

# Newsletter UNLOCK: Key milestones from the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, latest developments and new practices

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We're excited to share the latest updates from the Interreg Europe UNLOCK Project, where our international partners are making progress in advancing the green hydrogen economy. In this newsletter, you'll find key milestones from the third semester, a study visit to Poland and insights from the recent symposium. The two good practices were submitted on the Interreg webpage. We included articles, events and other updates on the work the project is doing to develop policy instruments for the green hydrogen economy. We are also looking ahead to the next study visit in Puglia.

## Fueling the Future: Study Visit to Poland

On June 4th-5th 2024, partners and stakeholders of the [UNLOCK project](#) attended a symposium in Rzeszów in Poland, focusing on advancing the green H2 economy in the Podkarpackie region. The event emphasized discussions on regional policy improvements and best practices focused at driving SMEs growth in the green H2 sector.



The first day presented seminars on regional policies to increase SMEs competitiveness, sustainable growth, and job creation in the developing region in terms of the green H2 economy. Experts highlighted the crucial role of regional policies in fostering the development of the H2 economy and encouraging SME participation.



Photos: Marshal Office of the Podkarpackie region

Another seminar was focused on the practical integration of H2 technologies into city infrastructures, transportation, energy supply, and industry. Policymakers were provided with recommendations on how to improve SMART regional policies to advance the adoption of green H2 technologies.

During the symposium there were speakers from the [Marshall of the Podkarpackie Region](#), [Rzeszów University of Technology](#), [ML System S.A.](#), [IEN CEREL Ceramics](#) and [Hanze University of Applied Sciences](#).

Participants visited CEREL Institute of Power Engineering and the Hydrogen Laboratory of the Rzeszow University of Technology. They were allowed to explore issues related to solid-oxide fuel cells, as well as the transformation of aviation into a zero-emission sector. Participants were able to see the first hydrogen-powered motor glider in Poland.

The 3rd Interregional study visit was not only a valuable experience for all participants but also brought the UNLOCK project closer to achieving its objectives of improving regional policy instruments to enhance sustainable growth, SMEs competitiveness, and support in creating jobs in fast-growing green hydrogen economies.



Photo: Marshal Office of the Podkarpackie region

### Public-private collaboration to develop a broad green hydrogen ecosystem and roadmap in Mallorca

The Green Hydrogen ecosystem was submitted as a good practice by the UNLOCK project. It is a collaboration between the public and the private sector, addressing the island's pressing energy challenges and contributing to its transformation into a more sustainable, competitive and smarter region. Balearic Institute of Energy, in collaboration with 32 other entities from Spain, and different EU countries, is leading an initiative to build an electrolysis plant that will produce 300 tons of green hydrogen annually. By 2050, it aims to establish Southern Europe's first hydrogen hub, contributing to decarbonizing island economies and supporting the EU's 2050 net-zero targets. [Read more about this good practice here.](#)

Both practices were validated by the Thematic Expert.

We are seeking additional best practices and invite our partners and stakeholders to submit them through our website. If you require further support with this process, please don't hesitate to contact us.

[Submit a good practice here.](#)

### Hy2Market - Development and testing of mobility solutions in real life context

A second good practice was submitted in August 2024 and the project focuses on reducing CO2 emissions. In the Médio Tejo region, where transport accounts for 38% of GEE, the project aimed to create a green hydrogen market in Europe by promoting its production, transport, and usage. A hydrogen-powered bus was piloted in the region, traveling 200 km daily for 9 months. The bus covered 30,769 km, and used 2,095 kg of hydrogen, saving 10,769 liters of diesel. The project, co-funded by the EU, involved local governments, bus manufacturers, and the community, and raised public awareness through media and outreach activities.

[Read more about this good practice here.](#)



Photo: Medio Tejo21

## Recent Articles

### Study visit of Consell de Mallorca on the Just Transition Fund

[Consell de Mallorca](#), a partner in the UNLOCK project, participated in a study visit on June 14th focused on the Just Transition Fund (JTF) in Mallorca. The meeting aimed to explore energy transition and green H2 initiatives. Discussions were focused on future projects and plans to support SMEs within the green H2 ecosystem through the [Interreg Europe UNLOCK - Green Hydrogen Economy](#).

Click on [LinkedIn page](#)

**Third study visit of the UNLOCK project**  
Summary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Interregional event in Poland, organized by **Marshal Office of the Podkarpackie region**.

**Link to the article:** [Portal Samorządu Województwa Podkarpackiego - Trzecia wizyta studyjna w ramach projektu](#)

## Recent Events

### 1. [Consell de Mallorca](#): Second UNLOCK Stakeholder Collaboration Meeting in Mallorca

The second UNLOCK Stakeholder Collaboration Meeting, was held on May 16 in Mallorca. The key stakeholders in the island's green hydrogen sector were involved, including the representatives from organizations such as the Balearic Institute of Energy, Enagás, and the Palma City Council, alongside business organizations like PIMEM and the Mallorca Chamber of Commerce. M. Elena Jaume Sastre, Director of Strategic Projects at the Mallorca Island Council opened the session and emphasized the importance of training and knowledge-sharing to promote green hydrogen initiatives among SMEs. Discussions focused on project updates and future actions, including a proposed training initiative aimed at equipping local workers with essential skills for green hydrogen projects and addressing the current shortage of qualified personnel and highlighting the positive impact on the competitiveness and sustainability of Mallorca's SMEs.



Photo: Consell de Mallorca

### 2. Puglia: Stakeholders discuss the development of green hydrogen in regional policies

On July 19, 2024, an online meeting focused on the development of green hydrogen in Puglia's regional policy and fund management took place. The meeting was co-organized by the **Puglia Region** and the National Energy Technology District (DiTNE). Numerous regional and national stakeholders from both public and private sectors joined to discuss on how to integrate green hydrogen into regional funds, including the Regional ESF-ERDF Program and the Regional Hydrogen Strategy (H2Puglia2030). The discussion emphasized the importance of a coordinated strategy to support the hydrogen value chain and achieve sustainability goals.



Photo: Marta Colucci

### 3. UNLOCK project presented at Hydrogen Expo 2024 in Piacenza, Italy

The **Puglia Region partner** participated in the Hydrogen Expo in Piacenza in Italy between September 11-13, 2024, presenting the UNLOCK project and highlighting the hydrogen strategy **#H2Puglia2030**. They shared innovative strategies, particularly in hydrogen technology, in collaboration with key regional stakeholders. Mr. Francesco Corvace, the UNLOCK Project Manager on behalf of the Puglia Region, presented the region's experiences within the Interreg project to the audience.

The event provided a crucial platform for stakeholders in the hydrogen value chain to showcase advancements in hydrogen production, storage, transportation, and utilization.

Participants assessed the current state of hydrogen technology and discussed challenges to broader adoption, covering applications in mobility, transport, and green fuels for energy-intensive industries. The Puglia Region's participation emphasized its commitment to a sustainable energy future and reinforced its leadership in the energy transition, showcasing strategic efforts to develop a robust hydrogen ecosystem.



Photo: Hydrogen Expo

### Upcoming Events

The next event will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 in Puglia in Italy. More information and a detailed programme will follow soon.



### Furthermore...

With these exciting developments underway, it's important to stay informed and share updates about the UNLOCK project amongst our wider networks. If you are not yet following our UNLOCK [LinkedIn page](#) kindly ask you to do so and engage with our posts by liking, sharing, commenting and tagging the UNLOCK LinkedIn account.