

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The CACTUS workshop, organized as part of the European CACTUS project's final general assembly in the University of Granada, and open to all interested participants, was focuses on two critical dimensions: the social and sustainability aspects of photovoltaic deployment, and the unique climate-specific challenges faced across Europe and beyond in the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of PV system.

The present file is dedicated to the first session of the workshop, focused on sustainability of PV. Thanks to experts within and outside CACTUS consortium, invited to join keynote presentations and panel discussions, the workshop was aimed to:

- Highlight the importance of integrating social perspectives and sustainability criteria into the design and implementation of photovoltaic systems in different geographical context, bringing the experience of on Europe and Latin America.
- Encourage knowledge exchange at international level, via collaboration and open access data and knowledge sharing.

DETAILED PROGRAMME:

15:30 Opening Talks

- Welcome by UGR
- Introduction by EU-SOLARIS – Sarah Essam
- Introduction to the CACTUS project – Ioannis Tsanakas
- Keynote: EU–Latin America cooperation for a sustainable energy transition – Organization of Ibero-American States

16:00 Session 1: Sustainability with Social and Environmental Aspects for the Energy Transition

Moderator: Delfina Muñoz

- Keynote 1 – Prof. Nieves Espinosa
Covers environmental, economic, and social sustainability of PV systems, including lifecycle impacts, equity, supply chain ethics, and circular economy.
- Panel Discussion – Panelists:
Cristina Polacchi (EURAC) / Nouha Gazbour (CEA) / Prof. Bilge Şentürk (ODTÜ-GÜNAM) / Felipe Valencia (ATAMOSTEC) / OEI representative / Nieves Espinosa

17:00 Coffee Break

17:30 Session 2: PV Deployment for the Energy Transition: Climate Resilience and Digitalization

Moderator: Ioannis Tsanakas (CEA)

- Keynote 2A – Veronica Bermudez
Climate-specific PV deployment and O&M strategies for extreme conditions: heat, flooding, dust, hailstorms, etc.
- Keynote 2B – Sandra Gallmetzer (EURAC)
Automation and Adaptation in PV Operation and Maintenance.

- Panel Discussion – Panelists:
Sandra Gallmetzer (EURAC) / Carmen Alonso (CIEMAT) / Hervé Colin (INES / CEA) / Felipe Valencia (ATAMOSTEC) / Veronica Bermudez

18:30 Closing Remarks & End of Workshop

Results

The CACTUS workshop successfully brought together a diverse group of experts and stakeholders to advance the dialogue on photovoltaics in the energy transition. The event opened with welcoming remarks from the University of Granada and introductions by EU-SOLARIS and the CACTUS project, setting the stage for a collaborative atmosphere. The keynote from the Organization of Ibero-American States underscored the importance of EU–Latin America cooperation for sustainable energy solutions, inspiring participants to consider global perspectives.

Session 1 focused on sustainability, with Prof. Nieves Espinosa’s keynote providing a comprehensive overview of the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of photovoltaic systems. The presentation emphasized lifecycle impacts, equity, supply chain ethics, and the circular economy, sparking a lively panel discussion. Panelists—including Cristina Polacchi (EURAC), Nouha Gazbour (CEA), Prof. Bilge Şentürk (ODTÜ-GÜNAM), Felipe Valencia (ATAMOSTEC), and representatives from OEI—shared experiences and debated strategies for integrating sustainability into PV deployment. The session highlighted the need for transparent supply chains, community engagement, and policy frameworks that support equitable energy access.

The workshop concluded with session 2 (see reference file) and closing remarks, celebrating the active participation and rich exchange of ideas. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of the social, environmental, and technical challenges facing the energy transition, as well as practical strategies for advancing PV deployment in Europe and Latin America.

Linkedin post: [CACTUS: post | LinkedIn](#)

Post Views: 173

Pictures



4 November 2025

Photovoltaics in Energy Transition: Social/Sustainability Aspects and Climate-specific Challenges



Salón de Grados de Matemáticas
Faculty of Science, **University of Granada**



Hybrid format:
On site & Online



15:30 - 18:30

Free workshop open to everyone!



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Figure 1 Virtual flyer of the event



Figure 2 Pictures of first session of panel discussions

Training Activity

Hybrid Workshop - Photovoltaics in Energy Transition: Social/Sustainability Aspects and Climate-specific Challenges - sustainability session

Date

04/11/2025

Number of attendees

Online attendees - 21 in person

Place and country

Hybrid_ University of Granada, Spain and online, hosted via Teams by BI



Consortium Partners involved

CEA, ESRF, ILL, EURAC, TECNALIA, BI,
ATAMOSTEC, EU SOLARIS, UNC

Additional Notes

N/A



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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101132182.