



Energy Transition

Future Leaders Academy

Draft Agenda

Organized by:



Center of Excellence
in Logistics, Shipping
& Transportation

Under the auspices of

Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic



The US Embassy in Greece



Supported by



DAY 1 (*Wednesday*)

Opening Ceremony

17:30 – 18:00 Registrations

18:00 – 18:15 Welcome speeches

18:15 – 18:45 Keynote Speeches

18:45 – 19:45 Ambassadors' Circle (TBC)

19:45 – 20:00 Academy boosters

20:00 – 20:15 Presentation of the Academy

20:15 – 20:30 Meet the Delegates

20:30 – 22:00 Cocktail party

DAY 2 (Thursday) - Morning session - Energy Security & Solidarity

09:00 – 11:00 Lectures

- **09:00 – 09:30 Lecture A:** *Security of supply & regional cooperation through electricity interconnectors*
- **09:30 – 10:00 Lecture B:** *Security of supply in the oil & gas sector in Europe*
- **10:00 – 10:30 Lecture C:** *Security of supply in Renewable Energy Sources*
- **10:30 – 11:00 Lecture D:** *Geopolitical challenges and cooperation in the European energy sector*

11:00 – 12:00 Debates

- Debate 1 : Team A vs Team B

Do we need to focus our efforts on regional cooperation or autonomy through Renewables to optimize security of supply for member states and the EU?

- Debate 2: Team C vs Team D

Are European policies on decarbonization in collision with policies on European energy security throughout the transition period or not?

12:00 – 13:00 Discussion

All teams

13:00 – 14:00 Networking & Interviews

Delegates + Lecturers + Company representatives

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break

DAY 2 (Thursday) - Evening session - Internal Energy Market

15:00 – 17:00 Lectures

- **15:00 – 15:30 Lecture A:** *Key legislation elements of the internal energy market*
- **15:30 – 16:00 Lecture B:** *Regulation of energy wholesale markets, Exchanges, and price formation*
- **16:00 – 16:30 Lecture C:** *Energy consumer protection, participation and information policies*
- **16:30 – 17:00 Lecture D:** *RES integration & interconnection of energy networks*

17:00 – 18:00 Debates

- Debate 1 : Team A vs Team D

Did the energy crisis of 2021-22 revealed serious disfunctions of the European energy markets, so the whole framework of European internal energy market needs to be redesigned with more control over the transactions, contracts, and pricing by the EU authorities and the member states, or not?

- Debate 2: Team B vs Team C

Should the investments in infrastructure needed for better integration and interconnection between member states' energy markets be financed primarily through socialization of costs (regulated costs) or through state-sponsored subsidies?

18:00 – 19:00 Discussion

All teams

19:00 – 20:00 Networking & Interviews

Delegates + Lecturers + Company representatives

21:00 Social event

DAY 3 (Friday) - Morning session – Decarbonization & Energy Efficiency

09:00 – 11:00 Lectures

- **09:00 – 09:30 Lecture A:** *The evolution and future of the EU Green Deal and its policies*
- **09:30 – 10:00 Lecture B:** *Energy intensity, efficiency, and RES shares, in the EU industry sector*
- **10:00 – 10:30 Lecture C:** *Technology evolution and new trends in Renewable Energy*
- **10:30 – 11:00 Lecture D:** *Smart grids, renewable networks, energy & carbon storage.*

11:00 – 12:00 Debates

- Debate 1: Team A vs Team C

Do we need to focus our policy and financing efforts on specific Renewable technologies that have already proven to work, or should we keep equal support for all potential renewable technologies options and pathways?

- Debate 2: Team B vs Team D

During the energy transition period towards 2050, should the European energy system rely for its stability solely on renewable energy storage solutions, or also include low-emitting base load production by e.g. nuclear, natural gas, and carbon capture systems?

12:00 – 13:00 Discussion

All teams

13:00 – 14:00 Networking & Interviews

Delegates + Lecturers + Company representatives

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break

DAY 3 (Friday) - Evening session – Renewable Gases & Transport

15:00 – 17:00 Lectures

- **15:00 – 15:30 Lecture A:** *The compliance roadmap to 2050 for Shipping*
- **15:30 – 16:00 Lecture B:** *Biomethane production and supply chains*
- **16:00 – 16:30 Lecture C:** *Hydrogen fundamentals and its value chain*
- **16:30 – 17:00 Lecture D:** *Achieving net-zero in Road Transport via Renewable Gases*

17:00 – 18:00 Debates

- Debate 1 : Team C vs Team B

Should European policies on hydrogen, biomethane, ammonia, and other green or renewable gases, focus on supporting their use on transportation or as supportive storage solutions for the complete electrification of the energy system?

- Debate 2: Team D vs Team A

Should the investments in green gases infrastructure for transportation be financed primarily through socialization of costs (regulated costs) or primarily through private investments on the most cost-effective, solutions adapted by the transportation industry?

18:00 – 19:00 Discussion

All teams

19:00 – 20:00 Networking & Interviews

Delegates + Lecturers + Company representatives

21:00 Social event

DAY 4 (Saturday) - morning - Session 5 – The future of energy

09:00 – 10:30 Lectures

09:00 – 09:30 Lecture A: *New ideas and forward thinking in the solar and wind industry*

09:30 – 10:00 Lecture B: *New ideas and forward thinking in the fuel industry*

10:00 – 10:30 Lecture C: *New ideas and forward thinking in energy technology and innovation*

10:30 – 11:00 Debate

- Debate : Team A vs Team C

Should the way forward be full electrification or a hybrid system of electrons & molecules?

11:00 – 11:30 Discussion

All teams

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:30 Lectures

12:00 – 12:30 Lecture D: *The future of green energy and sustainability*

12:30 – 13:00 Lecture E: *The future of energy policies and markets*

13:00 – 13:30 Lecture F: *The future of environmental policies*

13:30 – 14:00 Debate

- Debate : Team B vs Team D

Should we focus our future efforts in averting or mitigating climate change?

14:00 – 14:30 Discussion

All teams

14:30 – 15:00 Networking & Interviews

Delegates + Lecturers + Company representatives

15:00 – 16:00 Lunch break

DAY 4 (*Saturday*) – evening – **Session 6 – Workshop**

16:00 – 18:00 Wrapping up and lessons learned (*Delivered by GEF members*)

Summary of the structural issues regarding the energy sector that have been discussed throughout the Academy, and the key elements that determine the way forward.

Open discussion on the key issues that young people entering the world of energy are expected to face in the way forward.

20:30 – 23:00 Closing Ceremony & Party

Speakers & Lecturers (invited, tbc)



Alexandra Sdoukou

Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic



George Tsunis

Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic, US Department of State



Nikos Tsafos

Chief Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister



Thanasis Dagoumas

President of the Greek Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste & Water (RAEWW)



Katerina Sardi

Country Manager and Managing Director for Greece at Energean



Stella Zacharia

CEO of Optimus Energy & Head of Energy Assessment, Policy & Regulation at TERNA Energy



Fabio Tambone

Director of International Affairs at Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA)



Jason Stefanatos

Global Decarbonization Director at DNV, Norway



Liana Gouta

Director General at FuelsEurope & Concawe



Spyros Economou

Director General, Eunice Hydrogen Technologies at Eunice Group



Alia Mobayed

Managing Director, EMEA Economics & Strategy at Jefferies International, UK



Panos Vlachopoulos

Vice President of Academic Affairs at the American College of Greece



Yuliya Vergilova
Georgieva-Kirilova

Gas Origination and Trading Manager at Overgas, Bulgaria



Geoff Wood

Director LLM International Energy & Environmental Law at University of Stirling



Konstantinos Filis

Director of the Institute of Global Affairs at the American College of Greece



Spyros Kiartzis

Manager New Technologies & Alternative Energy Sources at HELLENiQ ENERGY Group & Managing Director of ElpeFuture



Andy Heyes

Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Non-Executive Director at SCS, Sensor Coating Systems



Gerasimos Avlonitis

Senior Director, Market and System Development at the Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator (DESFA)



Karim Elgendy

Associate Fellow at Chatham House & Associate Director Urban Sustainability Lead at Buro Happold



Odysseas Rigopoulos

Head of Renewable Fuels, Blue Grid/Molgas and Co-Founder of Re4Earth



Stergios Zacharakis

Global Lead, Methanol Chain Pricing and Market Reporting at S&P Global Platts



Nikos Satras

Head of Natural Gas Unit at Motor Oil Hellas Corinth Refineries



Loukas Daoutsis

Power Supply Officer at Fysiko Aerio Ellados



Alexandros Lagakos

Managing Director at Blue Grid and Co-Founder of GEF



Giorgos Kokosalakis

Executive Director of the Center of Excellence in Logistics, Shipping & Transportation at the American College of Greece



Michalis Mathioulakis

Energy Strategy Analyst & Academic Director at the Greek Energy Forum

About the Organizers

The Greek Energy Forum founded and headquartered in London since 2013 and currently featuring branch offices in Brussels, Athens, Nicosia, Dubai, and Washington DC is an international energy think tank consisting of Greek energy professionals holding international corporate posts and sharing a common interest in the broader energy industry in Greece and Southeastern Europe. The members of the Greek Energy Forum hold international corporate posts and their expertise spans across the energy industry spectrum, benefiting the Greek Energy Forum with a multi-disciplinary skill set and a holistic approach to its field.

The American College of Greece (ACG) is the oldest and largest U.S., accredited, nonprofit educational institution in Europe. Guided by its mission to add distinctive and sustainable value to our students, Greece, American education, Hellenic heritage, and the global community through transformative teaching, scholarship, and service, ACG has grown into an independent, comprehensive educational institution enrolling more than 7,000 students from Greece and more than 65 other countries. ACG's educational activities span across all educational levels separated in three divisions including Pierce (2,400+ students in grades kindergarten and elementary to high school), Deree (4,200+ undergraduate and graduate students), and Alba (500+ graduate business students plus Executive Education).

The Center of Excellence in Logistics, Shipping & Transportation (CoELST) at ACG exploits the intellectual and pedagogical resources of ACG as well as the talents of leading scholars, fellows, and businesspeople in order to promote the creation and adoption of innovative practices and policies designed to foster excellence in transportation-related, supply chain and energy fields and thus to assist in transcending the current economic challenges in Greece. The CoELST seeks to foster innovative applied research, teaching and public outreach to help propel Greece's economic growth by means of academic programs, fellowships, internships, lectures, policy papers, media productions, symposia and conferences.

Academy General Information

Organizers : Greek Energy Forum & The American College of Greece
Duration : 4 days
Location : Athens
Venue : ACG Events Hall, Gravias 6, 153 42, Aghia Paraskevi
Lecturers : 20
Delegates : 40
Guest students : 10

Description & Purpose

The objective of the Energy Transition Future Leaders Academy program is to identify high-caliber university students and young professionals with proven, genuine interest in the energy sector and educate them on key elements of the EU's Energy Transition policies.

Our purpose is to offer these promising young individuals an intensive, challenging and rewarding course on the *structure* that makes EU's Energy Transition an essential part of the European Union. During the course of the Academy we examine the fundamental principles that shape the European Energy Transition, we analyze the benefits, evaluate the goals, identify the vulnerabilities, and suggest improvements for EU's energy transition policy.

The Academy aspires to create a recurring, small, but valuable core of young energy experts equipped with specialized knowledge to understand, defend, promote, and enrich the EU's Energy Transition.

The academic program consists of four sessions covering four vital EU Energy Transition policy areas: Decarbonization & Energy Efficiency, the Internal Energy Market, Energy Security & Solidarity, and Renewable Gases & Transport.

Learning Goals

- Understand the key structural elements of core EU Energy Transition policies.
- Evaluate the drives behind each of the core policy areas.
- Review the critique and vulnerabilities of these policies.
- Analyze the benefits for the member states.
- Explore alternative policies for the EU's Energy Transition objectives.
- Identify the critical benchmarks that determine the future of EU's energy transition.
- Develop a mindset for innovative, out-of-the-box problem-solving for the energy transition.

Sessions Structure

- Lectures

Each session starts with four, back to back lectures with a duration of 30 minutes each. The four lectures in each session cover four different aspects of one policy area. Lectures are conducted by industry executives, academics and policy makers.

- Debate

After the lectures, a debate takes place between different teams of delegates coached by the lecturers. The teams are assigned to defend or attack certain aspects of the policy area presented in the session. The subject of the debate, the teams and the offence-defense sides are assigned two weeks before the Academy program starts in order for the delegates to prepare accordingly.

- Discussion

Following the debate, an open 30-minute discussion between the lecturers and the delegates takes place. During the discussion, all the issues arising from the debate as well as the lectures are evaluated and analyzed.

- Workshop

The delegates work in small teams in order to produce a short paper on the issues presented, debated and discussed during the session. During the 60-minute workshop the groups of delegates need to construct the basic framework of their paper. The full body of the paper is delivered within a period of two weeks after the end of the Academy program.

- Networking

At the end of each session there is a networking meeting where the delegates get to meet and talk with the lecturers of the session. Delegates also have a 10-minute interview and discussion with one of the lecturers of their choice where they get the opportunity to present themselves, their work and interests.

Course Policies and Deadlines

- Delegates

The delegates selected to participate in the Academy are expected to participate in a total of 10 hours of lectures and 5 hours of group work during the course of the Academy in order to successfully complete the program.

Before attending the Academy, all delegates are expected to study and prepare arguments on the subject of the debate for each of the five sessions of the program. The subject of each debate will be send to each delegate two weeks before the start of the program.

One week before the start of the program, all delegates are expected to submit a list with the lecturers they choose to have an interview with, at the end of every session. The information of all the lecturers will be send to each delegate two weeks before the start of the program.

Two weeks after the conclusion of the program, all delegates are expected to submit the final texts for the papers they prepared during the course of the workshops for sessions of the Academy. Delegates who successfully complete the program are awarded an Academy Diploma from GEF.

- Guest Students

Guest undergraduate students are expected to have followed a minimum of 8 out of 10 hours of lectures in order to receive an Attendance Certificate from the Academy.

Guest students can attend but not participate in the debates but are encouraged to actively participate in the discussion section of each session.

Guest students cannot participate in the workshops and interview sections but are encouraged to participate in networking events with the lecturers and delegates.

Reading Material

- Before attending the Academy, delegates will receive a bibliography list including scientific articles, books and internet sources relevant to the subjects taught in each of the lectures during the five sessions of the Academy.
- During the course, delegates will have access to notes for all the lectures in each session.
- Upon successful completion of the Academy program, delegates gain access to GEF's publication material including sector analysis, articles, interviews and speeches from various GEF's conferences.

Learning & Study Hours

Lectures : 10 hours

Group work : 5 hours

Self-study : 20 hours

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the Academy program delegates will be able to:

- Master specialized knowledge on the function and development of core EU's energy transition areas.
- Defend and promote the core energy transition policies of the EU.
- Recognize turning points and benchmarks in the future of the energy sector in Europe.
- Contribute to the development of corporate or public-policy level action plans affected by EU's core energy transition policies.