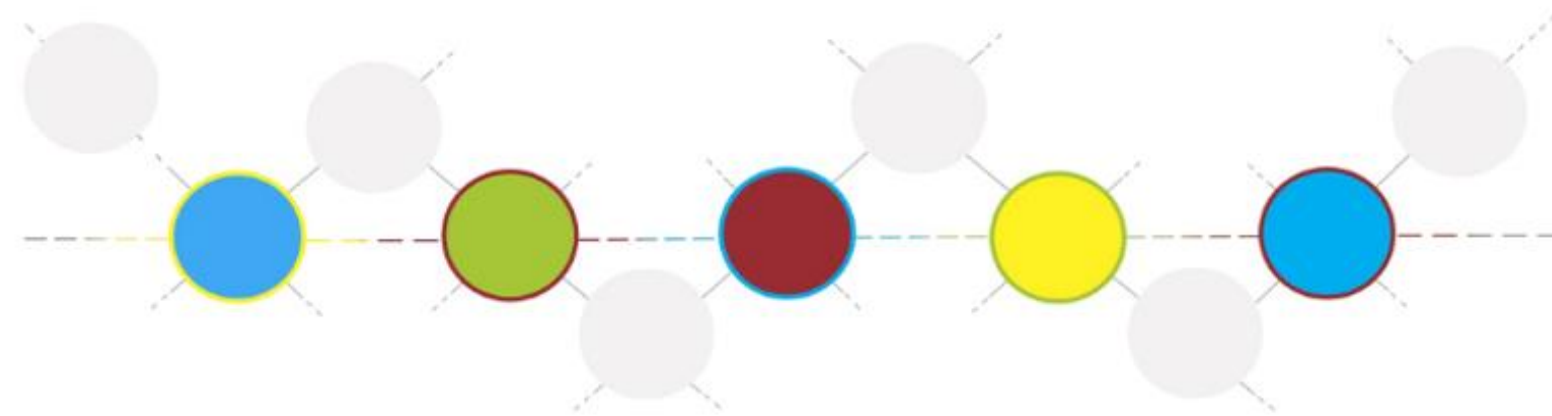


# ESEIA

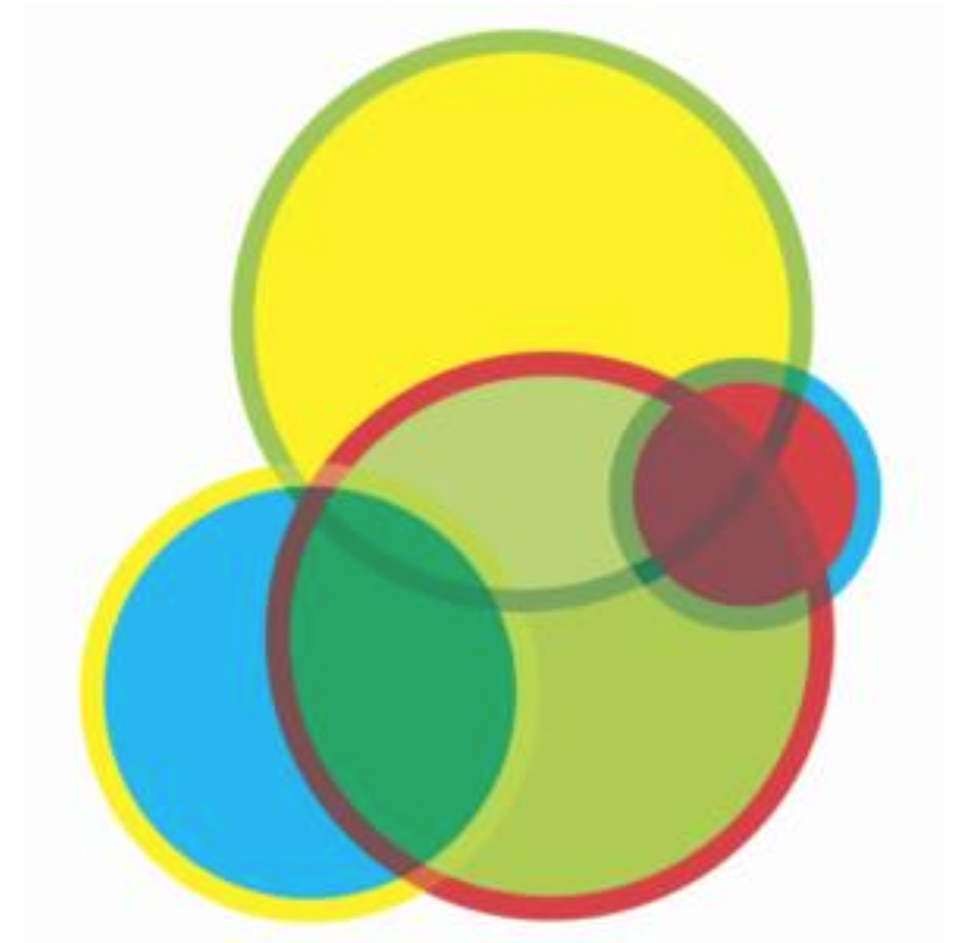


European Sustainable Energy  
Innovation Alliance



# Table of Contents

1. Introduction: ESEIA in a Nutshell
2. Three Strategic Challenges
3. Expertise
4. Upcoming Events
5. How to get involved?



# 1. Introduction: ESEIA in a Nutshell

ESEIA is a leading European non-profit association of research and innovation organizations in sustainable energy systems.



## What is our Mission?

By 2050 ESEIA will have enabled Europe to reach its renewable energy targets as outlined in the Green Deal by contributing research for innovative solutions, as well as education and training for a climate-neutral sustainable energy system.



## How do We Work?

The ESEIA Working Groups are the key drivers of the association. They are main forum for codesign and collaboration. The ESEIA WGs coordinate expertise from our members in a number of key innovation areas.



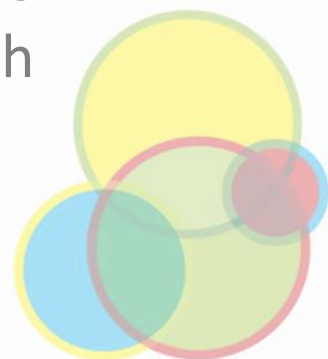
## Which Strategic Challenges does ESEIA address?

ESEIA addresses three strategic challenges: ‘Setting the Agenda for renewables on the European market’, ‘Capacity Building both for people and institutions’ and ‘Forging International Partnerships’.



## How does ESEIA engage?

ESEIA coordinates sustainable energy innovation projects, organizes expert panels, designs entrepreneurial education and training events, fosters international cooperation, and promotes dialogue with European citizens.



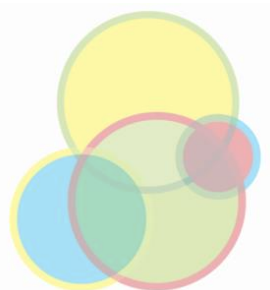
# 1. Introduction: ESEIA in a Nutshell

## Member Organisations

### Who do we represent?

The ESEIA umbrella represents the entire innovation ecosystem of actors from **research, academia, industry, and government.**

In 2025, ESEIA has 21 member organizations from 11 EU countries.



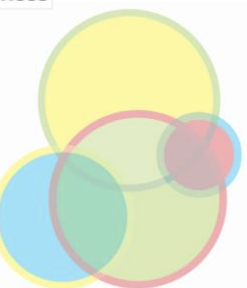
# 1. Introduction: ESEIA in a Nutshell

## Member Organisations



### 21 Member Organisations:

- 11 EU countries
- 12 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- 4 Research Organizations (Ros)
- 5 Businesses





# 1. Introduction: ESEIA in a Nutshell

## ESEIA Governing Council: An Equal Partnership



Andrea Höglinger  
**Vice-President**  
TU Graz, AT



Markku Huhtinen  
**Vice-President**  
Savonia UAS, FI



Spomenka Kobe,  
**Vice-President**  
JSI, SI



Josef Furlinger  
**2nd Vice-President,**  
**Treasurer,** AT



Brian Norton  
**ESEIA President**  
TU Dublin, IE



Teresa Ponce de Leão,  
**1st Vice-President,**  
**Record-Keeper,** LNEG, PT



Costas Papanicolas,  
**Vice-President**  
CYI, CY



Monika Lichtinghagen-  
Wirths, **Vice-President,**  
BAV, DE



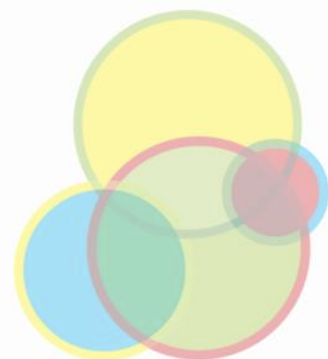
Goran Krajačić,  
**Vice-President,**  
UZagreb-FSB, HR



Brigitte Hasewend,  
**Director**  
ESEIA



According to the ESEIA Statutes Art. 12 the **Governing Council** prepares the decisions of the **General Assembly**, the supreme decision-making body. The GC exercises the main responsibility for the strategic management of ESEIA. The ESEIA GC is equally composed of **5 female and 5 male administrators**. The GC is presided by the ESEIA President and includes the ESEIA Record Keeper, the ESEIA Treasurer, Vice-Presidents, and the ESEIA Director.



## 2. Three Strategic Challenges

Which Strategic Challenges does ESEIA address?



**Setting the Agenda for renewables in the European market**



**Capacity Building both for People and Institutions**



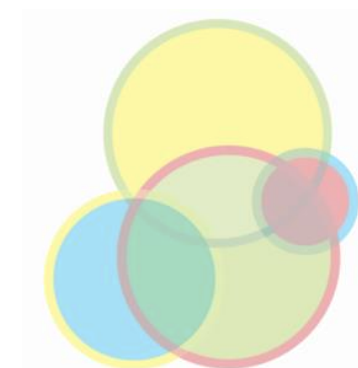
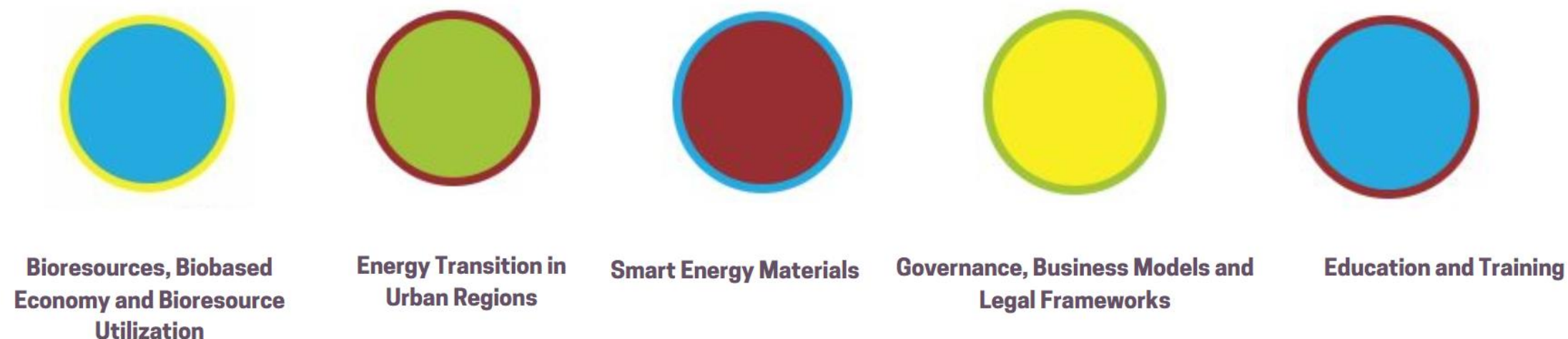
**Forging International Partnerships**

## 2.1. Setting Agenda for RES on the European Market

### Agenda Setting: Five ESEIA Working Groups

The five ESEIA Working Groups include approximately **350 active experts from all sectors of renewable energy systems**. The ESEIA Working Groups are particularly equipped to **advise EC decision-makers on the key issues, existing knowledge gaps, and necessary implementation instruments**.

### ESEIA WORKING GROUPS (WGs)





## 2.1. Setting Agenda for RES on the European Market

### Three Thematic Working Groups



#### WG 1 Bioresources Utilization

**Aim:**  
Provide a framework for contextualizing and rationalizing the use of bio-resources

**Focus Areas:**  
Circular Economy  
Renewable biofuel technologies  
Waste management and recycling  
Zero pollution, zero-waste  
Biorefineries



**WG Coordinator:**  
Michael Bongards  
TH Cologne (DE)



#### WG 2 Energy Transition in Urban Regions

**Aim:**  
Provide new ways to organise sustainable climate-friendly living in urban regions.

**Focus Areas:**  
Smart Grids  
Smart Building management system  
Next generation vehicles  
Hydrogen and fuel cell systems



**WG Coordinator:**  
Goran Krajačić  
UNIZAG (HR)



#### WG 3 Smart Energy Materials

**Aim:**  
Design and use of new energy materials needs to our global sustainability goals.

**Focus Areas:**  
PV materials  
Battery materials  
Materials for energy storage / CCS  
Sustainable advanced materials



**WG Coordinator:**  
Tina Zuzek  
JSI (SI)



#### WG 4 Governance, Business Models and Legal Frameworks

**Aim:**  
Focus on the challenges that energy transition brings about in terms of radical shifts in **governance, social and business models and related regulatory and legal regimes.**



**WG Coordinator:**  
Frans Coenen  
UTwente, NL



#### WG 5 Education and Training

**Aim:**  
Focus on the cooperative **training courses** under the ESEIA Education and Training Programme.  
These cooperative training formats benefit students, young scientists and professionals.



**WG Coordinator:**  
Fabio Maria Montagnino  
CYI, CY



## 2.1. Examples of Proposals in the Making (May25)



WG1

[HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-CSA-01 Develop and deploy new curricula and knowledge exchange practices relevant to bio-based systems](#)

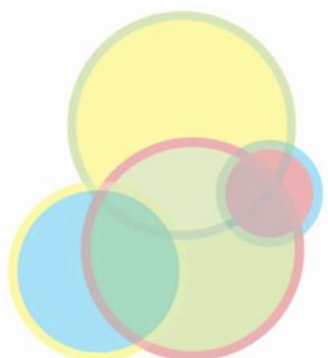
- **Budget:** 1 M € **Call opening:** 4 April 2025
- **Deadline:** 17 Sept 2025 **Type:** CSA
- Developed and validated curricula, related to skills' development for the sustainable bio- based systems and increased circularity.
- Deployment of EU-wide actions supporting the acquisition of new skills, as relevant for the sustainable and circular bio-based systems.



ALL WGs: lead WG 5

[HORIZON-MSCA-2025-SE-01-01: MSCA Staff Exchanges 2025](#)

- **Overall indicative Budget:** 82.76 Mio €
- **Call opening:** 27 March 2025
- **Deadline:** 08 October 2025
- The Staff Exchanges action funds short-term international and inter-sectoral exchanges of staff members involved in R&I.
- The aim is to develop sustainable collaborative projects between different organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in Europe and beyond.
- Exchanged staff benefit from new knowledge, skills and career development perspectives.





# 2.1 Impact: Setting Agenda for RES on the European Market

Agenda Setting: ESEIA FP10 Position published in European Energy Innovation Magazine in Oct 24

Communication

## Shaping the Future of EU R&I for climate neutrality: key questions for the design of FP10

By **Hana Lee**, Senior Project Manager and **Brigitte Hasewend**, Director, European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance (ESEIA)

**About the Authors**



**Hana Lee** is Senior Project Manager at ESEIA, a role she has held since November 2020. With over 13 years of international experience across academia and industry – covering construction, environment, and innovation projects – she brings a wealth of expertise to her role. She earned her Doctorate in Applied Geoscience from TU Graz, AT and a Master's in Engineering Geology from Kyungpook National University in South Korea. Before joining ESEIA, she worked as senior engineer and consultant with major international firms like WSP, Capgemini, and Hyundai Engineering & Construction. At ESEIA, she plays a key role in project acquisition and coordinating the ESEIA Working Groups.



**Brigitte Hasewend** is founding and acting Director and Member of the Governing Council of ESEIA. In this executive capacity, she has been responsible for devising the New ESEIA Strategy 2034 in the context of the European Green Deal. In 2023 Brigitte Hasewend was appointed Member of the Board of EIT Climate KIC Association. Since 2013, Brigitte Hasewend has worked for the European Commission as expert evaluator mainly for Horizon capacity-building projects. During 2024-17 she was Vice-President of the Supervisory Board of Joanneum Research GesmbH. Since 2007 she has headed the International Strategic Research Partnerships at TU Graz, AT. Previously, Brigitte Hasewend had spent 10 years living and working in Brussels where she held several positions at the European Commission.

This article is a contribution to the ongoing European debate<sup>1</sup> on the future design of the 10th EU Research and Innovation (R&I) Framework Programme with the working title FP10 covering the period 2028-2034.

What are the key challenges to enhancing European competitiveness while transforming to a green and circular economy for climate neutrality? How can these challenges be addressed by FP10? Which questions remain open for future debate? This article presents findings from a Europe-wide survey underlying the ESEIA FP10 Position Paper<sup>2</sup>.

**Challenges for Research and Innovation in relation to the European Green Deal**

If we take survival on earth seriously and if we want the European Green

Deal to become a success by 2050, Europe needs to undertake fundamental measures to steadily transform into a climate-neutral continent. The Green Deal challenge cannot be viewed in isolation as it is entwined with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as resonating with the twin challenge of digital transition.


In this existentialist quest, Europe will also need to face megatrends, namely scarce resources, aging populations, conflict, and migrations. Europe, like no other continent, is committed to building a more resilient, competitive, inclusive, and democratic society as part of the EC Strategic Plan 2025-27<sup>3</sup>.

Come 2030, the Green Deal will already have reached a key milestone in green and circular economy, climate adaptation, carbon markets and pricing, sustainable finance, biodiversity,



European Energy Innovation | Autumn 2024 | 27

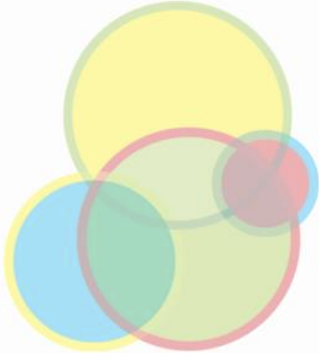
**Five Key ESEIA Recommendations for FP10**



<p><b>1. Enhance Role of European Thematic Alliances</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AT POLICY LEVEL: Involve European Alliances from <b>design to implementation</b>.</li><li>• AT PORTFOLIO LEVEL: Jointly create <b>exploitation</b> pathways.</li><li>• AT PROJECT LEVEL: Use European Alliances as <b>sounding boards</b> for new R&amp;I topics.</li></ul>	<p><b>2. Foster Global Innovation Eco-system Partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase International Relevance by creating international <b>innovation ecosystem partnerships</b> for co-creation.</li><li>• Enhance international access to <b>R&amp;I Infrastructure</b>.</li><li>• Implement strategies to effectively facilitate <b>capacity building</b>.</li></ul>	<p><b>3. Prioritise Horizontal Topics in Research and Innovation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prioritizing <b>cross-cutting horizontal topics</b>.</li><li>• Provide support for <b>deep tech</b> projects fostering sustainability.</li><li>• Boost Excellence and Innovation by providing support mechanisms tailored to <b>Widening countries</b>.</li></ul>	<p><b>4. Ensure Actionability of the Framework Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• By dedicating actions to <b>multi-actor innovation ecosystem approach</b>.</li><li>• <b>Improving coordination</b> across the innovation cycle and different TRLs.</li><li>• <b>Simplification</b>, to make participation more accessible and efficient.</li></ul>	<p><b>5. Provide Room for Self-Organisation and Entrepreneurship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuously take on board <b>novel thematic challenges</b>.</li><li>• Support maturation and <b>validation of novel ideas</b> from lab to business.</li><li>• Start-Ups and SME <b>scale-up</b> to new markets.</li></ul>
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‘The FP should not be a straitjacket; it should provide flexibility to adjust to new R&I needs and trends.’

ESEIA President Brian Norton





## 2.2. Capacity Building for People

### ESEIA Education and Training Programme (ETP)

In 15 years, ESEIA has welcomed a total of **1,750 participants** in **44 Events building capacity of people and institutions** using 7 formats: 16 International Summer Schools, 7 Lectures, 6 Bi-Annual Conferences, 4 Decarbonisation Workshops for Industry, 2 Brokerage Events, 2 Student Camps, 2 Pilot Plant Courses.

The different professional education formats within the [ESEIA Education and Training Programme \(ETP\)](#) include:

#### Postgraduate students

Interdisciplinary Student Camps (ISC)

#### Postgraduate students and professionals

ESEIA International Summer Schools (ISS) Pilot Plant Courses (PPC)

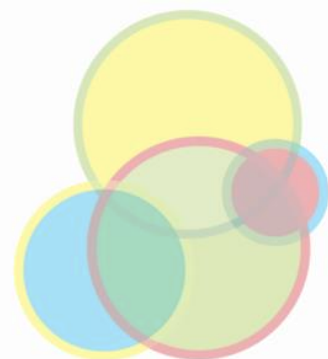
#### Policymakers, experts, and professional

Professional Training Course (PTC);

Additionally, ESEIA regularly offers other knowledge transfer activities such as the ESEIA biannual International Conference, and two [European Master's programmes](#).



ESEIA 5th international conference on "Towards Climate Neutral Energy Communities" on 2-3 Nov. 2022 at Nicosia, Cyprus



## 2.2. Capacity Building for People

### ESEIA Lecture Series

The ESEIA Lecture Series *Sustainable Energy Innovation Systems for Climate Neutrality* aims to provide a platform for perspectives exchange between different societal actors on what must be done to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

The invited speakers for the lectures are experts in their fields, which makes this series organised in cooperation with the Graz University of Technology an excellent educational and networking platform for everyone interested in creating a climate-neutral future.



### *ESEIA Lecture Series at a Glance (2022 – 2024)*

In recent years the ESEIA Lecture series has turned into one of the most attractive training events:



**12 Lectures for 12 Topics and**



**86 Organizations:**

45 Business  
25 High Education Institutions  
16 Research Organizations

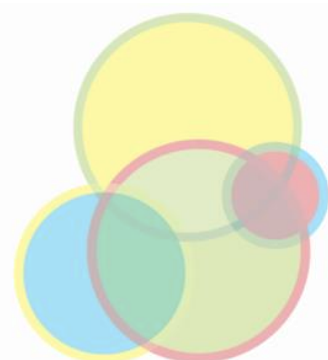


**60 Speakers, 600 Participants:**  
**1/3 on site, 2/3 online**



**58 Countries:**

29 Countries worldwide  
17 European countries  
9 African countries  
1 Middle Eastern country  
2 South Asian countries





## 2.2. Capacity Building for Industry



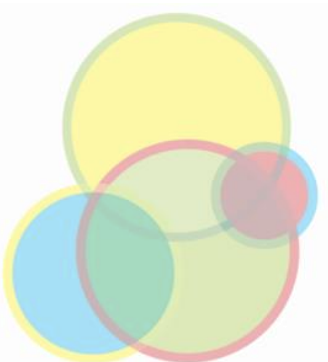
**Austria | 21 October 2022**

The first [RE4Industry](#) Knowledge Transfer Seminar took place on 21 October 2022 at the Graz University of Technology in Graz, Austria.

100 participants gathered onsite and online to review climate targets, explore solution packages, and discuss the push and pull factors of the energy transition.

The seminar was organized in cooperation with the Federation of Austrian Industries of Styria and Carinthia.

[Find out the key takeaways!](#)



## 2.2. Capacity-Building for Higher Education Institutions



**Funded by  
the European Union**

### **AIM**

**Supporting European R&I Through  
Stakeholder Collaboration and  
Institutional Reform**

### **FUNDING**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme, under Grant Agreement n° 101136775

### **DURATION**

42 months (starting from February 2024)

### **BUDGET**

€4.5M

### **COORDINATOR**

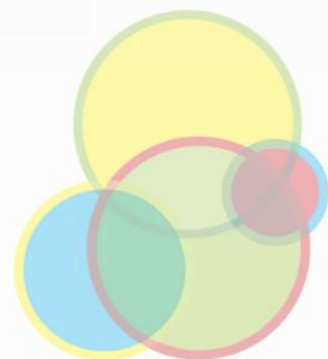
UNIZAG FSB, HR

### **PARTNERS**

ESEIA (AT), CYI (CY), JSI (SI), NURE(UA), BrainIT (HR), B1 (HR), UMP (MA), VINCA (RS), UKIM (MK), EPBiH (BA), ISCTE (PT), LPNU (UA), UTBV (RO)

### **ESEIA'S ROLE**

ESEIA network of Universities will be key resource for knowledge sharing, networking and synergy with other Alliances



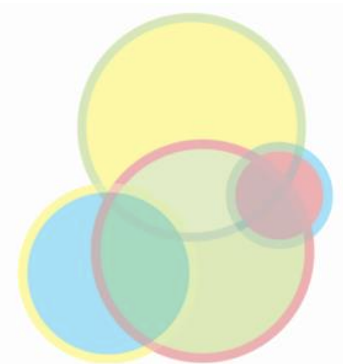


## 2.3. Forging International Partnerships

International cooperation is a driver of world-class research and innovation. The European Union's Strategy for international cooperation is set out in the [Global Approach to Research and Innovation](#) Communication. [Horizon Europe](#), the EU's framework program for research and innovation, is one of the main tools to implement this strategy.

ESEIA supports the EU approach to international partnerships. In general, the ESEIA Education and training events are open to participants from all over the world.

In 2024 ESEIA focuses on the African Union with the Horizon-funded [EMERGE](#) for Energy System Modelling.





## 2.3. Forging International Partnerships

### AIM

**Energy System Modelling for Green Development of Africa**

### FUNDING

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme, under Grant Agreement n° 101118278

### DURATION

36 months (1 December 2023 – 30 November 2026)

### BUDGET

€2.5M

### COORDINATOR

UNIZAG FSB, HR

### PARTNERS

ESEIA (AT), EnGreen (IT), CARTIF foundation (ES), CIRCE foundation (ES), Artelys (FR), ECREE-ECOWAS (CP), Universite Mohammed Premier 1 (MA), Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (MZ), AfriLabs (NI), BrainIT (HR)

### ESEIA'S ROLE

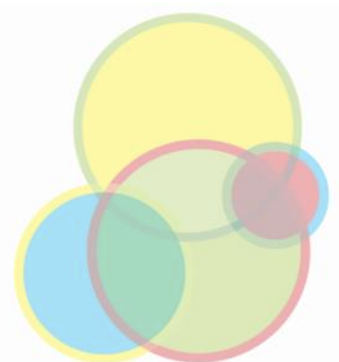
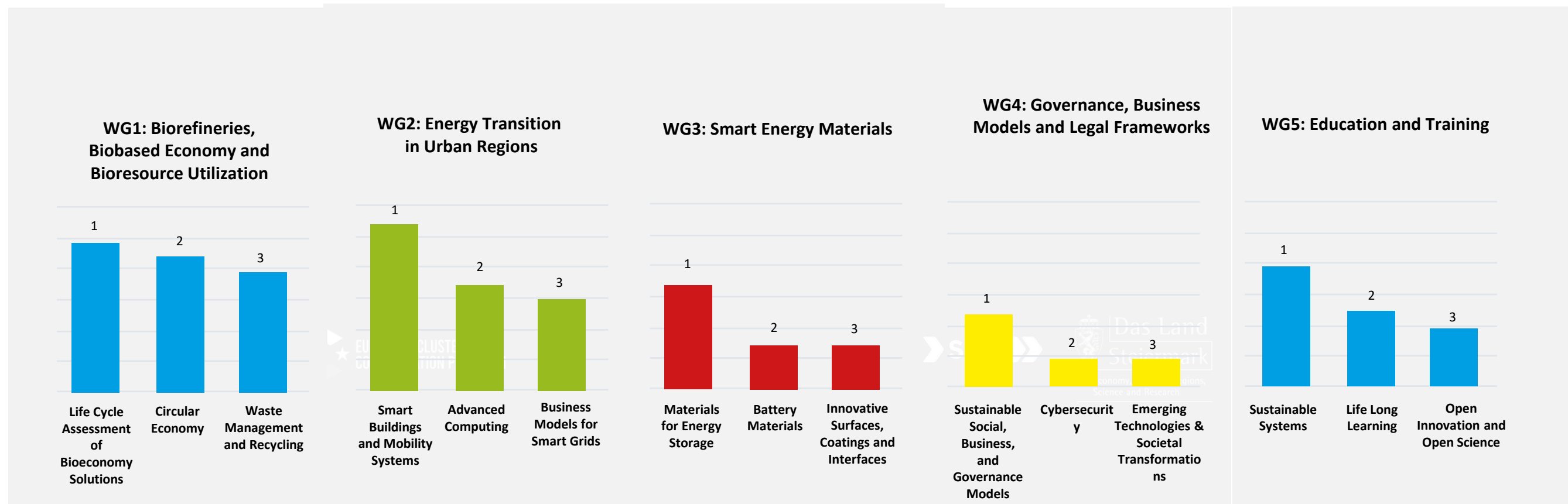
In addition to reaching out to its network of Universities to further enhance AU-EU collaboration, ESEIA will lead the project's communication and dissemination activities



## 3. Expertise

### FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

ESEIA Members can connect with experts on four thematic platforms of research and innovation: Energy Provision, Energy Policy and Integration, Energy Efficiency and Usage, and Energy Intelligence.





## 4. Upcoming Events

**ESEIA 14<sup>th</sup> Lecture | 12 June 2025 | 19.00 – 21.00 CET**

**Topic: Science Diplomacy. Geopolitics of Science**

**Location:** Online, **Registration Deadline:** 9 June 2025,

**Registration** [Link](#).

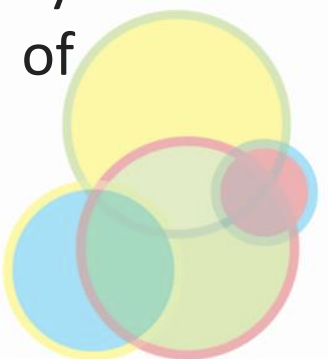
**Invited Lecture by:** [Adel El Gammal](#), EERA – The  
European Energy Research Alliance, BE



The poster for the 14th ESEIA Lecture Series is a dark blue rectangle. At the top left, it says '14TH ESEIA LECTURE SERIES' in white, with 'SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INNOVATION SYSTEMS FOR CLIMATE NEUTRALITY' below it. In the center, it reads '14TH ESEIA LECTURE:' in light blue, followed by 'SCIENCE DIPLOMACY Geopolitics of Science' in large white letters. Below that, it says 'Invited Lecture by: Adel El Gammal, EERA, BE' in light blue. At the bottom, it lists '12 June 2025 | 19:00-21:00 CET | Online event' and the website 'www.eseia.eu'. Logos for ESEIA, ESEIA Education and Training Programme, and TU Graz are at the top. At the bottom, it says 'Recommended by: LNEG' and has a 'SUBSCRIBE /@ESEIAalliance' button.

### Abstract:

In an era where scientific advancements shape global policies, Science Diplomacy has emerged as a crucial instrument in international relations. This lecture will explore the intersection of science and geopolitics, addressing how scientific collaboration can foster diplomatic ties, resolve conflicts, and drive sustainable development. The lecture will specially address science diplomacy in the context of the implementation of the Clean Industrial Deal underlining the benefits of cooperation with partner regions of Europe.



## 4. Upcoming Events

**International Summer School 2025**

**Topic: Circular Economy in Industry**

**Host:** Bergischer Abfallwirtschaftsverband  
(BAV) in cooperation with TH Cologne

**Venue:** Metabolon Research and Education  
Center, DE

**Date** 22.09. - 26.09.2025

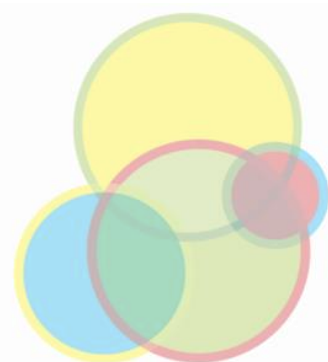
**Registration:** [office@eseia.eu](mailto:office@eseia.eu)

### ESEIA International Summer School Circular Economy in Industry



**22-26 September 2025**

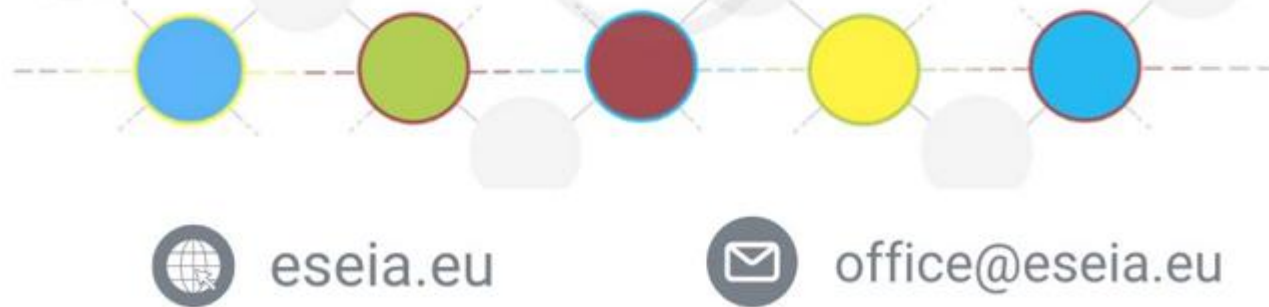
Location: :metabolon Research and Education Center, Lindlar, Germany | Lectures on site only | For registration: [office@eseia.eu](mailto:office@eseia.eu)



## 5. How to get involved?

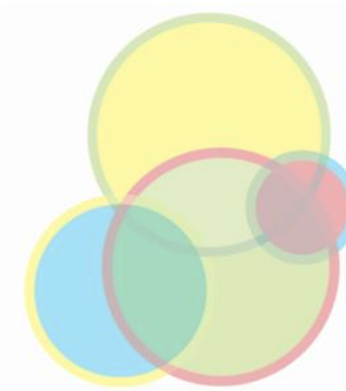
Join our activities and become an ESEIA Member!

### BECOME A MEMBER



### BENEFITS

-  Joint ESEIA Work Programme
-  European Cross-Sector Partnership
-  Share and gain knowledge
-  Involvement in EC Policy-Making
-  Access to EC Funding Opportunities





**Nicoleta Talpes**  
DCO Manager  
[nicoleta.talpes@eseia.eu](mailto:nicoleta.talpes@eseia.eu)



**Zina Mejbri**  
Project Manager  
[zina.mejbri@eseia.eu](mailto:zina.mejbri@eseia.eu)



**Sila Celebi**  
Project Manager  
[Sila.celebi@eseia.eu](mailto:Sila.celebi@eseia.eu)



**Brigitte Hasewend**  
Director  
[Brigitte.Hasewend@eseia.eu](mailto:Brigitte.Hasewend@eseia.eu)

