



# REPORT

**Africa in transition - A bright future for energy and local communities.**

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## **Context**

EBCAM Brussels Secretariat was invited to attend “Africa in transition - A bright future for energy and local communities” organised by two EU-funded projects, **SESA (Smart Energy Solutions for Africa)** and **ENERGICA**, on May 20-21, 2025. The event focused on local innovation, sustainable energy, and community-led solutions for Africa’s green transition. The sessions covered strategic priorities, project case studies (Peri-Urban & Rural Energy Access, Urban Mobility, Waste-to-Energy, Water & Agriculture), policy shifts, financing instruments, and the importance of community-driven approaches.

## **ORGANISERS**

**SESA** : EU-funded collaborative project supporting smart energy solutions in Africa

- Objectives: Inform, Initiate, Impact, Implement
- Activities: Startup incubators, funding calls, community co-creation, local tech design, infrastructure reinforcement

**ENERGICA**: EU-funded project with 29 partners

- Goal: Develop replicable, context-sensitive methodologies for energy access

## **POLICY & STRATEGY**

### **Regulatory & Market Enablers**

- Urgent need for updated national regulatory frameworks across: E-mobility; Renewable tech (solar, bioenergy); Circular economy (e-waste, second-life batteries); Agri-food systems (solar irrigation, clean cooking); Importance of local supply chain strengthening; Inclusive, affordable business models are essential.

### **Education & Skills**

- Skill gap identification and tailored training required
- Raise awareness via inclusive, multi-level campaigns
- Prioritise women and local communities in engagement

### **EU Policy (Global Gateway Approach)**

- Africa identified as a key partner
- Strategic shift from donor-recipient models to equal partnerships
- Focus on private sector investment in: Energy access (solar irrigation, clean cooking); Digital infrastructure; Sustainable transport

### **Role of the Private Sector**



- Public finance alone is insufficient
- Mobilisation of private capital prioritised
- Instruments like Get Invest help de-risk private engagement
- Need for financial clarity and tailored instruments for SMEs

#### EU-AU Coordination

- Policy dialogues via EU Delegations and Team Europe
- Coordinated investments: EU Commission, EIB, World Bank, AfDB
- Support for innovation ecosystems and market access for African SMEs

#### MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- Local partnerships and community co-design are crucial for durable, relevant solutions
- Projects must be tailored to local realities: modular technologies, regional supply chain readiness, adaptable finance
- African startups are innovating, but struggle with access to finance and visibility
- All EU funding moving forward will be restricted to renewables: no fossil fuel support
- Currency volatility and lack of local infrastructure remain key cost-inflating challenges

#### CONCLUDING INSIGHTS

- Green transition success hinges on bottom-up approaches, inclusive financing, and active participation of local communities
- The strongest innovations come from building with, not for, communities
- Community members bring critical, often underutilised knowledge
- Failures should be viewed as learning steps, not setback