

**LEAP Energy****June 2026 - All our latest news!**

Dear readers,

Across Africa and Europe, the energy transition is unfolding in very different but deeply interconnected realities. Africa faces rapidly growing energy demand driven by demographic growth and economic development, while still contending with persistent energy poverty and high vulnerability to climate change. At the same time, the continent holds exceptional renewable energy potential, an essential foundation for a sustainable and inclusive global energy future.

To respond to these shared challenges and opportunities, the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) have gradually built a long-term partnership on energy research and innovation. This partnership has not been designed as a single programme, but as a sustained effort developed step by step over time, supported by successive EU-funded grant agreements and reinforced by contributions from African and European national and regional funding agencies.

The journey began with PRE-LEAP-RE, which played a key role in bringing together partners, building trust, and establishing the first foundations of a structured AU–EU collaboration in renewable energy research and innovation. It then evolved into LEAP-RE and LEAP-SE, which expanded this cooperation, strengthening joint research activities, supporting coordinated calls, and nurturing a growing community of researchers, funders, and innovation actors across both continents.

Through each phase, continuity has been ensured by a sequence of funding instruments rather than a single, static framework. This gradual architecture has made it possible to develop lasting partnerships, accumulate knowledge, and progressively strengthen the impact of collaborative research beyond individual project cycles.

Today, this long-term journey reaches a new milestone with the transition to LEAP Energy, built on more than a decade of cooperation.

More than a change of name, LEAP Energy reflects the ambition to better connect research and innovation with real-world energy transitions. It also responds to a shared need: a more stable and structured framework to support AU–EU cooperation beyond individual projects, and to strengthen the pathway from scientific results to societal and economic impact.

By linking successive funding instruments into a coherent long-term effort, LEAP Energy provides both stability and flexibility. It enables partners across Africa and Europe to continue working together to co-develop solutions, scale innovation, and support a just and sustainable energy future.

We look forward to continuing this shared journey with our community as LEAP Energy opens a new chapter of long-term AU–EU collaboration for sustainable energy.

The LEAP Energy coordination.

## CCSE Stakeholder Forum 2026



From **18–20 May 2026**, the **Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE) Stakeholder Forum** brought together researchers, innovators, policymakers, funding agencies, and industry representatives from Africa and Europe in Brussels to discuss the future of AU–EU cooperation on climate action and sustainable energy.

Throughout the forum, participants showcased research and innovation results, explored pathways from science to policy and market deployment. A recurring theme was the need to **strengthen the connection between research, innovation, and real-world implementation – an ambition that sits at the heart of LEAP Energy**. The event demonstrated the growing maturity of the AU–EU sustainable energy ecosystem and highlighted the collective commitment to transforming knowledge into tangible impact for communities across both continents.

We want to take a moment to sincerely thank every partner, speaker, and participant who made these three days possible, whether you were with us in Brussels or joined remotely. Your commitment and constructive engagement are what make this partnership truly alive.

[Browse the event's pictures](#)

### Access the Forum Resources

- All recordings from the Forum are available on the [LEAP Energy Platform](#).
- Interested in what has been funded? Discover LEAP-SE's 16 [newly funded project presentations](#).

Looking ahead, the real work now continues. For a full recap of the Forum, we invite you to read [our wrap-up article](#)!

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## New LEAP Energy Website



A new chapter calls for a new home.

We are delighted to announce the **launch of the brand new LEAP Energy website**, now live at [www.leap-energy.eu](http://www.leap-energy.eu). Designed to reflect the evolution of our initiative, the site brings together everything you need to follow the work ahead, funding opportunities, news, funded projects, events, and the latest from the LEAP Energy community.

Whether you are a long-standing member of the family or discovering us for the first time, we invite you to explore the new website.

Visit [leap-energy.eu](http://leap-energy.eu)

## News from our Portfolio

### What's new?

Discover the latest updates from some of our project portfolio!

#### SoCoNexGen

The SoCoNexGen project designed and tested four solar indoor cookers for domestic use, powered by solar thermal collectors and/or photovoltaic panels. A standout outcome was a PV cooker with battery storage developed by Université Mohammed Premier (Oujda, Morocco), which successfully passed both laboratory and field tests. Three thermal cookers were also constructed in Germany and shipped to partners in Tunisia, Algeria, and Portugal, though these require further development.

Notably, Morocco's National Initiative for Human Development (INDH) has expressed a strong interest in scaling the PV cooker, with discussions underway to formalise a tripartite production agreement with local partners (Association Homme et Environnement of Berkane and Université Mohammed Premier (UMP)).

The SoCoNexGen project is part of the LEAP-RE programme. The authors would like to sincerely thank the EU and the funding from the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR, Germany), Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (MESRSI, Morocco), Ministry of

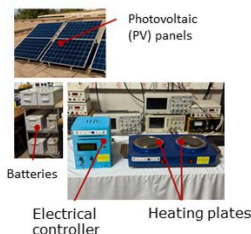
#### Project SoCoNexGen



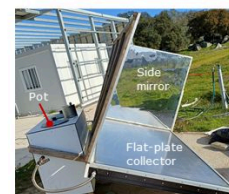
##### AIM OF THE PROJECT

SoCoNexGen aims to develop secure, reliable, easy to use and environmentally friendly solar cooking technologies for domestic use. Four different solar indoor cookers with energy storage, powered by solar thermal collectors and/or PV panels, were built and are being tested. Two of the solar cookers are shown below.

##### PV Solar Cooker with Battery Storage



##### Hybrid solar thermal/PV electric solar cooker with oil circuit for heating pots\*



\*PV panels, battery and electric oil heater not shown



Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS, Algeria), Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT, Portugal), and funding for Tunisia from the EU (managed by Loughborough University, UK).



### **BIOTHEREP: Pioneering Circular Bioenergy Solutions from Slaughterhouse Waste**

Over the course of the project, BiotHEREP has demonstrated how slaughterhouse waste can be converted into renewable energy and bio-based products through an integrated circular bioeconomy approach. Using biochemical and thermochemical processes, the project achieved methane yields exceeding 450 NmL CH<sub>4</sub>/gVS, up to 60% methane enhancement through catalytic methanation, and a net climate benefit of approximately -108 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq per tonne of waste treated.

Beyond technical results, the project strengthened AU-EU collaboration and built capacity across partner institutions in Morocco, Algeria, South Africa, France, Germany, and Italy. Next steps include pilot-scale demonstration plants and the integration of decentralised renewable energy systems.

### **REPTES**

We're happy to share that REPTES has completed its work on renewable energy solutions for rural and productive contexts in Africa, exploring how solar and wind power combined with Pumped Thermal Energy Storage (PTES) can replace diesel-based off-grid systems. Across four case studies in Nigeria and Morocco, the project demonstrated PTES as a promising complement to batteries, in one Nigerian farm case, the renewable configuration reduced the levelised cost of energy from 0.25 to 0.17 €/kWh.

The project has already opened a concrete follow-up pathway through REPTES-MART, which will build two PTES prototypes in Morocco and Nigeria. Key results were presented at [a public webinar, "Innovative Solutions for Renewable-Based Off-Grid Applications", on 23 June 2026.](#)



## **Discover the LEAP-SE 16 newly funded projects**

### **BioHyPEM**

Current hydrogen fuel cells rely on costly, hard-to-recycle

### **FLOATAGE**

Water, energy, and food security are deeply

### **FREECOOL**

Cooling is a growing necessity, but conventional



materials that limit their potential at scale. The BioHyPEM project will develop biodegradable, nature-derived membranes and green catalysts to make hydrogen fuel cells cleaner, more affordable, and truly sustainable, thereby advancing the green hydrogen economy in Africa and Europe.

**Duration: 36 months**

### GH-SAFE

Solar energy is abundant across rural Africa, but its intermittency leaves millions without reliable power. The GH-SAFE project will develop a stand-alone system that converts surplus solar energy into green hydrogen for safe storage, then back into electricity when needed. This scalable solution aims to provide a reliable electricity storage system tailored for rural and isolated African communities.

**Duration: 36 months**

### ONESELF

Dust and intense UV radiation silently reduce solar panel efficiency across Africa, costing energy and money. The ONESELF project will develop a dual innovation: advanced nano-coatings that enhance light conversion and repel dust, combined with ultrasonic self-cleaning technology. This smart, remotely monitored, and fully automated system will ensure solar panels perform at their best, without requiring water or manual cleaning.

**Duration: 36 months**

connected challenges across Africa. The FLOATAGE project will deploy floating solar panels on water bodies in Tunisia and Tanzania to power irrigation, desalination, and aquaculture. This transdisciplinary initiative, co-designed with local communities, aims to build sustainable and replicable solutions for African agri-food systems.

**Duration: 36 months**

### H2Map-Educate

Green hydrogen holds enormous promise in Africa, but without proper infrastructure mapping and local expertise, that potential risks going untapped. The H2Map-Educate project will build an open-source platform to visualize hydrogen opportunities across Namibia and South Africa, paired with an inclusive Learning Factory to train the next generation of hydrogen professionals. This initiative aims to create a replicable blueprint for Africa's clean energy future

**Duration: 36 months**

### PRAGMA-E

Africa holds vast renewable energy potential, yet still depends on costly fertiliser imports. The PRAGMA-E project will investigate how countries like Senegal, Morocco, and Namibia could produce green ammonia locally to support their own farmers while meeting global decarbonisation needs. This research initiative will map the full value chain, from renewable resources to cross-continental trade.

**Duration: 24 months**

systems are costly and energy-hungry. The FREECOOL project will develop innovative self-cooling paints that reflect heat away from buildings and cold-chain containers using zero electricity. This low-tech, affordable solution, to be tested across African climate zones, aims to tackle multiple energy-related challenges simultaneously.

**Duration: 36 months**

### JUST-BIO-AFRH2ICA

Across Africa, vast quantities of agricultural waste go unused, while farmers struggle with costly, import-dependent fertilisers. The JUST-BIO-AFRH2ICA project will investigate turning that biomass into green hydrogen through fermentation and pyrolysis, with pilot studies planned in Morocco, Senegal, and Algeria. This initiative aims to bridge agri-food systems and clean energy to build a more self-sufficient, sustainable future for African farming.

**Duration: 24 months**

### PV-AgroCycle

Climate change is putting African agriculture under severe pressure, while solar panels compete for the same land. The PV-AgroCycle project will combine semi-transparent solar panels, AI-powered irrigation, and rainwater harvesting into a single smart system, to be tested in Morocco and Algeria. This initiative aims to produce more crops, reduce water usage, generate clean energy, and create a replicable model for climate-resilient farming across Africa.

**Duration: 36 months**

## REPTES-MART

Rural African communities need more than electricity; they need cooling, heating, and food preservation as well. The REPTES-MART project will combine solar energy with an innovative thermal storage system to deliver all three services simultaneously. Prototypes will be tested in Morocco and Nigeria, with the goal of creating a smart, modular solution designed to reduce post-harvest losses and provide reliable clean energy to off-grid agricultural households

**Duration: 36 months**

## REMIX-3P

West African communities face critical challenges in energy access, waste management, and food security. The REMIX-3P project will tackle all three with a single off-grid system combining biogas, solar PV, and concentrated solar power to generate electricity, cooling, and heat. To be demonstrated in Benin, this circular and community-driven approach will turn waste into energy, and energy into food security and economic opportunity

**Duration: 36 months**

## RESZNC

Billions of used batteries end up as waste, but their materials are too valuable to discard. The RESZNC project will recover graphite, zinc, and manganese from spent zinc-carbon batteries and transform them into next-generation energy storage devices, with AI optimizing every step. This circular approach to battery waste aims to turn an environmental problem into a clean energy solution.

**Duration: 36 months**

## RISES

Over 175 million people in the Sahel lack reliable electricity, with many still depending on diesel generators. The RISES project will develop a lightweight, modular solar canopy system designed for installation on rooftops or as shade structures. This solution aims to provide affordable clean energy to both off-grid and urban communities, while being smart, connected, and built to withstand the Sahara's harsh conditions.

**Duration: 30 months**

## SCORE

Water scarcity is pushing African and Mediterranean farmers to reuse wastewater, but pollutants make it unsafe. The SCORE project will deploy solar-powered treatment systems combining advanced purification technologies in Algeria, Tunisia, and Türkiye, turning wastewater into safe irrigation water and sludge into soil amendments. This solution aims to deliver clean water from the sun, specifically designed for the regions that need it most.

**Duration: 30 months**

## SH2PEC

Green hydrogen holds enormous promise, but current production relies on rare, costly materials. The SH2PEC project will develop affordable photoelectrodes made from earth-abundant materials to split water using sunlight, producing clean hydrogen with no carbon emissions. This collaborative initiative, involving Morocco, Kenya, South Africa, France, and Germany, aims to build the blueprint for scalable, low-cost hydrogen production.

**Duration: 36 months**

## SolarFish

In Sub-Saharan Africa, up to 50% of fish catches are lost before reaching the market, a massive blow to food security and fisher incomes. The SolarFish project will develop off-grid, solar-powered cooling and drying systems specifically designed for coastal fishing communities. This project aims to turn affordable solar energy into a lifeline for millions of small-scale fishers across the Global South.

**Duration: 24 months**

# LEAP-SE Call 2026 Update

The pre-proposals selected in the second phase of the LEAP-SE call 2026 just submitted their full proposal (June 24th) and the evaluation by the international

**expert panel will start soon.** The call attracted strong interest from African and European research and innovation communities, further confirming the growing momentum of the AU–EU partnership on sustainable energy.

Looking ahead, funding organisations and ministries from AU and EU are already exploring opportunities to continue this successful funding mechanism beyond the current call. While discussions are ongoing, a future joint call could provide additional opportunities to support collaborative research and innovation projects addressing the energy transition challenges shared by Africa and Europe. More information to come in the next newsletters!

## Events

### ARSTIF Addis Ababa



LEAP-RE took part in the eighth **African Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (ARSTIF)** in Addis Ababa, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

The discussions highlighted the value of **long-standing AU–EU research and innovation partnerships such as LEAP-RE, FNSSA, and EDCTP**, which have demonstrated the effectiveness of co-designed programmes, joint governance, and pooled funding. These initiatives have contributed to **stronger research networks, enhanced institutional capacity, and increased collaboration between African and European actors.**

At the same time, participants underlined a persistent challenge: the need to move beyond research collaboration towards greater impact. Too often, promising results do not yet translate into policy uptake, innovation deployment, or market-ready solutions. Uneven access to funding instruments, mobility constraints, and limited institutional support for project development were also identified as key barriers.

The different sessions reinforced a shared message: **future AU–EU cooperation must place greater emphasis on impact-oriented partnerships**, stronger science–policy–industry linkages, and more equitable collaboration models that go beyond capacity building towards genuine capacity sharing.



# Africa Forward Summit



LEAP Energy was proud to contribute to the **Energies for the Future workshop**, organised by CNRS as a side event of the **Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi, Kenya**. Bringing together African and European researchers, innovation actors, and institutional partners, the workshop explored research priorities and collaboration opportunities to support Africa's energy transition and green industrialisation.

Discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening links between research, innovation, and societal impact, with a focus on renewable energy systems, sustainable fuels, energy storage, and decentralised energy solutions. The event also provided an opportunity to identify **new partnership opportunities and funding mechanisms** that can accelerate the deployment of locally adapted and sustainable energy solutions.

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## Energy Access Investment Forum in Nairobi



LEAP-RE participated for the second consecutive year in the **Energy Access Investment Forum (EAIF 2026)**, organised by the **Alliance for Rural Electrification**. This year's edition marked a milestone for the forum, bringing together more than 750 participants,



including over 150 investors, 200 developers, and 20 energy buyers, making it the largest gathering in the event's history. The forum provided a strong platform to connect with innovative companies, funding bodies, and fellow support programmes working to advance sustainable energy access. In the next months, LEAP Energy will strengthen the link between research and innovation and the energy market in Africa, notably by supporting the maturation of high-potential R&I results into investable, scalable energy solutions.



Within EAIF, **LEAP-RE** had the opportunity to visit a farm in Thika, Kenya, where clean cooling solutions are being actively explored for agricultural production. Access to reliable and sustainable cooling remains a critical challenge across agricultural value chains, particularly in rural settings, and the visit offered a firsthand look at how solar-powered, modular systems can help reduce post-harvest losses, improve product quality, and strengthen farmers' resilience.

The visit also served as a valuable occasion to **exchange with local stakeholders** and partners on practical implementation challenges, business models, and pathways to scale. Among the solutions explored were modular solar cooling systems developed by [SelfChill](#) and off-grid energy applications from [Phaesun GmbH](#) & their [Cooling portfolio](#).

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## Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development: Reflections from the OACPS R&I Programme





LEAP Energy participated in the **final event of the OACPS Research and Innovation (R&I) Programme**, held in Brussels on 21 May 2026. The event brought together researchers, innovators, policymakers, development partners, and investors to reflect on the programme's achievements and explore future opportunities for cooperation across African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries.

Discussions highlighted the crucial role of research and innovation in driving sustainable development, strengthening local innovation ecosystems, and creating pathways from knowledge generation to economic and societal impact. The event also showcased tangible results delivered through the programme, the pitches were of a high standard and demonstrated how these projects include innovative products and services, while strengthening institutional capacities.



*Dr Christelle Amina Djoulde, Head of Innovation Promotion and Support, MINRESI, Cameroon, LEAP-SE funding agency*



# Horizon Europe Africa Initiative IV : EU-Africa R&I Funding Opportunities



**Monday**  
29 June 2026

**Start at 3:00pm CEST**

**EURAXESS Africa**, in collaboration with **LEAP Energy**, organised an **online information session dedicated to research and innovation (R&I) stakeholders based in Africa**. The webinar, hosted by the EURAXESS Africa team together with representatives of LEAP Energy, took place on 29 June 2026 at 15:00 CEST.

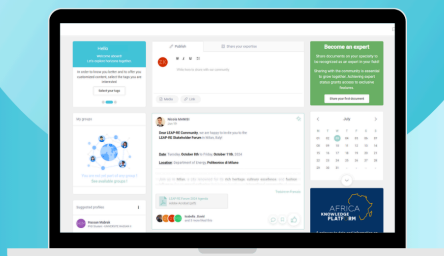
The session gave participants the opportunity to learn more about the funding opportunities available under Horizon Europe Africa Initiative IV, covering the different funding schemes, application procedures, evaluation criteria, and practical recommendations for preparing competitive project proposals. Researchers, academics, innovators, research managers, and institutional representatives were invited to join the interactive session and explore new avenues for Africa-Europe research and innovation collaboration.

[More about it here](#)

**New updates on the LEAP Energy community!**



## New platform updates



 [www.leap-re.app](http://www.leap-re.app)

## New platform updates

The **LEAP Energy Online Platform** is a space for renewable energy research and innovation stakeholders from both Africa and Europe to exchange, share knowledge, and collaborate on common opportunities. **Discover our latest updates, webinar replays and much more.**

Create and detail your profile to start uploading content and exchanging with other community members.

**+100 events have been organised there and we currently have more than 3889 members. Be the next one!**

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**Secretariat mailing address:**

LGI Sustainable Innovation  
6 Cité de l'Ameublement  
75011 Paris  
FRANCE

[contact@leap-energy.eu](mailto:contact@leap-energy.eu)  
[www.leap-energy.eu](http://www.leap-energy.eu)

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