



4th NEWSLETTER | June 2026



If one thing marked the past six months of SynGRID, it was movement. Researchers from Croatia, Greece and Slovenia spent weeks at each other's institutions, more than 20 participants gathered in Athens for the second Summer School, and the consortium came together in Zagreb for the Showcase Event and Fourth General Meeting. This edition brings the highlights of a period defined by the exchange of people, knowledge and ideas.

— *The SynGRID Team*



SynGRID Summer School #2: Power Systems, Labs and Real-World Insights

The second edition of the SynGRID Summer School took place from 20 to 24 April 2026 at the [National Technical University of Athens](#), hosted by the Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (ICCS). Following the inaugural edition in Slovenia, this year's school brought together more than **20 participants from across Europe** and beyond for an intensive five-day programme on the theme of Intelligent and Secure Power Systems – Microgrids, Control, Stability and Real-Time Validation.

The programme combined expert lectures with hands-on lab work on a real test microgrid and a visit to the distribution system operator HEDNO. The third edition of the Summer School is planned for 2027.



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Exchange Programme in Focus: Researchers on the Move

Researcher mobility has been at the heart of SynGRID activities over the past months, with five colleagues spending time at partner institutions through the project's PhD, researcher and lecturer exchange programmes.

In February, two PhD researchers from the [Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek \(FERIT\)](#) spent four weeks at the [Institute for Innovation and Development of University of Ljubljana \(IRI UL\)](#). Sanja Kelemen finalised a conference paper on the performance of energy communities with a growing number of participants, while Helena Bošnjak developed a paper for the [SST conference](#) analysing the impact of a PV power plant on the grid with and without battery storage.

"The atmosphere at IRI UL was highly collaborative and welcoming. What made the experience particularly special was the people." Sanja Kelemen (FERIT)

"Each of these places was special in its own way, but I was personally most impressed by Postojna Cave with its uniqueness and impressive beauty." Helena Bošnjak (FERIT)



In spring, the exchanges moved to Athens. Between April and May, Tomislav Markotić, a PhD researcher from FERIT, visited the [National Technical University of Athens](#), where he finalised and submitted a conference paper on optimal sizing and scheduling of prosumer battery storage. In May, Jan Jeriha, a researcher from IRI UL, spent three weeks at the same university working with the local team on energy systems and joint funding strategy.


“Several colleagues from the NTUA lab were already familiar from previous encounters, but spending three weeks together allowed for much deeper exchanges than had been possible before.” Jan Jeriha (IRI UL)

Tomislav also attended the Summer School during his exchange, and Athens clearly left an impression: *“What surprised me most was its incredible energy and the seamless blend of ancient history with a vibrant, modern lifestyle.” Tomislav Markotić (FERIT).*



The exchange programme also extended to teaching: **Dr Tomislav Antić** from the [University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing \(UNIZG FER\)](#) delivered the invited lecture **“Flexibility and Integration of Distributed Energy Resources in Power Systems”** on 7 May 2026 at FERIT.

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New Publication: Optimizing Battery Storage for Prosumers and Energy Communities

We are pleased to share a new scientific publication in *Energies*, an open-access scientific journal published by [MDPI](#), titled “**Optimization of Battery Energy Storage Systems for Prosumers and Energy Communities Under Capacity-Based Tariffs**”. The paper presents research developed through the collaboration between IRI UL and FERIT.

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SynGRID Showcase Event in Zagreb: How Ready Are Our Grids?

How ready are electricity grids for the pace of the energy transition? This was the central question of the SynGRID Showcase Event held on 24 March 2026 at the [University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing](#). System operators, researchers, companies and energy experts gathered for a day of presentations and two panel discussions on **the future of low-voltage grid planning and operation**, combining national perspectives from Croatia and Slovenia with presentations from SMEs and start-ups active in the energy sector.

The message of the day was clear: **technology is advancing, but regulatory frameworks, data standards and coordination mechanisms are struggling to keep pace.**

The following day, the consortium gathered at the same venue for its Fourth General Meeting, reviewing progress across all work packages and setting priorities for the final project year.

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Synergies in Action: Four Sister Projects, One Region

In January, SynGRID joined a two-day meeting of the **Pathways to Synergies – Downstream sister projects** in Belgrade, organised under the [6SAVA](#) project. The event brought together **four Horizon Europe WIDERA** projects working in very different fields, [SynGRID](#) (smart grids), [SynHealth](#) (glycan biomarkers for clinical diagnostics), [PATTERN](#) (road infrastructure) and 6SAVA (valorisation of first-responder monitoring technology and innovation uptake in the Sava River basin) to align efforts across the region, from joint stakeholder mapping to a shared whitepaper with policy recommendations. A stakeholder evening session drew 80 attendees from the Serbian innovation ecosystem, where SynGRID presented progress and key results.

What can projects from completely different fields offer each other? We asked our sister projects for their impressions.

“Regardless of their fields, EU projects often face similar challenges when creating lasting impact, making the exchange of know-how particularly valuable. Whether it is stakeholder engagement, funding pathways, or turning research results into real opportunities for society, collaboration allows projects to build on each other’s experience and move more quickly toward their goals. For WIDERA projects, this collaboration has an additional dimension because we all aim to strengthen innovation capacity and competitiveness across our shared regions.” Milana Sekulić, communication manager (F6S)

“Discovering how similar our challenges are, despite working in completely different fields, was both shocking and deeply reassuring. When projects working on glycan biomarkers, smart grids, worker safety, and road infrastructure all face the same barriers, that is not a coincidence. That is a signal that the challenge we’re facing in Widening countries is structural, not domain-specific.” Milica Baljić, senior researcher (6SAVA)



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Upcoming: SynGRID Research at EEM26 in Trondheim

The exchange of knowledge continues into the summer. Two papers by SynGRID researchers will be presented at the 22nd International Conference on the European Energy Market (EEM26), taking place from 22 to 24 June 2026 in Trondheim, Norway:

- Techno-economic Analysis of PV Active Power Curtailment in Active Distribution Networks
- Performance Assessment of Energy Communities with a Focus on Increasing Number of Participants



22nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE
EUROPEAN ENERGY MARKET
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