

Welcome to the 15 Year Anniversary Edition of the ESEIA Newsletter!

Dear ESEIA members, colleagues and friends,

19 November 2024 ESEIA reached a special milestone celebrating her **15-Year Anniversary**. A celebration evening was held in Brussels back to back with the ESEIA General Assembly.

In the past 15 years ESEIA is proud to have built a **strong reliable alliance** of more than 20 members and 300 partners.

ESEIA has contributed substantially to sustainable energy R&I with many **EC funded R&I projects** run by five ESEIA Working groups.

The second major impact was created by **training 1,750 students and professionals** in 42 ESEIA courses.

Thirdly, global projects like EMERGE about energy system modelling in EU and AU have extended **ESEIA's impact beyond Europe**.

This impact as created **thanks to most active members** who the ESEIA President decorated during the celebration.

Read more about **celebration moments, 6th ESEIA Conference outcomes, and ongoing projects**.

I am sending you Seasons Greetings,

Brigitte Hasewend
ESEIA Director



Photo, from left to right: Marko Mimica, UZagreb-FSB, HR, Brian Norton, TU Dublin – ESEIA President, IE, Goran Krajačić, UZagreb-FSB, HR, Brigitte Hasewend, ESEIA Director, AT.

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1. News from ESEIA

1.1. ESEIA Celebrates 15 Years of Sustainable Energy Innovation and Collaboration

The European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance - ESEIA celebrated its 15th Anniversary in Brussels, on 19 November 2024, at the prestigious Fondation Universitaire. The celebration provided a platform for members to reconnect, reflect on achievements, and discuss the next decade of ESEIA's journey.

The event brought together 50 key stakeholders, including representatives from the European Commission, ESEIA members, and partners, to celebrate 15 years of impactful work and reflect on the journey. The evening program featured several highlights, including [15 Years of Impact](#) presented by ESEIA Director and Co-Founder Brigitte Hasewend, a [Panel Discussion](#) on sustaining ESEIA's effectiveness, the celebration of the [2023 ESEIA Awardees](#) for their dedication and outstanding contributions, and the ceremonial cutting of the anniversary cake.

Relive the highlights of ESEIA's 15-year journey with our [15-Year Anniversary Photo Book](#), now available for [download](#). We encourage all members to share the [press release](#) across their media networks to celebrate our collective success.

[Read more](#)

Contact: office@eseia.eu

1.2. ESEIA General Assembly Advances Strategic Initiatives and Leadership Continuity for 2025

On 19 November 2024, ESEIA convened its General Assembly in Brussels, marking a significant moment in advancing the organization's mission. Hosted at the Club University Foundation, the assembly focused on strategic discussions, key decisions, and fostering collaborative innovation in sustainable energy.



The assembly featured Maria Isabel Farfán Camacho, a distinguished representative from the European Commission and Project Adviser for Widening Participation at the Research Executive Agency. Her

presentation, “Fostering R&I in Widening Countries,” provided valuable insights into enhancing research and innovation in underrepresented regions. The engaging session underscored the importance of inclusive and participatory approaches to achieving Europe’s sustainability goals.

For newsletter sections dedicated to ESEIA Members: make sure to contact us to receive your credentials for accessing **My ESEIA**.

[Read more](#)

Contact: office@eseia.eu

2. News from ESEIA Members

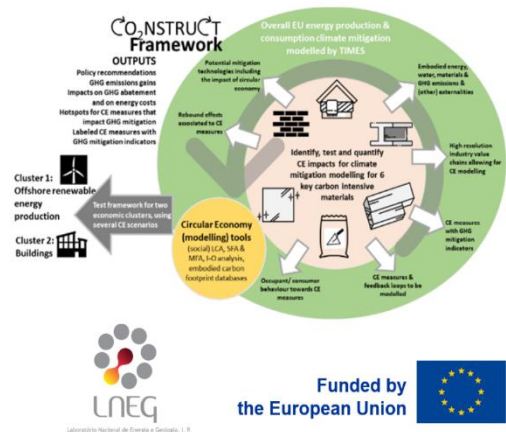
2.1 Advancing Climate Mitigation Through Circular Economy: ESEIA Member LNEG’s Role in the CO2NSTRUCT Project

As a proud member of the European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance (ESEIA), the National Laboratory for Energy and Geology (LNEG) in Portugal is at the forefront of innovative research aimed at achieving a carbon-neutral Europe.

One of its key contributions is through the CO2NSTRUCT project, a ground-breaking initiative dedicated to integrating circular economy (CE) principles into the construction materials value chain to enhance climate mitigation efforts.

[Read more](#)

Contact: Juliana Barbosa (juliana.barbosa@lneg.pt); Sofia Simões (sofia.simoies@lneg.pt)



2.2. Jožef Stefan Institute Drives Decarbonization Efforts Through UPSCALE Project

As a valued member of ESEIA, the Jožef Stefan Institute is playing a pivotal role in advancing innovative decarbonization strategies through the UPSCALE Project.

This ambitious initiative, funded by Net Zero Cities, focuses on implementing pilot projects in three Slovenian municipalities—Kranj, Ljubljana, and Velenje—to test and refine innovative approaches to achieve climate neutrality.

[Read more](#)

Contact: office@eseia.eu



Jožef Stefan Institute



3. ESEIA Projects

3.1 ESEIA Work Programme 2025

ESEIA has reviewed the European Green Deal and Horizon Europe calls to align with its strategic vision, creating a curated shortlist shared with Working Group members for early preparation and efficient proposal development in the [2025 Work Programme](#). Members can access resources like the Preselection List and stay informed on initiatives through the My ESEIA area or Dropbox.

*For newsletter sections dedicated to ESEIA Members: make sure to contact us to receive your credentials for accessing **My ESEIA**.*

Two Proposals in the Making

HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-03: Development of smart concepts of integrated energy-driven bio-refineries for co-production of advanced biofuels, bio-chemicals, and biomaterials

The proposal under this [call](#) focuses on the development of advanced, integrated bio-refinery concepts powered by renewable energy for the simultaneous production of biofuels, bio-chemicals, and biomaterials. It aims to promote innovation in renewable energy systems to support sustainable energy and circular bioeconomy solutions.

The proposal, is due to be submitted 04 February 2025, the partners involved in the proposal from ESEIA members: TU Graz, Unizagreb-PBF, TU Vienna, LNEG. Project budget: € 3.5 Mil.



Coordinator: Marlene Kienberger, TU Graz, marlene.kienberger@tugraz.at
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HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-10: Market Uptake Measures of renewable energy systems

The proposal under this [call](#) is dedicated to accelerating the market uptake of several specific renewable energy systems. It recognizes the societal and policy importance of this market uptake and the potential for general lessons from the examples in the proposals. This proposal's main expected impact is to ignite a more effective market uptake of renewable energy systems as envisioned in the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan).

The deadline for submission is 04 February 2025. The proposal is coordinated by **Frans Coenen**, University of Twente, NL. The partners involved in this proposal include ESEIA and ESEIA members EAST, ADENE, UTBV, BAV, IERC, Utwente and Karelia UAS. Project budget: € 2 Mil.

Coordinator Frans Coenen, UTwente: f.h.j.m.coenen@utwente.nl
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3.2 Spotlight on EMERGE Project

The EMERGE Project has made significant strides, fostered collaboration, and advanced green energy initiatives across Europe and Africa.

Through a series of impactful events, including a [General Assembly](#), a [co-design workshop](#), and the [12th ESEIA Lecture](#), EMERGE has brought together experts, stakeholders, and partners to showcasing expert insights

into the transformative potential of energy system modelling for advancing sustainable energy and resource management in both the European Union and African Union contexts.



[Read more](#)

Explore the EMERGE [website](#) and follow the project on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), and [Facebook](#) to stay updated on our progress and subscribe to the [EMERGE newsletter](#).

Contact:

Project main contact Nikola Matak: nikola.matak@fsb.unizg.hr
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3.3 Spotlight on INITIATE Research Project

The INITIATE Project, in collaboration with ESEIA, is driving significant advancements in European research and innovation. On 23-25 October 2024, project partners gathered at ISCTE in Lisbon for the first General Assembly. The event featured engaging presentations that showcased the achievements from the project's first nine months, including key findings and progress. Looking ahead, the partners also outlined plans for future activities, strengthening the project's commitment to fostering sustainable solutions across Europe.

[Read more](#)

You can find more information about the INITIATE project [here](#) and follow the project on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), and [Facebook](#) to stay updated on our progress.

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Funded by
the European Union

3.4. Towards Systemic Change: Key Insights from the 6th ESEIA International Conference on Net Zero and Beyond

The 6th ESEIA International Conference, held on 4 December 2024 in Kuopio, Finland, was an impactful event that brought together experts from across Europe to discuss the urgent need for a sustainable, net-zero energy system.

Organized by Savonia University of Applied Sciences in collaboration with the European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance (ESEIA), Energy Cluster North Savo, the conference addressed key challenges and potential solutions for achieving net-zero emissions and going beyond that goal. ESEIA members played a crucial role in the conference, sharing their expertise and chairing thematic sessions.

[Read more](#)

Contact: office@eseia.eu



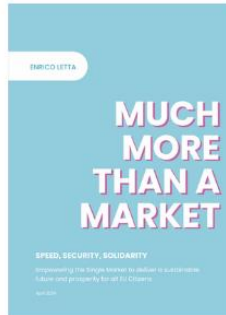
4. European Policy News

4.1. Europe's Path Forward: Competitiveness, Sustainability, and Innovation

Europe faces critical challenges in maintaining competitiveness, advancing sustainability, and fostering innovation in a rapidly changing global landscape.

Three reports published in 2024 — "[Much More Than a Market](#)" by Enrico Letta,

"[The Future of European Competitiveness](#)" by Mario Draghi, and "[Align, Act, Accelerate: Research, Technology, and Innovation to Boost European Competitiveness](#)" by Manuel Heitor—offer strategic roadmaps for addressing these challenges and securing a prosperous future.



To support our ESEIA members, we have prepared concise summaries of these pivotal reports, highlighting their key recommendations and relevance to Europe's long-term goals.

[Read more](#)

4.2. COP29 Outcomes: Progress and Challenges in Global Climate Action

In this special section covering COP24, Teresa Ponce de Leão, Vice-President of ESEIA and CEO of LNEG, PT, shares her insights on the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) brought the world together to tackle pressing climate challenges in a nation heavily reliant on fossil fuel-based industries. While some progress was made, significant hurdles remain in aligning global efforts to achieve meaningful climate action.



[Read more](#)

4.3 EU Unveils First Biennial Transparency Report at COP29

At COP29 in Baku, the European Union released its first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), a landmark step under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement.

This inaugural report underscores the EU's dedication to transparency, accountability, and ambitious climate action, providing a detailed account of its progress toward meeting climate targets, the impacts of policies, and contributions to global climate finance and capacity building.

[Read more](#)



4.4. EIB, European Commission, and Solar Impulse Foundation Launch Energy Efficiency Initiative for SMEs

At COP29 in Baku, the European Investment Bank Group (EIBG), the European Commission (EC), and the Solar Impulse Foundation (SIF) unveiled a new energy efficiency initiative aimed at accelerating decarbonization efforts for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

This pilot initiative, part of the EIB Group Strategic Roadmap 2024-2027, focuses on supporting SMEs in overcoming barriers to energy-efficient investments, such as high upfront costs and limited resources.

[Read more](#)



5. ESEIA Upcoming Events

- **3 April 2025: ESEIA 13TH Lecture: Market Uptake of Renewables.** Invited lecture by Frans Coenen, University of Twente, NL | 3 April 2025 | 19:00 to 21:00 CET | Aula, TU Graz and online. More details will be available on [the ESEIA website](#). Contact: office@eseia.eu
- **10 April 2025: ESEIA GC and GA, Online event.** The ESEIA Governing Council (GC) and General Assembly (GA) will be held as an online event on 10 April 2025, bringing together members to discuss strategic updates, make key decisions, and set the course for the alliance's future initiatives. Contact: office@eseia.eu



European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance – ESEIA

Director: Brigitte Hasewend

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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.

ESEIA Newsletter Calendar 2025

Newsletter	Deadline sending input to ESEIA	Issue
55 th Edition	01 March 2025	March 2025
56 th Edition	01 June 2025	June 2025

The ESEIA Team is looking forward to your inputs.

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ESEIA Website

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

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