

 Udo Bachhiesl, Sonja Wogrin

19th Symposium Energieinnovation

ENERGIZING EUROPE: Innovations for a Sustainable Energy Economy

The global and, in particular, the European energy sector is currently facing major challenges. The innovations required for a sustainable energy economy were intensively discussed at the 19th Symposium on Energy Innovation with over 250 scientific contributions.

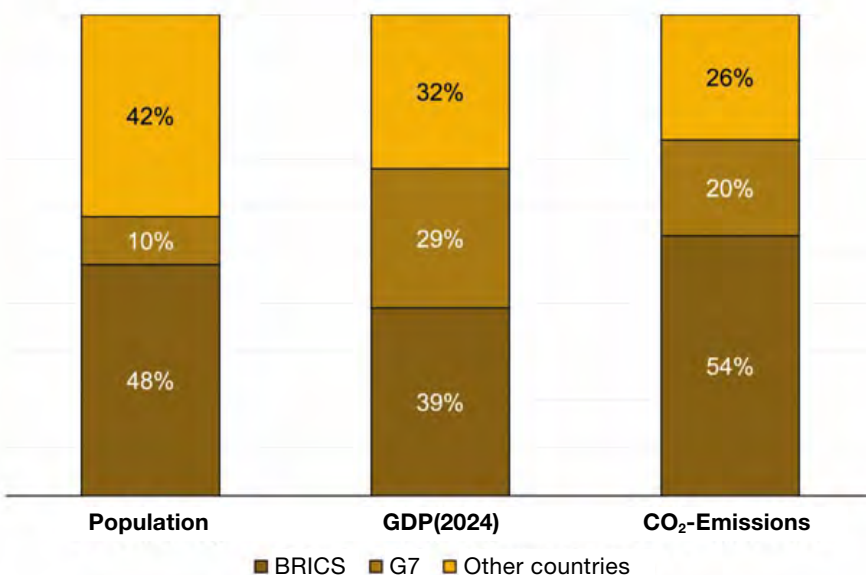
The 19th Symposium on Energy Innovation took place from 11 to 13 February 2026 at TU Graz in Austria. The event was organised by the Institute of Electricity Economics and Energy Innovation (IEE) at TU Graz together with the co-organisers Austrian Electrotechnical Association (OVE), Oesterreichs Energie and the Austrian National Committee of the World Energy Council (WEC-Austria). The symposium was organised under the patronage of the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET), the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), the State of Styria and the City of Graz.

In terms of content, this year's symposium focused in particular on the energy-economic consequences of geopolitical change, which is illustrated by comparing the global population, gross domestic product (GDP) and CO₂ emissions of the BRICS, G7 and other countries on our planet.

For many decades, the European energy sector has been very successful in ensuring a sufficient, secure, affordable and clean energy supply for society and the economy. However, current geopolitical developments pose enormous challenges for the EU in particular. From

an energy-economic perspective, the implications in connection with the Russia-Ukraine conflict and developments in the USA (EU-US trade agreement, US withdrawal from climate agreement) are currently particularly relevant. Over the last two decades in particular, the EU has endeavoured to position itself as a pioneer in the use of renewable energies, but also in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and has set itself ambitious global targets in this regard. From an economic perspective, however, many EU countries are currently facing major challenges, with energy supply playing a particularly important role. Issues relating to the security of energy supply in particular, as well as the development of energy prices for industry/economy and society, have moved to the forefront in recent years.

Science and research, business and industry, associations as well as politics and administration were therefore invited to make appropriate contributions to the prosperous development of the European energy industry and society, and these were presented and intensively discussed at the 19th Symposium on Energy Innovation. After the ceremonial opening by TU Graz Rector Horst Rector Bischof, the symposium began with the high-calibre opening plenary session.



The symposium, which takes place every two years, has developed very positively overall and this year's symposium saw over 700 participants listen to and discuss more than 250 exciting presentations. The technical presentations were organised into a total of seven thematic streams, which in turn were divided into a total of 48 technical sessions. The range of content covered the most important energy-economic topics such as

- Security of supply, market and regulation,
- Energy system models and decarbonisation,
- Future-oriented electrical grids,
- Renewable energies and hydrogen,
- Energy communities and flexibilisation,
- (District) heating supply and energy efficiency and
- Electromobility and energy storage.

The extensive promotion of young scientists is a particular concern of the organisers, which is why, for example, numerous students were able to attend the symposium free of charge. The scientific highlight



← **TU Graz Rector Horst Bischof at the ceremonial opening of Symposium Energieinnovation.**

Source: Institute of Electricity Economics and Energy Innovation

was the presentation of the young talent awards sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism. A high-calibre scientific reviewing committee consisting of 59 people selected a total of ten outstanding contributions from over 90 high-quality submissions from young researchers under the age of 30. The awards were presented at the second evening event in the Nikola Tesla High Voltage Hall at TU Graz by Andrea Höglinger (Vice Rector for Research at TU Graz) and Hannes Bauer (Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism).

The symposium ended with a round table discussion chaired by Sonja Wogrin and attended by representatives from the fields of research, industry, the energy sector and regulation. In addition to summarising the key findings of the symposium, this discussion also covered requirements for future studies and training courses as well as measures to make them more attractive, particularly for women. A comprehensive follow-up, including all released documents, is available on the symposium webpage at www.EnInnov.TUGraz.at for the interested public to download free of charge. ●

↓ **Ceremony for the Young Talent Awards sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism.**

Source: Institute of Electricity Economics and Energy Innovation



Udo Bachhiesl is Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the Institute of Electricity Economics and Energy Innovation at TU Graz. He is a recognized expert in the fields of energy and electricity economics, renewable energies, and energy innovation. He also successfully established the biennial Symposium Energy Innovation at TU Graz and serves as its Conference Chair.