concentrates on website accessibility, user behavior, and the effectiveness of marketing campaigns. The core objective is to cluster GA metrics based on their inherent significance and assess if each cluster accurately represents latent concepts like user behavior or site accessibility. Central to this study are five hypotheses formulated to examine the immediate and enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on these small businesses.



**10. Studies on Energy Consumer Behavior:** Their research into factors influencing electricity consumer behavior, especially regarding demand response programs, shows their commitment to applying behavioral insights to energy consumption patterns. In summary, the breadth and depth of SV Oprea and A Băra's work span across several critical areas of energy systems and markets. They have effectively bridged the gap between advanced technological methodologies and practical applications, providing valuable insights and solutions in the realms of renewable energy forecasting, market analysis, consumer behavior, and the application of emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, and IoT. Their interdisciplinary approach and innovative research contributions are a testament to their commitment to advancing the field of energy systems and technology. Both researchers published papers on this topic in prestigious journals such as *Computers and Electrical Engineering*, *Kybernetes*, *Peer-to-Peer Networking and Applications*, etc.

#### 7. Curriculum vitae of the team leader



**Simona-Vasilica Oprea** (Female, b. 1978, Nationality: Romanian) has an interdisciplinary background in *Power System Engineering* (RES integration, grid planning studies) and *ICT* (database, big data, blockchain, machine learning algorithms, deep learning, web scraping). She received the **MSc degree** from the Infrastructure Management Program, Yokohama National University, Japan in 2007; **1<sup>st</sup> PhD** in Electrical Engineering from the Bucharest Polytechnic University; in 2009, **2<sup>nd</sup> PhD** in Economic Informatics from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE) in 2017. Since 2010, she is involved in 9 national and international research projects as member or PI. She is the author of 10 books and international chapters, and scientific articles, over **85 indexed in**

**ISI Web of Science** (over 50 journal papers and over 20 proceeding conferences, 1 book chapter), h-index 15. She worked for the Romanian Transmission System Operator Transelectrica: 2002-2014; the National Energy Regulatory ANRE (2014) and the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE): 2014-present.

##### a) Degrees and diplomas

**December 2021 – Habilitation in Economic Informatics** at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. Habilitation thesis title: „*Big data analytics and blockchain solutions*”

**2014-2017 PhD in Economic Informatics** at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. PhD thesis title: „*Informatics solutions for decision assistance regarding electricity consumption optimization in smart grids*”

**2002-2009 PhD in Electrical Engineering** at the Bucharest Polytechnic University. PhD thesis title: “*Aspects regarding the open access to the electricity grids. Renewable energy sources integration*”

**2005-2007 Master in Infrastructure Management** at the Yokohama National University, Japan. The International Graduate School of Social Sciences. Thesis title: *Allocation methods of cross-border grid capacity*

**2001-2002 Master in Power Systems** at the Bucharest Polytechnic University, Energy Faculty

**1996-2001 Bachelor** at the Bucharest Polytechnic University, Energy Faculty

##### b) Research projects



**2010-present Researcher** – *Manager* in 4 research projects (PNIII-PCE SMART-TWINS, PNIII-PED BIGDATA4GRID, PNIII-BRIDGE SMART-OPTIM , H2020-ERANET SMART-MLA) and *Member* in 4 research projects (PNII-TE , PNII-PCCA SIPAMER, PNIII-PTE OPTIMPV, COP SMARTRADE)

**June 2022-2025 Principal Investigator** – Project title: *Developing a Model-based Digital Twin Reference Architecture for Active Energy Consumers and Smart Communities* (SMART-TWINS), Funding agency: UEFISCDI, PCE 2021, Total budget 1.200.000 RON, 36 months, Contract no. PCE 35/2022, code PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-0334

**2020-2022 Principal Investigator** – Project title: *Big data solutions in demand side management enhancing market strategies and settlement for distribution grid operators* (BIGDATA4GRID), Funding agency: UEFISCDI, PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-1198, PED 2019, Total budget 600.000 RON, Total amount for ASE: 400.000 RON, coordinator ASE, partner SC ICPE SA, 24 months, Contract no. 462PED/28.10.2020, web page: <https://simonaoprea.ase.ro/research/bigdata4grid/>

**2018-2021 Principal Investigator** for ASE partner – Project title: *Multi-layer aggregator solutions to facilitate optimum demand response and grid flexibility*, Funding agency: ERA-NET Co-fund under H2020, UEFISCDI, Total amount for ASE: 169.000 Euro, PNIII European and International Cooperation H2020, ERANET H2020, Partners: ASE (Romania), Stimasoft (Romania), KTH (Sweden), DTU (Denmark), EPRA (Turkey)-coordinator, AKEDAS (Turkey), USN (Norway), Contract 71/2018, Acronym: SMART-MLA, Project web page: <https://smart-mla.stimasoft.com/>; ERA-NET web page: <https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Projects>

**2016-2018 Principal Investigator** – Project title: *Informatics solutions for electricity consumption analysis and optimization in smart grids*, Funding agency: UEFISCDI, Total amount for ASE: 100.000 Euro, PN-III-P2-2.1-BG-2016-0286, BRIDGE Grant, Partners: ASE (Romania)-coordinator, MET (Romania), Romanian-American University (Romania), Contract 77BG/2016, Acronym: SMART-OPTIM; Web page: <https://sites.google.com/a/csie.ase.ro/smart-optim/>

**2016-2020 Project Member** – *Intelligent system for trading on wholesale electricity market Competitiveness Operational Programme (COP) 2014-2020*, Contract 62/2016, Co-financed by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Funding agency: ANCSI, Total amount: 1.200.000 Euro, Acronym SMARTRADE; Project website: <http://smartrade.ase.ro/>

**2016-2018 Project Member** - *Informatics solutions for optimizing the operation of photovoltaic power plants*, PN-III-P2-2.1-PTE-2016-0032, 4PTE/06/10/2016, Funding agency: UEFISCDI, Total amount for ASE: 100.000 Euro, Partners: ICPE (Romania)-coordinator, ASE (Romania), EnergyPRO (Romania), Acronym: OPTIM-PV; Web page: <http://www.icpe.ro/projects/optimpv/>

**2014-2017 Project Member** – *Sistem inteligent pentru predicția, analiza și monitorizarea indicatorilor de performanță a proceselor tehnologice și de afaceri în domeniul energiilor regenerabile*, PN II PT-PCCA-2013-4-0996, Contract 49/2014, Funding agency: UEFISCDI, Total amount for ASE: 348.000 Euro, Partners: ASE (Romania)-coordinator, Romanian-American University (Romania), Stimasoft SRL (Romania), Acronym SIPAMER

**2010-2013 Project Member** – *Soluuții informatice pentru asistarea procesului decizional în mediile incerte și cu evoluții puțin predictibile în vederea integrării în rețele de tip grid*, PNII-TE, Code: 332, Contract 44/2010, Funding agency: UEFISCDI, Total amount: 140.000 Euro



c) Recent Jobs in Academia:

**February 2022-present Associate Professor** at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Faculty of Cybernetics, Statistics and Economic Informatics

**2019 – 2022 Lecturer** at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Faculty of Cybernetics, Statistics and Economic Informatics

**2015-2019 Assistant Professor** at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Faculty of Cybernetics, Statistics and Economic Informatics

d) Scientometric indicators from WoS: **Hirsch index=15**

**Times Cited Total: 564**

**Times Cited Without self-citations: 451**

e) ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9005-5181>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=hIKefqAAAAAJ&hl=ro>

f) Profile address from [www.brainmap.ro](http://www.brainmap.ro): <https://www.brainmap.ro/simona-vasilica-oprea>

g) Website <https://simonaoprea.ase.ro/>

The candidate fulfills 3 out of the 6 points: namely 1, 3, 6.

**Point 1.** The candidate has 9 research papers in Q1 based on AIS. Also, the team member fulfills this criterion as they have numerous common publications.

**Point 3.** Both the candidate and the team member have numerous research projects as responsible, project principal investigator during 2019-2024 as in Table 3.

**Point 6.** The candidate's A score is over 5. Also, the team member's A score is over 5.

**2019-2024**

**JOURNAL OF MODERN POWER SYSTEMS AND CLEAN ENERGY**

WOS:000477895600005

AIS=1,086; n=5

**A<sub>1</sub>=0,2172**

**COMPUTERS & INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING**

WOS:000482244100030; n=4

WOS:000809236200002; n=2

AIS=1,139

**A<sub>2</sub>=0,2848**

**A<sub>3</sub>=0,5695**

**IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

WOS:000487199700050

AIS=2,27; n=4

**A<sub>4</sub>=0,5675**

**COMPUTERS IN INDUSTRY**

WOS:000538762600005

AIS=1,548; n=2



**A<sub>5</sub>=0,774**

**ENERGY POLICY**

WOS:000636054400028; n=2

WOS:001128156900001; n=2

AIS=1,538

**A<sub>6</sub>=0,769**

**A<sub>7</sub>=0,769**

**KNOWLEDGE-BASED SYSTEMS**

WOS:000685993500015

AIS=1,443; n=2

**A<sub>8</sub>=0,7215**

**EXPERT SYSTEMS WITH APPLICATIONS**

WOS:000867544000005

AIS=1,277; n=2

**A<sub>9</sub>=0,6385**

**A=5,311**

The candidate also reports the following two papers (with AIS in Q1) that are with the following status:

Published online

Adela Bâra, Simona-Vasilica Oprea, A Value Sharing Method for Heterogenous Energy Communities Archetypes, iScience, Adela Bâra, Simona-Vasilica Oprea, Volume 27, Issue 1, 2024, 108687, ISSN 2589-0042, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2023.108687>, AIS 1.655

Accepted for publication

Adela Bâra, Simona-Vasilica Oprea, An Ensemble Learning Method for Bitcoin Price Prediction Based on Volatility Indicators and Trend, in Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence journal, AIS 1.194

**Curriculum Vitae for the team member:**



**Adela BÂRA** (b. October 11, 1978) is Professor at the Economic Informatics Department at the Faculty of Cybernetics, Statistics and Economic Informatics from the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest. She graduated from the Faculty of Economic Cybernetics in 2002, holds a PhD diploma in Economics since 2007. She is the author of 19 books in the domain of economic informatics, over 90 published scientific papers and articles (among which over 50 articles are indexed in ISI Web of Knowledge). She participated in 11 research projects (4 of them as principal investigator or project responsible), financed from national and international research programs. Domains of





competence: Databases; Big Data; Machine Learning; IoT; Informatics solutions for energy systems (data integration, analytics, web-services, cloud-computing development).

#### CONTACT INFO

**Address:** No. 6 Romana Square, District 1, Bucharest, Romania

**Tel:**

**Email:**

**Website:** <https://adela-bara.ase.ro/>

**H-index = 15**

**Times Cited Total: 558**

**Times Cited Without self-citations: 450**

#### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- **Habilitation** in Economic Informatics and Cybernetics, 2015
- **Ph.D.** in Economic Informatics and Cybernetics, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania, 2007. Subject area: Data warehousing, Data Mining and Business Intelligence
- **M.Sc.** in Economic Informatics and Cybernetics, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania (2002-2003)
- **B.Sc.** in Economic Informatics and Cybernetics, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania (1997 - 2002)

#### WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Oct. 2015 to present:**

*Professor* – Department of Economic Informatics and Cybernetics, Faculty of Economic Cybernetics, Statistics and Informatics, Bucharest University of Economic Studies (BUES)

*PhD Supervisor* – main supervisor for 3 PhD students and co-supervisor for 10 PhD students, subject areas: Data warehousing, Data Mining, Big Data, Business Intelligence, Artificial neural Networks.

- **Oct. 2002 – Oct. 2015:**

*Assistant professor* (2002-2008), *lecturer* (2008-2013), *associate professor* (2013-2015) – Department of Economic Informatics and Cybernetics, Faculty of Economic Cybernetics, Statistics and Informatics, Bucharest University of Economic Studies (BUES)

#### RESEARCH INTEREST

- Databases (relational, object-oriented, spatial, NoSQL); Big Data; Machine Learning; IoT;
- Informatics solutions for energy systems: data integration, analytics, web-services, cloud-computing development.

#### RECENT KEY PROJECTS

- Developing a Model-based Digital Twin Reference Architecture for Active Energy Consumers and Smart Communities (SMART-TWINS), PCE 35/2022, PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-0334, 2022-2024, member;
- Big data solutions in demand side management enhancing market strategies and settlement for distribution grid operators (BIGDATA4GRID), PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-1198, 462PED/28.10.2020, 2020-2022, member;



- Multi-layer aggregator solutions to facilitate optimum demand response and grid flexibility (SMART-MLA), H2020, ERA NET-SMART GRID PLUS, 2018-2021, member;
- Intelligent system for trading on wholesale electricity market (SMARTRADE), COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2014-2020, funded by European Funds ERDF, 2016-2020, project responsible;
- Informatics solution for optimization of technical procedures of photovoltaic power plants (OPTIMPV), project code PN-III-P2-2.1-PTE-2016-0032, Increasing the Competitiveness of the Romanian Economy through Research, Development and Innovation, Subprogram 2.1. Competitiveness through Research, Development and Innovation, Transfer to Economic Operator Competition (PTE), funded by National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation – UEFISCDI, Romania, 2016-2018, Principle Investigator;
- IT Solutions for Analysis and Consumption Optimization in Smart Grids (SMART-OPTIM), project code PN-III-P2-2.1-BG-2016-0286, Program Increasing the Competitiveness of the Romanian Economy through Research, Development and Innovation, Subprogram 2.1. Competitiveness through Research, Development and Innovation, Bridge Grant Competition, funded by National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation – UEFISCDI, Romania, 2016-2018, member;
- Intelligent system for predicting, analysing and monitoring performance indicators and business processes in the field of renewable energies (SIPAMER), PNII - PCCA 2013, code 0996, no. 49/2014 funded by National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation – UEFISCDI, Romania, 2014-2017, Principle Investigator;

#### RECENT KEY PUBLICATIONS

- Bâra Adela, Simona-Vasilica Oprea, Embedding the Weather Prediction Errors (WPE) into the PV Forecasting Method using Deep Learning. *Journal of Forecasting*, Wiley, 2024
- Simona-Vasilica Oprea, Bâra Adela, On-grid and Off-grid Photovoltaic Systems Forecasting using a Hybrid Meta-learning Method, *Knowledge and Information Systems*, Springer, 2024
- Bâra Adela, Simona-Vasilica Oprea, A Value Sharing Method for Heterogenous Energy Communities Archetypes, *iScience*, Adela Bâra, Simona-Vasilica Oprea, Volume 27, Issue 1, 2024, 108687, ISSN 2589-0042, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2023.108687> , *iScience*, 2024
- Bâra Adela, Simona-Vasilica Oprea, Enabling Coordination in Energy Communities: A Digital Twin Model, Volume 184, January 2024, 113910, *Energy Policy*, <https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1iAus14YGgpcuM>, Elsevier, 2024
- Bâra, A., Oprea, S.-V., & Ciurea, C.-E. (2023). Improving the strategies of the market players using an AI-powered price forecast for electricity market. *Technological and Economic Development of Economy*, 1-26. <https://doi.org/10.3846/tede.2023.20251>, VILNIUS TECH, 2023
- Bâra, A. and Oprea, S.V. (2023), A holistic view on business model-oriented energy communities, *Kybernetes*, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/K-07-2023-1235>, Emerald Publishing Limited, 2023



- Simona-Vasilica OPREA, Adela BĂRA, Gabriela DOBRIȚA (ENE), Dragoș-Cătălin BARBU, A Horizontal Tuning Framework for Machine Learning Algorithms Using a Microservice-based Architecture, *Studies in Informatics and Control*, ISSN 1220-1766, vol. 32(3), pp. 31-43, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.24846/v32i3y202303>, <https://sic.ici.ro/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Art.-3-Issue-3-2023.pdf>, SIC, 2023
- Simona-Vasilica Oprea, Adela Bâra. A stacked ensemble forecast for photovoltaic power plants combining deterministic and stochastic methods. *Applied Soft Computing*, Volume 147, November 2023, Page 110781, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asoc.2023.110781>, Elsevier, 2023
- Bâra, Adela, Simona-Vasilica Oprea, Cristian Bucur, and Bogdan-George Tudorică. „Unraveling the Impact of Lockdowns on E-commerce: An Empirical Analysis of Google Analytics Data during 2019–2022” *Journal of Theoretical and Applied Electronic Commerce Research* 18, no. 3: 1484-1510. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jtaer18030075>, 2023
- Bâra, A., Oprea, SV. & Băroiu, AC. Forecasting the Spot Market Electricity Price with a Long Short-Term Memory Model Architecture in a Disruptive Economic and Geopolitical Context. *Int J Comput Intell Syst* 16, 130 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44196-023-00309-3>, Springer, 2023
- Bâra, A., Oprea, SV. & Tudorică, B.G. From the East-European Regional Day-Ahead Markets to a Global Electricity Market. *Computational Economics* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10614-023-10416-0>, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10614-023-10416-0>, Springer, 2023
- Bâra, A., Oprea, SV. Intelligent system to optimally trade at the interference of multiple crises. *Applied Intelligence* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10489-023-04823-x> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10489-023-04823-x>, Springer, 2023
- Bâra, A. and Oprea, S.-V. (2023), What makes electricity consumers change their behavior? Influence of attitude and perceived impact of DR programs on awareness, *Kybernetes*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/K-01-2023-0032>, Emerald Publishing Limited, 2023
- Bâra Adela, Simona-Vasilica Oprea, and Irina Alexandra Georgescu. 2023. Understanding Electricity Price Evolution – Day-Ahead Market Competitiveness in Romania. *Journal of Business Economics and Management* 24 (2):221–244. <https://doi.org/10.3846/jbem.2023.19050>, VILNIUS GEDIMINAS TECH UNIV, 2023
- S. -V. Oprea, A. Bâra, A. -I. Andreescu and M. P. Cristescu, Conceptual Architecture of a Blockchain Solution for E-Voting in Elections at the University Level, in *IEEE Access*, doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2023.3247964, <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10049991>, IEEE Access, 2023.

## 8. List of publications

Full list of SCI publications can be found at the website: <https://simonaoprea.ase.ro/articole-isi/>

Table 1. Journal papers indexed by WoS, extracted from WoS (2019-2024)

| N | Authors | Title | Journal | Ye |
|---|---------|-------|---------|----|
|---|---------|-------|---------|----|



|    |   |  |   | a<br>r           |
|----|---|--|---|------------------|
| 1  | Oprea, Simona-Vasilica;<br>Bara, Adela  | On-grid and off-grid photovoltaic systems forecasting using a hybrid meta-learning method, <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10115-023-02037-8">http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10115-023-02037-8</a> , WOS:001138337300001               | KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, ISSN/eISSN: 0219-1377/0219-3116                      | 2<br>0<br>2<br>4 |
| 2  | Bara, Adela; Oprea, Simona-Vasilica   | Enabling coordination in energy communities: A Digital Twin model, <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2023.113910">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2023.113910</a> , WOS:001128156900001                                     | ENERGY POLICY, ISSN/eISSN: 0301-4215/1873-6777  | 2<br>0<br>2<br>4 |
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| 4<br>6 | Teimourzadeh, Saeed;<br>Tor, Osman Bulent;<br>Cebeci, Mahmut Erkut;<br>Bara, Adela; Oprea,<br>Simona Vasilica | A three-stage approach for resilience-constrained scheduling of networked microgrids,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s40565-019-0555-0">http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s40565-019-0555-0</a> ,<br>WOS:000477895600005  | JOURNAL OF MODERN<br>POWER SYSTEMS AND<br>CLEAN ENERGY,<br>ISSN/eISSN: 2196-<br>5625/2196-5420 | 2<br>0<br>1<br>9 |
| 4<br>7 | Oprea, Simona Vasilica;<br>Bara, Adela; Diaconita,<br>Vlad  | Sliding Time Window Electricity Consumption Optimization Algorithm for Communities in the Context of Big Data Processing,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2892902">http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2892902</a> , WOS:000458177800075                                     | IEEE ACCESS,<br>ISSN/eISSN: 2169-3536/   | 2<br>0<br>1<br>9 |
| 4<br>8 | Oprea, Simona-Vasilica;<br>Bara, Adela; Preotescu,<br>Dan; Elefterescu,<br>Luminta                            | Photovoltaic Power Plants (PV-PP) Reliability Indicators for Improving Operation and Maintenance Activities. A Case Study of PV-PP Agigea Located in Romania,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2907098">http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2907098</a> , WOS:000464212600001 | IEEE ACCESS,<br>ISSN/eISSN: 2169-3536/   | 2<br>0<br>1<br>9 |
| 4<br>9 | Oprea, Simona-Vasilica;<br>Bara, Adela  | Machine Learning Algorithms for Short-Term Load Forecast in Residential Buildings Using Smart Meters, Sensors and Big Data Solutions,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2958383">http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2958383</a> , WOS:000509483800046                         | IEEE ACCESS,<br>ISSN/eISSN: 2169-3536/   | 2<br>0<br>1<br>9 |

Table 2. Conference proceedings and Book Chapters indexed by WoS, extracted from WoS 2019-2023

| N | Authors   | Title  | Publication   | Year             |
|---|---|--|---|------------------|
| 1 | Oprea, Simona-Vasilica;<br>Bara, Adela; Jin<br>Xiaolong; Meng, Qian;<br>Berntzen, Lasse                     | Sustainable Communities with Smart Meters. A Statistical Measurement Model to Cope with Electricity Consumers' Behavior, <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-6755-9_12">http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-6755-9_12</a> ,<br>WOS:001012874500012  | EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND<br>BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES,<br>ISSN/eISSN: 2190-3018/2190-3026                                    | 2<br>0<br>2<br>3 |
| 2 | Dobrita, Gabriela; Bara,<br>Adela; Oprea, Simona-<br>Vasilica; Baroiu,<br>Costin; Barbu, Dragos-<br>Catalin | Mobility, COVID-19 cases and virus reproduction rate data analysis for Romania using Machine Learning Algorithms,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ICSTCC55426.2022.9931806">http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ICSTCC55426.2022.9931806</a> , WOS:000889980600042 | 2022 26TH INTERNATIONAL<br>CONFERENCE ON SYSTEM<br>THEORY, CONTROL AND<br>COMPUTING (ICSTCC),<br>ISSN/eISSN: 2372-1618/ | 2<br>0<br>2<br>2 |
| 3 | Oprea, Simona-Vasilica;<br>Bara, Adela; Oprea,<br>Niculae   | Machine learning in electricity fraud detection in smart grids with multivariate Gaussian distribution,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2478/picbe-2021-0049">http://dx.doi.org/10.2478/picbe-2021-0049</a> ,<br>WOS:000747987000021                          | PROCEEDINGS OF THE<br>INTERNATIONAL<br>CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS<br>EXCELLENCE, ISSN/eISSN:<br>2502-0226/2558-9652         | 2<br>0<br>2<br>1 |



|    |  |   |  |                  |
|----|--|---|--|------------------|
| 4  | Marales, Razvan<br>Cristian; Bara, Adela;<br>Oprea, Simona-Vasilica  | Edge Computing in Real-Time Electricity Consumption Optimization Algorithm for Smart Grids,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-53651-0_16">http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-53651-0_16</a> , WOS:000621675100016  | INTELLIGENT METHODS IN COMPUTING, COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL, ISSN/eISSN: 2194-5357/2194-5365  | 2<br>0<br>2<br>1 |
| 5  | Oprea, Simona-Vasilica;<br>Bara, Adela; Dobrita (Ene), Gabriela  | Machine Learning Algorithms and Time Series Feature Extraction Library for Electricity Consumption Fraud Detection in Smart Grids,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ICSTCC52150.2021.9607308">http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/ICSTCC52150.2021.9607308</a> , WOS:000859487900083 | 2021 25TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SYSTEM THEORY, CONTROL AND COMPUTING (ICSTCC), ISSN/eISSN: 2372-1618/                          | 2<br>0<br>2<br>1 |
| 6  | Oprea, Simona-Vasilica;<br>Bara, Adela; Ceaparu, Catalin; Ducman, Anca Alexandra; Diaconita, Vlad; Ene, Gabriela Dobrita | Insights with Big Data Analysis for Commercial Buildings Flexibility in the Context of Smart Cities,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.5220/0010409801180124">http://dx.doi.org/10.5220/0010409801180124</a> , WOS:000783446900012   | PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMART CITIES AND GREEN ICT SYSTEMS (SMARTGREENS), ISSN/eISSN: /                  | 2<br>0<br>2<br>1 |
| 7  | Preotescu, Dan; Oprea, Simona-Vasilica; Bara, Adela  | Flexibility of the Electricity Load for the Main Types of Consumers, ,<br>WOS:000683887600019   | UNDER THE PRESSURE OF DIGITALIZATION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS AT ORGANIZATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL LEVELS, FIRST EDITION, ISSN/eISSN: / | 2<br>0<br>2<br>1 |
| 8  | Ifrim, George; Oprea, Simona Vasilica; Bara, Adela   | Peak Shaving Algorithms for Residential Consumers. A Comparative Study,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/icstcc50638.2020.9259750">http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/icstcc50638.2020.9259750</a> , WOS:000646582900007  | 2020 24TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SYSTEM THEORY, CONTROL AND COMPUTING (ICSTCC), ISSN/eISSN: 2372-1618/                          | 2<br>0<br>2<br>0 |
| 9  | Oprea, Simona-Vasilica;<br>Tudorica, Bogdan; Bara, Adela; Tor, Osman Bulent  | An Intra-Residential Smart Metering System - Design and Implementation,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2478/9788366675162-033">http://dx.doi.org/10.2478/9788366675162-033</a> , WOS:000763773400032  | INNOVATIVE MODELS TO REVIVE THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, ISSN/eISSN: 2704-6524/   | 2<br>0<br>2<br>0 |
| 10 | Ifrim, George; Oprea, Simona Vasilica; Bara, Adela   | Shifting Optimization Algorithm for Flattening the Electricity Consumption Peak of Residential Communities,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/icstcc.2019.8885831">http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/icstcc.2019.8885831</a> , WOS:000590181100119                                  | 2019 23RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SYSTEM THEORY, CONTROL AND COMPUTING (ICSTCC), ISSN/eISSN: 2372-1618/                          | 2<br>0<br>1<br>9 |
| 11 | Oprea, Simona-Vasilica;<br>Bara, Adela; Diaconita, Vlad; Preotescu, Dan; Tor, Osman Bulent                               | Big Data solutions - data ingestion and stream processing for demand response management,<br><a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/icstcc.2019.8885519">http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/icstcc.2019.8885519</a> , WOS:000590181100118  | 2019 23RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SYSTEM THEORY, CONTROL AND COMPUTING (ICSTCC), ISSN/eISSN: 2372-1618/                          | 2<br>0<br>1<br>9 |

**9. Research projects of the team.** A summary of SV Oprea and A Bara's research projects is provided:

Table 3. SV Oprea and A Bara's research projects



## MINISTERUL CERCETĂRII, INOVĂRII ȘI DIGITALIZĂRII

| Years     | PI/Responsible / member                            | Project Title and Acronym   | Type of Project       | Funding Agency/ Competition                       | Budget ASE     | Duration | Objective/Description  |
|-----------|--|---|-----------------------|---|----------------|----------|--|
| 2024-2027 | Responsible: SV Oprea, Project Member: A Adela     | Valorisation and Integration of Extractive Waste towards the Sustainability of Raw Materials Industry | International (Intl.) | UEFISCDI ERA-MIN3                                 | 100.000 Euro   | 3 years  | Focus on sustainable raw materials industry; details at <a href="http://valorwaste.ase.ro">valorwaste.ase.ro</a>                         |
| 2023-2026 | PI Consortium Coordinator: SV Oprea, Co-PI: A Bara | Service-oriented Open Platform for Citizen Energy Communities (OPEN4CEC)                              | Intl.                 | UEFISCDI Driven Urban Transition 2022             | 230.000 Euro   | 3 years  | Develop an open platform for energy communities; details at <a href="http://dutpartnership.eu">dutpartnership.eu</a>                     |
| 2023-2026 | PI Consortium Coordinator: SV Oprea, Co-PI: A Bara | SMART-LEM (Business Model-Oriented Platform for Local Electricity Markets)                            | Intl.                 | UEFISCDI Clean Energy Transition Partnership 2022 | 230.000 Euro   | 3 years  | Develop a platform for local electricity markets; details at <a href="http://smartlem.ase.ro">smartlem.ase.ro</a>                        |
| 2022-2025 | PI: SV Oprea, Co-PI: A Bara                        | SMART-TWINS (Digital Twin Architecture for Energy Consumers and Communities)                          | National              | UEFISCDI  | 1.200.000 RON  | 3 years  | Develop a digital twin reference architecture for energy consumers and communities   |
| 2020-2022 | PI: SV Oprea, Co-PI: A Bara                        | BIGDATA4GRID (Big Data Solutions for Energy Consumption Management)                                   | National              | UEFISCDI  | 600.000 RON    | 2 years  | Big data solutions for energy management and market strategies improvement   |
| 2018-2021 | Responsible: SV Oprea, Project member: A Bara      | SMART-MLA (Multi-layer Aggregator Solutions for Demand Response and Grid Flexibility)                 | Intl.                 | UEFISCDI ERA-NET Co-fund under H2020              | 169.000 Euro   | 3 years  | Facilitate optimum demand response and grid flexibility; details at <a href="http://smart-mla.stimasoft.com">smart-mla.stimasoft.com</a> |
| 2016-2018 | PI: SV Oprea, Co-PI: Bara Adela                    | SMART-OPTIM (Electricity Consumption Analysis and Optimization in Smart Grids)                        | National              | UEFISCDI  | 100.000 Euro   | 2 years  | Solutions for electricity consumption analysis and optimization in smart grids   |
| 2016-2020 | Responsible: A Bara, Project member: SV Oprea      | SMARTRADE (Intelligent System for Trading on Wholesale Electricity Market)                            | Intl.                 | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)         | 1.200.000 Euro | 4 years  | Trading on wholesale electricity market; details at <a href="http://smartrade.ase.ro">smartrade.ase.ro</a>                               |



|           |   |   |          |          |              |         |  |
|-----------|---|---|----------|----------|--------------|---------|--|
| 2016-2018 | Responsible: A Bara, Project member: SV Oprea | OPTIM-PV (Optimizing Operation of Photovoltaic Power Plants)                                | National | UEFISCDI | 100.000 Euro | 2 years | Optimize operation of photovoltaic power plants; details at <a href="http://icpe.ro/projects/optimpv">icpe.ro/projects/optimpv</a> |
| 2014-2017 | PI: A Bara, Project member: SV Oprea          | SIPAMER (Intelligent System for Prediction, Analysis, and Monitoring in Renewable Energies) | National | UEFISCDI | 348.000 Euro | 3 years | Prediction, analysis, and monitoring in renewable energy processes   |
| 2010-2013 | PI: A Bara, Project member: SV Oprea          | Tinere Echipe (TE)  | National | UEFISCDI | 140.000 Euro | 3 years | Informatics solutions for decision-making in uncertain environments  |

Table 3 illustrates the diverse and extensive research contributions of SV Oprea and A Bara in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) and energy, highlighting her roles as both a principal investigator and a consortium coordinator in various national and international projects. Her work spans from developing solutions for energy consumption management to creating platforms for citizen energy communities, reflecting a strong focus on sustainability, innovation, and the integration of technology in energy systems.

### International visibility

The team leader is principal investigator of two consortium in Driving Urban Transition (DUT) and Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP) projects won in 2023 with international partners from prestigious universities from Norway, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Portugal. The team leader and member are in one of the ERA-MIN3 projects won in 2023 and coordinated by Portugal.

Both team leader and member received an invitation to teach Chinese students in databases field.

Team leader: h-index = 15

Team member: h-index = 15

Both researchers are part of organization teams (S.V. Oprea from 2021, A. Bara from 2022), like Science Connect (<https://www.esf.org/community-of-experts/>, [https://www.esf.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/esf/2021\\_Annual\\_List\\_of\\_External\\_Reviewers\\_and\\_Panel\\_Members-protected.pdf](https://www.esf.org/fileadmin/user_upload/esf/2021_Annual_List_of_External_Reviewers_and_Panel_Members-protected.pdf)), or research organization/authorities from Slovakia, Bulgaria, to evaluate international research projects.

Furthermore, both researchers are in the reviewing team of the *Oeconomia Copernicana* journal, Q1 (IF), Q3 (AIS), category: ECONOMICS – SSCI.

In 2017 and 2021, the two researchers were awarded Researcher of the Year in ASE Bucuresti. They both received Opera Omnia awards.

The research team has initiated projects that involved young researchers and already publishes several papers together ensuring the knowledge transfer and research skills of the PhD students.



**10. List of patents**

Both researchers together with Osman Tor and Dan Preotescu submitted a patent application in 2021.

Title: SISTEM INFORMATIC INTEGRAT ȘI METODE PENTRU MANAGEMENTUL CONSUMULUI ȘI PRODUCȚIEI DE ENERGIE ELECTRICĂ PENTRU SIMULAREA ȘI TRANZACȚIONAREA PE PIEȚELE DE ENERGIEI ELECTRICĂ

A/00549/21.01.2021 publication in BOPI 09/2021