# SEED
## sustainable energy education

# CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

for the

## 2nd International SEED Conference 2026

## Shaping the Future of Energy Education

March 24 & 25, 2026 – Utrecht, The Netherlands

**SEED (Sustainable Energy EDucation)**
is an Erasmus+ Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) initiative towards innovative vocational education.
SEED aims to prepare students and professionals adapt to the fast evolving labor market where smart, digital and green skills are the key drivers to innovation against climate change.

SEED's partners represent regional skills ecosystems and national agenda setting stakeholders.
They share the common vision to scale up and promote work-based education by establishing an international learning community on vocational excellence dedicated to Sustainable Energy.

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The energy sector is undergoing a rapid transformation, yet the shortage of skilled professionals, outdated expertise, and the urgency of the energy transition present significant challenges. Sustainable energy education plays a crucial role in addressing these issues, ensuring that the workforce is equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for a future-proof energy system.

**We invite** researchers, educators, industry professionals and policy makers to contribute to discussions on innovative approaches, best practices, and strategies for advancing sustainable energy education. **Join us in shaping the next generation of energy experts!**

The conference has **four tracks** with contributions related to:

# 1. Energy sector labour market

Including topics related to professional development and empowering careers in the energy sector.

- support energy careers,
- transfer between lower and higher VET education,
- women in STEM,
- youth motivations,
- lifelong learning,
- continuous professional development,
- workforce development,
- traineeships,
- entrepreneurship education,
- support SMEs,
- career counselling,
- internship programmes,
- employability,
- workplace learning,
- retraining of professionals,
- professional doctorate programmes, etcetera

# 2. Innovative energy education

Including topics related to learning and educational technology that support energy education.

- good practices (including content, teaching practices, challenges, courses),
- hybrid learning environments (including workplace, community-based, learning labs),
- international collaboration (including challenges, summer schools, mobility programmes),
- responsive curricula (including skills gap analysis, shared responsi-

bility between education and industry),
- designing educational tools for energy education (resources, materials, games),
- innovative educational technology (including AI, VR, Robotics),
- global learning, community engagement and outreach, large-scale learning (including e-learning, MOOCs),
- business models for energy education, university spin-offs, student incubators,
- regenerative and inclusive education,
- education accreditation, quality and assessment,
- teacher professionalisation (including train-the-trainer, international exchange, mobility)
- policy and advocacy skills for promoting energy education
- etcetera

# 3. Region as campus

Topics may relate to collaborations and innovative ways to support energy education in the region.
- Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs),
- Living labs,
- collaborations with municipalities and regional governments,
- community development and engagement,
- open innovation,
- stakeholder and value networks,
- HUBS in sustainable energy,
- USP, PPS, VET/SME connections,
- effective collaborations & partnerships,
- governance,
- funding,
- financing models,
- financial tools,
- etcetera

# 4. Skills for the sustainable energy transition

Topics may include skills needed for the labour market in the energy sector and ways to educate these skills.

- **Technical skills:**
  - » Energy planning, efficiency, storage, distribution
  - » E-mobility (including electric vehicles and charging stations)
  - » Sustainable energy skills (including renewable energy generation)
  - » Understanding complex (energy) systems
  - » Energy economics

- **Digital skills:**
  - » Cybersecurity for energy systems
  - » Data analytics and big data management
  - » Internet of Things (IoT) for smart grids
  - » Blockchain technology for energy transactions
  - » Machine learning for predictive maintenance
  - » Digital twin technology for energy infrastructure

- **Soft skills:**
  - » Conflict resolution for energy projects
  - » Empathy for diverse perspectives
  - » Teamwork in multidisciplinary energy teams
  - » Adaptability to changing energy technologies
  - » Cultural awareness for diverse users
  - » Time management for energy projects
  - » Critical thinking for energy strategies

- **Entrepreneurial skills:**
  - » Business model innovation for sustainable energy
  - » Venture capital and funding strategies
  - » Market analysis and opportunity identification
  - » Scaling and growth strategies for energy startups
  - » Leadership and team management in energy initiatives
  - » Networking and partnership development in the energy sector

- **Research & design skills:**
  - » Collaborative and inclusive design skills
  - » Researching renewable energy technologies
  - » Biomimicry and nature-based design for energy solutions
  - » Evaluating the impact of new solutions and policies
  - » Developing and testing sustainable energy prototypes
  - » Conducting life cycle assessments
  - » Developing community-based energy projects
  - » Researching energy behavior and consumption patterns

- **Professional development skills:**
  - » Continuously updating energy knowledge
  - » Adapting to new energy technologies
  - » Collaborating and innovating with energy sector experts
  - » Learning from energy industry developments
  - » Participating in energy-related workshops and training
  - » Applying new energy research findings
  - » Adopt a boundary crossing approach

# Submission types

**1. Academic paper submission**
Academic papers will be peer-reviewed based on their significance, methodological soundness, originality, and clarity of exposition. Submit an extended abstract between 4 and 9 pages (A4 size), including 1 title page + 8 pages with main text, figures, tables, and references. The academic paper must be written in English, following the instructions on the template. Upload the academic paper in Word and/or PDF file format. These guidelines are strict: academic papers failing to adhere to the guidelines (by being more than 9 pages in total, altering margins, or not following the template) will be rejected without consideration of their merits. Submissions imply the willingness of at least one author to register, attend the conference, and present their contribution. All accepted academic papers will appear in the conference proceedings book. The best academic paper will receive the 'SEED Best Academic Paper Award 2026'.

**2. Expert article submission**
Teachers with state-of-the-art teaching methodologies, or non-academic partners with examples of innovative practices, could write an expert article. The expert articles will be reviewed based on evidence-informed, practical relevance and reading pleasure. Submit an article of 2 to 4 pages (A4 size) with main text, figures, tables, and references. The expert article must be written in English, following the instructions on the template. Upload the extended abstract in Word and/or PDF file format. These guidelines are strict: extended abstracts failing to adhere to the guidelines (by being more than 4 pages in total, altering margins, or not following the template) will be rejected without consideration of their merits. Submissions imply the willingness of at least one author to register, attend the conference, and present their

contribution. All accepted expert articles will appear in the conference proceedings book. The best non-academic paper will receive the 'SEED Best Expert Article Award 2026'.

### 3. Poster presentation submission

Submit a one-page poster (A1 size portrait), including 1 title with the main text, figures, tables, and references. The poster must be written in English, following the instructions on the template. Upload the poster in Word and/or PDF file format. Posters will be reviewed based on significance, originality, clarity of exposition, and design. Submissions imply the willingness of at least one author to register, attend the conference, and present their contribution. All accepted posters will appear in the conference proceedings book. The best poster will receive the 'SEED Best Poster Award 2026'.

### 4. Student track: sustainable energy study projects

Students and recent alumni (graduated 2024/25) from VET higher education are invited to submit a proposal for a presentation, interactive session or practical demonstration based on a study project. The contribution should demonstrate results of a sustainable energy education project. Submit a 300-word abstract describing the contents of your contribution. Submissions imply the willingness of at least one author to register, attend the conference, and present their contribution. Submissions will be reviewed and selected based on significance, originality, and clarity of exposition. The best student project will receive the 'SEED Best Student Award 2026'.

# Deadlines

**Deadlines for academic paper, expert article and poster:**
- Submission of academic paper / expert article / poster: September 15, 2025
- Review notification: November 1, 2025
- Submission of final version of academic paper / expert article / poster: November 21, 2025
- Final notification authors: December 9, 2025
- Author registration: February 2, 2026

**Deadlines for student track:**
- Deadline of abstract submission: January 19, 2026
- Notification of acceptance to students: January 26, 2026
- Author registration: February 2, 2026

# Submission guidelines & review process

Authors worldwide are invited to submit original and unpublished contributions not under review in any other conference or journal. All academic papers, expert articles and poster will be (double blinded) peer-reviewed based on their significance, methodological soundness, originality, and clarity of exposition.

# Conference proceedings

All accepted academic papers, expert articles and posters will appear in the conference proceedings book, which will be assigned a **DOI** and **ISBN**. They will be published in open access by **Hogeschool Utrecht** and submitted to be indexed in major international bibliographic databases.

# Further information

Please contact us at seedconference2026@hu.nl for further inquiries. Conference website: www.seedconference2026.eu
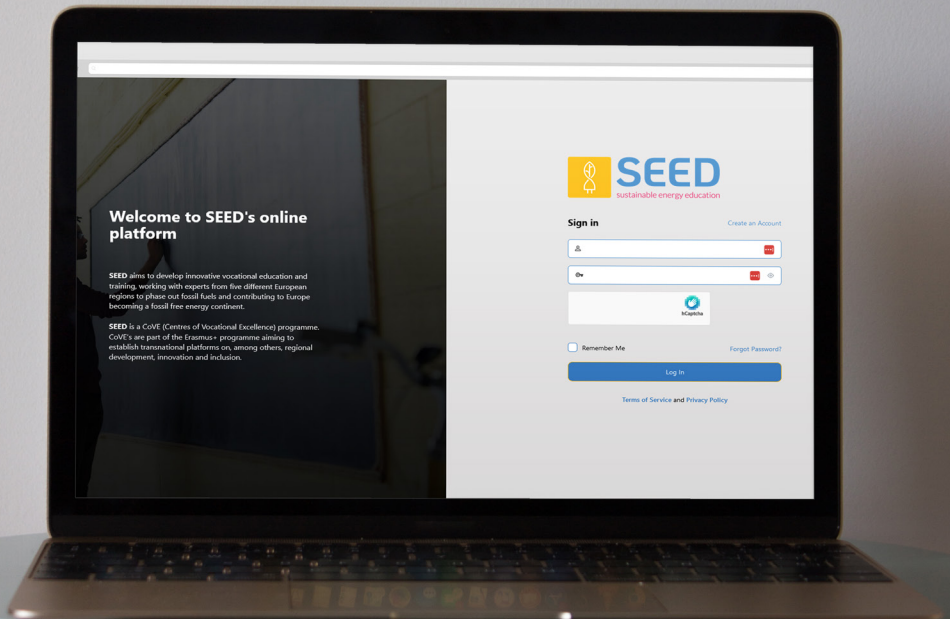
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