

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	Environmental and Territorial Management Institute
PIC number:	949534359
Project name and acronym:	Powering Citizens — POWERINGCITIZENS

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[5]
Event name:	Final conference
Type:	Conference
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Greece, Albania, Kosovo, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands
Date(s):	20 February 2026 18 March 2026 26 April 2026 4th of May 2026 05 May 2026 9 May 2026 26 May 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://poweringcitizens.eu/news/
Participants	
Female:	130
Male:	125
Non-binary:	1
Prefer not to say :	5
From country 1 (Greece)	49
From country 2 (Netherlands)	46
From country 3 (Albania)	41
From country 4 (Kosovo)	41

From country 5 (Germany)	34		
From country 6 (Italy)	34		
From country 7 (Poland)	4		
From country 8 (France)	3		
From country 9 (Spain)	2		
From country 10 (Sweden)	1		
From country 11 (Romania)	1		
From country 12 (Ukraine)	1		
From country 13 (Hungary)	1		
From country 14 (Finland)	1		
From country 15 (Cyprus)	1		
From country 16 (Bulgaria)	1		
Total number of participants:	261	From total number of countries:	16

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The Final National Conference was organized by INZEB in Goethe-Institut, Athens, on 20 February 2026. The Conference explored critical topics related to energy poverty, reaffirming that energy transition must be fair, inclusive, local and democratic. The conference also showcased practical mechanisms and successful schemes that can support a more inclusive transition.

ETMI organized 2 Local Conference at University of Shkoder "Luigj Gurakuqi", Faculty of Natural Sciences, within the Professional Study Program "Senior Electrical Specialist", and in "Ndre Mjeda" School, on 18 March 2026. The conference served as an important moment for the presentation of the project's results. Participants were actively engaged in in-depth discussions on energy-related challenges, with a particular focus on energy poverty.

BGF organized 1 Local Conference in Brezovica, Kosovo, on 26 April 2026. With participants, including energy advisors, youth from different municipalities across Kosovo, including Vushtrri, Kamenica, Istog, Lipjan, Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja and Deçan, students from rural areas, and other stakeholders interested in energy poverty and the just energy transition. Discussions included, the social dimensions of energy, the challenges faced by vulnerable households, and the role of young people, rural communities, women, and marginalized groups in shaping a fair and inclusive transition.

CRN organized 1 Local Conference within YES-Europe "Technologies & Policies for Sustainable Heating", in Berlin on 4 May 2026. A central highlight of the evening was the screening of the project's citizen narration movie, which brought human-centric perspectives into a technical dialogue. The panel discussions included PhD researchers, climate-tech founders, and policy advocates. Participants had the opportunity to discuss the topic of energy poverty and share their opinions and personal experiences related to the issue.

UNIVPM organized 1 Local Conference in the Faculty of Engineering, Polytechnic University of Marche, on 05 May 2026. The event featured a screening of Local Video,

showcasing interviews with Italian citizens on the themes of energy, renewable sources, and energy poverty. The discussions were rich with insights from attendees, primarily graduate students from the master's in mechanical engineering with a specialization in Energy and PhD students, researchers from the Faculty of Engineering. Participants provided valuable perspectives on how to engage the broader public on energy-related challenge

ECREC organized 1 Local Conference in The Hague, on 9th of May. The conference was attended by mostly local citizens with different backgrounds. During the event the project results were presented by explaining what energy poverty means and how it is manifesting within a society. Participants were very much interested in how they could reduce their energy bills. They were also wondering whether the transition to electrification is the right direction.

INZEB organized 1 Local Conference in Athens, Greece on 26 May 2026. The event focused on the intersection between climate change, energy poverty and social vulnerability, with discussions structured around four thematic areas: climate exposure and vulnerability, social acceptance and transition costs, institutional capacity and multi-level governance, and the role of data and vulnerability mapping in policy design.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	26/05/2026	Initial version (new MFF).

FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT



Empowering energy citizenship among energy-poor people
through joint actions

PROJECT CODE: **101147083-POWERINGCITIZENS-CERV-2023-CITIZENS-CIV**

DURATION: **01/06/2024 to 30/05/2026**

EDITORS: Edona Lekaj



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

DISCLAIMER: This project has been funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them. The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Contents

1. Executive Summary	4
2. Local Conference, GERMANY	5
2.1 Local Conference Summary	5
2.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations	5
3. Local Conference, ITALY	8
3.1 Local Conference Summary	8
3.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations	8
4. Local Conference, GREECE	10
4.1 Local Conference Summary	10
4.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations	10
5. Local Conference, THE NETHERLANDS	13
5.1 Local Conference Summary	13
5.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations	13
6. Local Conference, ALBANIA	15
6.1 Local Conference Summary	15
6.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations	15
7. Local Conference, KOSOVO	17
7.1 Local Conference Summary	17
7.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations	18
9. National Conference	20
9.1 National Conference Summary	20
9.2 Findings Presented	20

List of tables

Table 1 Local Conference Details (Germany)	5
Table 2 Local Conference Details (Italy)	8
Table 3 Local Conference Details (Greece)	10
Table 4 Local Conference Details (The Netherlands)	13
Table 5 Local Conference Details (Albania)	15
Table 6 Local Conference Details (Kosovo)	17
Table 7 National Conference Details	20

1. Executive Summary

The national and local conferences were implemented within the framework of the POWERINGCITIZENS project, bringing together local communities, researchers, civil society organizations, students, policy stakeholders, and citizens across project partner countries, including Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Albania, Greece, and Kosovo. The conferences served as participatory platforms to present the project's activities, citizen narratives, and research findings while fostering dialogue on energy poverty, energy transition, and inclusive energy policies.

Across all local conferences, participants emphasized that energy poverty is not only an economic and technical issue, but also a social challenge that directly affects vulnerable households, social inclusion, and quality of life. Discussions highlighted common concerns such as rising energy costs, limited access to energy-efficient technologies, insufficient public awareness, and unequal access to sustainable energy solutions. Particular attention was given to the experiences of low-income households, tenants living in poorly insulated housing, and communities facing barriers in accessing affordable and reliable energy services.

A central component of the conference series was the presentation of local citizen narration videos and community perspectives, which helped illustrate the human dimension of energy poverty and encouraged broader public engagement. Participants across countries underlined the importance of awareness-raising, education, community involvement, and stronger cooperation between public institutions, civil society, and local authorities. Key recommendations emerging from the conferences included expanding financial and policy support for vulnerable groups, improving energy efficiency in housing, investing in public education and professional training, promoting community-based solutions, and ensuring that future energy transition policies remain inclusive, accessible, and citizen-centered.

The POWERINGCITIZENS consortium successfully hosted the European Conference “Powering Citizens through Energy Democracy: From Evidence to Policy Action” at the Goethe-Institut in Athens. Organised by INZEB, with the support of all project partners, the conference brought together researchers, policymakers, local authorities and civil society representatives from Greece, Albania, Kosovo, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. The aim was to address key challenges related to energy poverty and citizen participation in the energy transition, highlighting how research, digital tools and governance mechanisms can support inclusive, just and effective energy policies.

Across all contexts and countries, one common message emerged: energy poverty is a structural and multidimensional phenomenon, deeply associated with low quality of the existing building stock, income inequality, and governance, institutional and legislative inefficiencies.

Speakers emphasised that energy poverty mitigation requires addressing this multifactorial nature, and integrating energy justice into climate and social policy, rather than approaching it as a temporary or isolated issue.

2. Local Conference, GERMANY

Table 1 Local Conference Details (Germany)

Country	Germany
Organizing Partner	Comparative Research Network
Date	4th of May 2026
Location	Stadtwerkstatt, Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 11, 10178 Berlin

2.1 Local Conference Summary

CRN's local conference was hosted within the YES-Europe "Technologies & Policies for Sustainable Heating" event in Berlin, which served as a dynamic platform to present the POWERINGCITIZENS project and its core outcomes. A central highlight of the evening was the screening of the project's citizen narration movie, which brought human-centric perspectives into a technical dialogue. The event was structured into two intensive sessions, beginning with an exploration of scaling heat pumps and consumer acceptance, followed by a deep dive into new business models and market incentives. Moderated panels featured industry leaders, fostering a rich exchange between PhD researchers, climate-tech founders, and policy advocates. The atmosphere underscored a collective vision: that the energy transition requires a synergy of technological innovation, financial accessibility, and community engagement.

2.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations

The discussions at the conference underlined that the energy transition is not merely a technical challenge, but a deeply social one. Participants highlighted that **energy poverty** is exacerbated by the "confidence gap" and the high upfront costs of sustainable technologies, which often leave vulnerable households behind. The consensus was that for a transition to be truly "just," it must move beyond intentions and provide practical, inclusive pathways for those most affected by rising energy costs and shifting political frameworks.

To tackle these social disparities, the following recommendations focus on inclusivity and the mitigation of energy poverty:

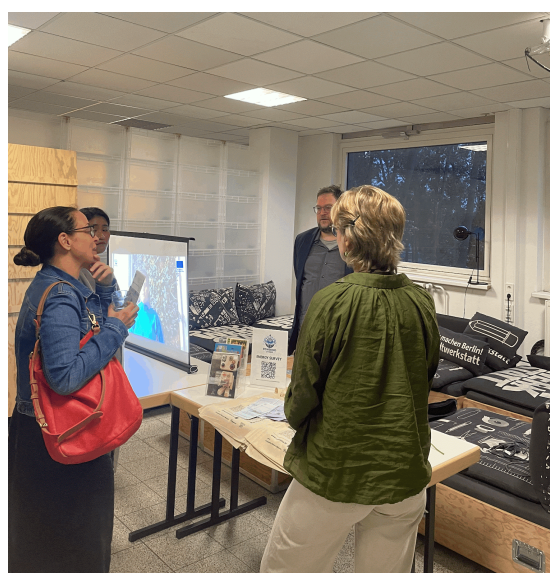
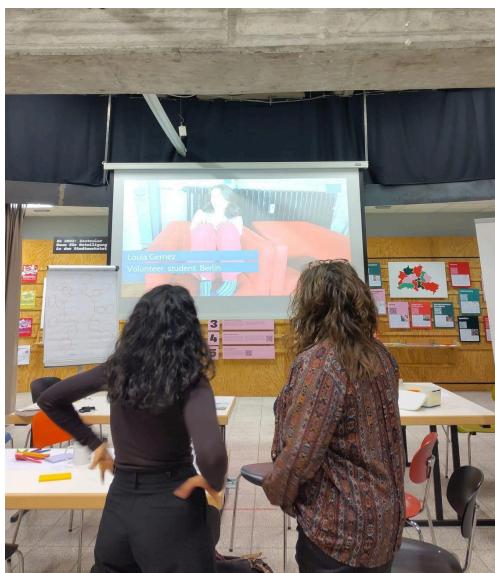
Recommendation 1: Democratize access to sustainable heating through inclusive financing. To prevent energy poverty from deepening, financial models must move beyond traditional banking. Policies should support flexible installment payments and "pay-as-you-save"

schemes, ensuring that low-income households can transition to heat pumps without a high initial capital burden.

Recommendation 2: Integrate social advocacy with energy consultancy. Energy efficiency consultancy must evolve into a dual-role service that provides both technical advice and social support. By bridging the gap between non-profit consumer advocacy and technical implementation, we can ensure that the most vulnerable citizens are not just informed, but empowered to navigate the transition.

Recommendation 3: Scale community-driven awareness and local narration. Building on the project's "citizen narration movie," policy should prioritize community-led storytelling to demystify the energy transition. By highlighting the lived experiences of diverse citizens, we can build the collective momentum necessary to overcome political uncertainty and foster trust in new energy infrastructures.

Conference Photos



3. Local Conference, ITALY

Table 2 Local Conference Details (Italy)

Country	Italy
Organising Partner	UNIVPM
Date	05 May 2026
Location	Faculty of Engineering, Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona

3.1 Local Conference Summary

The Local Final Conference of the *Powering Citizens* project featured a screening of Local Video, showcasing interviews with Italian citizens on the themes of energy, renewable sources, and energy poverty. The video aimed to highlight the public's awareness and opinions on these crucial topics. Following the screening, a discussion was moderated by Dr. Mosè Rossi, where participants emphasized the importance of raising awareness on these issues, especially in the context of the current energy crisis. The discussion was rich with insights from attendees, primarily graduate students from the Master's in Mechanical Engineering with a specialization in Energy and PhD students and researchers from the Faculty of Engineering. These participants provided valuable perspectives on how to engage the broader public on energy-related challenges.

3.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations

During the conference, the importance of addressing the challenges related to energy consumption, renewable sources, and energy poverty was clearly highlighted. Participants emphasized that public awareness is crucial, especially in the context of the current energy crisis. The economic crisis has exacerbated the vulnerability of many people, making effective education on energy and sustainability essential. Additionally, it was pointed out that energy policies and innovative solutions can be better supported if integrated with a comprehensive vision that includes training future professionals. In this context, three key recommendations emerged, focusing on enhancing public awareness, as well as greater investment in research and innovation.

Recommendation 1: Promote public awareness for sustainable energy practices.

Recommendation 2: Prepare future professionals to address the energy transition.

Recommendation 3: Foster innovation to drive sustainable energy solutions.

Conference Photos



4. Local Conference, GREECE

Table 3 Local Conference Details (Greece)

Country	Greece
Organising Partner	INZEB
Date	26 May 2026
Location	Goethe-Institut Athen, Omirou 14-16, Athens, Greece

4.1 Local Conference Summary

A Climate Policy Breakfast, organised in Athens, Greece, as the local final conference of the POWERINGCITIZENS project, brought together 25 participants from civil society organisations, public authorities, academia, research institutions, and organisations active in climate, energy, and social policy (only 18 participants can be counted in the EDS, as the others already participated in the International Conference in Athens). The event, entitled “Climate Change, Energy Poverty and Social Vulnerability”, created a space for interdisciplinary dialogue on the social dimensions of the climate transition in Greece. The event focused on the intersection between climate change, energy poverty and social vulnerability, with discussions structured around four thematic areas: climate exposure and vulnerability, social acceptance and transition costs, institutional capacity and multi-level governance, and the role of data and vulnerability mapping in policy design.

The discussion highlighted that climate and energy policies affect households and regions unevenly, particularly in areas already facing economic pressures, poor housing conditions and higher exposure to climate risks. Participants stressed that climate adaptation and energy transition policies cannot rely solely on horizontal measures, as different social groups and territories have unequal capacities to adapt, invest and participate in the transition process. Strong emphasis was placed on the need for locally grounded approaches, improved coordination between governance levels, and more targeted support mechanisms for vulnerable households and municipalities. The exchange also raised concerns regarding affordability barriers, uneven territorial impacts, gaps in local administrative capacity, difficulties in accessing financing schemes and the importance of trust, participation and social inclusion in the transition process.

4.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations

The discussions underlined that energy poverty and climate vulnerability in Greece are increasingly interconnected and cannot be addressed through fragmented sectoral policies.

Participants highlighted that the transition risks reinforcing existing social and territorial inequalities if policy frameworks fail to account for differentiated local realities, administrative disparities and uneven access to resources. There was broad agreement that the social legitimacy of climate policies depends not only on environmental effectiveness but also on fairness, accessibility and visible social benefits. To address these challenges, the following recommendations emerged from the discussion:

Recommendation 1: Climate and energy policies should better reflect territorial and social differences across Greece. Participants stressed the need for more targeted support for regions and municipalities facing combined pressures related to energy poverty, housing conditions, climate exposure and socioeconomic vulnerability. Horizontal national measures were considered insufficient without local adaptation and social targeting mechanisms.

Recommendation 2: Participants highlighted that many households and local actors remain excluded from existing financing schemes due to administrative complexity, lack of information, co-financing requirements or limited institutional support. Simplified procedures, stronger advisory services, and more inclusive financing instruments are needed to ensure that vulnerable groups can participate effectively in the energy transition.

Recommendation 3: The discussion identified significant implementation challenges linked to fragmented responsibilities, uneven municipal capacities and limited coordination between governance levels. Strengthening local administrative capacity, improving institutional cooperation and supporting long-term local engagement structures were considered essential for a socially just and operationally effective transition.

Conference Photos



5. Local Conference, THE NETHERLANDS

Table 4 Local Conference Details (The Netherlands)

Country	Netherlands
Organising Partner	ECREC
Date	9 May 2026
Location	The Hague

5.1 Local Conference Summary

The local outreach and conference was held in The Hague on Saturday, the 9th of May. The conference was attended by mostly local citizens with different backgrounds. There were families with low income backgrounds, single mothers and single elders. We presented the results of the project by explaining what energy poverty means and how it is manifesting within a society. Especially in the Netherlands the belief is that we have no energy poverty. Although the figures are relatively low, 6,1 % of the Dutch population experience energy poverty, it is in plain figures around 550.000 households. We also showed in which cities energy poverty is mostly manifested, and what municipalities do to support households that need extra help. Next we discussed the trends on energy efficiency in the Netherlands. The amount of solar panels, heating pumps and electric cars that are used within the country. This comes with the downside of overload of our electricity network.

5.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations

During the session attendees were very much interested in how they could reduce their energy bills. They were also wondering whether the transition to electrification is the right direction. Instead of being dependent on gas we will be depending on electricity. The affordability to make homes more energy efficient was a topic of interest. Most of the attendees are living in social housing which is managed by the government. They're houses are well maintained and are in general very energy efficient. For the ones renting houses by private owned tenants the situation is not so good, they suffer from bad isolated windows and walls due to the old age of the housing. The only electrification that is reachable for low income households is the use of electric heating, but this also is not always beneficial because of the rising costs.

Recommendation 1: Support low income households with more subsidized housing

Recommendation 2: Demand private house owners who rent houses to improve the energetic value of their houses

Recommendation 3: Create more awareness among municipalities to support energy coaches in cities to help citizens improve their housing

Conference Photos



6. Local Conference, ALBANIA

Table 5 Local Conference Details (Albania)

Country	<i>Albania</i>
Organising Partner	<i>Environmental and Territorial Management Institute</i>
Date	<i>18 March 2026</i>
Location	<i>University “Luigj Gurakuqi, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Shkodra</i>

6.1 Local Conference Summary

The Final Conference of the POWERINGCITIZENS project was organized at University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”, Faculty of Natural Sciences, within the Professional Study Program “Senior Electrical Specialist”, and in “Ndre Mjeda” School. The event served as an important platform to present the main activities implemented and the key results achieved throughout the duration of the POWERINGCITIZENS project. Discussions focused on the challenges of energy poverty, the importance of citizen engagement in the energy transition, and the role of education and awareness-raising in promoting sustainable and inclusive energy practices. Particular attention was given to the social and economic impacts of energy poverty on vulnerable households and communities in Albania. A special focus of the conference was dedicated to the presentation of the Local Narration film developed within the framework of the project, which addressed the issue of energy poverty through real-life stories and community perspectives. The film generated constructive discussions among participants and contributed to raising awareness about the everyday realities faced by households experiencing energy vulnerability.

6.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations

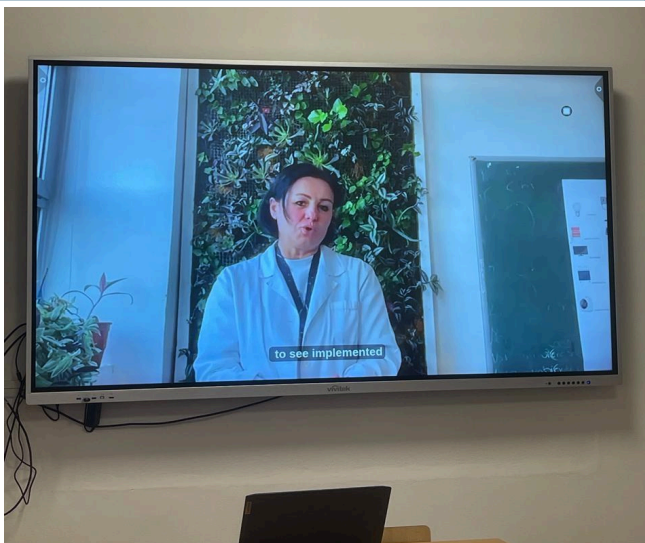
The discussions held during the conference highlighted that energy poverty remains a significant social and economic challenge affecting vulnerable households and local communities. Participants emphasized that limited access to affordable and efficient energy services continues to negatively impact quality of life, social inclusion and well-being. The conference also underlined the importance of increasing public awareness and strengthening cooperation between local authorities, civil society organizations, and citizens in addressing energy poverty and supporting a fair energy transition. One of the key findings of the conference was the need for more inclusive and citizen-centered energy policies that better reflect the realities and needs of vulnerable groups. The presentation of the local video film further demonstrated the human dimension of energy poverty and the importance of community engagement in identifying sustainable solutions.

Recommendation 1: Increase awareness and education on energy poverty and energy efficiency in schools and communities.

Recommendation 2: Integrate energy poverty more strongly into local and national policy actions with targeted support for vulnerable groups.

Recommendation 3: Develop community-based programs that support vulnerable households in reducing energy consumption and costs

Conference Photos



7. Local Conference, KOSOVO

Table 6 Local Conference Details (Kosovo)

Country	<i>Kosovo</i>
Organising Partner	<i>Balkan Green Foundation</i>
<i>26 April 2026</i>	<i>26 April 2026</i>
Location	<i>Brezovica, Kosovo</i>

7.1 Local Conference Summary

On 26 April, BGF held the local outreach event in Brezovica, bringing together around 30 participants, including energy advisors, youth from different municipalities across Kosovo, including Vushtri, Kamenica, Istog, Lipjan, Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja and Deçan, students from rural areas, and other stakeholders interested in energy poverty and the just energy transition.

We discussed the social dimensions of energy, the challenges faced by vulnerable households, and the role of young people, rural communities, women, and marginalized groups in shaping a fair and inclusive transition. We also presented findings from the Municipality of Kamenica and survey results on energy poverty, which helped connect the discussion to local evidence and community experiences. During the Powering Citizens dissemination event, we presented the audiovisual storytelling materials on energy poverty. Participants valued this initiative as an effective way to raise awareness, make lived experiences more visible, and reduce stigma around the topic. Youth and students shared their perspectives on awareness-raising and community engagement, while energy advisors explained how practical guidance can help households understand energy use, improve efficiency, and access support schemes.

They also emphasized the need for more initiatives of this kind to promote dialogue on energy poverty, social inclusion, and a just energy transition in Kosovo.

Furthermore, BGF had previously organized a discussion and presentation on 30 March within the Human Rights and Environment course with master's level students at the University of Prishtina. The students showed strong interest in the topic and recognized the close connection between energy poverty, human rights, environmental protection, and the broader social dimensions of a just energy transition.

7.2 Main Findings and Policy Recommendations

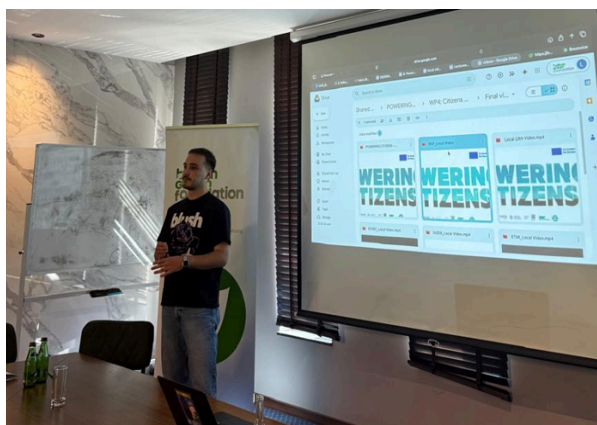
This activity outlined that local policies, community support, and inclusive participation must work together so that the energy transition responds to the realities of vulnerable households and does not deepen existing inequalities.

Recommendation 1: Integrate energy poverty into local planning and household support systems. Municipalities should address energy poverty through local climate, energy, housing, and social welfare plans. By using survey data and community input, they can identify vulnerable households, prioritize energy efficiency measures, and connect families with practical advisory services and available support schemes.

Recommendation 2: Strengthen the role of youth, women, and marginalized groups in the just transition. Local and national programmes should create meaningful opportunities for rural youth, students, women, and marginalized groups to take part in energy and climate initiatives. Capacity-building activities, including models inspired by the Powering Citizens local and international training, can link energy issues with skills development, local economic opportunities, and stronger community participation.

Recommendation 3: Promote public awareness through storytelling and community collaboration. Audiovisual and community-based storytelling can make energy poverty more visible by presenting real experiences and social impacts. Combined with educational alternatives and public discussions, these approaches can reduce stigma, improve understanding of energy poverty, and strengthen support for a just and inclusive energy transition.

Conference Photos



9. National Conference

Table 7 National Conference Details

Organising Partner	INZEB
Date	20 February 2026
Location	Goethe-Institut, Athens

9.1 National Conference Summary

Organised by INZEB, with the support of all project partners, the conference brought together researchers, policymakers, local authorities and civil society representatives from Greece, Albania, Kosovo, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. The aim was to address key challenges related to energy poverty and citizen participation in the energy transition, highlighting how research, digital tools and governance mechanisms can support inclusive, just and effective energy policies. The conference's programme included comparative research findings, country-specific insights, and practical examples related to energy communities, One-Stop Shops, digital platforms, energy poverty observatories and policy instruments targeting vulnerable households.

A central reference point for the discussions was the Policy & Research Report "Powering Citizens: The Social Impact of Energy Communities in Europe". The report examines how EU climate and sustainability strategies are implemented across six European countries, with a particular focus on energy-poor and vulnerable contexts, highlighting both the potential and the limitations of current governance frameworks for empowering citizens and addressing energy poverty.

9.2 Findings Presented

The findings expose persistent gaps between policy ambitions and on-the-ground implementation, while offering evidence-based recommendations to strengthen energy democracy, promote citizen-led energy initiatives, and integrate energy justice more effectively into climate and social policy.

In this context, country insights presented by the project partners revealed both differences and common patterns across Europe:

- Greece remains among the most structurally exposed EU countries to energy poverty, with persistent regional disparities and a high share of pre-1980 inefficient buildings, prompting the adoption of a new 2026 national methodology targeting a 75% reduction by 2030.

- Germany, despite its strong tradition in energy democracy, continues to face inequalities in participation. Progress in heating, transport and building renovation still falls short of national targets.
- Italy faces structural and persistent energy poverty, affecting between 8% and 16% of households, demonstrating that the issue goes beyond recent energy price crises.
- Kosovo is grappling with the dual challenge of decarbonisation and deep-rooted energy poverty, while working to align with European climate frameworks. However, obstacles from historical coal reliance, institutional inefficiencies, and financial constraints are persistent.
- Albania's current legislative framework recognises vulnerable consumers based on specific criteria such as disability, health, and income status, but does not fully capture the broader dimensions of energy poverty.
- In the Netherlands, over 6.1% of all households struggle to pay energy costs, with the highest energy poverty rates in North East Groningen, the border areas with Germany, South Limburg and Zeeland.

National Conference Photos



