



## GFSE Newsletter

Dear Friends of GFSE,

We are pleased to send you our February 2022 edition of the GFSE newsletter, containing updates, important events, and news from stakeholders working towards a sustainable energy future for all.

Enjoy reading!

The Global Forum on Sustainable Energy

### The SOLTRAIN initiative in the SADC Region

[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 in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency ([SACREEE](#)). SOLTRAIN is supported by the Austrian Development Agency ([ADA](#)) and the OPEC Fund for International Development ([OFID](#)).

SOLTRAIN supports the target countries in developing value chains for solar thermal technologies. In particular, SOLTRAIN promotes the use of solar thermal systems while ensuring the selection of quality products and workmanship to guarantee optimal performance. In addition, SOLTRAIN supports the Southern African Development Community (SADC) policies on Energy for Sustainable Development and the national energy policies of the SOLTRAIN partner countries by creating new jobs in small and medium-sized enterprises, setting up demonstration systems, and strengthening the mechanisms for local support for solar thermal systems.

Among others, installers of solar thermal systems (small and medium enterprises) are supported with training activities in the design, installation, commissioning, and maintenance of solar thermal systems. In addition, local production of solar thermal systems is supported. SOLTRAIN offers Train-the-Trainer courses to solar thermal companies. These companies are enabled to disseminate the knowledge in training for artisans from the private and public sector and technical and non-technical dissemination courses. In addition, dual training for artisans consisting of two theoretical and hands-on classes, in combination with an internship at a solar thermal company, are offered. The dual training program is offered in cooperation with vocational training centers.

SOLTRAIN is currently working on mobilizing international funds to implement solar thermal roadmaps in the partner countries and financing investment projects. One of the possibilities being explored is the GET.Invest Finance Catalyst operates as a matchmaking platform between projects, companies, and financiers. The Finance Catalyst targets small- and medium-scale sustainable energy opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific region.

[More about SOLTRAIN here](#)

### Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances in EAC and SADC (EELA)

The Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances ([EELA](#)) project aims to support the development of markets for energy-efficient lighting and appliances in

East and Southern Africa. The project focuses on market incentives, policies, and regulations, capacity building of standards and accreditation bodies, and awareness-raising.

The project is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization ([UNIDO](#)) and executed with support from the East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency ([EACREEE](#)) and the Southern African Development Community Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency ([SACREEE](#)). Technical support is provided by the Swedish Energy Agency ([SEA](#)) and CLASP. The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Corporation ([Sida](#)).

The EELA project has developed a Regional Compliance Framework to enable EAC, and SADC Member States to implement regionally harmonized energy efficiency policy measures and avoid market entry of non-compliant, environmentally harmful, and low-quality products. The Framework facilitates regional collaboration between national compliance authorities through the regional centers EACREEE and SACREEE, and aligns national compliance methodologies to support national implementation efforts. The Framework also develops a Regional Product Registration System and facilitates Inter-regional collaboration between the SADC and EAC to strengthen the regional and national programs further. The Regional Compliance Framework will support SADC Member states to implement the regionally harmonized Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for Lighting (SADC HT 109:2021). Approved by the SADCSTAN Executive Committee.

The EELA project also provides technical assistance and [financial support](#) to municipalities, industries, and other large energy users, energy services providers, and manufacturers of lighting, cooling, and productive use appliances.



[More about the EELA project here](#)

## **RES4Africa. Youth Agenda**

The [RES4Africa](#) organized and hosted two virtual PreCOP26 events for youth, which provided a dedicated space for dialogue between young energy changemakers and high-level representatives from the private sector and public institutions.

The first session was the "African Youth-Led Summit-Climate Change and Renewable Energy" on 28 September 2021. The second one was "Driving a Just Energy Transition -Leaving No Youth Behind" on 1 October 2021.

The outcome of the discussions is the Youth Agenda, which summarises the recommendations of the youth representatives participating in the events. The main proposals of the Youth Agenda focus on the need to reform and fund education while promoting gender diversity and balance in the labor market, especially in the energy sector. The primary areas of action identified

in the Agenda are:

1. social inclusion of women and youth and their role in climate change prevention;
2. socio-economic and environmental impacts of the energy transition;
3. the role of young innovators;
4. the role of sustainable policies in climate change adaptation, innovation, and mitigation.

As the youngest generations will inherit the planet, it is crucial to engage them by creating dedicated spaces for dialogue and involvement in decision-making and policy-making processes.

[Find the full Youth Agenda here](#)

## IRENA Youth Forum 2022

[IRENA](#) Youth Forum 2022: Global youth meet to advance the energy transition

During the 2022 IRENA Youth Forum "Global Youth Gather to Spur Action on Energy Transition", over 400 young energy leaders gathered to call on organizations, governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society to take action.

The Forum was opened by IRENA Director General Francesco La Camera, who addressed the young delegates in his opening speech, encouraging the youth representatives to continue to embody their ideals in their actions. Next, H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates, emphasized the role of young people in tackling climate change. She pointed out how collectively and individually, the innovations of the youth will help develop renewable energy that will accelerate the energy transition and put the world on track to meet climate goals.

The following discussion featured the findings of the Global Youth Energy Outlook report by [Student Energy](#). This youth-led international organization empowers young people to accelerate the sustainable energy transition. Helen Watts, Senior Director of Global Partnerships at Student Energy, presented the report's findings, pointing out that most young people surveyed want their country to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030. Esther Wanza, Field Operations Coordinator at [RAYNOW Energy](#), gave an example of a start-up success story implementing a 3-kilowatt photovoltaic project with a 2.5-kilowatt storage system that enables a health center in Kenya to treat more than 60 patients per day. The forum also discussed the need to invest in training. There is enough solar, wind, and biomass energy to power Africa but a lack of trainers to pass on this knowledge to younger generations.

Ibrahim Togola, President of [Mali-Folke Center Nyetaa](#), stressed the need for a more robust government policy framework, stating that regulations are crucial to accelerating the energy transition.

The young leaders welcomed the implementation of youth initiatives announced by IRENA for 2022, including the establishment of the Global Council on Enabling Youth Action for SDG7, a training program for young climate and energy leaders launched at the request of the Youth4Climate Pre-COP in Milan, and educational activities, including support for teacher training.

[Watch the full event here](#)

## Green People's Energy for Africa

The German initiative [Green People's Energy for Africa](#) aims to improve the conditions for decentralized energy supply in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia with the participation of citizens and companies. The initiative is jointly implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit ([GIZ](#)) GmbH and [KfW Development Bank](#) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development ([BMZ](#)).

The initiative offered financial support to small-scale solutions mainly based on renewable electricity led by non-profit organizations and training courses through the Small Projects Fund.

Training is a crucial element of the initiative to ensure the long-term functionality of decentralized renewable energy systems. Training encompasses end-users and local companies to install, repair, and maintain equipment. Some training programs also include installing demonstration systems in social institutions, including health centers, to demonstrate the benefits of the technologies to the public. In a particular case, a truck that carries training materials and demonstration units has been used as a mobile training unit to reach trainees that cannot travel to demonstration gardens. As part of the initiative, trainings in several areas are conducted. For example:

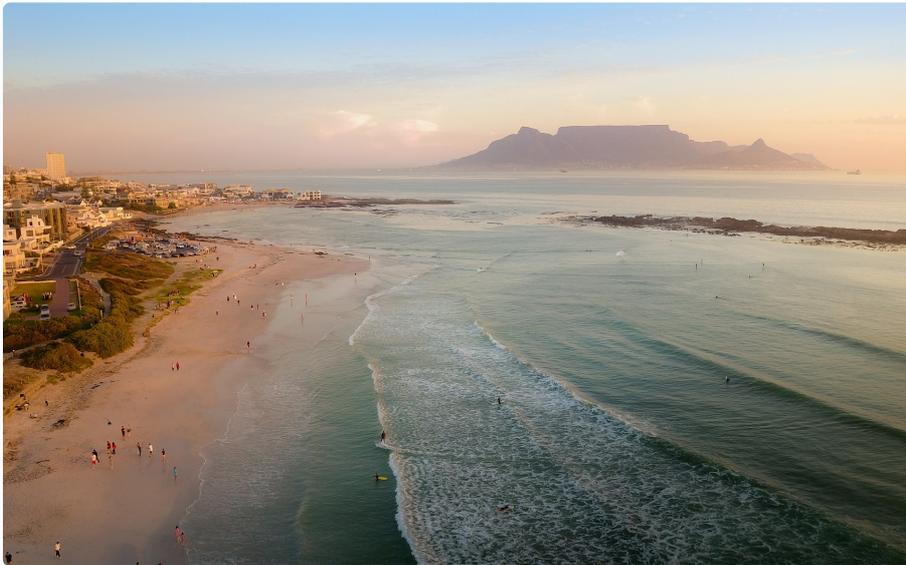
· [Solar Powered Irrigation Systems \(SPIS\) Trainings for Users, Technicians, and Trainers in Northern Uganda](#)

· [Solar Powered Irrigation Systems \(SPIS\) Training to Togo](#)

· [Training on Solar cooling systems](#)

· [Training of Technicians for PV Systems in Ethiopia in cooperation with Vocational Training Centers](#)

[More about the initiative here](#)



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