

Human-in-the-loop in the Frame of the Energy Transition

Key takeaways from the workshop “Human-in-the-loop digitalisation for Europe’s energy transition” Sustainable Places 2025

Overview

The workshop gathered four EU-funded projects, DEDALUS, CRETE VALLEY, EnerTEF, and ENPOWER under the Smart Energy Cluster, led by ICONS. It redefined human-in-the-loop as a bridge between digitalisation and humanity: collaborative, participatory, inclusive.

Key Takeaways



From Concept to Implementation

- Integrate co-design from the start
- Balance tech & social work
- Treat users as co-creators, not test subjects



Co-creation & the Social Sciences

- Interdisciplinary collaboration builds trust.
- Social scientists translate human needs into system design.



From Economic to Social Motivation

- Real engagement = social identity + feedback + play.



Language as Bridge or Barrier

- Mixed-language mediators improve project success.



From Building to Community Scale

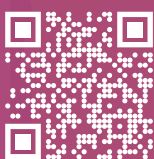
- Tailor engagement to local context.
- Empower municipalities as mediators.
- Co-create roadmaps for participatory action.



Towards Human-Centred Digitalisation

- Combine behavioural, ethical & social principles.
- Measure success in cultural and emotional value, not just performance.

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