(Em)Powering the EU Clean Energy Transition: The Role of LDES and Gender Equality

Workshop, 13 May, 14:30 – 17:20, Valencia (Spain) & online

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement 101135736. Views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

1 Workshop concept

As part of its second General Assembly, the Air4NRG project will host a workshop addressing two critical dimensions of the EU's clean energy transition: the technological potential of Long-Duration Energy Storage (LDES) and the need to advance gender equality in the energy sector.

Organised within Air4NRG second General Assembly, the workshop **"(Em)Powering the EU Clean Energy Transition: The Role of LDES and Gender Equality"**, the workshop will feature two sessions. The first, *"LDES: Enablers of the EU Clean Transition"* (14:30 – 16:20), will bring together members of the LDES Cluster – R&I sister projects Air4NRG, SEHRENE and SCO2OP-TES plus the project STREAM and the company Artelys – to showcase LDES as a key enabler of decarbonisation and energy security. The interactive session will feature expert discussions on regulatory and market barriers, explore the role of LDES in achieving EU climate goals, and engage stakeholders in identifying actionable strategies to advance its deployment.

The second session, *"Energy Storage & Gender Equality"* (16:20 – 17:20), will focus on how Horizon-funded projects can foster equal opportunities, with insights on increasing women's participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), leadership, and energy citizenship.

This event offers a unique space to reflect on innovation, inclusion, and the collaborative future of Europe's energy system. Participants will have the opportunity to actively engage in dynamic discussions, share feedback with speakers, and ask questions. The insights gathered will feed into a position paper advocating for the integration of LDES into EU energy policies.

Co-funded by
the European Union.

2 Agenda

Date: 13 May 2025
Time: 14:30 – 17:20
Venue: Hotel Primus Valencia, Calle Menorca 22, 46023, Valencia Spain and online.

ONLINE CONNECTION WILL BE PROVIDED

ID	TIME	ITEM	SPEAKERS	DESCRIPTION
LDES: Enablers of the EU Clean Transition				
1	14:30 – 14:40	Workshop introduction	Edoardo Genova (ZABALA Innovation) *Moderator*	Setting the scene – LDES: The need for the EU energy system, but a gap in the current grid
2	14:40 – 14:50	Keynote speech (EU policy framework)	Eric Lecomte (European Commission, DG ENER)	Setting the context on LDES within the EU energy transition
3	14:50 – 15:00	Keynote speech (Grid operator)	Claire Lajoie-Mazenc (RTE and Air4NRG Advisory)	The grid operator's perspective
4	15:00 – 15:10	Interactive segment		Live polling with audience on energy storage needs and perceptions across the EU
5	15:10 – 15:25	Future energy scenarios	Thomas Brouhard (Artelys)	LDES for 2030 – 2050 energy scenarios, highlighting LDES' importance in EU clean energy horizons
6	15:25 – 16:05	Panel discussion	*Panellists* • David Guyomarc'h, Air4NRG • Safeer Mehdi, SCO2OP-TES • Claire Houzé, SEHRENE	Panel discussion about innovative LDES technologies and deployment barriers

Co-funded by
the European Union.

			• Daniel Pastor Pascual, STREAM *Moderator* • Edoardo Genova (ZABALA Innovation)	
7	16:05 – 16:15	Final interactive Q&A and insight session		Participatory exercise to collect audience's insights on barriers, solutions, and societal awareness which can shape actionable strategies
8	16:15 – 16:20	Conclusion	Edoardo Genova (ZABALA Innovation)	Concluding remarks, key takeaways and next steps
Energy storage and gender equality				
9	16:20 – 16:25	Workshop introduction	Yamina Guidoum (LOMARTOV) *Moderator*	Introduction of workshop objectives and expected outcomes
10	16:25 – 16:40	Keynote speech	Ingrida Murauskaite-Bull, (European Commission, Joint Research Centre)	Keynote speech highlighting the importance of recognising gendered patterns in energy access, use, and governance
11	16:40 – 17:15	Panel discussion	Panellists • Michael Brenner-Fliesser (Joanneum Research Life) • Mariola Guarinos (Avaesen) *Moderator* • Yamina Guidoum (ZABALA Innovation)	The roundtable will discuss how Horizon-funded energy projects in the field of energy storage promote gender equality in practice. It aims to identify barriers limiting women's participation and gather practical insights on how projects can help close the gender gap and support a just energy transit

Co-funded by
the European Union.

12	17:15 – 17:20	Conclusion	Yamina Guidoum (LOMARTOV)	Concluding remarks, key takeaways and next steps

Co-funded by
the European Union.