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	WP Leaders
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Contents

Executive Summary4

1. Introduction.....5

 1.2. Meeting Objectives and Expected Outcomes5

 1.3. Attendance and Representation.....5

 1.4. Agenda Review5

 1.5. Welcome and Opening Session.....5

 1.6. Policy Context – DG CNECT5

 1.7. Funding and Implementation Rules – HaDEA6

8. Financial Management & Consortium Agreement– InnoEnergy6

9. Project Overview and Work Plan.....7

 9.1. WP2 – Curriculum Design and Accreditation (KU Leuven)9

 9.2. WP3 – Programme Development (UPC)9

 9.3. WP4 – Programme Management and Delivery (Grenoble INP).....10

 9.4. WP5 – Programme Dissemination, Marketing and Recruitment (InnoEnergy)11

 9.5. WP6 – Programme Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ESADE)13

10. Summary of Agreements and Action Points.....14

11. Next Steps and Closing.....15

Annex I16

Annex II18

Annex III.....20

Signatures.....21

Executive Summary

The AI4GreenDeal project officially commenced with its consortium Kick-off Meeting held in Grenoble on 9 October 2025 in a hybrid format, hosted by Grenoble INP and coordinated by InnoEnergy. The meeting brought together representatives from all 13 beneficiary organisations, along with participation from the European Commission (DG CNECT) and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).

The objective of the meeting was to launch the implementation phase of the project by aligning partners on the strategic vision, programme goals, work plan, governance structure, financial and administrative framework, and collaboration methods. The meeting confirmed a shared commitment among academic, industrial and research partners to deliver a European flagship Master's programme in Artificial Intelligence for Energy as part of the digital transformation of the energy sector.

Presentations were delivered by the Project Coordinator, Work Package Leaders, DG CNECT and HaDEA representatives, covering the policy context, lump sum financial model, project governance, dissemination strategy and sustainability ambitions. The consortium discussed project objectives, curriculum, programme development, delivery mechanisms, industry engagement and long-term sustainability. Special emphasis was placed on educational innovation, hybrid learning infrastructure, data-driven educational design and online stackable modules.

The meeting concluded with a consolidated list of action points and decisions, including the finalisation of the Consortium Agreement, pre-financing procedures, WP coordination processes, curriculum design milestones and recruitment strategy preparation. The consortium confirmed its readiness to initiate Work Package activities immediately following the meeting, with particular focus on WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6 during the first phase of the project.

This report provides a structured summary of the discussions, agreements and outcomes of the meeting. It establishes a reference framework for project operations and ensures a shared understanding of consortium responsibilities, timelines and deliverables. It also serves as a formal record of the project launch for submission to HaDEA in accordance with the Grant Agreement requirements.

1. Introduction

The official Kick-off Meeting of the AI4GreenDeal project was held in Grenoble in a hybrid format, hosted by Grenoble INP and coordinated by InnoEnergy. The meeting marked the formal launch of the consortium's collaborative activities under the Digital Europe Programme, following the entry into force of the Grant Agreement with the European Commission and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).

The meeting was opened by Eylem Taşdemir from InnoEnergy, Project Coordinator, who welcomed the participants and confirmed the consortium's readiness to initiate project implementation. She acknowledged the constructive collaboration among partners starting from the proposal preparation phase and recognised the support of the European Commission and HaDEA in enabling the launch of the initiative. She also thanked Grenoble INP for hosting the meeting and for its contribution to the organisational arrangements.

1.2. Meeting Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The primary objectives of the Kick-off Meeting were to officially launch the AI4GreenDeal project and confirm a shared understanding of its objectives, implementation strategy and overall work plan. The meeting also aimed to establish the management, communication and reporting procedures, review financial and contractual obligations under the lump sum funding model and present the structure and expected outputs of each Work Package. In addition, the meeting served to clarify immediate operational priorities and next steps. It further provided an opportunity to reinforce collaboration within the consortium and ensure strategic and procedural alignment from the outset.

1.3. Attendance and Representation

Representatives from all beneficiary institutions participated in the meeting, either on site in Grenoble or remotely via video conference. Officials from the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT) and the European Health and Digital Agency (HaDEA) also attended as observers and contributors. A full Participant Attendance List is included in Annex I.

1.4. Agenda Review

The Project Coordinator introduced the meeting agenda, which consisted of morning plenary sessions followed by work package presentations in the afternoon. The programme included an overview of project objectives, presentations from representatives of the European Commission and HaDEA, and detailed implementation planning led by Work Package leaders. During the meeting, a minor adjustment was made by advancing the financial management session to follow the funding model presentation by HaDEA. The final version of the agenda is provided in Annex II.

1.5. Welcome and Opening Session

The formal proceedings continued with opening remarks by Frank Gielen, Education Director at InnoEnergy. He highlighted the strategic relevance of the AI4GreenDeal initiative in supporting Europe's twin transition priorities of digitalisation and decarbonisation. He stressed that artificial intelligence is becoming a critical element of industrial competitiveness and energy efficiency, particularly due to its increasing role in data-driven infrastructures. He underlined that the initiative aims to develop practical and sustainable AI solutions for the energy sector, rather than follow technology-driven trends without impact.

Frank Gielen explained that the educational framework of the programme is built on four core pillars: understanding the business value of AI, managing the dual role of AI in optimisation and resource use, applying AI in industrial and electrified systems and promoting ethical and responsible AI use. He concluded by reaffirming the consortium's shared ambition to establish AI4GreenDeal as a European reference in AI education for the energy sector and highlighted the importance of strong collaboration among partners.

1.6. Policy Context – DG CNECT

A policy perspective was presented by Asja Satler from DG CNECT, who joined the meeting online and welcomed the consortium on behalf of the European Commission. She placed the AI4GreenDeal initiative within the broader EU policy framework for digital transformation and skills development under the Digital Europe Programme. She emphasised the importance of strengthening Europe's digital capabilities to support technological sovereignty and highlighted the urgent need to increase the number of professionals with advanced competencies in artificial intelligence and data technologies. She recalled that the European Union aims to reach 20 million ICT specialists by 2030 and stressed that achieving this objective requires strong collaboration between higher education institutions, industry and research organisations.

Ms. Satler underlined the relevance of the AI4GreenDeal project in addressing labour market needs through targeted skills development in AI applied to the energy sector. She also encouraged the consortium to ensure the sustainability of the programme beyond the duration of EU funding. She confirmed that AI4GreenDeal will be part of the Advanced Digital Skills community and will be connected to European initiatives such as the LEADS network and the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform, which offer opportunities for collaboration and visibility. Participation in upcoming community meetings in Brussels was also encouraged.

1.7. Funding and Implementation Rules – HaDEA

The HaDEA Project Officer, Radoslav Jakob, delivered a detailed presentation on the implementation of the lump sum funding model applied to the AI4GreenDeal project. He explained that this funding approach shifts the focus from financial cost reporting to the technical completion of work, with payments linked to the achievement of work package results as defined in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. He clarified that costs incurred by beneficiaries do not need to be declared to HaDEA and that financial justification is replaced by verification of project progress and deliverable quality.

He underlined that, although financial audits will not take place under the lump sum model, technical reviews will be more rigorous to ensure that work has been completed in full and according to the agreed description of action. He highlighted that work packages must be completed entirely in order to trigger payment at interim stages, and that partial payment of unfinished work is only permissible at the final reporting stage upon adequate justification. He also confirmed that internal budget transfers are possible within the consortium as long as they do not affect the successful completion of work packages and remain compliant with the description of action. Activities subcontracted to third parties must be authorised in advance through a formal amendment to the Grant Agreement.

With regard to financial tracking, he clarified that timesheets are not required for reporting to HaDEA. However, each organisation must put in place internal accountability mechanisms to ensure accurate monitoring of personnel involvement and prevent double funding across EU-funded projects. This clarification was addressed during a question-and-answer session, in which several partners sought guidance on maintaining compliant internal documentation under the simplified model. HaDEA confirmed that each partner is responsible for maintaining adequate records that demonstrate the link between the work performed and the completion of project tasks.

8. Financial Management & Consortium Agreement– (InnoEnergy)

Following the financial implementation briefing from HaDEA, Miguel Galdiz from InnoEnergy provided an overview of the internal financial cooperation model to be applied within the consortium. He confirmed that the pre-financing payment from the European Commission has already been transferred to InnoEnergy in its role of project coordinator, in line with the Grant Agreement. He reiterated that, under the lump sum funding model, payments are made based on the successful completion of work packages rather than declared expenditure. As a result, financial accountability rests with the consortium and is managed internally rather than through traditional cost-based reporting to the granting authority.

He explained that InnoEnergy will distribute the initial pre-financing instalment to all beneficiaries once the Consortium Agreement (CA) has been signed by all partners. The CA is a mandatory contractual document that regulates internal governance, financial flows, intellectual property provisions, decision-making processes, dispute resolution mechanisms and risk management procedures. It will also include provisions for internal financial monitoring, procedures for reallocation of budget between partners if required, conditions for subcontracting and the inclusion of associated partners, as well as measures to address underperformance by any partner.

During the discussion, he clarified that each organisation must designate a financial contact person responsible for coordinating financial matters related to the project. This person will act as the liaison with InnoEnergy's coordination team, provide periodic financial updates linked to work package progress, ensure that appropriate internal documentation is retained for accountability purposes and participate in financial training sessions organised by InnoEnergy. He noted that, although partners have flexibility in allocating their internal resources within their approved work package budgets, they must maintain transparency and ensure internal traceability of expenditure to support project governance.

He outlined that the release of pre-financing to partners is conditional upon four elements: the completion of the Consortium Agreement signature process, the submission of financial contact details by each partner, the establishment of a common schedule for internal financial reporting and the agreement of partners to internal transparency rules on budget follow-up. He concluded by informing the consortium that the draft Consortium Agreement would be circulated shortly for review and signature, and that InnoEnergy would organise an online financial training session to support harmonised implementation across all partners.

9. Project Overview and Work Plan (InnoEnergy)

Following the financial management session, Eylem Taşdemir from InnoEnergy presented the AI4GreenDeal project overview, reiterating the project's strategic ambition and the overall implementation framework. She confirmed that the project commenced in September 2025 and will run for 48 months until August 2029 under the Digital Europe Programme, with funding from the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). The total project budget amounts to €12.85 million, of which €6.425 million is financed by the European Commission through a lump sum funding mechanism.

She explained that AI4GreenDeal, formally titled Advanced Data and AI for Energy to Accelerate the Green Deal, is designed to address the growing skills gap in artificial intelligence and digital technologies within the European energy sector. The project responds to increasing demand for professionals capable of applying AI methods to energy system optimisation, renewable integration, grid flexibility, data-driven decision-making and industrial digitalisation.

At the core of the project is the development of a joint 120 ECTS double-degree Master's programme that integrates advanced AI and data science, energy system engineering and innovation and entrepreneurship competences relevant to the energy industry. The programme will be co-designed and delivered by a consortium of 13 higher education, research, industry and technology partners from 10 EU countries. It will follow a shared curriculum model that enables student mobility between universities and provides access to industry-linked learning experiences such as applied projects, internships and master's theses conducted with industrial partners.

In addition to the Master's programme, AI4GreenDeal will develop seven stackable online modules tailored for professionals seeking to upskill in AI for energy applications. These modules will be aligned with the curriculum and learning outcomes of the Master's programme and will also be offered independently to support lifelong learning. The modules will follow a blended learning format that combines self-paced digital content with hands-on assignments, case-based learning and competency assessment.

The project is structured in six Work Packages (WPs) that reflect both the pedagogical and operational dimensions of programme development:

WP	Work Package Title	Lead Beneficiary
WP1	Project Management, Quality Assurance & Impact Assessment	InnoEnergy
WP2	Curriculum Design & Accreditation	KU Leuven
WP3	Programme Development	UPC
WP4	Programme Management & Delivery	Grenoble INP
WP5	Dissemination, Marketing & Recruitment	InnoEnergy
WP6	Programme Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Sustainability	ESADE

Ms. Taşdemir highlighted that quality assurance, student experience and long-term sustainability are central elements of the project's implementation strategy. She explained that close coordination between Work Packages will be essential to ensure methodological consistency and coherence across academic development, programme delivery, dissemination and sustainability activities. The project will deliver a structured set of outputs and milestones aligned with its Key Performance Indicators, which include enrolling 150 students in the Master's programme, training 300 professionals through stackable online modules, generating at least 20 knowledge outputs such as publications and case studies, establishing an industry-driven learning ecosystem supported by internships and applied project work, and ensuring long-term continuity of the programme through integration into InnoEnergy's Masters+ portfolio. She stressed that the first year of the project will be decisive for establishing the curriculum, learning architecture and delivery framework, and therefore requires strong operational coordination across all partners.

Eylem Tasdemir also informed the consortium that a procurement process is currently underway for the subcontracting of the external Quality Assurance service, in line with the requirements of WP1. This procedure is being conducted in compliance with internal procurement rules and the principles of transparency and equal treatment. The objective is to appoint an independent quality assurance provider to support project monitoring, internal review processes and deliverable evaluation. The procurement

process is expected to be concluded by the end of October, after which a contract will be formalised and the subcontractor will be introduced to the consortium.

9.1. WP2 – Curriculum Design and Accreditation (KU Leuven)

WP2 was presented by Hussain Kazmi from KU Leuven, who explained that this Work Package establishes the academic foundation of the AI4GreenDeal programme. It defines the full curriculum architecture, programme learning outcomes, student mobility framework and the academic rules governing progression across partner universities. Its role is to ensure that the programme is pedagogically robust, academically coherent and aligned with both institutional regulations and European higher education standards.

The Work Package will design a joint curriculum integrating artificial intelligence, data science and sustainable energy, supported by innovation and entrepreneurship components. The curriculum will follow a structured progression model, enabling student mobility across partner institutions and ensuring recognition and transfer of academic credits. It will be underpinned by a competence framework based on the European Qualifications Framework (EQF Level 7) and fully compatible with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

Initial activities in WP2 include a detailed skills gap analysis to identify current limitations in AI-related education within the energy domain. This will be supported by input from industry partners to ensure alignment with labour market needs. Based on this analysis, WP2 will determine the programme structure, defining core and elective modules and establishing academic pathways and specialisation options. Harmonisation of academic calendars and mobility between universities will be a key part of curriculum design to guarantee comparability of academic requirements.

WP2 will also define the model for hybrid and collaborative teaching across institutions, combining in-person, online and interactive learning methods. It will establish assessment criteria, credit allocation rules and course evaluation procedures, while also designing the programme admission model and selection criteria. This framework will feed directly into WP4 for implementation.

A major component of WP2 is the accreditation strategy, which must accommodate different national systems across the consortium. To this end, WP2 will develop a coordinated accreditation roadmap exploring feasible degree award models, including double degrees, multiple degrees or joint accreditation, depending on institutional constraints. Continuous collaboration with academic authorities will be required to ensure compliance with national regulations.

WP2 will deliver a series of reports and frameworks that include a skills gap analysis, the full curriculum structure and an accreditation plan. These outputs will be reviewed internally and evaluated by industry stakeholders. Risks identified for WP2 include possible delays in accreditation procedures, misalignment across university regulations and challenges in harmonising programme components. Mitigation will rely on early engagement with institutional quality offices and strong coordination with WP3 to ensure timely development of learning materials.

WP2 will operate through focused task groups established per curriculum strand and will be supported by regular coordination meetings with WP3, WP4 and WP6. As the Work Package responsible for academic design, WP2 forms the basis for the technical, pedagogical and regulatory integrity of the AI4GreenDeal Master's programme and guides programme development throughout the implementation period.

9.2. WP3 – Programme Development (UPC)

WP3 was presented by Marc Jené Vinuesa from UPC, who explained that this Work Package constitutes the core phase of academic development and content production for the AI4GreenDeal programme. Building on the curriculum framework established in WP2, it will translate programme design into complete educational components, including course materials, learning resources, digital modules, applied case studies, laboratory exercises and hybrid learning activities. WP3 therefore provides all instructional content necessary for the delivery of the Master's programme as well as the professional stackable modules and ensures that learning activities are aligned with real industrial needs in the European energy sector.

The Work Package will implement a structured approach to course and content development, integrating online and blended learning methodologies. It will establish common pedagogical guidelines and instructional practices across partner universities to ensure a coherent student learning experience. WP3 also incorporates applied learning through industry use cases, real and synthetic datasets, and simulation environments. These components will enable students to work on practical energy data challenges and develop AI-driven solutions linked to industrial applications. Furthermore, the Work Package will provide academic staff with training and guidance on digital and hybrid teaching methodologies and will ensure that extended reality (XR) resources are incorporated into selected learning units to support immersive learning where relevant.

WP3 follows a phased development plan. Initial activities will focus on defining learning outcomes for each course, preparing core module syllabi based on the competence framework from WP2 and assigning content development responsibilities within the consortium. This will be followed by the authoring of learning materials, creation of applied AI case studies and preparation of project-based assignments. NIIT will coordinate the production of asynchronous learning content and e-learning components, which will be used both within the Master's programme and as standalone training modules. Throughout development, continuous feedback will be collected from both academic and industrial partners to validate content quality and relevance. A collaborative production model will be used to maintain consistency across universities.

WP3 will produce four key deliverables. The programme handbook will compile course descriptions and structural information for publication. A repository of teacher training materials will support instructional consistency and professional development across partners. A full set of asynchronous e-learning modules will be developed to complement course delivery and enable flexible learning pathways. Finally, an XR learning application will be created to provide interactive environments for selected topics in AI and energy systems.

Risks associated with WP3 were presented during the meeting. These include dependence on WP2 outputs, potential delays in content production, access restrictions to industrial datasets, heterogeneity in teaching standards across universities and institutional regulations limiting course introduction. To address these, WP3 will adopt parallel task planning to advance preparatory work during WP2, use standardised templates and peer review for content integration, coordinate early engagement with industry partners to secure data availability and apply agile coordination methods to track progress through biweekly development meetings.

WP3 will begin in month 7 and will be structured around two development task forces—one focusing on content production and the other on delivery readiness. Early coordination with WP2, WP4 and WP6 will ensure alignment between curriculum design, programme delivery and innovation-orientated learning activities. Given that WP3 provides the educational backbone of AI4GreenDeal, it is a critical component of project implementation and will directly influence student experience, learning quality and programme credibility.

9.3. WP4 – Programme Management and Delivery (Grenoble INP)

WP4 was presented by Vincent Debusschere from Grenoble INP and concerns the operational implementation of the AI4GreenDeal Master's programme. It ensures the transition from programme design to delivery by coordinating all activities related to student admissions, programme operation, learning logistics and academic services. As the Work Package responsible for programme execution, WP4 manages the complete student journey from enrolment through to graduation and oversees the delivery of both academic content and mobility pathways across partner universities.

The Work Package will establish a multi-institutional delivery framework to ensure that teaching, academic administration and student services are aligned across all participating universities. This includes coordination of academic scheduling, implementation of mobility agreements, harmonisation of institutional regulations and establishment of delivery protocols to guarantee academic coherence. It will also define governance procedures for programme operation, including the appointment of local programme coordinators and the establishment of steering and support structures at institutional level.

A key operational responsibility of WP4 is student admissions. It will define and implement admission procedures, selection criteria and learning agreements while coordinating the processing of applications and registration through the consortium. WP4 also manages student administration, including progression monitoring, academic records and study mobility planning. In addition, it is responsible for the implementation of Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP), which includes scholarships and mobility funding designed to promote inclusion and ensure student access to the programme.

WP4 also addresses the logistical requirements of hybrid teaching delivery. It will ensure the readiness of digital and physical learning infrastructure, including hybrid classrooms and online learning platforms. The Work Package will support the integration of asynchronous content developed in WP3 and guarantee that students can access learning materials regardless of physical location. WP4 is also responsible for organising study visits to laboratories, energy research facilities and demonstration sites, which form an important experiential component of the programme. It will coordinate thesis and internship placements with industry and research partners to support practice-based learning.

The Work Package includes key deliverables such as a report on student admissions and graduation progression, a comprehensive programme delivery report and a delivery handbook that will document operational procedures and serve as a guide for future editions of the programme. Significant milestones include the enrolment of the first student cohort in month 25, graduation of the first cohort in month 48 and publication of the FSTP call to support scholarship allocation.

Risks associated with WP4 were highlighted during the meeting. These include potential delays arising from dependencies on WP2 and WP3, particularly in relation to curriculum finalisation and learning material availability. Operational risks include variability in institutional timetables, constraints on hybrid classroom capacity and possible limitations in cross-university scheduling. To mitigate these risks, WP4 will implement proactive planning measures, define fallback scheduling approaches and coordinate closely with WP2 and WP3 to maintain delivery readiness. Regular cross-institutional coordination meetings will be held to anticipate bottlenecks and ensure operational continuity.

The first year of WP4 will focus on establishing the administrative infrastructure required for programme delivery, including admissions systems, mobility agreements, hybrid teaching protocols and governance frameworks. Close collaboration with WP2 and WP3 will be maintained throughout to ensure alignment between curriculum development, learning materials and teaching delivery standards. As the central operational Work Package, WP4 will play a decisive role in preparing the programme launch and ensuring the successful delivery of AI4GreenDeal across Europe.

9.4. WP5 – Programme Dissemination, Marketing and Recruitment (InnoEnergy)

WP5 was presented by Justyna van de Wal from InnoEnergy, who explained that this Work Package is responsible for the promotion, outreach and external visibility of the AI4GreenDeal programme. It ensures broad awareness among target audiences and stakeholders and plays a central role in student recruitment, stakeholder engagement and programme positioning at European level. The Work Package also coordinates dissemination activities to communicate project progress and results and to promote AI4GreenDeal as a strategic initiative contributing to Europe's digital and energy transition.

WP5 will implement an integrated marketing and communication strategy designed to attract both prospective master's students and professionals who will engage with the project's stackable learning modules. It will combine digital marketing campaigns, targeted outreach, academic network communication and collaboration with industrial partners to reach a diverse and highly qualified applicant pool. Recruitment efforts will be aligned with the project's key performance indicators, including geographical balance, industry relevance and gender inclusiveness, with a focus on increasing female participation in advanced digital and AI education.

In addition to recruitment, this Work Package will develop and maintain the project's visual and communication identity in compliance with EU visibility requirements and the Digital Europe Programme guidelines. Communication initiatives will include the launch of the AI4GreenDeal website, production of promotional material, digital newsletters, multimedia content, social media visibility and targeted press engagement to support outreach. Dissemination activities will ensure that project developments, academic outputs and innovation outcomes are shared through appropriate channels, including international conferences, publications, partner networks and the European Digital Skills and Jobs Platform.

WP5 will be responsible for building relationships with stakeholders across Europe, including universities, digital innovation hubs, AI communities, energy industry actors, vocational training bodies and policy organisations. These partnerships will contribute to both programme visibility and long-term reputation-building within the European higher education landscape. The Work Package will also organise public engagement events and a major final dissemination event during the last year of the project to ensure widespread reach of project outcomes.

During the meeting, the WP5 leader presented the first draft of the programme's visual identity, including an initial concept for the AI4GreenDeal logo and branding elements. This preview served as a basis for partner consultation ahead of final approval. The consortium agreed to continue developing a coherent visual approach that reflects the programme's positioning at the intersection of artificial intelligence, digital innovation and sustainable energy transition, while ensuring full compliance with European Union visibility requirements under the Digital Europe Programme.

In addition to branding, WP5 will develop and maintain the project's official website, produce promotional materials, support media activity and coordinate the publication of newsletters and digital content. Dissemination activities will ensure visibility of project outcomes through partner networks, conferences, case studies and contributions to the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform.

Key deliverables of WP5 include the communication and marketing strategy, identification of recruitment target groups, implementation of promotional campaigns, publication of project content on EU digital platforms, recruitment progress reports and documentation of outreach events. Risks associated with WP5 include insufficient reach during recruitment cycles, competition from similar master's programmes and delays in communication activities. These risks will be mitigated through early campaign deployment, analytics-based performance monitoring, adaptation of recruitment messaging and active involvement of partners in outreach and dissemination tasks.

WP5 will work closely with WP2 and WP3 to ensure alignment between programme communication and academic structure, and with WP6 to promote entrepreneurship and innovation pathways within AI4GreenDeal. The Work Package is essential for building a strong and recognisable programme identity, attracting high-quality candidates, and ensuring long-term engagement of stakeholders across Europe.

9.5. WP6 – Programme Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ESADE)

WP6 was presented by Maria José de la Maza Peiro from ESADE, who explained that this Work Package has a dual strategic purpose: to embed innovation and entrepreneurship within the AI4GreenDeal learning experience and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the programme, including the creation, promotion and maintenance of its alumni network. WP6 extends the programme's impact beyond technical and scientific training by equipping students with the skills and mindset needed to lead digital transformation in the energy sector and to develop market-oriented, AI-driven solutions. At the same time, it establishes the framework for the programme's continuation beyond the period of EU funding.

The Work Package will embed innovation-oriented learning pathways into the programme through experiential components such as venture creation labs, industry challenge-based projects, AI product design workshops and business modelling exercises. These activities will complement academic learning by providing real entrepreneurial exposure. WP6 will also establish links with the broader innovation ecosystem by engaging start-ups, industrial partners, incubators and investors who will contribute as mentors, challenge owners and stakeholders in applied learning activities. This approach aims to strengthen the entrepreneurial mindset and leadership profile of graduates.

In parallel, WP6 will develop and manage the AI4GreenDeal Alumni Network and Programme Community. This community will promote continuous collaboration among graduates, partner institutions and industry stakeholders, reinforcing programme reputation, knowledge exchange and long-term engagement. The alumni network will play an active role in maintaining continuity across programme editions and expanding outreach activities.

A central responsibility of WP6 is to define the long-term sustainability model of the programme. ESADE, in collaboration with InnoEnergy, will develop a comprehensive sustainability strategy encompassing business planning, governance structure and financial continuity mechanisms. This strategy will assess future funding sources, combining tuition-based revenue models with complementary approaches such as Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) and co-financing schemes involving industry partners and the wider energy innovation ecosystem. Integration of AI4GreenDeal into InnoEnergy's Masters+ portfolio will serve as a key mechanism for institutional anchoring and long-term viability.

Key deliverables of WP6 include the innovation and entrepreneurship learning strategy, the alumni network and engagement plan and the sustainability strategy with operational guidelines. Milestones include the launch of the alumni network by month 19 and the approval of the sustainability roadmap by month 36.

During the meeting, risks linked to WP6 activities were acknowledged, including challenges in maintaining programme attractiveness beyond the funding period, the need to ensure market relevance of programme content and potential institutional constraints affecting long-term funding mechanisms. These risks will be addressed through early validation of the programme value proposition with industry

stakeholders, progressive refinement of the sustainability model and structured governance to support continuity.

WP6 is instrumental in positioning AI4GreenDeal as a lasting European initiative that responds to evolving industry needs and contributes to the development of digital talent for the energy transition. Its activities will ensure that the programme is not only successful during the funding period but also continues to operate as a high-impact education model in the long term.

10. Summary of Action Points

During the Kick-off Meeting, the consortium agreed on the key operational priorities and defined a set of immediate action points to ensure coordinated project implementation.

The following actions were confirmed:

Action	Responsible Partner(s)	Deadline
Share the name and contact details of the financial contact person in each organisation with Enrique Castro	All partners	Within 2 weeks
Provide financial training session for all partners	InnoEnergy	Within 2 Months
Share proposed internal payment schedule with consortium	InnoEnergy	Within 2 Months
Present examples of high-quality eLearning content to establish a common production standard	NIIT	Within 3 Months
Include NIIT in the biweekly coordination meetings for content development	Eylem Taşdemir (InnoEnergy)	Immediate
Review deliverable and milestone deadlines per Work Package to evaluate feasibility and propose changes if necessary	All WP Leaders	Within 2 Month
Define credit allocation for online modules and their integration into the Master curriculum	WP2 Lead (KU Leuven) in collaboration with WP3 and WP4	Within 3Months
Review and compare LMS (Learning Management System) options and NIIT to demonstrate their LMS	NIIT	Within 6 Months
Share the name of one designated WP5 contact person per partner with Justyna van de Wal	All partners	Within 1 Month

Action	Responsible Partner(s)	Deadline
Circulate the kick-off meeting minutes to partners for review	Eylem Taşdemir (InnoEnergy)	Within 7 working days
Share dates for upcoming consortium meetings	Eylem Taşdemir (InnoEnergy)	Within 1 month
Share the draft Consortium Agreement for review and signature	Johan Thys (InnoEnergy)	Within 2 weeks
Distribute pre-financing to partners after signature of the Consortium Agreement	InnoEnergy	After CA signature

11. Next Steps and Closing

The coordinator summarised the key priorities for the immediate implementation phase, emphasising that the first six months will be essential for establishing programme coordination, academic structure and project visibility. Initial efforts will focus on the launch of curriculum design activities under WP2, the preparation of development workflows in WP3 and the establishment of delivery frameworks in WP4. In parallel, WP5 will initiate preparatory recruitment and communication activities to raise awareness of the programme, while WP6 will begin the definition of the sustainability strategy to ensure long-term continuity beyond the project duration.

Partners were reminded of their responsibilities regarding internal coordination, timely reporting and compliance with HaDEA's requirements under the lump sum funding model. The consortium will apply a progress-based implementation methodology, linking internal decision-making to deliverable completion and milestone achievement as planned in the Description of Action.

The next consortium meeting will take place at KU Leuven and will focus on reviewing progress in WP2 and WP3, validating upcoming academic planning activities and confirming operational readiness for the next phase of implementation. The kick-off meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all partners to collaboration, transparency and successful delivery of the AI4GreenDeal objectives.

Annex I

Participation List			
	Name	Institution	Online /In Person
1	Eylem Tasdemir	InnoEnergy	In person
2	Frank Gielen	InnoEnergy	In person
3	Mabel Carreira	InnoEnergy	In person
4	Inge de Waard	InnoEnergy	In person
5	Machteld van Rijsingen	InnoEnergy	In person
6	Miguel Galdiz	InnoEnergy	In person
7	Enrique Castro	InnoEnergy	In person
8	Fereshteh Poormohammadi	KU Leuven	In person
9	Hussain Kazmi	KU Leuven	In person
10	Johan Driesen	KU Leuven	In person
11	Ruth Vazquez Sabariego	KU Leuven	In person
12	Hans Edin	KTH	In person
13	M ^a Jose de la Maza	ESADE	In person
14	Maria Marin	UPC	In person
15	Marc Jené Vinuesa	UPC	In person
16	Karine Feuillet	Grenoble INP	In person
17	Vincent Debusschere	Grenoble INP	In person
18	Fanny Hebert	Grenoble INP	In person
19	Adhara D'Amico	Grenoble INP	In person
20	Balazs Horvath	Kimitisik	In person
21	Raquel Portela	CSIC	In person
22	Benedetto Grillone	Ento	In person
23	Tomasz Brudziński	Astrokyon Sp. z o.o.	In person
24	Marek Ułita	Astrokyon Sp. z o.o.	In person
25	Roman Czarko-Wasiutycz	Astrokyon Sp. z o.o.	In person
26	Nitin Kaushik	NIIT	In person
27	Ranjini Kashik	NIIT	In person
28	Sahara Alshawaf	InnoEnergy	Online
29	Justyna van de Wal	InnoEnergy	Online
30	Johan Thys	InnoEnergy	Online
31	Andreas Sumper	UPC	Online
32	Mónica Aragüés	UPC	Online
33	Anna Tor	UPC	Online
34	Cristian Garcia Garcia	UPC	Online
35	Andrii Sevriukov	Beholder	Online
36	Julien Marcenac	TokWise	Online
37	Winnie Vanrespaille	ESADE	Online

38	Laura Castellucci	ESADE	Online
39	Diego Garay	CSIC	Online
40	Eduardo Hernandez	CSIC	Online
41	Marisol Martin	CSIC	Online
42	Henrique Pombeiro	WattIs	Online
43	Asja Satler	DG CNECT	Online
44	Radoslav Jakob	HaDEA	Online

Annex II

AI4GreenDeal Kick-Off Meeting Agenda

Date: 9 October 2025

Time: 08:30 – 17:00

Location: Salle des Conseils (1st Floor, G-1D003), École Nationale Supérieure de l'Énergie, Grenoble, France

Google Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/dkevTjp86SQY6CsP8>

ZOOM:

<https://innoenergy.zoom.us/j/86895060460?pwd=BUuTsumtLGx6aZJLackbMduCkwFphG.1>

Meeting ID: 868 9506 0460

Passcode: 785858

08:30 – 09:00 | Arrival and Morning Coffee

09:00 – 09:30 | Welcome and Introductions

Objective: Welcome participants, set the tone, and present meeting objectives.

- Welcome address by Frank Gielen
- Participant introductions
- Overview of agenda and expected outcomes

09:30 – 10:30 | DG CNECT & HaDEA Session

Speakers: Asja Satler, DG CNECT & Radoslav Jakub, HaDEA

10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:15 | Project Financial Management

Speaker: Miguel Galdiz

Objective: Establish financial and operational framework for the lump sum project.

- Overview of Consortium Agreement and partner responsibilities
- KTH as Y1 University – Amendment
- Financial structure and lump sum approach
- Budget and financial reporting overview (InnoInsight tool)
- InnoEnergy's role in the project
- Project as a part of Masters+

12:15 – 13:15 | Lunch Break

13:15 – 14:00 | Project Overview and Structure

Objective: Align all partners on the project's scope, objectives, and operational framework.

- Project objectives and scope
- Governance structure
- Communication and collaboration tools (Teams, document repository, reporting templates)
- Introduction of Work Packages and WP leaders

14:00 – 16:00 | Deliverables, Milestones, and Risks

Speakers: WP Leaders (15 minutes each)

Objective: Review key deliverables, milestones, and risk management strategies.

- Planning the first 6 months: concrete actions, collaboration methods, and coordination among WP participants
- Identification of key risks and proposed mitigation strategies
- Discussion on deliverables and milestones

16:00 – 16:15 | Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:00 | Timeline, Q&A, and Next Steps

Objective: Finalize timeline, clarify partner expectations, and agree on action points.

- First 6 months of the project for each WP
- Review overall project schedule and key milestones
- Outline partner expectations (deliverables, reporting, start of work)
- Open Q&A and discussion

- Summary of next steps and assignment of action owners
- Closing remarks

Annex III



Signatures

By signing below, the undersigned authorised representative confirms that they have reviewed and approved these Minutes of the AI4GreenDeal Kick-off Meeting and agree that they accurately reflect the discussions, decisions and actions adopted by the consortium.

Partner Institution	Name of Representative	Title / Role	Date	Signature
KIC INNOENERGY SE	Eylem Tasdemir	Project Manager	23.10.2025 10:48:56 CEST	Signed by: <i>Eylem Tasdemir</i> 62736ABF63DC462...
KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN	Hussain Kazmi	Assistant Professor		DocuSigned by: <i>Hussain Kazmi</i> C8AA5C97A1DC448...
INSTITUT POLYTECHNIQUE DE GRENOBLE	Vincent Debusschere	Associate Professor		Signed by: <i>Vincent Debusschere</i> 37C727E18D3A4DA...
UNIVERSITAT POLITECNICA DE CATALUNYA	Monica Aragues	Associate Professor		Signed by: <i>Monica Aragues</i> D8CD50C7D838459...
FUNDACION ESADE	Maria Jose de la Maza	Professor		Firmado por: <i>Maria Jose de la Maza</i> 2828D9F5521B4E4...
NIIT (Ireland) Limited	Nitin Kaushik	Vice President		Signed by: <i>Nitin Kaushik</i> C31C58CD063C4FE...
WATT-IS SA	Miguel Carvalho	CEO		DocuSigned by: <i>Miguel Carvalho</i> 3BAA977453904D6...
Kimitisik B.V	Ákos R. Wetters	CEO		Signed by: <i>Akos Wetters</i> 0F676035EB41474...
TokWise Ltd.	Julien Marcenac	CEO		Signed by: <i>Julien Marcenac</i> A5830421C176410...
GeoBeholder OÜ	Andrii Sevriukov	CEO		Signed by: <i>Andrii Sevriukov</i> 4261CC92631F4AB...
Ento Labs ApS	Henrik Brink	CEO		Signed by: <i>Henrik Brink</i> BFA4552B49A44B8...

Astrokyon Sp. z o.o	Tomasz Brudzinski	CEO		DocuSigned by:  614DE8751460473...
AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	Raquel Portela	Tenured Scientist		DocuSigned by:  8D71149A2AE647E...