

Energy Entrepreneurship Workshop

Quthing, Lesotho | 21–22 November 2025

LETSEMA Project

Overview

Under the LETSEMA project, a partnership between Bethel Business and Community Development Centre (Lesotho), the University of Turku (Finland), Linnaeus University (Sweden), and the National University of Lesotho, a two-day Energy Entrepreneurship Workshop was held in Quthing on 21–22 November 2025. The workshop brought together 20 rural youth and was designed to build both technical skills and entrepreneurial capacity, preparing participants to become active contributors to the clean energy sector.

Day 1 - 21 November 2025: Solar Skills and Entrepreneurial Insights

The first day focused on building foundational knowledge in solar technology and entrepreneurship. Key sessions covered:

- **Solar Microcredentials:** Participants learned about practical training courses offered at BBCDC that develop hands-on expertise in solar technology.
- **Energy Entrepreneurship:** Sessions explored how renewable energy can serve as the foundation for viable business ventures.
- **Insights from an Energy Entrepreneur:** A guest speaker shared first-hand experiences from the field, discussing real challenges and successes.

Day 2 - 22 November 2025: Financing and Innovation Protection

The second day shifted focus to the business and legal frameworks that underpin sustainable entrepreneurship:

- **Financing Institutions in Lesotho:** Youth were introduced to local funding opportunities and guided on how to access capital for energy projects.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** Participants received training on protecting their innovations and safeguarding new ideas as their businesses grow.

Outcomes

By the end of the workshop, the 20 participants had:

- Identified pathways for gaining accredited renewable energy skills.
- Developed an understanding of how to build business models around energy solutions.
- Learned how to access financing and protect their innovations.
- Built networks with peers and mentors committed to advancing rural energy access.

Closing Note

The workshop was more than a training event, it was a launchpad for rural youth empowerment. Armed with new knowledge, skills, and connections, participants left equipped and motivated to drive change in their communities, using clean energy as a tool for sustainable development and economic opportunity.