



Welcome to the 50th Christmas Edition of the ESEIA Newsletter!

Dear ESEIA members, colleagues and friends,

Believe it or not, this Xmas Edition is our 50th ESEIA Newsletter. If you are up to a little nostalgia, have a look at the 1st ESEIA NL Edition from spring 2011.

This year ended with a beginning namely of a newly funded project named EMERGE which is dedicated to energy systems modelling in EU and AU. ESEIA is partnering up with great organizations from CV, MO, MZ, and NG under the leadership of **Goran Krajacic**, UNIZAG FSB, who hosted the kick-off meeting earlier this month.

Read more about how ESEIA members ADENE and LNEG, namely ESEIA Vice-President **Teresa Ponce de Leão** contributed to the global conversation on climate action by hosting insightful panel discussions as part of the Portuguese Pavilion during COP28, the UN Climate Change Conference held in Dubai earlier this month. As **newly appointed Member of Board of EIT Climate KIC** I followed the discussions closely and will try to explore joint activities with ESEIA for climate action.

Check out our **five new proposals** in the making and engage with our proposal teams. If you are still undecided, join one of our Working Group Meetings to find out more.

As part of New ESEIA_34, please also fill out our **FP10 Questionnaire** to influence the design of the next R&I Framework Programme 28-34.

Enjoy reading! Season's greetings from

Brigitte Hasewend
ESEIA Director



*ESEIA Team EMERGE Kick-off, Zagreb Dec23
(Zina Mejbri, Hana Lee, Brigitte Hasewend)*

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1. News from ESEIA

Celebrating 50 Editions of the ESEIA Newsletter

The 1st edition of the ESEIA Newsletter, an exclusive service to the ESEIA members, saw the light in February 2011. Although it has changed its appearance over the years, it continues to be published quarterly, featuring news from ESEIA and its members, project highlights, past and future events, and many other updates. To mark the 50th edition of the ESEIA Newsletter, we invite you to look back at our journey of collaboration and innovation, centred around the number five.



Five Working Groups Driving the Alliance

The ESEIA Working Groups (WGs) are the driving force of our organisation. The five WGs, made up of around 300 experts across our membership, bring their knowledge and experience to help deliver the European Green Deal and its Fit for 55 targets: WG 1 Bioresources, Biobased Economy and Bioresource Utilization; WG 2 Energy Transition in Urban Regions; WG 3 Smart Energy Materials; WG 4 Governance, Business Models and Legal Frameworks; and WG 5 Education and Training.

Five Coordinators Leading Collaborative R&I Projects

When it comes to innovation, collaboration is key. That is why we have decided to put the spotlight on five coordinators for their exceptional dedication and efforts in leading project proposals for EU funding that have or could have led to notable achievements: **Nicolas Jarraud**, Global Water Partnership, SW (prior at The Cyprus Institute, CY); **Goran Krajacic**; UNIZAG FSB, HR; **Ana Machado**, NOVA, PT; **H. Himanshu**, TH Köln, DE; and **Fabio Montagnino**, The Cyprus Institute, CY.

Five Projects Boosting Impact Generation

ESEIA and its members' commitment to fostering sustainable energy systems innovation has resulted in successful projects with impactful results, including [EMERGE](#) (introduction of clean energy technologies in Africa), [RE4Industry](#) (supporting a renewable energy transition for industry), [BioEnergyTrain](#) (creation of post-graduate level curricula in key bioenergy disciplines), [PHOENIX](#) (promotion of international and cross-sector collaboration), and [SuPREME](#) (twinning for a sustainable, proactive research partnership in distributed energy systems).

You can find the 1st Spring Edition of the ESEIA Newsletter [here](#).

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Other news in this section:

29th ESEIA General Assembly Meeting: ESEIA Decision-Making

On 14 November 2023, 31 participants from 18 ESEIA member organisations convened at the 29th ESEIA General Assembly (GA) meeting, held in person in Brussels and online via Zoom, to assess progress in the past six months and discuss plans for the coming year.

[Read more](#)

ESEIA President Harald Kainz Receives Grand Decoration of Honour in Gold From the Republic of Austria and the State of Styria

The ESEIA President and former Rector of TU Graz Harald Kainz has recently received the Grand Decoration of Honour in Gold from both the Republic of Austria and the State of Styria. This prestigious honour recognises Harald Kainz's exceptional leadership during his twelve-year tenure at TU Graz.

[Read more](#)

ESEIA Director Brigitte Hasewend Appointed as Member of the EIT Climate-KIC Governing Board

The ESEIA Director Brigitte Hasewend has recently been appointed as a Member of the EIT Climate-KIC Governing Board. As she steps into her new role, she reflects on climate change and the energy transition, explaining why innovation is vital for systemic transformation.

[Read more](#)

ESEIA International Summer School: Successful 2023 Edition Hosted by Savonia UAS

The ESEIA International Summer School 2023, dedicated to Green Hydrogen Solutions for Climate Friendly Energy Production, was successfully held online from 25 September to 6 October 2023.

[Read more](#)

ESEIA Lecture Series: Eighth Lecture Delivered by Judith O'Meara from EIT Urban Mobility

On 16 November 2023, over 45 participants joined us in person in Graz and online to explore the topic of '*Smart Integration of Sustainable Mobility Solutions for Urban Areas*'.

[Read more](#)



Photo: Lunghammer - TU Graz



2. News from ESEIA Members

The Cyprus Institute Co-Organises Workshop to Discuss Progress of Green Transition Through Solar Energy



On 1 December 2023, The Cyprus Institute joined forces with the Representation of the European Commission in Cyprus, the Embassy of Spain in Cyprus, and the Commissioner of the Environment to organise a workshop to assess and discuss the progress made so far in fulfilling the EU's green transition objectives.

Titled ***Progressing in Green Transition: Advancing the Clean Energy Agenda Through Industrial Applications of Solar Energy***, the workshop brought together different stakeholders to explore strategies and solutions to further propel the EU towards a low-carbon future, with a particular emphasis on the potential use of solar energy in industrial applications. In addition to highlighting the collaborative efforts between Spain, which currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU, and Cyprus in areas such as policy, technology, know-how, and applications, the event showcased projects implemented in Cyprus by local research organisations and companies.

You can find more information about the workshop [here](#).

Contact:

Communications Officer at The Cyprus Institute Veronica Charalambous: v.charalambous@cyi.ac.cy

Other news in this section:

ESEIA Members ADENE and LNEG at United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai

ESEIA members ADENE and LNEG contributed to the global conversation on climate action by hosting insightful panel discussions as part of the Portuguese Pavilion programme during the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP28, in Dubai, UAE.



Photo: LNEG

[Read more](#)

BOKU Launches Three New Master's Degrees For a Better Future

To equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to tackle the most pressing global issues, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) has introduced three new interdisciplinary Master's programmes offered in English: Green Building Engineering, Climate Change and Societal Transformation, and Green Chemistry.



[Read more](#)

3. ESEIA Projects

EMERGE Project

EMERGE, the newly EU-funded project coordinated by the University of Zagreb – Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (UNIZAG FSB), has officially started! The kick-off meeting took place 13 and 14 December 2023 in Zagreb, HR, marking the beginning of a collaborative effort aimed at propelling sustainable development in Africa.



The meeting represented a valuable opportunity for members of 11 partner organisations from European (Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Croatia) and African (Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Cape Verde) countries to meet in person and take the first steps towards a successful implementation of the project. During the meeting, in addition to reviewing the project's key objectives and expected outcomes, the participants presented the roles and responsibilities of each Work Package (WP) and discussed the activities for the first six months. The agenda also included a visit to the Ericsson Nikola Tesla Smart City Lab.

You can find more information about the EMERGE project [here](#).

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Project Coordinator Goran Krajacic: Goran.Krajacic@fsb.hr

ESEIA Senior Project Manager Hana Lee: hana.lee@eseia.eu

Other news in this section:

New ESEIA_34

During the 29th GA meeting held 14 November 2023 in Brussels and online, ESEIA unveiled a new project designed to position the organisation for future success until 2034. This project, called New ESEIA_34, marks an exciting phase for ESEIA and its members as they prepare to expand their impact and initiatives and succeed in the next EU Framework Programme 10 (FP10) for R&I.

[Read more](#)

Proposal Update

With one project proposal submitted since the last edition of the ESEIA Newsletter and five more currently in the making, the ESEIA Working Groups (WGs) have proven to be relentless in their pursuit of providing solutions to the most pressing challenges through R&I!

[Read more](#)



4. European Policy News

European Commission Allocates €12.9 Billion for Horizon Europe in 2024

European Parliament and the Council of the EU reached an agreement over the budget for 2024 on 10 November 2023, allocating a total of €13.6 billion for research and innovation.



The proposed EU budget for 2024 ensures funding for next year, addressing the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East. From supporting Europe's economic recovery to making it greener and more resilient for the future, the budget focuses on the several needs and priorities of the EU and its neighbours.

Amongst the identified priorities, research and innovation will receive a total funding of €13.6 billion, of which €12.9 billion will go to Horizon Europe, the European Union's flagship research and innovation programme for the period 2021-2027, which aims at stimulating scientific excellence and driving economic growth and job creation by supporting a wide range of research and innovation activities. The amount allocated for 2024 represents a significant increase from this year's €12.4 billion after Parliament was able to defend against proposed cuts by the member states and get an extra top-up of €85 million for basic health and climate research.

You can find more details on how the budget allocated to Horizon Europe 2024 will be split [here](#).

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Other news in this section:

European Commission Releases Climate Action Progress Report 2023

The European Commission published the 2023 State of the Energy Union report on 24 October 2023, highlighting the EU's progress towards its climate and energy goals.

[Read more](#)



Save the Date: Research & Innovation Week 2024

The Research and Innovation Week (R&I Week) is a series of events organised by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU taking place 18-21 March 2024 in Tour & Taxis, in Brussels.

[Read more](#)



5. ESEIA Upcoming Events

30th ESEIA General Assembly Meeting

14 March 2024
Brussels & Zoom

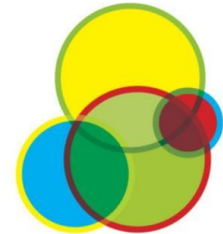
We are pleased to announce that the 30th ESEIA General Assembly (GA) meeting will be held in a hybrid format, allowing in-person (Brussels) or virtual participation (Zoom).

The meeting, set for 14 March 2024, aims to review current projects, adopt the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of 2023, and provide updates on membership and other aspects of the Alliance.

The final agenda, as well as detailed instructions for in-person or virtual participation, will be provided beforehand. We look forward to welcoming you to the next ESEIA GA meeting!

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Other news in this section:

ESEIA Lecture Series: Sustainable Energy Innovation Systems for Climate Neutrality

Under the title '*Advanced Tools for Planning and Management of Climate Neutral Buildings*', the ninth lecture in the ESEIA Lecture Series will be delivered 18 April 2024 by Carlos Ochoa, IERC, IE, at TU Graz, Graz, AT, with live streaming.

[Read more](#)



European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance – ESEIA

Director: Brigitte Hasewend

ESEIA Services:

- **Close contact** to the **European Commission** facilitated by our desk in Brussels, as well as contacts to funding agencies and thorough **know-how of funding programmes**.
- **Knowledge building** and **dissemination** through ESEIA projects, such as the ESEIA journal and EC-SET Plan Education and Training Initiative.
- **Long-term contact** with **international** and **cross-sector organisations** working in the area of renewable energies.
- Support for **consortium building** and the **coordination and management** of large-scale proposal preparation process.
- **Information sharing** through interactive workshops, business meetings and quarterly newsletters including news from the grapevine of EU policy regarding renewable energies.

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ESEIA Website

More information about ESEIA members and activities can be found on our website
www.eseia.eu

ESEIA Newsletter Calendar 2024

Newsletter	Deadline sending input to ESEIA	Issue
51 st Edition	1 March	March 2024
52 nd Edition	1 June	June 2024
53 rd Edition	1 September	September 2024
54 th Edition	1 December	December 2024

The ESEIA Team is looking forward to your inputs.

Responsible for content:

ESEIA Team

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