



JUNE 2026



Co-funded by the European Union



LoCEL Horizons

The LoCEL-H2 website was recently launched.
Visit and bookmark this site, locelh2.org.
LoCEL-H2 is also on Twitter.



LOUGHBOROUGH TEAM SHORTLISTED FOR TWO INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

We are thrilled to share that the [LoCEL-H2 Project](#) team at [Loughborough University](#) has been shortlisted for two international awards, recognising their work on the innovative battery electrolyser.

The pioneering battery-electrolyser system combines electrical storage, power supply and hydrogen production in one recyclable unit, delivering clean hydrogen without rare metals, membranes or expensive catalysts. Backed by £12M funding and 20+ global partners, this innovation is already moving from concept to real-world deployment.

The project has firstly been selected as a finalist for the [Energy Institute's](#) International Energy Awards 2026, which celebrate organisations, projects and individuals demonstrating excellence across the global energy sector. The [LoCEL-H2 Project](#) was shortlisted from more than 80 entries.

FROM ENERGY CULTURES TO LOCAL ACTION: APPLYING THE LOCEL-H2 SOCIO-TECHNICAL MODEL THROUGH OFFICINE DELL'ENERGIA

Community engagement lies at the heart of the LoCEL-H2 project. As a Horizon Europe initiative developing a low-cost, circular, plug-and-play renewable microgrid integrating advanced lead-battery storage and green hydrogen production, LoCEL-H2 recognises that technology alone is not enough. For sustainable impact in off-grid communities, energy solutions must be aligned with local socio-cultural dynamics, everyday energy practices, and community priorities.

Activities took place both at the university and on-site at the Fondazione Alario in the Cilento area. Here, UNINA students applied the exact investigative model used in LoCEL-H2 to analyse local energy cultures, stakeholder perceptions, and territorial dynamics. Their objective was to design an institutional communication strategy that is inclusive, evidence-based, and deeply rooted in the community's lived experience.





JUNE 2026



Co-funded by the European Union



STRENGTHENING INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION AT THE UNIVERSITY AND INDUSTRIAL FORUM 2026

In February, we were pleased to see the University of Gabes actively contributing to the Industry-Academia Partnership Days, held as part of the University and Industrial Forum 2026.

During the event, the team disseminated the progress and objectives of the LoCEL-H2 Project, highlighting our work on scalable, low-cost renewable microgrids designed for off-grid communities. Discussions focused on the integration of advanced lead-battery storage, smart control systems, and the innovative battery-electrolyser technology that enables green hydrogen production for clean cooking and energy resilience.

The forum provided an important platform to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry, exchange knowledge on sustainable energy technologies, and explore pathways for real-world deployment. Engaging with industrial stakeholders is essential to ensuring that research outputs move beyond the laboratory and into practical, community-centred solutions.

DOING POWER DIFFERENTLY: ADVANCING GENDER EMPOWERMENT FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

In March, the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (UniNa) / University of Naples Federico II held the second session of Live Wires, featuring Jin In, Assistant Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion at Boston University and an expert on the intersection of gender equity and global sustainability.

During her talk, “Doing Power Differently: Gender Empowerment to Catapult Sustainability, Security and Climate Justice,” she explored how female empowerment is not just a matter of social equity, but a crucial driver for systemic environmental improvement. Jin In highlighted that strengthening women’s roles globally leads to more effective and lasting solutions in tackling climate change and sustainability challenges.

The conversation was followed by our discussants: Prof. Rosanna De Rosa and Dr. Reesha Arshad from our LoCEL-H2 project, who contributed their expertise and a critical perspective to the debate by sharing our case studies to illustrate the ongoing challenges of traditional gender roles in the Global South and the necessity and urgency of female empowerment.



LOCEL-H2 WEBINAR SERIES

Powering the Future: Smart Grids and Hydrogen for Sustainable Energy Systems

Smart grids are redefining energy systems by integrating advanced communication, control, and digital technologies into traditional infrastructure. Their ability to support renewable integration, distributed energy resources, and active consumer participation is essential for building resilient and sustainable energy networks.

Within this context, hydrogen-based storage offers a powerful solution for long-term energy balancing. By coupling electrical and hydrogen systems, innovative approaches such as battery-electrolyser technologies enable greater flexibility but also require sophisticated coordination.

This session showcased how Energy Management Systems (EMS), developed within the LoCEL-H2 project, address these challenges through advanced optimisation strategies ensuring reliability, efficiency, and sustainability in complex multi-energy systems.

Unplugged: (Women's Invisible) Work in the Energy Transition

This webinar explored how the global energy transition, while offering opportunities for social transformation, may also risk intensifying women's invisible labour within communities and households. Drawing on field evidence from the LoCEL-H2 project in Pakistan, Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia, the session examined how women's existing cooperative networks could instead become platforms for inclusive energy co-management and community empowerment.

The presentation was delivered by Dario Minervini, Associate Professor of Environmental Sociology at the University of Naples Federico II, whose research focuses on socio-materiality, gender studies and ecological transition.



LoCEL Horizons

The LoCEL-H2 website was recently launched. Visit and bookmark this site, locelh2.org. LoCEL-H2 is also on Twitter.

