



## GFSE Newsletter

Dear Friends of GFSE,

We are pleased to send you our Spring 2023 edition of the GFSE newsletter, containing updates on activities of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy, important events and news from other stakeholders working towards a sustainable energy future for all.

Enjoy reading!  
The Global Forum on Sustainable Energy



## Vienna Energy Forum 2023

The Vienna Energy Forum (VEF2023) will be held as a physical meeting at the Hofburg Conference Centre from 13 to 14 June, 2023. The VEF 2023 is designed to facilitate a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, and interdisciplinary dialogue on sustainable energy for inclusive development and productive capacities. The VEF 2023 will bring together key stakeholders and experts to explore and deliberate on the key topics that advance sustainable energy.

The sessions will discuss key priorities, showcase projects, and highlight the action-oriented steps required to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 “ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, helping to forge an inclusive pathway to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Please find more information here:

Vienna Energy Forum 2023



## **Central African Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CEREEAC) opened in Angola**

The Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Central Africa (CEREEAC) opened in Luanda (Angola) on 10 March 2023.

On 10th March H.E. João Baptista Borges, Minister of Energy of Angola and H.E Gilberto da Piedade Verissimo, President of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) inaugurated the Central African Centre for Renewable Energy and Efficiency in Luanda with support of UNIDO, IRENA and the Austrian Development Cooperation.

The center is a specialized institution of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), whose mission is to ensure the coordination of the implementation of the community's policy on renewable energy and energy efficiency and promote the creation of an integrated and inclusive regional market for related products and services.

The CEREEAC covers the Community's Member States Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe and Chad. More information can be found in the link below (in Portuguese)

CEREEAC (in Portuguese)



## **SDG7 Review at the 2023 HLPF - Global Online Consultation by UN DESA**

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will be held from Monday, 10 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2023, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council ([ECOSOC](#)). The theme will be "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels".

In the forum, participants will be able explore policy guidance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at all levels. The HLPF in 2023 will also review in-depth SDG6, SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 11 and SDG 17.

To support the in-depth review of SDG7, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is organizing an online consultation to collect inputs from non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, major groups and other stakeholders on SDG7.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT INPUTS: 10 April 2023.**

The e-consultation can be found here:

## UN DESA e-consultation on SDG7



UNITED NATIONS

**Global Expert Group  
Meeting in preparation of  
the SDG7 review at the  
HLPF 2023**

To support the review of SDG 7 at the HLPF, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) will convene with the support of UN-Energy an expert group meeting at UN Headquarters in New York on 11-12 May 2023. This meeting will bring together experts to discuss progress and challenges regarding SDG 7, identify opportunities for action, and consider inputs from consultations. The meeting will produce a consolidated summary note.

The concept note of the meeting can be found [here](#):

More information can be found here

**The European Year of Skills  
2023**

The European Commission declared 2023 as the European Year of Skills. The European Year of Skills aims at boosting investment in training and upskilling opportunities to make sure that workers acquire the skills demanded on the labor market, including digital and green skills through the following actions:

- Promoting increased, and more effective and inclusive investment in training and upskilling.
- Making sure that skills are relevant for labor market needs
- Matching people's aspirations and skills with opportunities on the job market. A special focus is given to activate more women and young people for the labor market.
- Attracting people from third countries with the skills needed by the EU

The EU will build on many ongoing initiatives, such as:

- The [European Skills Agenda](#) is the framework for EU skills policy cooperation
- The [Pact for Skills](#): a shared engagement model for skills development in Europe. The pact aims to support public and private organisations with upskilling and reskilling.
- The EU [Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition](#) encouraging training to improve digital skills

## The European Year of Skills



**SOLTRAIN+: Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative (SOLTRAIN) will be extended**

The Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative (SOLTRAIN) is a regional initiative on capacity building and demonstration of solar thermal systems in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) carried out by [AEE INTEC](#) together with regional partners and supported by the Austrian Development Agency ([ADA](#)). SOLTRAIN supports the target countries with the development of value chains for solar thermal technologies.

SOLTRAIN will be extended for another four years with the support of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

AEE INTEC will implement the next phase of the initiative (SOLTRAIN+) together with 9 partners in 5 Southern African countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe) while reaching out to other countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The scope of the next

phase will include renewable heating and cooling solutions in general with focus on heat pumps and excess heat recovery in industry and commerce, hospitals, hotels and social housing. Solar thermal will still be at the core of all activities.

Please visit [SOLTRAIN](#) for more about the programme .

More information about SOLTRAIN+

## **USAID Scaling Up Renewable Energy (SURE) in Colombia**

[USAID](#) is helping Colombia develop renewable electricity sources, promote gender equality in the energy sector, in particular in indigenous communities in the Guajira region, advance a just transition and support training for the youth. The SURE program started in 2018 in Colombia and is still ongoing. Through the SURE program, USAID helps partner countries via private investment in, and competitive procurement of, clean electricity.

In Colombia, SURE has developed a toolkit for renewable energy auctions. It has also fostered local community participation and local workforce development in the local indigenous communities (Wayuu) for renewable electricity projects being developed in the Guajira region desert in the north of the country.

More information on the case study focusing on cultivating the local work force in Guajira can be found at:

[https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA00Z2S3.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00Z2S3.pdf)

In addition, as part of the SURE program, USAID together with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory ([NREL](#)) of the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Energy Association ([USEA](#)) worked together with the Government of Colombia to develop a workforce training program for young

professionals to learn about the construction, operation, and grid integration of variable renewable electricity. The nine-month training program was facilitated by experts from the United States, Norway, Germany, Australia, and Brazil, including market operators, regulators, generators, distributors, and technology producers.

More information on the SURE  
programme in Colombia

## **IRENA and SELCO Foundation: Fostering Livelihoods with Decentralised Renewable Energy: An Ecosystems Approach**

This report by IRENA and the SELCO foundation discusses the elements necessary for linking decentralised renewable electricity services with productive end uses. The report outlines how energy access programmes and initiatives are implementing activities to facilitate productive uses of decentralised renewable energy.

The main elements of successful programmes are as follows:

- Technology innovation, considering the needs of end users and a gender perspective
- accessible, affordable financing for end-users and enterprises, including women
- Linkages to secure access to markets and access to production inputs
- Training and capacity building including incubation support and skills development
- Policies, plans and strategies that consider productive uses of renewable energy

In addition, there are cross-cutting elements, which are necessary to improve productive uses of local decentralised renewable energy as follows: partnership development and coordination of stakeholders across sectors,



gender strategies and knowledge sharing that considers end user needs and contributes to break silos.

According to the report, vocational training centres, especially in the rural areas, need to be upgraded to become centres of innovation and entrepreneurship in productive end uses. In addition, training on installation, maintenance and repair of renewable energy technologies is necessary to keep systems functioning, particularly in rural areas. The lack of access to training remains a key barrier for women in the decentralised renewables for access sector.

Incubation support for small-scale technology suppliers to develop efficient appliances compatible with decentralised renewable energy solutions is an important component of strategies to develop productive uses of decentralised renewable energy.

Source: [IRENA and SELCO Foundation \(2022\), Fostering Livelihoods with Decentralised Renewable Energy: An Ecosystems Approach, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi.](#)

The report can be found here

We hope you enjoyed reading our news updates and look forward to staying in touch with you within the GFSE community. We highly welcome reactions and suggestions! If you do not wish to receive the GFSE newsletter anymore, please send an email to [gfse@energyagency.at](mailto:gfse@energyagency.at)

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The Global Forum on Sustainable Energy is a neutral multi-stakeholder platform facilitating international dialogue on energy for sustainable development by considering the special interests and challenges of developing countries. GFSE aims to establish a sustainable world energy system from a social, economic, and environmental perspective.

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