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## Editorial

The past four months have been **a period of deep, collaborative reflection for the DELaw team.**

Following the recruitment phase and the launch of our literature review on Degrowth principles in 2025, we have dedicated ourselves to **a rigorous, continued process of defining the core values and principles that underpin Degrowth theory.** Each week since February, our seven team members have come together to identify and define key concepts such as Justice and Democracy through a Degrowth lens. This ambitious endeavour (made possible by the specificities of the ERC funding) allows us to channel our collective thinking toward building a theoretically and methodologically robust foundation for a legal system compatible with Degrowth, starting with a clear understanding of its essence.

We also took the opportunity to **share our preliminary findings with the project's Advisory Board,** whose invaluable feedback has further enriched our work.

We hope you'll enjoy reading this newsletter!

# What we have been doing

## Publications

Since the last newsletter published in February, the whole team has been focusing on deepening the research on the principles and values of degrowth for the collaborative article which will be our first group publication and also a key one within the whole project. Significant progress was made during these 4 months to identify and agree on a definition for the Degrowth values (2) and principles (4), before framing the analytical instrument leveraging them to assess legal provisions or proposals. It is still an ongoing work, so stay tuned for more!

## Incoming Visiting Researchers

### Adrien Chanteloup

For the period from February to April 2026, we welcomed Adrien Chanteloup, a PhD candidate at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. During his three-month stay, Adrien actively participated in workshops and activities with the DELaw team, and also had the opportunity to present the results of his PhD research to the CIIAE community. Adrien's work explores how citizens, energy and public participation stakeholders perceive the barriers and facilitators to citizens' engagement in energy governance in France and the Netherlands, and how both groups envision creative visions towards a fairer and more inclusive energy governance in the future.

### Dr. Kim Fyhr

In April, we hosted Dr. Kim Fyhr, a postdoctoral researcher in Energy Law from the Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law (CCEEL), University of Eastern Finland (UEF). During his 3-weeks long stay, Kim delivered a presentation on the legal framework for the energy transition in Finland. Specifically, his work examines the role of energy legislation in enabling the energy transition in Finland, operating at two interconnected levels: national law and European Union law. We've also had various exchanges on the Spanish legal framework for the energy transition to renewable energy sources, with a focus on battery energy storage deployment.



More colleagues from all over Europe are going to join the team for research stays over the coming months. If you are interested in exchanging with us and contributing to our research in a mutually beneficial way, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

## Events we organised

### 18 and 19 March 2026 - Internal Workshop on Legal Research Methods

On the 18 and 19 of March, we organised an internal workshop in Cáceres on Legal Research Methods. Over the course of two days, we had the pleasure of welcoming a distinguished panel of scholars, with Prof. Louis Kotzé and Prof. Ruven Fleming in person, as well as Prof. Julia Steinberger and Prof. Sanne Taekema online.

The workshop opened with a presentation by the DELaw team, outlining the project's aims, current progress, and the key questions and challenges we have encountered in drafting our first collaborative article. Afterwards, Julia Steinberger led a session on degrowth studies and principles, focusing on how these can be translated into concrete policy proposals. The morning concluded with a presentation by Louis Kotzé, who shared insights from his experience working on research projects that adopt critical legal perspectives. In the afternoon, as a means to integrate degrowth-in-practice, participants visited ACTYVA, a Cáceres-based degrowth-oriented cooperative active in many different fields, including organic food production and catering. The visit included a tour of their farms and an outdoor lunch prepared with locally sourced vegan products.

The second day focused on legal methodology. Ruven Fleming opened with a session on doctrinal and constitutional energy law methods, and the workshop concluded with a session led by Sanne Taekema, who offered valuable guidance on how to conduct comparative legal research.

This workshop constituted one of the main early milestones of the DELaw project. It provided an opportunity to receive critical comments on our work while benefiting from high-level training.



### 23 March 2026 - Bridging Ecolinguistics and Degrowth Legal Research

The DELaw team had the privilege of engaging in a rich, interdisciplinary discussion at the crossroads of degrowth, extractivism and legal research with Prof. Carolina Amador Moreno and Dr. Ana María Terrazas-Calero from the Research Institute for Linguistics and Applied Languages at the Universidad de Extremadura.

Carolina and Ana María shared their groundbreaking ecolinguistics research, which critically examines the discourses of lithium mining companies—unpacking the language, motivations, and consequences behind corporate messaging. In turn, the DELaw team presented our ongoing work: identifying and defining a set of principles underpinning degrowth theory, with the goal of framing and applying them to analyse legal provisions.



### Events we attended

- 16 and 17 April 2026 - Inês Azevedo participated in a workshop organised by the Journal of Environmental Law and hosted by Edinburgh Law School, Scotland. Titled *New Challenges of Environmental Law: from carbon removals to AI*, the workshop brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to explore emerging challenges in environmental law. Contributions drew on a wide range of disciplines - including law, geoscience, policy, and data science - creating a genuinely cross-disciplinary forum for debate.
- 29 and 30 April 2026 - Romain Mauger delivered an opening keynote at the XI Tarragona International Environmental Law Colloquium (TIEC), held at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain. On this occasion, Romain expanded on the interrelationship between the planetary boundaries, degrowth and Energy Law in the EU. Building upon clear data showing that the absolute, global, sufficient and steady decoupling between economic growth and environmental footprint is not happening worldwide nor at national level even in Western or Northern European countries, Romain called for energy lawyers to consider integrating degrowth into their research.

- 26 and 27 May 2026 - Mohsen Esfahanizadeh participated in the 20th SAM Conference, held at the University of Liège, Belgium. On the first day, Mohsen delivered a presentation on the importance of re-evaluating conventional environmental sustainability methods, with a particular focus on Absolute Environmental Sustainability Assessment and its application to quantifying the influences of degrowth principles in battery value-chain. In addition, the conference featured presentations and discussions on the latest developments in environmental and social assessment methods across various industrial sectors, future environmental and social sustainability scenarios, as well as next-generation batteries and an exploration of their applications.



## Dissemination

### 20 April 2026 - Radio Interview at Canal Extremadura

Romain Mauger recorded an interview for the science dissemination program "Principio de Incertidumbre" (Principle of Uncertainty) on radio Canal Extremadura, with Jorge Solís. They talked about degrowth, what it means in the current context of acute energy and geopolitical crisis, the idea behind the DELaw project, and finding ways to introduce degrowth into law at the European and national levels. The interview can be found as a podcast on the [Spotify](#) and [iVoox](#) platforms.



# What is coming...

## Research in progress

Looking ahead, DELaw team members are going to participate to a few conferences, gathering feedback about our ongoing research.

Romain is going to discuss reshaping EU energy law with the degrowth theory to achieve decarbonisation at the 3rd ELAWNET conference, to be held in Oslo, Norway, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June.

Konstantinos Charemis and Romain Mauger are going to participate to a workshop organised at Uppsala University (Sweden) on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June entitled: Imagining a post-growth EU - How would EU law look like if the economy was stagnant, in recession, or purposively degrowing? This will also be the occasion for Konstantinos to meet his PhD thesis co-supervisor, Associate Professor Marios Iacovides.

From the 16<sup>th</sup> till the 19<sup>th</sup> of June Aretina Stefani will be participating to the conference 'Degrowth: bridging green and just in Central and Eastern Europe' organised by the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland where she will deliver a presentation entitled 'Legal embeddings of degrowth: Lessons from the Czech Republic'.

As we start to shape the analysis tool to assess the degrowth compatibility of legal provisions and proposals, we expect to disseminate it at further events to gather feedback and improve it.

## Research visits

In September-October this year, Myele Rouxel, PhD candidate at the UEF working on Law and degrowth is going to spend a few weeks with us. We can't wait for the vivid exchanges we shall have on this occasion!