

DELaw ERC Project
Centro Ibérico de
Investigación en
Almacenamiento
Energético (CIAE)



info@delaw.eu



www.delaw.eu



[www.linkedin.com/
company/delaw-
erc-project](https://www.linkedin.com/company/delaw-erc-project)



Editorial

Back from a long summer during which we talked a lot about degrowth!

The past four months were a chance to get some well-deserved rest, while contemplating a European continent literally drying up and burning. Yet again a reminder of the importance and urgency of working on how to make degrowth a reality.

This summer gave us the opportunity to continue our weekly team workshops, during which we created a first version of our degrowth-compatibility assessment tool, the main expected result of our project. Since then, we have been stress-testing it, a process which has caused intensive head-scratching for the team. Indeed, it highlights the real difficulties of crafting a tool which can be used by a variety of actors (academics, NGOs, lawmakers) and to study a variety of texts and situations (policies, legal provisions, court decisions, practical case studies). Even more so, it was the occasion to measure the wide interpretation differences between the individual understandings of the degree of compatibility of any given legal provision with our identified degrowth principles.

Yet, that's what research is for, that's what stress-testing this kind of tool is for, and we won't give up! We hope you'll enjoy reading this newsletter!

What have we been up to?

Official Agreement between CIIAE and Uppsala University

We are pleased to announce that one of our predoc researchers, Konstantinos Charemis, is now officially registered for his PhD degree at Uppsala University in European Law with a specialization in Energy law and post-Growth studies!

Uppsala is the oldest university in Scandinavia and one of the most esteemed in Europe with international recognition and distinguished academic staff. It is a great opportunity for international cooperation between two research institutions so that European legal systems align and work within planetary boundaries to facilitate the decarbonization of our society. Through this unique collaboration, the DELaw ERC project showcases that interdisciplinary and collaborative research is the way forward in academia, bringing together different perspectives and expertise to address complex societal and environmental challenges.



Incoming Visiting Researchers

Since the end of September and for a whole month, we welcome [Myele Rouxel](#), PHD researcher at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) working on EU law and sufficiency. She will share her insights about her own research on this topic so close to degrowth and will take part to our lively conversations on degrowth principles and values and on how to assess the compatibility of laws and policies with degrowth. So far, Myele has been focusing on EU treaties and agri-food law at EU level and now engages with energy law, she therefore is at the right place at the right time in Cáceres.



Publication

In September, the book "[Rural, Regional, and Remote Energy Transformations: An Energy Quadrilemma Lens](#)" (Edward Elgar) was published. Edited by Associate Professor Madeline Taylor, the book contains 12 chapters about the issues raised by the energy transition in rural and remote areas, covering mining, grids, renewable energy installations process, etc.

Romain Mauger, together with Dr. Paola Villavicencio Calzadilla, contributed with a chapter titled "A just energy transition for the 'Emptied Spain'". This chapter focused on depopulation and energy justice, as rural Spain (the Empty/Emptied Spain) is losing its inhabitants while being the place where the current skyrocketing renewable energy deployment materially takes place. The authors broaden a bit the classic three-tenets energy justice framework (distributive, procedural and recognition justice) by including the decolonial theory into the recognition justice part, given its relevance. Indeed, rural Spain can be considered a victim of a long-enduring internal colonialism where resources are extracted, for very limited if existing-at-all benefits.

Although this debate may seem separate from degrowth, it is not, as we would like to show by sharing the last sentence of the chapter: "Other models exist for society, such as the ones proposed by the degrowth and postgrowth theories, which come with embedded notions of justice."

CIIE Talks

Konstantinos Charemis opened this year's CIIE talks with an introductory session on degrowth. The presentation provided a brief overview of the history of the degrowth movement, discussed the relevance of degrowth and presented examples of degrowth oriented practices and policies. After the presentation, there was a productive discussion with the rest of the academic staff of CIIE about the feasibility of degrowth and the urgency of climate change in relation to degrowth practices.



Events we organised

22 September 2026 - INTEL-DELaw Workshop

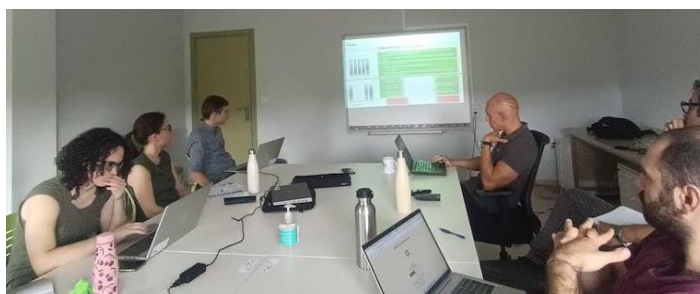
This online workshop constituted a major moment of thinking, full of promises for the future. We met with Kaisa Huhta's team as part of the [INTEL](#) project, funded by the ERC on the same year as DELaw and working on the development of the general doctrine of energy law. The team working at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) is making fast progress on topics such as the principles of energy law or the Energy Efficiency First principle. We are going to come across these very topics in our own research, especially when we start engaging into our Research Stream 2 in 2027, analysing the (mining-energy) regime for batteries. Stay alert because you are likely to see us together at a number of events over the coming years!



29 September 2026 - Workshop with Pablo Saralegui Díez, from ALIMENTTA

[ALIMENTTA](#) is a Spanish thinktank researching the agri-food transition in Spain. In 2025, they released [an impressive report](#) with scenarios for an ecological transition of this system by 2050, sketching an agri-food sector in balance with its carrying capacity, much more resilient and local, creating more jobs, less environmentally impactful and in a word: much more desirable than the existing one.

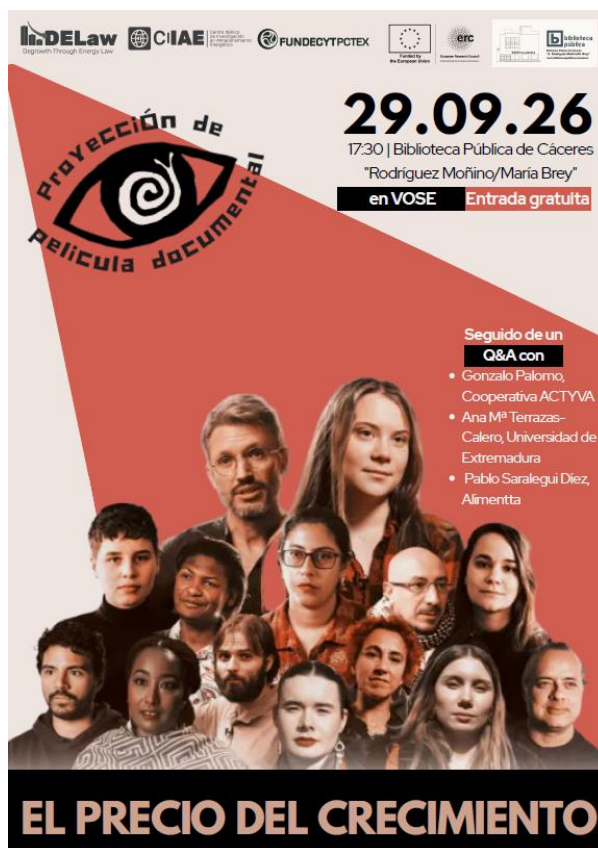
The 2 hours meeting ended up too short given the depth of ALIMENTTA's research as presented by Pablo and the so many intersecting points with our own research. For instance, our degrowth principles resonate significantly with many findings in the agri-food studies. We can only suggest our readers to have a look at this great work!



29 September 2026 - Screening of Movie 'The cost of Growth'

On the afternoon of the same day, we organised the screening of the documentary movie [The Cost of Growth](#), released in 2025. An event we started organising at the start of the summer and for which we gathered around 30 people at the public library of Cáceres, because degrowth is not to remain on campuses.

The screening was followed by a Q&A with Gonzalo Palomo Guijarro from the integral cooperative ACTYVA, Ana María Terrazas-Calero from LINGLAP (Research Institute for Linguistics and Applied Languages) at the Universidad de Extremadura and Pablo Saralegui-Díez from ALIMENTTA. This was the occasion to take the movie home, and to move from the struggles in Serbia, Sápmi and Italy to the ones in Spain, Extremadura and Cáceres, where people also face extractivism for the transition but already engage into the forms of social organization for a degrowth-oriented future, especially through cooperatives.



Events we attended

- 16-19 June 2026 – Aretina participated in the conference '**Degrowth: Bridging Green and Just in Central and Eastern Europe**', organised by Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. During the conference, Aretina presented 'Legal Embeddings of Degrowth: Lessons from the Czech Republic', introducing the preliminary DELaw legal framework and some initial applications to the Czech legal system, one of the project's case studies. The presentation explored the role that law can play in enabling a degrowth society and sparked a constructive discussion that provided valuable feedback for further refining both the framework and its empirical application focusing on Central and Eastern Europe.



- 9-10 July 2026 – Romain delivered a talk on the occasion of the 3rd **ELAWNET conference**, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Oslo, Norway. The speech was entitled as follow: "Grounding Law in Science: How to reshape EU energy law with the degrowth theory to achieve decarbonisation?" It was the occasion to address fellow energy lawyers with the difficult questions raised by degrowth. The intervention spurred a vivid conversation during the day. The conference day itself was followed by a PhD school on the 10th, to which Romain participated too, providing guidance to PhD candidates in the field.



- 12 July 2026 - Only 2 days after the previous event in Oslo, our dear colleague Marios Iacovides organised a symposium named **Imagining a Post-Growth EU**, at the University of Uppsala, in Sweden. This was the occasion for both Romain and Konstantinos to attend it, given that Uppsala is Konstantinos' University of PhD registration. The symposium brought perspectives about post-growth, shared by legal and non-legal academics, as well as from convinced degrowthers and more critical ones. It made for a very rich event to bring ideas home.



- 1-3 September 2026 - Inês participated in the **ELU-S Conference**, hosted by Universidade Católica de Lisboa. The conference, themed 'Words or Deeds? The European Moment', invited participants to critically examine Europe's articulated values and their practical realisation. Inês participated in the panel 'European Law at the Intersection of Power, Politics, and Economics', where she presented her working paper, 'The Legal Production of Space: The role of law in achieving sufficiency in housing'. The paper explores how degrowth principles - particularly the principle of sufficiency - can be advanced through legal frameworks, using housing as a case study.

News and Opportunities

International Degrowth and Law Conference

Our project, in cooperation with three universities (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad de Granada), is organising the **International Degrowth and Law Conference: critical reflections about the role of law towards a post-growth society**, which will take place on 11-12 May 2027 at the Complejo Cultural San Francisco, in Cáceres, Spain.

The conference committee welcomes contributions of any branch of the law, as long as the research is about law and growth-critical/degrowth/post-growth frameworks in any geography (national, regional, international). Abstracts of 300-500 words can be submitted until 6 November 2026. **The full call for papers can be found [here](#).**

