

PRESS RELEASE

Coding the Future: Energy Data Hackdays Expand to French-speaking Switzerland

LAUSANNE, Switzerland. May 7, 2026 – To foster innovation and collaboration in the Swiss energy sector, the Energy Data Innovation Hub (EDIH) has partnered with the Swiss Data Science Center (SDSC) to expand its signature hackathon to French-speaking Switzerland. Held at the new SDSC headquarters at Biopôle in Lausanne, the [Energy Data Hackdays](#) gather 100 experts for 36 hours to tackle 5 real-world climate and grid challenges using shared datasets and advanced analytics.

Following seven successful editions in Brugg-Windisch, Switzerland's largest energy data hackathon will be held in the Canton of Vaud for the first time. This expansion aims to strengthen collaboration among local and national utilities, grid operators, regulators, researchers, and talent, advancing nationwide energy data solutions – particularly in data availability, protection, and cybersecurity.

*“The core mission of the Energy Data Hackdays is to connect partners with future professionals and to define and implement rapid prototypes for digitization challenges facing the Swiss energy sector, such as secure peer-to-peer energy data exchange in local electricity communities, behind-the-meter optimization algorithms, balancing group management, or sector coupling applications,” said **Ray Neubauer**, Program Lead at the EDIH. “Attracting talent and accelerating innovation is critical to foster national energy data accessibility and system interoperability while ensuring data privacy and cybersecurity and informing regulation for a secure future energy system.”*

Proven Impact and Foresight

The Energy Data Hackdays have consistently generated implementable solutions while anticipating key industry trends years in advance.

- **Track Record:** Across seven editions, the program has produced validated [outcomes](#) demonstrating measurable impact. For example, a [2023 AEW challenge](#) on district heating networks optimization achieved an estimated 30% efficiency gain.
- **Forward Insight:** Hackathon themes routinely surface emerging priorities three to four years early. A [2022 smart-meter challenge](#), for instance, informed subsequent developments in customer interface solutions, underscoring the event's role as a strategic barometer for regulators, innovators, and the public.

*“Accessible, high-quality data underpins the energy sector's digital transformation,” said **Dr. Roberto Castello**, Energy & Sustainability Domain Lead at the SDSC. “Through this hackathon, applied data science can spark interoperable, ad-hoc solutions to enhance grid management, renewable integration, and asset resilience while strengthening a more sustainable energy system.”*

*“The digital transformation of Switzerland's energy system is critical to ensuring long-term security of supply,” said **Dr. Matthias Galus**, Head Digital Innovation at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office of Energy (SFOE). “By fostering open innovation, the Energy Data Hackdays serve as a strategic*

catalyst for digitalization – positioning itself as Switzerland’s leading platform for collaborative innovation in the energy sector.”

From Data Transparency to Building Efficiency and Grid Forecasting

2026 Challenges explore regional and national energy data topics, including:

- **Estimating Hourly Energy Production for Switzerland – placed by SFOE**

The *Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE)* challenges data innovators to harmonize national electricity production data, combining official records with high-frequency European datasets to create Switzerland’s first consistent hourly generation map.

- **Swiss GlassScan – led by the SDSC**

Addressing the Window-to-Wall Ratio (WWR) and using computer vision and street-level imagery, this challenge aims to replace national data gaps and rough estimates with precise, building-specific thermal models with improved accuracy in assessing heat loss and gain.

- **GridPulseMT – placed by Romande Energie**

Participants are challenged to develop high-precision, day-ahead load forecasting for the Vaud grid, combining 15-minute smart meter data with local weather inputs and empowering consumers to shift usage to periods of high renewable supply and lower grid stress.

- **Designing pocket and grid-friendly electricity communities – led by HSLU**

Participants will develop innovative models for local virtual electricity self-consumption communities (vZEV) that balance economic benefits for residents with grid stability, driving Switzerland’s decentralized and renewable energy future through data-driven collaboration.

- **Anticipating grid imbalances in Switzerland’s energy transition – hosted by HEIG VD**

Participants will analyze historical data to model how volatile renewable sources affect grid equilibrium. The goal is to develop predictive tools that ensure future grid reliability while Switzerland shifts toward a sustainable energy landscape.

About the Energy Data Innovation Hub (EDIH)

The Energy Data Innovation Hub (EDIH) is the central platform driving the digital transformation of the Swiss energy sector. As a non-profit association, they turn data into action, bridging the gap between research and industrial application. EDIH is the Platform for Data-Driven Energy Innovation delivering concrete results towards a secure, sustainable and affordable Energy Supply across Switzerland. More information:

<https://www.energydatahackdays.ch/edih-energy-data-innovation-hub>

About the Swiss Data Science Center (SDSC)

The Swiss Data Science Center (SDSC) is a national research infrastructure in data science and artificial intelligence (AI), founded by EPFL and ETH Zurich. Its mission - to enable data-driven science and innovation for societal impact - drives its initiatives in research projects, knowledge and technology transfer, and education. With a large multidisciplinary team of professionals in Lausanne, Zurich and Villigen, the SDSC provides expertise and services to various domains, such as health and biomedical sciences, energy and sustainability, climate and environment, and large-scale scientific infrastructures. The SDSC also contributes to initial and executive education programs at EPFL and ETH Zurich. For more information please visit: www.datascience.ch

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