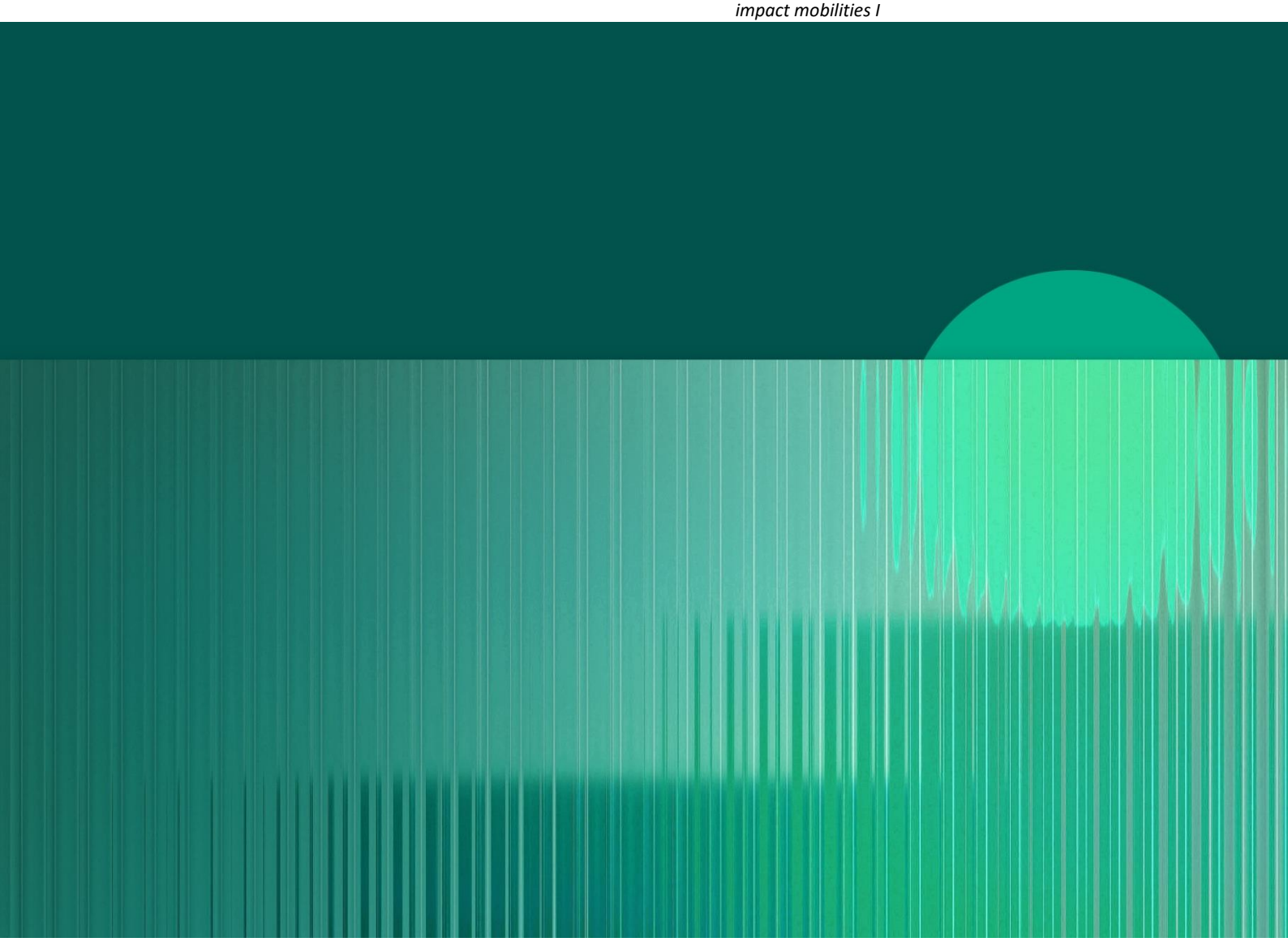

Monitoring report for social impact mobilities I (D 6. 1)

Energytran

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

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Narrative report of the scientific mobility process with a focus on social dimension within the framework of the Energytran project

1.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 (Europe) and LAC (Latin-American and the Caribbean Countries) 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.

The Center for Human and Social Sciences (CCHS) of the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), is one of the European partners involved in the social component of the Energytran project.

The Center for Human and Social Sciences (CCHS) of the Spanish National Research Council (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 Spanish National Research Council (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 mobilities, researchers 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 EU and LAC.

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.

2 . Background

The (CSIC) plays a key role within the Energytran project, acting as a bridge between the EU and LAC to promote scientific cooperation and knowledge exchange in the field of energy transition through a social dimension. This is achieved through the promotion of international cooperation and the establishment of scientific networks between EU and LAC research infrastructures, fostering the exchange of experiences, resources, and best practices to address global challenges related to renewable and sustainable energy.

From a social perspective, within the Energytran project, the CSIC encourages the generation of interdisciplinary knowledge, contributing with a multidimensional approach to analyzing the social, cultural, territorial, and political aspects of the energy transition.

The social mobility initiatives of CSIC, as a partner institution in the Energytran project, are part of a strategic international collaboration aimed at capacity building to strengthen the capabilities of research communities in LAC. This includes promoting the transfer of knowledge on social aspects by addressing local needs. In this regard, CSIC emphasizes energy justice, striving to ensure that the proposed solutions are inclusive and socially equitable, promoting strategies that benefit both local communities and the global environment.

Finally, within the framework of the project, the CSIC examines the articulation between public policies and science to support a sustainable and fair energy transition.

Interest in carrying out the mobility

CSIC has a strong interest in conducting mobility programs to LAC in the social dimension of 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 EU 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 seeks 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 provide 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.

3. Description of social mobilities

This section presents the description of mobilities with a social focus within the framework of Work package (WP) 6 Mobilities for Social, managed by CSIC. The WP 6 forecast includes the implementation of a total of six social mobilities, from Spain to different institutions partners of the Energytran project in LAC such Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile and Portugal. These social mobilities include the participation of 5 researchers.

Each mobility lasts between 15 and 30 days, depending on the nature of the research to be developed and the agreement established with the host institution.

The process by which these social mobilities have been identified has been led by CSIC, together with the institution's partners of the Energytran project in LAC and in Portugal, participating and collaborating in Energytran project.

3.2 Number of the final social mobilities:

As we have mentioned above, the number of social mobilities that the CSIC will carry out within the framework of the project is six, through five LAC host institutions and one Portuguese host institution, 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
From CSIC: 1 mobility	To Centro em Rede de Investigação em Antropologia (CRIA-U Minho), Portugal

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 regio

4.. Collaborating destination institutions

Below we present the institutions with which the different mobilities from CSIC are carried out regarding the duration of each mobility.

Name of the host institution	City and country	Name of the sending institution	Country of origine	Duration of the mobilities (in days)	Specific dates
To Mexico	Mexico	CSIC	Spain	19	November 18-December 6, 2024
To Universidad Nacional de San Martín, (UNSAM)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	CSIC	Spain	26	Nov 21-Dec 16, 2024
To Universidad Nacionnal del Nordeste (UNNE)	Corrientes, Argentina	CSIC	Spain	24	April 3-27, 2025
To Centro Nacional de Alta Tecnología (CENAT)	Costa Rica	CSIC	Spain	15	January 26-February 9, 2025
To Universidad Católica	Santiago de Chile, Chile	CSIC	Spain	20	November 15-December 4, 2024
To Centro em Rede de Investigação em Antropologia (CRIA-U Minho)	Portugal	CSIC	Spain	30	1-31 July 2025

5. Social Mobility Period

As the table below shows, the social mobility period will take place between November 2024 and July 2025.

6. Agreed Activities Overview

Below we present an overview regarding the research framework of the CSIC, to be carried out during the mobility period.

The research framework will be presented considering a map of socio-political challenges in the energy transition at the following levels: technical-scientific, technical-administrative (or regulatory), strategic consensus, redistributive, governance, regional integration, territorial justice, and industrial policy-trade relations. Two overarching challenges are added to the framework of the research and social mobilities: territorial justice, together with the dual aspect of industrial policy and trade relations.

The social mobilities carried out by the CSIC focus on addressing territorial justice, given the connection between socio-environmental conflicts linked to decarbonization, identified as one of the most politically sensitive areas of the energy transition. The entire energy transition process is likely to generate local socio-environmental conflicts affecting various communities, highlighting the need to incorporate territorial justice.

Regarding industrial policy and trade relations, the CSIC integrates them into the analysis of its case studies through mobilities organized as qualitative fieldwork, combined with conceptual development and archival research.

These case studies within the framework of social mobilities will address the following thematic areas:

- **Mexico**: socio-environmental conflicts related to renewable energy.
- **Buenos Aires**: critical perspective on the relationships between government, private sector and indigenous communities around lithium mining.
- **Costa Rica**: energy cooperativism in Costa Rica.
- **Santiago de Chile**: Chile's national lithium strategy.
- **Portugal**: energy transition, territorial memory, and socio-cultural movements in the Douro Basin.

7. Relevance of the Activities Carried Out with Respect to the Final Objective of the Project

Below, we outline the relevance of each activity in relation to the project's objectives regarding the social dimension.The activities carried out in the **Energytran project** related to these case studies reflect the relevance of addressing **social mobilities**—understood as the movement and negotiation of social, cultural, and political dynamics—through the lens of energy transitions.

The following information is a breakdown of how each case study connects to the project's final objectives:

1. **Mexico: Socio-environmental Conflicts Related to Renewable Energy**

- **Relevance**: Explores the social demands of marginalized communities affected by renewable energy projects.
- **Key focus**: Analyzes how these projects disrupt local livelihoods and provoke resistance, reshaping social power dynamics, environmental justice debates, and mobility within communities.
- **Final Objective**: Highlights the importance of equitable energy policies that address conflicts and support community inclusion.

2. **Buenos Aires: Decolonial Narratives and Corporate Image Surrounding Lithium Mining in Jujuy**

- **Relevance**: analyzes the relation between types of governance and territorial justice in mining practices.
- **Key focus**: explores the strategies and political mechanisms for regulating the environmental and cultural impacts of lithium mining in the territory.
- **Final Objective**: raises proposals for policy instruments that seek a balance between mining exploitation, environmental sustainability and respect for cultural diversity and indigenous rights and demands.
-

3. **Costa Rica: Energy Cooperativism in Costa Rica**

- **Relevance**: examines the functioning of energetic cooperatives that promote inclusive, sustainable energy practices.
- **Key focus**: highlights how cooperatives empower communities through shared ownership, fostering decentralized energy transitions.
- **Final Objective**: demonstrates cooperative models' role in ensuring equitable energy access and empowering local actors in transition processes.

4. **Santiago de Chile: Chile's National Lithium Strategy**

- **Relevance**: Explores the geopolitical and socio-political dimensions related to Chile's lithium policies, balancing resource exploitation with national development.
- **Key focus**: Evaluates the tension between state-led resource control and community opposition to extractives' practices.
- **Final Objective**: Provides insights into strategies for harmonizing national interests with local community needs and environmental sustainability.

5. **Portugal: Energy Transition, Territorial Memory, and Socio-cultural Movements in the Douro Basin**

- **Relevance**: Investigates the importance of local memory and socio-cultural identities in the context of renewable energy projects and landscape transformations.
- **Key focus**: Shows how territorial memories and movements shape acceptance, resistance, and innovation in energy transitions.
- **Final Objective**: Emphasizes the significance of preserving cultural heritage while designing sustainable energy systems.

8. Evaluation of the Mobility Process

Each research participant involved in the social mobilities carried out within the framework of the Energytran project will be responsible for preparing a final report. This report will serve to evaluate the mobility process.

9 Conclusions

Overall relevance to Energytran's final objectives through social mobilities:

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

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

Each social mobility of WP6 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.

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