

# Newsletter

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# Last 6 Months At A Glance

## Synergies and collaborations



### ENPOWER Summer School 2025 at KU Leuven

Leuven | 09-12/09/25

The ENPOWER Summer School brought together 17 early-stage and experienced researchers for an intensive programme on data science, building modelling and optimisation, energy markets, and the social dimensions of energy poverty.

Contributors highlighted complementary takeaways: Zoran Grahovac emphasised how dynamic building modelling and digital twins translate directly into cost and comfort gains for vulnerable households; Daniele Ciarrocchi reflected on the human dimension, noting that empathy and legal-economic perspectives are essential to make technical fixes work for people; Slobodan Peulić described how energy-justice workshops reshaped his approach to design; and Francesco Merlini underlined the practical value of the AI sessions for his sustainability-focused start-up.

These firsthand accounts reinforced a common message: interdisciplinary learning produces actionable results. Participants reported concrete plans to apply new tools in research, teaching, and entrepreneurial projects, and many pledged to keep collaborating through ENPOWER networks and the forthcoming BAS-Living Lab pilots. You can find the full interview series on our communication channels. These perspectives will continue to feed our training materials and help shape next steps in capacity building and Living Lab activities.



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## Synergies and collaborations



### European Researchers Night in Banja Luka

Banja Luka | 26/09/25

ENPOWER took part in European Researchers' Night at Dom Omladine, presenting the project to a large public audience dominated by primary and secondary school students, as well as key stakeholders.

Prof. Petar Gvero delivered a keynote on the benefits of European research cooperation, while project team members showcased ENPOWER activities and engaged youngsters in conversations about renewable energy and energy efficiency. The outreach reinforced ENPOWER's commitment to public engagement and youth education. Contacts made during the event will support future school outreach, Living Lab activities, and efforts to make research more accessible to local communities.



### Youth For Energy Future Workshop At UNIBL

Banja Luka | 25/11/25

The interactive workshop "Youth For Energy Future" gathered high-school and university students to discuss energy communities, sustainable solutions and the role of youth in the energy transition.

Hosted at UNIBL and organised within ENPOWER, the event emphasised creativity and dialogue rather than competition, with participants proposing practical ideas for improved energy efficiency and community action. The workshop highlighted the importance of involving young people in decision-making and yielded numerous student ideas that will be documented for follow-up activities. ENPOWER will use these inputs to shape future outreach, education modules and Living Lab engagement with schools.



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## Synergies and collaborations



### Smart Governance Focus Group

Banja Luka | 23/12/25

A multi-stakeholder focus group convened public authorities, academics, industry and NGOs to discuss how smart governance, digital tools and inclusive policies can jointly address energy poverty.

Tilburg University partners contributed comparative insights and good-practice examples, stressing that technological solutions must be paired with socially sensitive policy design and stronger cross-sector cooperation. Conclusions called for improved coordination between public, private and civil actors and for policy measures that simultaneously promote efficiency, digitalisation and social inclusion. The findings will feed into ENPOWER's ongoing analytical work and policy advisory outputs, supporting evidence-based recommendations for Bosnia and Herzegovina's energy transition.



### New partnership with UNDP

Banja Luka | 22/12/25

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNDP Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, formalising cooperation born from activities under the ENPOWER. The agreement commits both parties to joint analytical work, data exchange, pilot

implementation and capacity building aimed at identifying vulnerable groups and reducing household energy stress in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Planned activities will support Study 4 of the ENPOWER programme, focusing on socio-economic dimensions of energy poverty. Workstreams include development of a national questionnaire for household-level analysis, shared analytical inputs, co-designed technical recommendations for energy efficiency, pilot demonstrations, and targeted training for communities and technical staff.



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### ENPOWER reaches future students in Macerata

Macerata, Italy | 18/02/26

The University of Macerata hosted an outreach lecture for high-school students at the Pantaleoni Teaching Hub. Prof. Lorenzo Compagnucci presented the ENPOWER project ENPOWER as part of a session titled "The sports industry:

status, environmental sustainability and future perspectives." The talk introduced 27 students to connections between sports infrastructure, sustainability and energy vulnerability, highlighting how research and practical innovation can improve the efficiency and resilience of public facilities.

The lecture covered the current state of Italy's sports industry, the environmental footprint of sports venues, energy-vulnerability risks in stadiums and gyms, and policy levers for improving infrastructure efficiency. Students were invited to reflect on careers where economics, technology and sustainability intersect, and on how community-level measures can reduce operating costs and carbon emissions. The session strengthened ENPOWER's outreach goals by linking academic research to real-world challenges and by encouraging young people to consider roles in the sustainable energy transition.



### ENPOWER at WSED 2026

Wels, Austria | 24-27/02/26

ENPOWER brought its scientific poster to the World Sustainable Energy Days 2026, sharing consolidated results from monitoring campaigns, pilot retrofits and digital tool trials. The poster showcased validated retrofit packages, rooftop PV potential for rural households,

AI-driven analytics for demand optimisation, and co-created governance measures designed to reach vulnerable groups. Participation at WSED enabled targeted exchanges with researchers, policy advisors and industry partners on replication and policy uptake.





## Next In The Project

Stay up to date on what's next!



### UNIBL at KU Leuven RMA Days Leuven, Belgium | 23-25/03/26

Representatives from the University of Banja Luka research support team will attend the KU Leuven Research Managers and Administrators (RMA) Days in Leuven from 23-25 March 2026. The programme includes sessions on ERC and MSCA

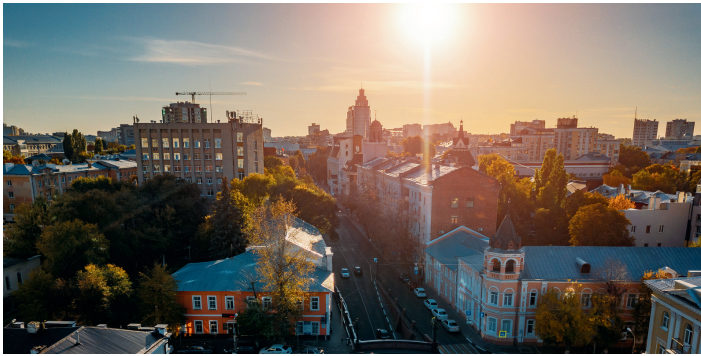
support, Horizon Europe pre-award and project management, research integrity, gender and diversity policies, and practical exchanges among research administrators. Attendees will present short case studies on institutional research support and learn KU Leuven's central-decentral coordination practices to strengthen UNIBL's administrative capacity.

Participation will boost ENPOWER's institutional learning by transferring best practices in research management, grant support and compliance into the project's Mobility, Training and Capacity Building activities. Insights gathered at the RMA Days will inform UNIBL's procedures for managing international collaborations, improving researcher mobility workflows, and enhancing the project's ability to deliver rigorous, fundable research outputs and long-term partnerships.



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## UNIBL Delegation To Visit to Tilburg University

Tilburg, Netherlands | 08-12/06/2026

A delegation of researchers and research managers from UNIBL will visit Tilburg University from 8 to 12 June as part of a mobility visit focused on strengthening collaboration in climate and energy research and innovation.

The programme will include a series of workshops and meetings with Tilburg University's research community involved in the Academic Collaborative Center for Climate and Energy (ACC). In addition, the UniBL delegation will engage with ACC partner organisations and societal partners to exchange knowledge on key topics such as energy transition, climate action, and the just transition. Dedicated project site visits showcasing practical, community-oriented solutions for energy poverty and energy justice will be part of the programme.

Another major component of the mobility programme will focus on sharing the TiU experiences and best practices in research and education support initiatives, knowledge transfer, ecosystem building, and the promotion of open science. Part of the programme will also be dedicated to the development of a Living Lab, including planned meetings with the European Network of Living Labs, aimed at exploring opportunities for collaboration, membership and innovative, real-world experimentation.



## Consortium mobility to Banja Luka

Banja Luka | Coming 2026

Over the coming months, ENPOWER will host short-term visits and training exchanges as consortium partners travel to Banja Luka for hands-on capacity building and technical cooperation. These mobilities will focus on transferring methodologies for building

diagnostics, smart metering deployment, AI analytics, and co-creation workflows for the BAS Living Lab, while providing targeted training for UNIBL staff, researchers and technical teams.



# Events on energy

Expand your network and be part of the change!

## EU ENERGY SUMMIT

### EU Energy Summit 2026

Brussels, Belgium | 04/03/2026

The EU Energy Summit's programme highlights infrastructure resilience, electrification and regulatory simplification, core issues for delivering affordable clean energy at scale. These high-level discussions help frame how systemic policies (grids, data centres, permitting) influence,

local costs and access, which ultimately affect vulnerable households. ENPOWER will be tracking outcomes to better align our policy advisory and training offers with emerging EU priorities, ensuring local capacity and governance measures are ready to absorb structural changes.



The poster for the EU Energy Poverty Advisory Hub Annual Conference 2026 features a central image of the Parthenon in Athens. The text includes 'EU Energy Poverty Advisory Hub' at the top left, 'CITY OF ATHENS' at the top right, 'Registration is open' in a blue button, 'Annual Conference' at the bottom left, and 'March 2026 17-18' at the bottom right. Logos for the European Union and the City of Athens are also present.

### Energy Poverty Advisory Hub Annual Conference 2026

Athens, Greece | 17-18/03/2026

The Energy Poverty Advisory Hub conference is a key forum for practitioners, NGOs and policymakers focused on identifying and supporting vulnerable households. Its sessions and toolkits are directly relevant to ENPOWER's work

on renovation roadmaps, one-stop services and stakeholder engagement in the BAS-Living Lab. Participation or follow-up from this conference will help ENPOWER refine outreach strategies, evidence-based advice, and practical guidance for municipalities and trusted intermediaries who reach energy-poor households.





## What's On The Net?

### News about energy poverty and the environment



#### European Commission releases anti-poverty insights report

Examining the structural drivers of poverty across the EU, the report evaluates the effectiveness of current social and labour market policies, and sets out recommendations for more integrated, data-driven responses.

The report stresses that poverty is multidimensional, combining income shortfalls with housing and service access deficits, and calls for coordinated action across social protection, labour activation, housing, and local public services. It also highlights the value of robust monitoring, targeted support for the most vulnerable, and better alignment between national strategies and local implementation.



#### EU evaluates energy security framework to prepare for future challenges

The European Commission has published a "fitness check" of EU laws governing the security of electricity and gas supply, examining how well existing regulations have performed and identifying areas for improvement ahead of planned legislative revisions in 2026.

This review reflects the evolving energy landscape, shaped by the clean energy transition, geopolitical disruptions, and the need for resilient infrastructure. Strengthening energy security and preparedness ties directly to ENPOWER's focus on ensuring reliable access to sustainable energy and reducing vulnerability among disadvantaged populations.

# What's On The Net?

## News about energy poverty and the environment



### Solar energy's growing role in Europe's clean transition

Recent European Commission reporting highlights solar power as a central pillar of Europe's shift to a low-carbon energy system, with renewables now contributing an increasingly large share of electricity generation across the Union.

The rapid uptake of solar technologies is not only reducing emissions but also improving energy resilience and affordability for citizens. For projects like ENPOWER, this expansion underscores the importance of integrating distributed and community-scale solar solutions as part of comprehensive strategies to address both climate goals and energy poverty in vulnerable regions.



### Energy-efficient products save money, cut emissions and spur innovation

The EU's energy-efficiency rules for products ensure that new appliances consume less power, perform effectively, and help citizens reduce costs over the long run.

The EU's energy-efficiency rules for products ensure that new appliances consume less power, perform effectively, and help citizens reduce costs over the long run. By improving efficiency through labelling and ecodesign standards, households can save hundreds of euros annually on energy bills while lowering carbon footprints. These rules also drive innovation by encouraging manufacturers to adopt advanced technologies, such as efficient lighting and heat-pump drying systems.

For ENPOWER, promoting energy-efficient solutions is integral to tackling energy poverty. Efficient appliances and technologies reduce overall energy demand and bills, key levers for improving comfort and affordability in homes most affected by energy cost burdens. Supporting awareness of efficiency options complements ENPOWER's research and outreach on sustainable energy use.



### Clean energy starts with knowledge

UNDP Bosnia-Herzegovina highlights that knowledge, audits and capacity-building kickstart clean energy investments, from energy audits for industry to household awareness campaigns. ENPOWER's BAS-Living Lab and MTCB activities mirror this approach by blending technical audits, training, and advisory services to unlock practical upgrades.

## ENPOWER Social Hub

Follow our social channels!



Enhancing Scientific Capacity for  
Energy Poverty



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