

EVENT AGENDA

DAY 1: 20 MAY 2025 – MORNING

08:30-09:00 **Arrival and registration**
09:00-09:30 **Welcome and Setting the Scene**

Master of Ceremony: Silvia Assalini, ICLEI European Secretariat, Belgium
Presenters: Magdalena Sikorowska, SESA Project Coordinator, ICLEI European Secretariat, Belgium - **Boris Heinz**, ENERGICA Project Coordinator, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

09:30-11:00 **Advancing the green transition and sustainable growth in Africa**

The African continent is at a critical juncture in its energy transition journey. Despite notable progress, a significant portion of the population still lacks access to affordable, reliable electricity and clean cooking solutions. This challenge is set to intensify as population growth and economic development drive an increasing demand for energy.

Several African countries have initiated transitions towards low-carbon energy solutions, yet stronger policies and regulations, financial support, technological innovation and trainings are needed to scale up these efforts. By leveraging Africa's abundant renewable energy potential, the two European sister projects funded under the EU Green Deal - SESA (Smart Energy Solutions for Africa) and ENERGICA (Energy Access in urban and rural Africa) – contribute to the Long Term EU-Africa Partnership for Research and Innovation actions in the area of renewable energy by testing, piloting and implementing innovative clean energy solutions tailored to urban, semi-urban and rural contexts. These solutions encompass a range of applications including Solar PV mini and nano-grids, integration of productive uses of electricity, Solar Irrigation and Cooling, E-mobility, Second-Life use of EV Batteries, Clean Cookstoves and fuels, Bio-ethanol Technologies, Bio-digester Technologies.

The policy dialogue will explore SESA and ENERGICA's contributions to the AU-EU Innovation Agenda and Global Gateway Investment Package and will foster discussions on scaling solutions through effective policies, financing, and partnerships. Participants will gain insights on best practices and policy recommendations for accelerating Africa's clean energy transition, fostering sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Moderator: Magdalena Sikorowska, ICLEI European Secretariat, Belgium

- **Philippe Schild**, Senior Expert Clean Energy Transition, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission, Belgium
- **Marianne Walpert**, Co-Founder, Simusolar, Tanzania
- **Laura Giappichelli**, Policy Officer, Climate Change and Sustainable Energy, Nuclear Safety, DG International Partnerships, European Commission, Belgium
- **Gregor Riss**, co-Founder and Managing Director - Relevant Ventures, Austria
- **Kasper Rodil**, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, Aalborg University, Denmark

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**

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11:30-13:30 **Exploring the Living Labs:**

This final event of the SESA and ENERGICA projects marks a significant milestone in a shared commitment to advancing renewable energy technologies across the African continent. By drawing on lessons learned and showcasing tangible progress, the event provides a platform to exchange knowledge, build partnerships, and catalyse future innovation in sustainable energy systems.

This first session is designed to bring participants closer to the real-world applications of the technologies developed and piloted through both projects. Through interactive breakout workshops, we will explore three key thematic areas: e-mobility in rural and peri-urban settings, mini and nano-grid energy solutions, and the Water-Food-Energy nexus. Each session features experts and local innovators who will share insights into the technologies, business models, and implementation experiences from across Africa.

By highlighting both the challenges and opportunities, these workshops aim to foster discussions on how to scale and replicate successful models, ensuring that clean energy solutions continue to empower communities and support sustainable development across the continent.

Moderator: **Oliver Lah**, SESA Technical Coordinator, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

- **Session 1: Rural and peri-urban e-mobility in Kenya**

Moderator: **Annika Berlin**, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Kenya

Charles Ogalo, WeTu, Kenya

Habib Lukaya, Roam Electric, Kenya

- **Session 2: Mini and nano-grids: decentralized energy solutions in Ghana and Madagascar**

Moderator: **Edmund Teko**, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Samuel Asare, Nastech Power Solutions, Ghana

Nicolas Saincy, Nanogrids Nanoe Energica, Madagascar

- **Session 3: Exploring the Water-Food-Energy nexus in Malawi, Sierra Leone and Tanzania**

Moderator: **Boris Heinz**, ENERGICA Coordinator, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Marianne Walpert, SIMUSOLAR, Tanzania

Coen Bakker, The Waste Transformers, the Netherlands

13:30-14:30 Lunch

EVENT AGENDA

DAY 1: 20 MAY 2025 – AFTERNOON

14:30-16:00

Accelerating Sustainable Energy Access in Africa: A Deep Dive into Viability of Business Models and Cross-Regional Learnings

The plenary brings together trailblazing entrepreneurs, business leaders and ecosystem enablers to explore what makes African energy enterprises success and how they can scale. Speakers will share insights on tested and validated business models from across the African continent including Kenya, Morocco, Tanzania, Malawi, Ghana, and Madagascar. The panel discussion will also highlight the role of incubation and mentorship in turning promising ideas into viable businesses.

Participants will hear directly from the innovators supported by SESA and ENERGICA initiatives and will examine the vital ingredients for success – from product-market fit, to user adoption, and tested growth strategies.

Accelerating Sustainable Energy Access in Africa: A Deep Dive into Viability of Business Models and Cross-Regional Learnings***SESA Approach to Business Model Development Support***

1. SESA entrepreneurial approach
2. Incubator and Mentorship program

Panel Discussion: Highlights, Insights, and Key Learnings (Cross-thematic and Cross-Regional)***Interactive Q&A and Concluding Reflections***

Moderators: **Lakshmi Bhamidipati**, UNEP CCC, **Elisabeth Biber**, Siemens Stiftung

- **Charles Ogalo**, WeTu, Kenya
- **Brahim El Bakkali**, POGO, Morocco
- **Marianne Walpert**, SIMUSOLAR, Tanzania
- **Samuel Asare**, Nastech, Ghana
- **Nicolas Saincy**, NANOIE, Madagascar

16:00-16.15

*Concluding remarks: **Oliver Lah**, SESA Technical Coordinator, Technische Universität Berlin*

16.15-17:30

Networking Open Space

EVENT AGENDA

DAY 2: 21 MAY 2025

08:30-09:00

Arrival and Registration

09:00-11:00

Watt counts: Tracking the impact of energy innovation

This session showcases the real-world impact of energy innovations deployed in Africa through the Horizon-funded ENERGICA and SESA projects. Focusing on four key areas: Waste to Energy, Fresh Water, Mobility, and Microgrids. The session highlights technologies transforming communities, from biodigesters and solar water pumps to battery swapping and microgrids. The first half features project presentations on impact achieved; the second half brings voices from the field into a panel discussion.

Moderator: Jorden Vander Hoogt, CENEX NL, The Netherlands

- **Esther Van Bergen, CENEX NL**
- **Nargish Parvin, RISE**

Panel discussion:

- **Edem Foli, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa**
- **Susanne Paulrud, RISE, Sweden**
- **Stanley Zira, RISE, Sweden**
- **Haiping Shen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway**
- **Ibtihal Ait Abdelmoula, Green Energy Park, Morocco**
- **Philipp Baslik, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany**
- **Samira Nahim, CIEMAT-Plataforma Solar de Almería, Spain**



EVENT AGENDA

DAY 2: 21 MAY 2025

11:00-13:00 *Enhancing capacity for a sustainable energy transition: Lessons and future directions*

As countries across Africa accelerate their energy transitions, the need for inclusive, effective, and scalable capacity building has never been greater. This session dives into real-world experiences from the SESA and ENERGICA projects to explore how capacity building can empower local governments, SMEs, women, and youth to lead the way. Through practical showcases, an expert panel, and interactive discussions, the session will unpack diverse methodologies, key learnings, and strategies for building future-ready skills and systems that can unlock finance, foster innovation, and leave no one behind.

Introduction: **Claudia Schröder**, ICLEI Africa, South Africa

Capacity building in the African context

- **Claudia Schröder**, ICLEI African Secretariat
- **Dr. Lena Schmid**, Hudara, Germany

Panel session: Enhancing capacity building

Moderator: **Silvia Assalini**, ICLEI Europe, Belgium

- **Dr. Lena Schmid**, Hudara, Germany
- **Jean Marie Bikorimana**, University of Rwanda, Rwanda
- **Engr. Dr. Albert Kotawoke Awopone**, AAMUSTED, Ghana
- **Mikael Melitshenko**, Smart Innovation Norway

Bridging the finance & inclusivity gaps through capacity building: Inclusive capacity building in energy transitions

- **Dr. Jean Marie Bikorimana**, University of Rwanda

Unlocking climate finance for local energy solutions

- **Mikael Melitshenko**, Smart Innovation Norway

13:00-13:15 *Concluding remarks **Boris Heinz**, ENERGICA Project Coordinator, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany***13.15-14.30** *Lunch*

About SESA

The SESA project aims to combat climate change and ensure sustainable energy access by developing replicable solutions with local partners. It focuses on demonstrating integrated energy services for rural and urban communities, fostering local entrepreneurship and avoiding unsustainable energy lock-ins. Ultimately, SESA seeks to maximize impact through innovation and collaboration.

About ENERGICA

ENERGICA focuses on demonstrating energy access solutions locally adapted, sourced and developed and matching local needs. The 11 African-based partners and 17 European-based partners thus efficiently collaborate in demonstrating positive social, environmental, technical and economic impacts from high energy-efficiency and low carbon emission renewable energy technologies of innovative nano grids in rural Madagascar; low-tech efficient biogas systems in peri-urban Sierra Leone; and solar-powered e-mobility solutions in urban Kenya.