



CALL FOR PAPERS

“Empower the Future: Idea Hackathon for More Sustainable Cities and Universities”

University of Macerata – Department of Law
May 9, 2025

Today’s sustainability challenges call for the active engagement of young people, institutions, and universities, through a lens of innovation, social justice, and international cooperation. Cities, university campuses, and local communities are faced with the need to rethink development models and everyday living spaces through ecological and energy transition.

As part of the European project ENPOWER – Empowering Local Communities through Sustainable Energy Transition, the University of Macerata – Department of Law, a project partner, is organizing the event “Empower the Future” on the occasion of the 2025 Sustainable Development Festival - Festival dello Sviluppo Sostenibile 2025 and Europe Day.

The ENPOWER project promotes the development of innovative, inclusive, and collaborative solutions for energy and urban sustainability, with the goal of building new skills and connections among young people, institutions, businesses, and local communities.

The initiative includes a theoretical session with contributions from international experts, and a practical session in the form of a hackathon, during which students will develop concrete proposals for more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities and universities.

Topics of Interest

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following areas:

1. Sustainable innovation in university spaces
2. Renewable energy and social justice
3. Inclusion and accessibility in the cities of tomorrow
4. Ecological transition and local governance
5. Sustainability education and the active role of students
6. Energy citizenship and participation
7. Smart cities, data, and digital tools for sustainability

Requirements and how to participate in the Call for Papers

The call is open to students enrolled at the University of Macerata.

Proposals for an original, unpublished paper (in either Italian or English) must be submitted by **April 29, 2025** to the email address c.cec2@unimc.it and must include:

- **Title of the contribution**
- **Abstract** (max. 500 words)
- **Short CV of the author** (max. 100 words), including any relevant experience or interest in the covered topics

Selection results will be communicated via email by **May 2nd, 2025**.

Selected participants will take part in the workshop/hackathon on May 9 and agree to the use of excerpts from their proposals and images for promotional and communication purposes related to the event and the ENPOWER project.

Award

The three most outstanding contributions will receive a special award: participation in the ENPOWER international Summer School on the topic of Energy Poverty, which will take place at KU Leuven (Belgium) from September 8, 2025.

Scientific Committee

Francesca Spigarelli, Lorenzo Compagnucci, Chiara Feliziani, Andrea Caligiuri, Valerio Placidi, Petar Gvero
Corinna Ceci, Carlotta Benedetti

Organizing Committee

Andriana Steta, Corinna Ceci, in collaboration with ELSA Macerata