



# EU Hydrogen Valley Days 2025

## Driving Europe's Competitiveness

24-25 June 2025, Brussels



### SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES REPORT

The second edition of the Hydrogen Valley Days took place on 24 and 25 June 2025 in Brussels, under the title "Hydrogen Valleys: Driving Europe's Competitiveness". Participants engaged with industry leaders, explored pioneering hydrogen projects, and discovered opportunities for growth, innovation, and collaboration.

The two-day programme included keynote speeches, dedicated sessions on the success stories and lessons learned from advanced Hydrogen Valley projects including but not limited to the projects supported by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership, and insights into key challenges such as permitting, licensing, and skills development. The event also presented significant initiatives such as the Hydrogen Valleys Facility and the European Commission's Hydrogen & Derivatives Mechanism. Discussions also focused on lead markets in mobility and industry, and addressed the crucial topic of financing hydrogen projects, concluding with networking opportunities to facilitate collaboration and innovation.

The event was jointly organised by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership and the European Commission.

The highlights and key insights of the respective sessions are presented below.

#### [Day 1: 24 June](#)

#### **14:20 – 15:00 | Opening Session - Keynote Speeches**

##### **Speakers:**

- Valerie Bouillon-Delporte, Executive Director, Clean Hydrogen Partnership
- Nadia Pellefigue, Vice-President of the Region of Occitanie, European Committee of the Regions
- Danica Maljković, Chair of the Governing Board, Clean Hydrogen Partnership

As part of the opening session, three keynote speeches were held, all underlining the fundamental importance of Hydrogen Valleys for the creation of a competitive European Hydrogen Economy.

As of June 2025, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership has funded 21 Hydrogen Valleys in 18 EU countries with EUR 250 m, positioning hydrogen as a key pillar of local competitiveness and sustainable growth. Hydrogen Valleys have evolved from the pilot stage to strategic infrastructure initiatives that integrate energy production, multi-sectoral demand – including in hard-to-abate sectors – and regional economic development. All keynotes emphasized the



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need to bridge the gap between innovation and implementation, strengthen inter-regional collaboration, address regulatory fragmentation and consistently support local SMEs and innovators. Hydrogen Valleys are recognized as critical to achieving the EU's 2050 climate neutrality goal.

[Access session recording here.](#)

#### 15:30 – 16:30 | Hydrogen Valleys, a success story of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership

##### Speakers:

- Mirela Atanasiu – Head of Unit, Clean Hydrogen Partnership
- Beatrice Coda, Head of Unit, European Commission, DG RTD - H2V Roadmap
- Luigi Crema, President, Italian Hydrogen Association
- Guillermo Figueruelo, Strategy Manager, Fundación Hidrógeno Aragon

This panel discussion, opened by Mirela Atanasiu with an overview of the [collaboration of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership with regions](#) and of the evolution of the Hydrogen Valley concept, focused on discussing the needs and success factors for further developing hydrogen ecosystems.

Since 2016, the [Hydrogen Valleys portfolio](#) has expanded from a few demonstration projects to a cornerstone of EU hydrogen policy, now bolstered by an additional EUR 200 m from REPowerEU. The public-private collaboration model enabled by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership, and the support it has provided for the demonstration of Hydrogen Valleys projects and by initiatives such as Project Development Assistance (PDA) and the [H2V Platform](#), has been instrumental in evolving Hydrogen Valleys into integrated local ecosystems. All panelists highlighted the continued need for investment in R&I, combined funding sources, strategic alignment between research, industry and policy makers as well as for improved and simplified regulations aiming to make the EU more innovation-friendly and to enable the scale-up of clean energy technologies. In this context, the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), and in particular the [STEP Seal](#), have been mentioned to enhance access to EU funding (including national and regional programmes), notably by facilitating alternative cumulative or combined funding from several EU budget instruments, including possibility for direct support from Cohesion policy funds, without additional selection procedures.

[Access session recording here.](#)



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### 16.30 – 17.45| Launch of the H2 Valley Facility

#### Speakers:

- Christopher Schmitt, Partner, Roland Berger
- Markus Kaufmann, Partner, Roland Berger

This presentation marked the official launch of the Hydrogen Valley Facility (H2V Facility). Funded by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership, the facility aims to unlock transformative support for Hydrogen Valleys on their way to final investment decision (FID), to support the European Commission's aspirational target of having 50 valleys operational or under construction in the EU by 2030. Roland Berger together with its consortium partners Worley and Inycom were mandated by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership for the set-up and implementation of this 5-year project.

The H2V Facility delivers dedicated non-financial support over the course of the next five years via Project Development Assistance (PDA), a H2V Knowledge Portal and the H2V Platform.

The Project Development Assistance (PDA) is directed to Hydrogen Valleys to advance them from idea to concept (PDA light programme track) and from concept to feasibility stage and ultimately to FID (PDA plus programme track). The H2V Knowledge Portal will be built up as a self-service and interaction platform for the broader hydrogen community, thereby providing dedicated content, knowledge products and formats for exchange on best-practices for projects at different maturity levels. The H2V Knowledge Portal and the PDA will be digitally enabled via the H2V Platform (h2v.eu) that will be enhanced with new technical and content features to address the evolving needs of Hydrogen Valleys and the broader hydrogen community.

[Access session recording here.](#)



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### Day 2: 25 June

#### **10:00 – 11:00 | Lessons learned from advanced projects**

**Moderator:** Antonio Aguilo-Rullan, Team Coordinator, Clean Hydrogen Partnership

**Speakers:**

- Gema Sánchez Collado, People & Sustainability Director, Enagas Renewable, Green Hysland Hydrogen Valley (ES)
- Dr Jatta Jussila, CEO, CLIC Innovation Oy, Baltic SeaH2 Hydrogen Valley (FI)
- Geerte de Jong, Programme manager, New Energy Coalition, HEAVENN Hydrogen Valley (NL)
- Marcos Suárez, Director of Hydrogen and Renewable Fuels, Basque Energy Cluster, Basque Hydrogen Corridor (ES)

In this panel discussion, advanced Hydrogen Valleys shared hands-on lessons on navigating regulatory, commercial, and technical hurdles, emphasising pragmatic risk management, regulatory clarity, and the importance of securing committed offtakers to move projects toward final investment decisions.

This session featured insights from operational or near-FID valleys such as Green Hysland, HEAVENN, BalticSeaH2, and the Basque Hydrogen Corridor. A recurring message was that success depends on maintaining flexibility through evolving project scopes and stakeholder constellations, securing diversified end-use applications, and setting realistic timelines. Early offtake agreements, alignment with national infrastructure, and local political support were identified as critical enablers, with participants emphasising the importance of starting small to build trust and experience. Regulatory issues, particularly around Renewable Energy Directive RED III, renewable fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBOs) quotas, and carbon pricing, were repeatedly flagged as key obstacles to investment certainty, with a strong call for simplified and consistent frameworks.

[Access session recording here.](#)



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#### 11:30 – 12:15 | Key insights from projects on permitting

**Moderator:** Matus Muron, Manager Market Intelligence, Hydrogen Europe

**Speakers:**

- Konstantinos Chatzifotis, European Affairs Manager, Motor Oil, TRIERES Hydrogen Valley (GR)
- Nigel Holmes, CEO, Hydrogen Scotland
- Alice Ruczinski, Director of Public Funding, Lhyfe

This panel session identified permitting as a critical but complex step for Hydrogen Valleys, with early engagement, clear planning, and streamlined coordination between authorities cited as key enablers for accelerating deployment.

Project leaders shared practical lessons from the permitting of Hydrogen Valleys and advocated for early dialogue with authorities and clear milestone planning. Best practices included Scotland's creation of national planning hubs, France's single points of contact for developers, and the use of public funding to accelerate regulatory adaptation. Differences in permitting frameworks across regions and the lack of harmonised EU-level procedures were noted as ongoing challenges, especially for larger-scale projects. Gaining public acceptance – by addressing safety, environmental, and water use concerns early on – was also highlighted as essential for success.

[Access session recording here.](#)

#### 12:15 – 12:30 | Building European skills for Hydrogen, Fireside-chat

**Speakers:**

- Mirela Atanasiu, Head of Unit Operations and Communications, Clean Hydrogen Partnership
- Bilal Outirba, Université Libre De Bruxelles, HyAcademy.EU

With up to one million hydrogen-related jobs expected by 2030, this session underscored the urgent need for coordinated recruiting, upskilling, and education initiatives across Europe, with HyAcademy.EU as an ambitious starting point.

In a fireside chat with Bilal Outirba from Université Libre de Bruxelles, the discussion focused on how to build a skilled hydrogen workforce to meet the rapidly growing demand across the hydrogen value chain. The HyAcademy initiative aims to connect universities, vocational



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schools, and industry to establish a scalable training ecosystem. Key needs identified included upskilling the existing workforce, creating hydrogen-specific engineering degrees, and developing regionalised training models aligned with local value chains. Plans for a European-wide network of up to 120 academic partners by the end of 2025 were also discussed, with the HyAcademy expected to form part of future initiatives such as the Net Zero Academy.

[Access session recording here.](#)

#### 13:30 – 13:45 | Introduction to the Commission's Hydrogen & Derivatives Mechanism Transparency Platform

**Speaker:** Clément Gerthoffert, Team Leader, DG ENER, European Commission

The European Commission announced to launch the [Hydrogen & Derivatives Mechanism](#) in July 2025, a market-based online platform connecting EU offtakers with hydrogen and derivative suppliers to support demand aggregation and infrastructure planning.

In his presentation, Clément Gerthoffert introduced the upcoming Hydrogen & Derivatives Mechanism, a new DG ENER initiative to facilitate the development of a green hydrogen market in Europe. The upcoming platform will run quarterly matchmaking rounds to help connect hydrogen offtakers with EU-based suppliers through non-binding calls that help aggregate supply and demand, test infrastructure needs, and link with available financial support. While only EU-based offtakers may participate, suppliers can come from broader markets, and requests will remain confidential between registered participants.

[Access session recording here.](#)

#### 13:45 – 14:45 | Lead Markets – industry

**Moderator:** Dr Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Advisor, DG ENER, European Commission

**Speakers:**

- Anamaria Zianveni, Project Manager CEO at Encevo, Grande Region Hydrogen Valley (FR, DE, LU)
- Ertan Yilmaz, Portfolio Manager Hydrogen and Green Fuels, Siemens Energy
- Margherita Matzer, Group Coordinator WIVA P&G, HI2 Hydrogen Valley (AT)
- Grzegorz Józwiak, Director of Hydrogen and Synthetic Fuel Technologies, Orlen, HySpark Hydrogen Valley (PL)



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The panel discussion focused on scaling industrial hydrogen use, highlighting transparent planning, shared investment risk, and early involvement of the public as key enablers for successful offtake.

Hydrogen Valley representatives from projects like Grande Region Hydrogen Valley, HI2 Hydrogen Valley and HySpark together with an industry practitioner from Siemens Energy, discussed how to launch and expand hydrogen ecosystems focused on industrial applications such as steel, chemical, and fertilizer production. The session emphasised the need for transparent milestone and dependency planning, shared risk-taking between suppliers and end-users, and proactive engagement with the public and funding bodies. Examples ranged from early FID to large-scale infrastructure like cross-border pipelines and hydrogen-ready gas turbines. While technology readiness is advancing, viable business cases still depend on closing the cost gap between grey and green hydrogen, regulatory support, and infrastructure availability. The panellists underscored that collaboration, clear communication, and a long-term perspective are key to accelerating industrial hydrogen adoption.

[Access session recording here.](#)

#### 14:45 – 15:45 | Lead Markets – mobility

**Moderator:** Georgios Tzamalidis, Policy Officer, Innovation & Research at European Commission

**Speakers:**

- Céline Quester, Project Leader, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, IMAGHyNE Hydrogen Valley (FR)
- Dr Jürgen Guldner, Lead Coordinator, Hydrogen Mobility @ Scale (HyMoS)
- Jón Björn Skúlason, General Manager, Icelandic New Energy Ltd, HYceland Hydrogen Valley (IS)
- Philipp Kroepels, Director New Energy, MB Energy (DE)

The session highlighted key enablers and persistent challenges for hydrogen in mobility end use, emphasising the need for public support with clear subsidy schemes, vehicle availability, early infrastructure planning, and OEM partnerships to move from limited pilot projects to viable, large-scale markets.

Panellists including project coordinators from Hydrogen Valleys, industry representatives, and sector experts shared insights into how to scale hydrogen mobility, especially in the heavy-



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duty road transport segment. The Hydrogen Valleys IMAGHyNE and HYceland demonstrated how pilot projects in buses and trucks can pave the way for broader adoption by showcasing hydrogen's potential as a clean alternative also in remote areas. Strategic planning of logistics, including of refuelling locations, partnerships with OEMs, and smart subsidy design were identified as key levers to advance hydrogen mobility, while challenges such as limited vehicle availability, low demand, infrastructure gaps, and regulatory delays continue to hinder progress.

[Access session recording here.](#)

#### 16:15 – 16:30 | Keynote presentation on JRC's work on hydrogen valleys sustainability

**Speaker:** Marco Serafini, JRC, European Commission

In his keynote, Marco Serafini from the Joint Research Centre highlighted that sustainability assessments are critical to ensuring that Hydrogen Valleys deliver measurable environmental, economic, and social benefits across their entire lifecycle.

Marco Serafini introduced a possible approach to assessing the sustainability of Hydrogen Valleys, highlighting the collaboration with the Clean Hydrogen Partnership and the development of harmonised Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA) methodologies. Current challenges he mentioned include inconsistent guidelines across projects, incomplete data inventories, lack of external review, varying functional units for hydrogen production and use, and unclear system boundaries – especially in complex valleys that fulfil multiple functions. To address this, the JRC is looking at the creation of specific sustainability guidelines, including frameworks for environmental and social life cycle assessment (LCA and SLCA), improvements in methodology and review processes through structured tools such as checklists, and better access to inventory data for hydrogen projects via dedicated data platforms. These activities aim to harmonise sustainability assessments across Hydrogen Valleys.

[Access session recording here.](#)



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### 16:30 – 17:30 | Structuring the financing of Hydrogen Valleys

**Moderator:** Davide Amato, Deputy Head of Unit, DG RTD, European Commission

**Speakers:**

- Aleksander Gerbec, Managing Director, ECUBES, NAHV Hydrogen Valley (IT, HR, SI)
- Heidi Tuiskula, Soft Funding Manager, Norwegian Hydrogen, CONVEY Hydrogen Valley (DK)
- Nicolas Brahy, General Counsel, public affairs and ESG Director, Hy24
- Timo Bollerhey, H2 Global, CEO, Hintco

The panel discussion explored various financing models and funding mechanisms for Hydrogen Valleys and market-making mechanisms like H2Global to ensure bankability and market development.

The financing session brought together the practitioners' perspective from the Hydrogen Valleys NAHV and CONVEY, the investor perspective from Hy24 and Hintco, the implementing entity of the H2Global instrument, a double-auction market-making scheme for large-scale green hydrogen and derivatives imports. A key success factor on the way to debt financing highlighted by the valleys is to combine multiple funding sources, including at European and national levels, while aligning timelines and ensuring early engagement with investors and banks. Challenges, such as but not limited to the simplification of rules for the combination of funding, were highlighted by several panellists. Furthermore, H2Global's auction-based market-making model was presented as an effective mechanism to close the green premium price gap by guaranteeing long-term offtake and thereby building the trust needed from banks to enable investment. To further enable the financing of hydrogen projects, all panellists agreed on the need for real offtake scenarios, combined with the creation of sound project structures, infrastructure readiness, and targeted policies to attract private capital.

[Access session recording here.](#)



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### 17:30 | Closing notes

**Speaker:** Valerie Bouillon-Delporte, Executive Director, Clean Hydrogen Partnership

Valerie Bouillon-Delporte wrapped up the two-day conference by highlighting the need for collaboration, long-term offtake commitment, and creative funding strategies to advance the hydrogen economy.

In her closing remarks, Valerie Bouillon-Delporte emphasised that Hydrogen Valleys are to be viewed as strategic enablers of Europe's energy transition rather than mere demonstration projects. In doing so, she called for stronger collaboration between public and private sectors, stressing that speed and coordination will determine whether Europe leads or lags in the hydrogen economy. She concluded with the metaphor of needing "a good pair of shoes" for the marathon ahead and announced upcoming events in autumn 2025 focused on innovation and research in the hydrogen field.

[Access session recording here.](#)