



**Monitoring report for social
impact II
(D 6.2)**

Energytran

Research infrastructures cooperation for energy transition between European and Latin American and the Caribbean countries.



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Narrative report II on social impact mobilities for energy transition within the EU–LAC Energytran framework project.

1. Executive summary

This report provides a comprehensive overview of social mobility activities carried out by Latin American and European institutions in the fields of social, cultural, historical, and economic aspects within the framework of the Energytran project. This overview specifically relates to *Work Package 6: monitoring report for social impact mobilities*.

The mobilities generated measurable outcomes, including actions aimed at addressing social justice and equity concerns, enhancing the participation of local and Indigenous communities in decision-making processes, and supporting the development of policies that harmonize economic growth with cultural integrity and environmental sustainability. Additional outcomes comprised participation in workshops and roundtables, implementation of experimental studies, and the systematic collection of technical data. Qualitative achievements included the consolidation of long-term research partnerships, the strengthening of scientific expertise, and the identification of new opportunities for joint research. This integrated report synthesizes the collective contributions of all mobilities, underscoring their impact on social for energy transition research and on the advancement of EU–LAC cooperation frameworks.

2. Introduction

The project Energytran aims to tackle the shared challenge of the energy transition by facilitating the exchange, generation, and transfer of knowledge among EU and LAC research infrastructures from a multidisciplinary perspective (technological, environmental, social). The project supports the development of public policies and regulatory frameworks that promote climate neutrality and a clean, sustainable, and just energy sector transition to advance toward a resilient society.

Within the framework of the Energytran project, the Center for Human and Social Sciences (CCHS) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) has served as the partner responsible for designing, coordinating, and implementing the project's social impact mobilities. Through this role, CCHS has led the activities aimed at assessing and enhancing the social dimensions of the mobilities, ensuring that the exchanges contributed meaningfully to understanding societal needs, fostering collaboration, and strengthening EU–LAC engagement on the social aspects of the energy transition.

The CCHS of the CSIC in Spain, conducts important interdisciplinary work in the field of energy transition, analyzing the social, cultural, historical, and economic aspects that facilitate or hinder this process. Its research focuses on topics such as the social and territorial impact of renewable energy, public policies related to energy sustainability, and the cultural shift required to adopt more sustainable models.

The CCHS-CSIC also addresses issues of energy justice, promoting a fair transition that does not leave vulnerable communities behind, and studies social perceptions of energy to design more effective and socially acceptable strategies. All of this is carried out in collaboration with other institutes and organizations, integrating disciplines such as sociology, economics, anthropology, and history to generate in-depth and applied knowledge.

As part of the Energytran project, various exchange and mobility activities are being carried out between the CSIC and research infrastructures in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). These initiatives aim to foster the creation of scientific cooperation networks that strengthen ties between the EU and LAC, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and the exchange of knowledge in the field of energy transition.

During these mobility programs, participants will have the opportunity to practically explore the resources and services offered by LAC research institutions, including methodological tools and key databases for studies related to the social aspects of renewable energy. They will also engage in dialogues with local and national experts on topics such as the social and territorial impact of renewable energy, the challenges of energy justice, and the public policies needed for a sustainable and equitable transition.

These activities are also designed to strengthen the capacities of local research communities, promoting the exchange of best practices, the co-design of projects, and the development of innovative methodologies that address the specific needs of each region. Moreover, these collaborations are expected to contribute to the development of sustainable and scalable solutions that can be replicated in both Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Finally, the social mobility programs not only aim to deepen scientific knowledge but also to generate a positive social impact through the promotion of inclusive strategies and the integration of cultural, social, and economic perspectives in the design and implementation of renewable energy projects.

3. Interest in carrying out the mobility

CSIC has a strong interest in conducting mobility programs to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in the social dimension of the energy transition within the framework of the Energytran project. This interest is based on several objectives aimed at addressing global challenges from a social, inclusive, and collaborative perspective.

The main interests include the following:

1. Promoting international collaboration

LAC has significant potential in renewable energies and offers cultural, social, and economic diversity, which allows for the study of how energy transitions affect different communities. By encouraging these mobility initiatives, CSIC strengthens scientific ties between Europe and LAC, creating networks that integrate a social approach to address the energy transition.

2. Analyzing the social dimension of the energy transition

The energy transition has a strong social component as it entails changes in the territorial, labor, and cultural dynamics of communities. Through this mobility program, CSIC sought to:

- Study how communities in LAC perceive and adapt to the implementation of renewable energies.
- Identify challenges related to energy justice and social inequalities in the region.
- Incorporate local context learnings into globally replicable solutions.
- Strengthen local capacities by transferring knowledge and technologies to empower local institutions.
- Jointly design research projects that address the specific needs of LAC communities, using a social, inclusive, and participatory approach.
- Foster innovative and adapted solutions by evaluating the social and territorial impact of renewable energy projects in different LAC contexts, ensuring that the energy transition is sustainable and just.
- Promote an energy transition that improves quality of life by identifying inclusive strategies for vulnerable communities.
- Ensure that energy policies consider the cultural and social aspects of the regions involved.

3. Integrating social learning into global frameworks

CSIC's mobility programs provided an opportunity to integrate social insights and local experiences from LAC into the global energy transition framework, enriching European policies and strengthening scientific approaches with perspectives from the Global South.

4. Building a social bridge for scientific cooperation

These social mobility initiatives reflect CSIC's interest in establishing a social bridge within the context of scientific cooperation, enabling knowledge transfer and the joint creation of solutions tailored to local realities. The goal is to achieve an energy transition that is equitable and socially sustainable.

The project's final objectives likely include fostering inclusive, just, and sustainable energy transitions by:

- Addressing social justice and equity concerns.
- Amplifying community voices at the local communities and the indigenous people level in decision-making.
- Informing policies to balance economic, cultural, and environmental priorities.

Each social mobility will contribute to different case studies carried out by CSIC and contribute by revealing the interplay between energy policies, community agency and socio-environmental dynamics, ensuring a social holistic approach to energy transition frameworks.

4. Statistics of the social mobilities

The total number of social mobilities carried out by the CSIC within the framework of the project was **10**, of which **5** took place through five LAC host institutions, as well as an MoU signed with a Portuguese host institution, although this last mobility could not ultimately be implemented. Additionally, within Spain, **5** mobilities were conducted to different regions of the country for the completion of the case studies, as shown in the table below:

Sending institutions from Europe	LAC and Europe institutions for receiving mobilities
From CSIC: 1 mobility	To Mexico
From CSIC: 2 mobility	To Universidad Nacional de San Martín, (UNSAM), Buenos Aires, Argentina
	To Universidad del Nordeste, Chaco · Corrientes, Argentina
From CSIC: 1 mobility	To Centro Nacional de Alta Tecnología (CENAT), Costa Rica
From CSIC: 1 mobility	To Universidad Católica, Santiago de Chile, Chile
Sending institutions from Spain	Spanish institutions for case studies mobilities
From CSIC: 5 mobilities	To Almería, Asturias, Ávila, País Vasco y la Cuenca del Duero

At this point, we would like to highlight both the high interest of the CSIC in carrying out scientific mobilities with a social focus, towards the host institutions of LAC, as well as the high interest on the part of LAC institutions in receiving European partners, thus highlighting the immense need to promote the exchange of researchers within the framework of scientific cooperation between the EU and LAC, as well as to establish close ties of knowledge exchange and cooperation with institutions in the LAC and European region.

5. Institutional mobilities: a narrative account

5.1. Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to the Centro Nacional de Alta Tecnología (CeNAT), Costa Rica.

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The scientific mobility conducted by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to the Centro Nacional de Alta Tecnología (CeNAT) in Costa Rica, from January 26 to February 9, 2025, represented a strategic contribution to the understanding of socio-political conflicts emerging within ecosocial transition processes. Implemented within the framework of the Energytran project, the mission aimed to strengthen international scientific cooperation between European and Latin American institutions and to support the development of sustainable, equitable, and resilient energy systems.

Costa Rica, long recognized as a global reference in renewable energy generation, relies on a hydroelectric-based energy matrix managed by the Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE) and supported by rural energy cooperatives. Despite the success of this model, the country faces pressing challenges in advancing decarbonization, particularly in the transportation sector, which remains the main source of greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change impacts, such as extended droughts affecting hydroelectric generation, and policy tendencies towards privatization and market liberalization have generated tensions between public institutions, cooperatives, private actors, and local communities.

This mobility pursued the objective of analyzing these dynamics through a socio-political and cultural lens, identifying principal actors involved in the decarbonization process, assessing the role of cooperatives, and examining emerging conflicts within evolving governance structures. Fieldwork activities included extensive interviews with government representatives, cooperative managers, academics, NGOs, and media professionals, complemented by site visits to hydroelectric and wind energy facilities across rural regions.

The outcomes of the mission included a comprehensive mapping of stakeholders in the Costa Rican energy transition, a historical-cultural analysis of ICE and energy cooperatives, and an assessment of the socio-political implications of privatization trends. The mobility established new institutional collaborations with local scientific and social organizations and contributed to developing evidence-based policy recommendations to promote a just and resilient energy transition in Costa Rica.

5.2. Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to the Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM) in Argentina

The scientific mobility carried out by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to the Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM) in Argentina, from November 21 to December 16, 2024, contributed to the study of socio-environmental dimensions of lithium and its intersections with governance, territorial justice and energy transition processes. Embedded within the Energytran project, this mission aimed to generate comparative and policy-relevant knowledge to inform sustainable and socially inclusive energy policies across Latin America.

The general objective was to analyze the relationships between government actors, the private sector, and indigenous communities in North-West Argentina in the context of lithium extraction. Specific objectives included studying regulatory frameworks, exploring governance models, assessing territorial justice mechanisms, and fostering collaborative research networks focused on energy transition and mineral governance.

The mobility included academic and field activities across Argentina and the wider Latin American region. In Buenos Aires, the research team reviewed documentation, held expert interviews, and organized a seminar on socio-ecological transitions at UNSAM. The mission also participated in the CILAC Forum in Colombia, presenting on “Scientific Cooperation for Energy Transition” alongside the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI). Fieldwork in Jujuy and Salta provinces involved interviews with institutional, corporate, and community actors, as well as site visits to key research centers and lithium extraction areas.

The mission produced a series of tangible outcomes, including 15 interviews with key sectoral actors, participation in two international dissemination events, one academic seminar, and the establishment of new cooperation channels with research institutions. This mobility generated empirical data on the socio-political

dimensions of lithium mining, strengthened scientific collaboration, and contributed to shaping future policy-oriented research initiatives in Argentina and across Latin America.

Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to the Universidad del Nordeste (UNNE) in Argentina

The scientific mobility conducted by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (UNNE) in Argentina, from April 21 to May 6, 2025, sought to deepen research and knowledge exchange on the social, political, and cultural dimensions of energy transition and renewable energy implementation. Framed within the Energytran project, the mission promoted international scientific cooperation between Europe and Latin America with a focus on socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable energy transitions.

The mobility's general objective was to strengthen collaborative research on socio-territorial and justice-oriented aspects of renewable energy deployment, particularly in rural and low-income contexts. Specific objectives included identifying challenges and opportunities for integrating scientific research into practical interventions, promoting participatory approaches to energy democratization, and continuing fieldwork on socio-political dimensions of energy transition across the Ibero-American region.

Activities carried out in Corrientes included interviews with local teams on solar water heater projects, survey design, social impact evaluation, and participatory observation in a community workshop in San Bernardo. Additional engagements included bibliographic analysis, participation in a video documentary on the Energytran project, attendance at a conference on Indigenous Law, and contributions to the First Congress of University Extension held at UNNE's Resistencia Campus. The mission also included participation in an event co-organized with the OEI at UNSAM on "Citizen Participation in Energy Transition," where research findings were presented.

Fieldwork continued in Jujuy, focusing on lithium mining and its socio-environmental conflicts. Interviews were held with company representatives, consultants, and community officers, and visits were made to key sites such as the Salar de Olaroz.

The mission produced several outcomes, including interviews with stakeholders in the mining sector, field observations in energy transition contexts, and the design of a social impact survey for renewable energy projects in Moqoit communities. The mobility strengthened inter-institutional cooperation and contributed to advancing socially grounded and environmentally just approaches to energy transition in Argentina.

Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

The scientific mobility of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (November 15–December 3, 2024) focused on the socio-political dimensions of ecosocial transition processes, with particular emphasis on lithium governance and the energy transition in Chile. Conducted within the Energytran project, it promoted EU–Latin America scientific cooperation for socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable energy transitions.

The main objective was to study Chile's National Lithium Strategy through an ethnographic lens, assessing its potential as a governance model for strategic mineral resources and its capacity to address socio-environmental tensions linked to the energy transition. Specific goals included analyzing the strategy's design, development, and implementation from institutional and territorial perspectives, focusing on governance mechanisms and conflicts in ecologically sensitive Andean salt flats.

The program combined preparatory work, information systematization, and interviews with key stakeholders in lithium policy, public–private governance, and environmental communication. Meetings and academic exchanges with researchers at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile facilitated knowledge transfer on the social, political, and territorial aspects of energy transition.

Fieldwork in the Atacama Region included visits to the Maricunga salt flat and the El Abra copper mine, as well as ethnographic interactions with local scientists, environmental groups, and operators. These activities provided direct insights into socio-environmental conflicts and lithium extraction governance. The mobility also involved participation in a seminar on transnational perspectives of mining, territory, and energy transformation, and informal working sessions with government representatives, strengthening research–policy–community links.

Key outcomes included mapping of actors in the National Lithium Strategy, ethnographic documentation of governance and territorial dynamics, identification of knowledge gaps on salt flat exploitation, and the creation of collaborative networks among scientific, social, and policy actors.

This mobility strengthened scientific cooperation, deepened understanding of lithium governance and socio-environmental conflicts, and laid the groundwork for policy-relevant, community-informed research on energy transition in Chile.

Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Within the framework of the Energytran project, the mission pursued three main objectives: to identify renewable energy landscapes and environmental impacts; to analyze the relationship between environmental change and social transformation; and to develop socio-environmental mapping of community responses and adaptation strategies. Activities included interviews and interdisciplinary meetings with social scientists and environmental experts, field visits to wind farms in Chicxulub and Dzilam, and engagement with fishing and rural communities in Yucatán. The team also participated in a conference on “Energy Transition and Socio-Energy Conflicts” at the UNAM Mérida campus, followed by further discussions with academic and social actors on the cultural dimensions of energy transition.

The outcomes of the mission included a refined understanding of energy transition-related social conflicts, analysis of transnational investment impacts on energy sovereignty, and mapping of new land uses associated with renewable energy projects. The mobility strengthened research collaboration and contributed to the regional dialogue on the social and environmental implications of renewable energy development in Mexico.

Overall, the series of scientific mobilities conducted by the CSIC under the Energytran project significantly reinforced scientific collaboration between Europe and Latin America, generated comparative socio-political insights on energy transitions, and fostered evidence-based, inclusive approaches toward sustainable and equitable energy futures across the region.

Mobilities and Case studies in Spain: exploring the social dimensions of the energy transition

As part of the Energytran Project, the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) conducted a series of research mobilities across several territories in Spain—including Almería, Asturias, Ávila, the Duero Basin and Cantabrian Mountains, and the Basque Country—with the aim of analyzing the social dimensions, tensions, and opportunities associated with the energy transition. These activities formed part of Deliverable 7.1: Ethnographic research on the social impacts of energy transition and contributed to a comparative study with Latin American case studies, thereby enhancing the understanding of the social dimension of the energy transition in the Ibero-American space.

The mobilities were tailored to the specific contexts and needs of each territory, employing qualitative methods such as interviews, participant observation, archival research, and engagement in local events and assemblies. Together, these field studies offer an in-depth perspective on the social transformations and conflicts emerging in Spain’s transition toward greener energy systems.

From the photovoltaic expansion and territorial conflicts in Almería, to the debates on green reindustrialization in Asturias, the territorial resistance in Ávila, the historical perspectives from the Duero Basin, and the participatory processes in the Basque Country, each case study highlights a distinct facet of how communities and institutions negotiate the shift toward sustainable energy models.

Altogether, these studies advance the objectives of Deliverable 7.1 by deepening the ethnographic understanding of energy transitions and contributing to the comparative analysis of the Ibero-American energy

landscape, led by the CSIC. They offer critical insights into the interplay between energy policies, social justice, and territorial change, reinforcing the importance of anthropological and sociological perspectives in analyzing contemporary transformations toward green economies.

6. Integrated reflections: quantitative and qualitative insights from the social impact mobilities of the Energytran project

Across all mobilities carried out under the Energytran project, the outcomes demonstrate both the breadth and depth of engagement with the social dimensions of energy transition. The mobilities to Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile, and Mexico collectively strengthened institutional collaboration between European and Latin American research centers, deepened the understanding of socio-political, cultural, and territorial dynamics surrounding energy transition, and generated actionable knowledge for policy and community-based implementation.

▪ Quantitative insights:

- Total mobility period: November 2024 – May 2025
- Participating countries: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, and Mexico
- Partner institutions engaged: 10+ across government, academia, cooperatives, NGOs, and local communities.
- Number of interviews conducted: 47+ with diverse stakeholders (government, private sector, academia, civil society, and local communities)
- Number of field visits and site observations: 10+ across hydroelectric, wind, solar, and mining sites
- Seminars, conferences, and dissemination events: 8+ (including international forums and academic congresses)
- Collaborative outputs: policy recommendations, social impact evaluation tools, ethnographic reports, and audiovisual dissemination materials.

▪ Qualitative insights:

- Strengthened institutional cooperation between CSIC and leading Latin American universities and research centers (UNSAM, UNNE, UNAM, CeNAT, and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile).
- Enhanced understanding of socio-political conflicts and governance models shaping energy transitions, particularly in the fields of renewable energy implementation and strategic mineral management.
- Deepened analysis of social inclusion, territorial justice, and citizen participation as critical factors for a just energy transition.
- Improved methodologies for assessing social impact and community engagement, including participatory research approaches and impact evaluation indicators.
- Expanded research and policy networks across Europe and Latin America, consolidating the EnergyTRAN platform as a bridge for transnational cooperation in energy transition research.
- Contributed to the development of evidence-based, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable energy policies, integrating academic, institutional, and community perspectives.

7. Policy-oriented implications from social impact mobilities

The social impact mobilities of the *Energytran* project yielded several key policy-oriented implications that are relevant for designing and implementing equitable energy transition frameworks at national and regional levels:

- **Strengthening governance frameworks:** findings underscore the need for governance models that integrate social participation, environmental justice, and local community engagement into national energy strategies.
- **Promoting public-cooperative and community-based energy models:** evidence from Costa Rica and Argentina highlights the value of decentralized and participatory energy systems for enhancing resilience and inclusivity.

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- **Integrating social impact assessment into energy planning:** field experiences emphasize the importance of including social, cultural, and territorial dimensions in the evaluation of energy projects from their inception.
- **Protecting rights and livelihoods in resource-based transitions:** the cases of lithium mining in Argentina and Chile demonstrate the need for robust policies ensuring indigenous rights, territorial justice, and environmental protection.
- **Bridging research and policymaking:** the mobilities strengthened the interface between academic knowledge and policy formulation, promoting science-based decision-making and the co-creation of energy transition strategies with local actors.
- **Encouraging transnational cooperation:** policy dialogues and exchanges reinforced the importance of EU–Latin America collaboration in shaping sustainable and socially just energy futures.

8. Conclusion on the social impact mobilities of the Energytran project

The project's final objectives likely include fostering inclusive, just, and sustainable energy transitions by:

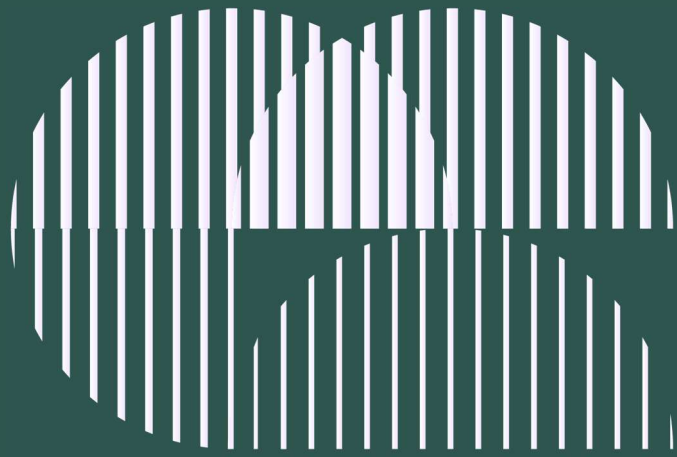
- Addressing social justice and equity concerns.
- Amplifying community voices at the local communities and the indigenous people level in decision-making.
- Informing policies to balance economic, cultural, and environmental priorities.

Each social mobility will contribute to different case studies carried out by CSIC and contribute by revealing the interplay between energy policies, community agency and socio-environmental dynamics, ensuring a social holistic approach to energy transition frameworks.

The Energytran social impact mobilities collectively represent a significant contribution to the interdisciplinary understanding of energy transition as a socio-political and cultural process. Through extensive fieldwork, institutional collaboration, and stakeholder engagement, the mobilities generated critical insights into how communities experience, negotiate, and shape energy transitions in diverse territorial contexts.

The integration of qualitative and quantitative evidence across Latin American settings revealed both common challenges and localized innovations, highlighting the importance of context-sensitive approaches to sustainable energy governance. These mobilities not only advanced empirical research but also built enduring scientific and institutional partnerships between Europe and Latin America, laying the foundation for future joint initiatives.

Energytran social impact mobilities demonstrated that achieving a just, inclusive, and resilient energy transition requires the integration of social sciences into energy research, the reinforcement of participatory governance, and the sustained exchange of knowledge across regions and disciplines.



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