

Online Seminar

“Women and the Energy Transition: Challenges and Opportunities”

Speakers



Dr. Rosa Belén Castro Núñez
UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS

Dr. Rosa Belén Castro Núñez holds a PhD in Economics from the Autonomous University of Madrid and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Economics at Rey Juan Carlos University, where she coordinates the established research group on Labour Market and Economic Analysis (EMERLAB). She is also an external collaborator at Abay Analistas, a strategic consultancy specialized in socioeconomic analysis. Rosa Belén is an expert in quantitative methods applied to economic analysis, particularly in the field of the labour market, with a special focus on women's outcomes. In this context, she has published the results of her research addressing the challenges of the energy transition. She has served as an advisor on Social Economy for the OECD, the Ministry of Employment and Social Economy, and several Autonomous Communities.

She has accumulated 20 years of research experience in regional, national, and international projects, the results of which have been published in academic journals as well as technical reports aimed at the design of economic policies, issued by various ministries and international institutions (NATO, OECD, UN, ILO, among others).



Sarah Essam
EU-SOLARIS ERIC

Sarah Essam is a project manager at EU-SOLARIS ERIC, Europe's leading research infrastructure for concentrated solar thermal (CST) technologies. She coordinates international projects and strategic collaborations, connecting research, industry, and policy stakeholders to advance solar thermal innovation. In her work, Sarah champions inclusive collaboration and diversity in STEM, supporting initiatives that foster equal participation across genders and countries in the energy transition. She represents EU-SOLARIS in pan-European projects and workshops, highlighting opportunities for women in renewable energy research, technology, and leadership roles.

Speakers



Dr. Marina Casanova
CIEMAT

Dr. Marina Casanova (CIEMAT) is a research scientist specialized in Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) and co-founder of Women+ in CS. She did a Master's degree in Energy and Fuels (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) and a PhD in High Irradiance Measurement for tower plants, successfully developed and validated at the Plataforma Solar de Almería (PSA). Her professional experience spans both public research and the private sector. She did her PhD during the period from 2017 to 2021 at PSA-CIEMAT, where she developed and validated a new method to measure high solar irradiance for solar tower plants. Following her doctorate, she worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher at PROMES-CNRS (France) during 2022, where her work focused on the improvement of tower facilities and heliostat aiming strategies, including the creation of a heliostat field database for the Thémis tower facility. After this, she contributed to the industry as an R&D Technical Lead at ACCIONA for almost two years, where she led CSP-related projects and was involved in operation works for the commercial Cerro Dominador plant. She currently is a researcher, focusing on Thermal Energy Storage and Concentrated Solar Technologies at Plataforma Solar de Almería. The central technical themes of her career are High Irradiance Measurement, Solar Power Towers, Thermal Energy Storage, and CFD Simulations.