Agora Energiewende

Agora Industry

Agora Agriculture

Agora Think Tanks Annual Report

Our impact in 2025

Content

Foreword 3

Our year in numbers 4

Our mission and work 6

Our team 7

Finances 7

Our work around the globe 8

Agora Energiewende 10

What happened in the last year 10

Lighthouse project: An efficient energy transition 11

Lighthouse project: Designing energy infrastructure for a climate-neutral Europe 12

Lighthouse project: Making Southeast Asia's power systems transition-ready 13

Agora Industry 14

What happened in the last year 14

Lighthouse project: Driving green steel labelling 15

Agora Agriculture 16

What happened in the last year 16

Lighthouse project: Towards food policies that support healthy and sustainable consumption 17

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Agora Think Tanks — Annual report 2025

Foreword

Dear reader,

2025 was a year of growing political headwinds for climate and energy transition policies. Across countries and sectors, changing political priorities and concerns around competitiveness, affordability and energy security shaped the debate. At the same time, civil society organisations in many parts of the world face growing pressure.

These developments come at a time when scientific evidence on human-induced climate change is unequivocal, and its impacts are increasingly visible. Droughts and heat waves, melting glaciers and rising sea levels are already imposing growing environmental, economic and human costs. Well-designed climate policies can help address these challenges while also strengthening economic resilience, reducing reliance on fossil fuel imports and supporting a fair transition.

History shows that progress has never been linear. Periods of resistance and political change have repeatedly been followed by renewed momentum – and 2025 was no exception. Many positive examples around the world show that policymakers, industry and citizens are willing to accelerate the transition: South Korea, for instance, has decided to close down all coal-fired power plants by 2040, while Europe's steel industry is moving ahead with more than 25 million tonnes of near-zero-emission steel capacity in the project pipeline, including around 10 million tonnes already under construction. Pakistan saw an astonishing expansion of solar power, with an estimated 17 gigawatts of solar PV imports in 2025.

Looking ahead, there remains a clear opportunity to accelerate the shift towards clean energy, industry and agricultural systems. Delivering on this potential requires pragmatic and forward-looking policies, sustained investment and constructive dialogue across governments, businesses and civil society. At Agora Think Tanks, we work every day to develop feasible and evidence-based policy solutions that move the needle for the transition. As the political and economic context continues to evolve, our focus remains on identifying pathways that can work in practice. We sincerely thank our partners, stakeholders and funders for their continued collaboration and trust.

With best regards,

Frauke Thies and Markus Steigenberger
Managing Directors, Agora Think Tanks



Our year in numbers

55
Publications

The Agora Think Tanks released and commissioned 55 studies, policy briefs and other publications in 2025, providing in-depth analyses, comprehensive policy recommendations and concise summaries for policymakers and stakeholders.

8,400
News mentions

In 2025, the Agora Think Tanks were mentioned around 8,000 times in news articles and cited in 450 TV and radio reports. A wide range of media quoted our experts, picked up our studies and highlighted our findings – from international news agencies and large newspapers in various countries to a multitude of regional papers, specialist publications and industry journals.

14.5 bn
Reach

Agora's work has received broad international attention: our studies and findings were covered in 42 different languages on 6 continents. The three Agora Think Tanks gained a cumulated reach of more than 14.5 billion.

1.35 mn
Agora website visits

The Agora Think Tanks websites attracted more than 1.35 million visits in 2025. This is a slight increase on last year, largely based on strong use of our tools like the Agorameter, successful flagship publications and AI search optimisation of our frontend.

53,000
LinkedIn followers

The Agora brand accounts saw 20 percent growth on social media in the last year, now attracting close to 53,000 followers for Agora Energiewende, Agora Industry and Agora Agriculture. They are accompanied by strong expert accounts who keep up our high engagement and visibility across social media networks.

83
Events and workshops

28 public events were organised by the Agora Think Tanks in 2025, covering all major sectors of our work. In online webinars and in-person events across Berlin, Shanghai, Bangkok and Brussels we showcased our work and opened the floor for exchanges with experts, stakeholders and the interested public. Additionally, our experts were invited to participate in numerous external panels, discussions and presentations.

Our mission and work

The Agora Think Tanks – Agora Energiewende, Agora Industry and Agora Agriculture – develop politically feasible and science-based strategies and solutions for the transformation to climate neutrality in all sectors of the economy – in Germany, Europe and internationally. Along with overarching questions of climate policy, the successful transformation to a climate-neutral energy system is at the core of our work.

Based on our expertise, we inform decisionmakers and facilitate a productive exchange of ideas. As a reference to the marketplace in ancient Greece as a centre of mutual exchange, we see our name as a mandate to engage in intensive dialogue with key stakeholders involved in the transition to climate neutrality – from politics and civil society to business and science. Because no single institution can tackle the complexity of the transition from fossil fuels to renewables and to climate neutrality, Agora is active in a global network of think tanks advancing the net-zero transition.

Through the Agora Council for Germany, the Agora Council for Europe as well as the Council of Agora Agriculture, leading stakeholders from politics, science, business and civil society meet on a regular basis to exchange on current issues concerning energy, climate, agricultural and industrial policy

and to discuss the results of our research. The Councils are places of open and honest discussion and exchange – underpinned by scientific expertise.

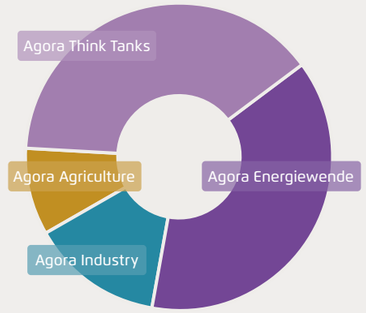
As non-partisan, non-profit organisations funded by foundations and public institutions, we are independent of corporate and political interests.

Our exclusive mission is to serve the climate and the common good. In our work for climate action and within our organisation, we are guided by the principles of transparency, independence and mutual respect.



Agora Energiewende, Agora Industry and Agora Agriculture sit under the executive management of Agora Think Tanks, with shared communications and administrative functions provided at the Agora Think Tanks level. The three organisations work closely together and collaborate with their sister organisation Agora Verkehrswende. Together, as "Agora Think Tanks", we combine expertise in all central sectors – agriculture, industry, electricity, transport and heat – and work on overarching solutions for a successful path to climate neutrality.

Our team



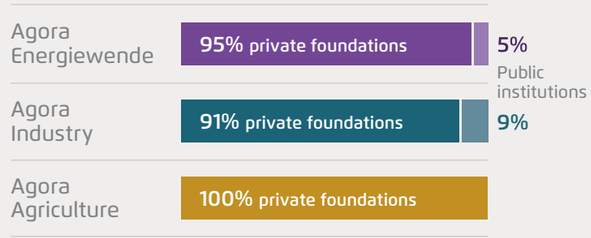
36 nationalities | **175** team members

The interdisciplinary and international team at Agora Think Tanks combines technical, economic, political and strategic communications expertise in all sectors of the economy relevant to the transition to climate neutrality. The Agora Think Tanks provide central services such as administration and finance. Agora Energiewende, the largest of the think tanks, combines experts on the overarching energy and climate policy as well as on the power sector and heat transition, with teams working in more than 20 different geographies from Germany and the EU to Southeast and East Asia. Our colleagues collaborate closely with our strategic partner in Beijing, Agora Energy China, and other partners across the International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks (INETTT), which is active in more than 20 countries around the globe. China. Agora Industry covers technologies and sectors relevant to the industrial transition in Germany, Europe, Latin America, Southeast Asia and South Africa while Agora Agriculture focuses on food, agriculture and forestry policy in Germany and the EU.

Finances

Agora Think Tanks gGmbH is a non-profit legal entity funded by grants from private foundations and public institutions. Agora does not conduct commissioned research. To ensure its independence, Agora Think Tanks gGmbH strives for a diverse funding structure and does not accept financial support from companies. Funding from the Federal Republic of Germany is generally used to carry out international projects.

In the financial year 2025, Agora Think Tanks received 22,841,987.82 EUR in earmarked donations and grants. Approximately 95 percent of these grants came from private foundations and 5 percent from government donors. 3,057,338.04 EUR were forwarded to 24 partner organisations in 18 countries. These partner organisations are independent energy and climate think tanks. Our Think Tanks received the following earmarked donations and grants: 15,606,721.85 EUR for Agora Energiewende; 5,309,750.67 EUR for Agora Industry; and 1,925,515.30 EUR for Agora Agriculture. The donations and grants received in 2025 but as yet unused at the end of the reporting period are carried forward for use in the following year.



Donation income	EUR
received in the reporting period	22,841,987.82
+ from previous years used	+7,553,853.72
– in the reporting period not yet used	–6,935,764.01
= income in the reporting period	**23,460,077.53**

Our work around the globe

3 Agora Think Tanks offices

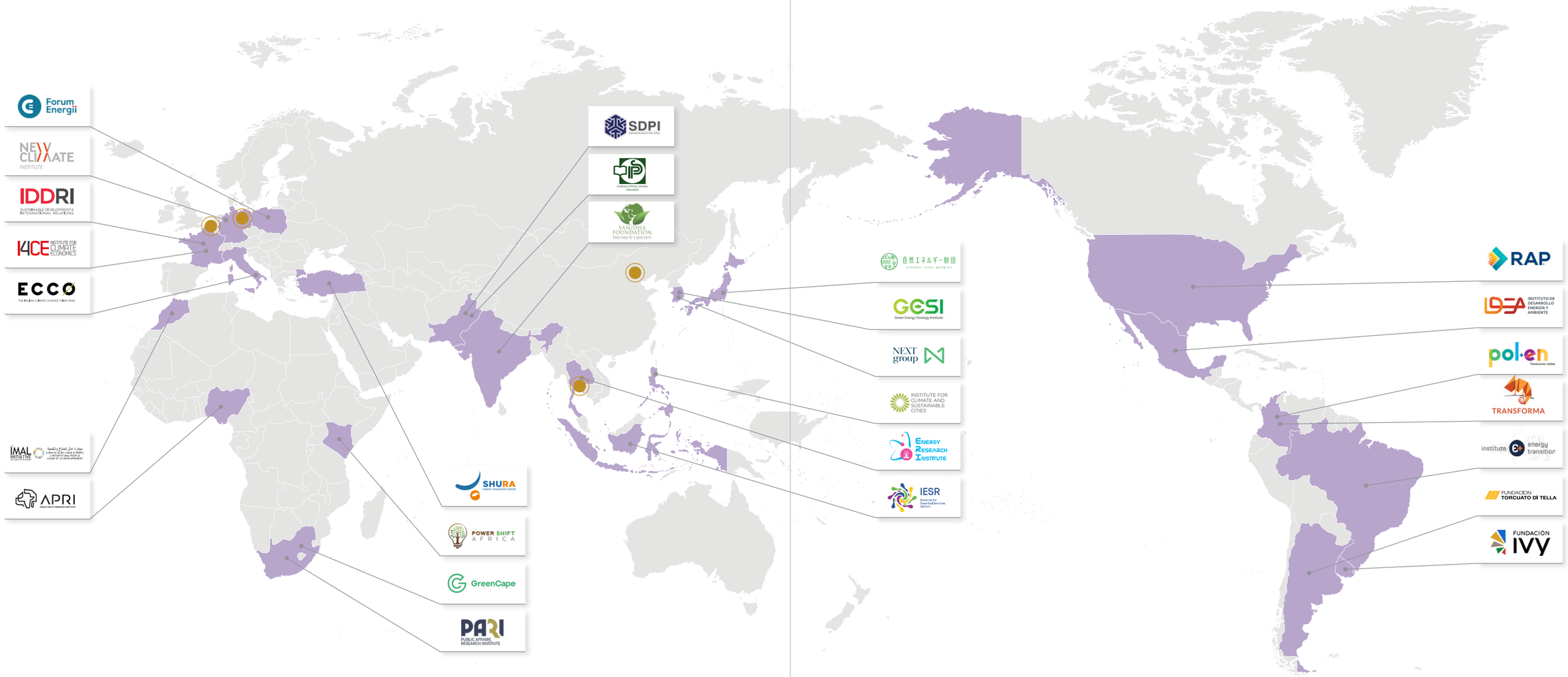
Agora Think Tanks is active in a variety of regions and countries around the world, with offices in Berlin, Brussels and Bangkok. We furthermore cooperate with a wide network of other organisations, including our strategic partner based in Beijing, Agora Energy China.

Agora Think Tanks — Annual report 2025

29 Partners across the International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks (INETTT)

INETTT
International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks

All partners in INETTT are committed to a clean and just energy transition. Across the diverse network, we share knowledge and skills, conduct research and work with policymakers, industry and civil society on accelerating the energy and industrial transition towards climate neutrality.



What happened in the last year

At Agora Energiewende, 75 experts worked on power system transformation and the decarbonisation of the built environment. Together with our partners, the team analyses challenges and develops feasible policy solutions in ~20 countries around the globe.

Geopolitical instability and high energy prices made industrial competitiveness, security and resilience the dominant policy priorities of 2025, pushing traditional climate narratives into the background. Yet as renewable and storage costs continued to drop, Agora's work demonstrated that clean electrification and resilient energy infrastructure strengthen long-term competitiveness, shield economies from price shocks and ensure power system security.

In Germany, 2025 was largely a year of political transition, without major changes in energy and climate policy at the federal level. Following the snap elections in February, the new governing coalition reaffirmed its commitment to Germany's goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2045 in the coalition treaty and promised to make the energy transition more cost-efficient for consumers, businesses and the state. To this end, it commissioned a comprehensive monitoring of the energy transition. Although the monitoring report confirmed that the energy transition is on track, the Ministry of Economic Affairs announced a realignment of energy policy. Agora Energiewende contributed to the ongoing debate with analysis and policy recommendations, showing how a continued build-out of renewables coupled with local power prices, innovative financing solutions for energy grids and socially targeted subsidies for building modernisation lead to an efficient and effective energy transition.

In Europe, affordable energy and industrial competitiveness took centre stage as policymakers sought to safeguard Europe's economic foundation. Agora's work highlighted how renewables and the rapid electrification of industry and heating offer a primary lever to boost competitiveness while shielding businesses and households from volatile fossil fuel imports. Complementing this, Agora demonstrated that strategic energy infrastructure development is vital for low-cost power, helping shape a modern framework for European energy security. Following the April 2025 Iberian blackout, Agora provided targeted analysis on power system resilience, identifying key lessons in grid stability to protect Europe's interconnected grid against cascading disruptions. These efforts showed that industrial competitiveness, clean infrastructure and system resilience are mutually reinforcing pillars of Europe's economic future.

In South East Asia, energy security and affordability dominated energy policy agendas in 2025. Governments faced the challenge of meeting rapidly growing electricity demand while diversifying power systems and expanding renewable energy. Concurrently, the growing uptake of distributed energy resources and electrification is changing the requirements for grid planning, investment and system operations. Agora's work examined how power systems across the region can become fit for changing energy systems, while working with partners across the region to bring greater attention to the role of grid modernisation and system flexibility in policy discussions.

Lighthouse project: An efficient energy transition

Agora Energiewende's unique combination of cross-sectoral expertise and its role as convenor and communicator have been instrumental in supporting Germany's energy transition momentum amid political and industry opposition.

When the incumbent administration signalled a shift from the previous governments' renewables focus, Agora Energiewende leveraged its expertise across the industry, heating, transport and power sectors. The team provided a comprehensive analytical foundation for policy decisions that prioritise the energy transition, while at the same time focusing on affordability, cost efficiency and security of supply on Germany's path to achieving its climate targets.

With our report *Efficient energy transition,* complemented by a study on renewables' impact on wholesale prices, Agora demonstrated that lowering renewable expansion targets would be short-sighted, expensive and counterproductive to climate goals and resilience against fossil fuel price shocks.

Agora's convening efforts further amplified impact. By coordinating closely with think tanks and NGOs (including BUND, Germanwatch, BEE, bne, BWE and EPICO) and engaging in targeted media briefings, Agora ensured its analysis shaped both the monitoring process and public debate. The teams' cross-sectoral expertise, particularly in addressing the contentious question of future electricity demand, provided a robust counterpoint to industry lobbying and political pushback against the transition.

The coalition's review of the energy transition, termed a "reality check", presented a critical juncture. The scientific report published in September 2025 offered a clear fact base that generally supported prior policy decisions, including the roadmap for wind and solar capacity additions. However, the government then provided a 10-point plan to slow down the built-out of renewables by focusing on market-based instruments, technological pragmatism and grid synchronisation. Agora's expert role was evident as our work was widely cited both within the scientific report, as well as in media coverage of the monitoring report, highlighting discrepancies between the government's 10-point plan and analytical findings. Agora's point-by-point social media analysis and our public event in October 2025 further underscored these results. Our report and statement were mentioned in more than 100 German news outlets, including major newspapers, policy briefs and specialised press. They also received considerable international coverage.

This coordinated effort, which was part of a broader NGO initiative, contributed to the government's November 2025 coalition committee resolution. In a significant departure from earlier signals, the government committed to an ambitious renewables roadmap. While concerns about potential slowdown through indirect instruments remain and will require ongoing critical monitoring, the commitment provides an important basis for maintaining momentum and translating ambition into implementation.



Lighthouse project: Designing energy infrastructure for a climate-neutral Europe

In November 2025, Agora Energiewende, along with think tank partners in Poland, Romania, France and Italy, published its report *Designing energy infrastructure for a climate-neutral Europe.* Based on two years of extensive modelling and stakeholder outreach, the report outlines how modelling and planning can better align with an energy system in transition and the savings that could be achieved by planning Europe's energy infrastructure through a more integrated lens.

Agora released its findings before the Commission released its 'Grids Package' – a set of legislation intended to accelerate grid development across Europe. The Grids Package laid out a framework for infrastructure planning that included Agora's key recommendation for a more independent, integrated scenario to be used in infrastructure modelling and planning. In a press conference announcing the Grids Package, the Commissioner for Energy and Housing referenced the Agora study findings as grounds for the recommendations in the package.

Agora's project considered integration across Europe and across energy sectors in several scenarios, building upon a recognised open-source model. Project outputs included a detailed and technical report from our consultants at Fraunhofer IEG, Fraunhofer ISI and d-fine, a dataset and model which can be used for additional analysis and an Agora brief, which included several policy recommendations. Key among those were:

- → Top-down, integrated, independent and transparent energy system modelling is needed to guide infrastructure planning. Such modelling provides a clear picture of the system that we need to build towards, while enabling the identification of solutions and synergies across energy systems. Our modelling also highlights the critical need for independence and transparency to ensure robust outputs.
- → Infrastructure planning needs to reflect the direction of the energy system: an increased focus on electricity infrastructure is needed to support Europe's future energy system; a cluster-based infrastructure approach should be developed for molecules (methane, hydrogen and CO_2).
- → Using energy system modelling to identify priority corridors for infrastructure investments, especially for the electricity grid, could increase the benefits of participating in European energy markets. Identifying these benefits could incentivise greater coordination between regions and Member States to accelerate build-out of the energy system needed to realise those benefits.

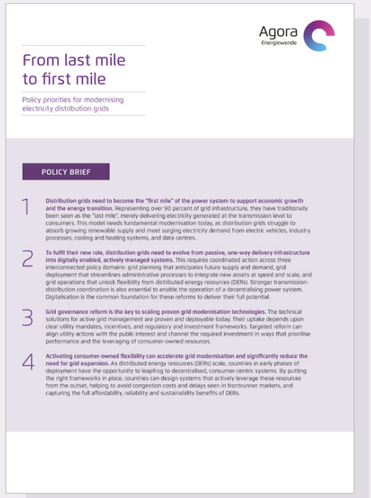
Europe faces tension between the recognised need to move towards a more integrated energy system and growing pressures towards national approaches. Against this backdrop, Agora's work has provided an analytical basis for ongoing discussions around governance structures for integrated infrastructure planning, thus underpinning Europe's competitiveness, security and climate goals. We are now digging deeper into our foundational analysis to address costs and benefits for individual countries. This additional work will provide concrete analysis to inform approaches to cost allocation that ensure that countries see the benefits of energy system integration.



Lighthouse project: Making Southeast Asia's power systems transition-ready

Southeast Asia's power system transition debates are increasingly moving beyond questions of generation capacity to the challenges of integrating renewables and rapidly growing electricity demand. Grid stability, adequacy and resilience are consequently garnering attention, but the policy implications are complex and highly dependent on national power system structures and institutions. Agora's work has focused on deepening these debates: developing an evidence base for grid modernisation and system flexibility, while strengthening the ecosystem of actors able to translate and advance these ideas in their own policy contexts.

A central element of this work has been Agora's Grid Policy Toolkit, which developed an evidence base for treating grid expansion and modernisation, renewable deployment and electrification as interconnected policy issues. Rather than seeing grid constraints as a reason to slow electrification, the toolkit explores how anticipatory planning, faster connections and flexible demand can help manage grid needs while enabling power system transition.



In Southeast Asia, Agora's analytical frameworks have been complemented by sustained engagement with partners across the region. Through trainings, workshops and strategic exchanges in 2025, such as our series of 'Breaking the Gridlock' training workshops held in Bangkok and Islamabad, Agora has helped build the knowledge and confidence needed to engage with grids and system flexibility as policy questions, rather than purely technical ones. Through these activities, the aim goes beyond simply disseminating Agora's analyses, but to empower a wider ecosystem of actors to interpret these issues through local power system realities and to carry the discussions into national policy processes.

In *From last mile to first mile,* Agora put the spotlight on distribution grids as one of the key pressure points of the power system transition, showing how distributed energy resources and flexibility can turn grid constraints into an opportunity, thus reducing the need for conventional reinforcement while speeding up connections for new renewable generation and electrified demand.

What happened in the last year

Agora Industry

In 2025, Agora Industry's team of 32 experts worked across Europe, China, Latin America, Southeast Asia and South Africa to advance industrial transformation in a challenging global context.

Shifting geopolitics and trade tensions, the current fossil fuel crisis and high energy prices – particularly in Europe – intensified the urgency for industrial change. At the same time, renewed focus on industrial policy created key opportunities.

Agora Industry worked with partners and stakeholders across the International Network of Energy transition Think Tanks (INETTT) and other research institutes, industry and civil society to advance a resilient, climate-neutral industry. We focused on issues such as accelerating electrification and other key decarbonisation solutions as well as the markets, infrastructure and international cooperation needed to scale green industrial value chains. This included strategies for a climate-neutral and resilient German chemicals sector and the steel sector in Southeast Asia; industrial electrification across countries; green lead markets, circular economy strategies, green iron trade, steel standards and the role of the Sondervermögen. Ahead of the EU elections and Commission renewal, Agora Industry helped shape the debate on a Clean Industrial Deal through high-level engagement in Brussels.

→ **Accelerating industrial decarbonisation through electrification and green hydrogen:** Industrial heat remains a major source of emissions. Agora Industry identified cost-effective electrification solutions and mapped industrial electrification potential across Europe, highlighting it as a pillar of the low-carbon transition. We also highlighted the need for targeted public investment in green hydrogen, particularly in renewable-rich countries such as Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia. We also contributed to global debates on carbon capture and storage (CCS), emphasising its limited role in sectors such as cement amid ongoing technical and economic uncertainties.

→ **Creating the infrastructure, investment conditions and markets needed for green industry:** Agora Industry worked on policies to support infrastructure build-out and affordable renewable electricity and green hydrogen, including infrastructure planning, financing and the design of effective price-support mechanisms. We also examined de-risking instruments to create favourable economic and financial conditions for investment in key industrial decarbonisation technologies, combining incentives, risk-sharing and regulatory certainty while addressing carbon leakage. On the demand side, we promoted green public procurement, product standards and embodied-carbon regulations to increase transparency, stimulate material efficiency, create green lead markets and turn sustainability into a competitive advantage. This included work on green iron trade, steel standards, circular economy strategies and carbon-based product requirements.

→ **Strengthening international cooperation and green industrial value chains:** In response to geopolitical tensions and growing concerns about economic resilience, we developed trade strategies to support low-carbon industrial value chains and global green markets. This included dialogue on the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in key regions such as China, work on bilateral partnerships, de-risking and offtake mechanisms, global standards and technology transfer. We highlighted the role of emerging economies in driving green industrialisation, particularly in countries with abundant renewable resources, and used Brazil's 2024 G20 presidency and 2025 COP presidency to emphasise the importance of international collaboration alongside domestic manufacturing.

Lighthouse project: Driving green steel labelling

In recent years, Agora Industry has played a leading role in turning "green steel labels" into one of the clearest signs of progress in the transformation of heavy industry. Green steel labels are essential to creating markets for climate-friendly steel: they define what "low carbon" actually means by setting clear definitions and transparent emission thresholds, making it possible to distinguish truly low-emission steel from conventional production. Building on earlier work in 2021/2022, when Agora joined international experts in developing the sliding scale approach that grades steel according to its emission intensity, Agora Industry worked closely with the IEA to shape the conceptual architecture that later became the basis for several national standards. In parallel, Agora also began actively contributing to stakeholder consultations under the Clean Energy Ministerial's Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI), helping to shape consistent standards and definitions for low- and near-zero emission steel across member countries including Canada, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, UK and the United States. The sliding scale architecture also informed the Low Emission Steel Standard (LESS) adopted by the German steel association in summer 2024. Countries taking steps toward a definition now account for nearly 70 percent of global steel production.

In 2025, Agora Industry contributed to discussions on how major public investment aligns with industrial decarbonisation. In the context of the German government's EUR 500 billion infrastructure investment package announced in July 2025, Agora contributed to consultations on how this funding could be directed towards green lead markets. Our response highlighted concrete ways to tie public investment to transparent green labels, ensuring that procurement and infrastructure spending reward low-emission materials. At the European level, Agora has been contributing to the development of the EU Industrial Acceleration Act (IAA), participating in stakeholder processes and consultations, helping ensure that steel labels are included in the Commission's forthcoming proposal. Key decision makers, including DG GROW, have cited our lead market study, and have asked Agora for advice on finding compromises between various market actors. Internationally, at COP30 in Belém Responsible Steel announced an agreement with the Low Emission Steel Standard (LESS) and the China Iron and Steel Association (CISA).


Achieving climate-neutral steel by 2050

How the steel sector can shift from coal-based to clean production

Agora Industry

POLICY BRIEF

1 Emissions from steel production – responsible for roughly eight percent of global greenhouse gas emissions – plateaued in 2021, signaling a potential turning point and a strategic opportunity to accelerate the transition towards green steelmaking. While this slowdown is due mainly to lower output rather than cleaner production routes, the sector now faces a pivotal moment: with 70 percent of blast furnaces due for reinvestment in the next decade, capital can be redirected towards near-zero technologies, turning the current moment into a springboard for green industrial growth.

2 Hydrogen-based direct reduced iron (H_2-DRI) has become the leading technology for decarbonising primary steel. Announced capacity totals 85 million tonnes (Mt), with several projects under construction. While the proof of concept for H_2-DRI is clear, technology development must be accelerated substantially to reach climate-neutral steel by mid-century. While low-carbon, scrap-based steelmaking could meet roughly half of 2050 demand, the rest must shift to H_2-DRI – adding up to 1,000 Mt of near-zero ironmaking capacity.

3 Achieving this large-scale H_2-DRI capacity increase – up to 50 Mt a year by the late 2030s – will require international collaboration and domestic policy action across the value chain. While the role of broad multilateral cooperation evolves, progress can be built through pragmatic partnerships and alignment among governments, international bodies, steelmakers and buyers – through establishing clean value chains or clear standards for green iron and steel. Domestically, supportive policy frameworks can accelerate investment, reduce risk and stimulate demand to create a viable business case for climate-neutral steel.

4 Once static among heavy emitters, the iron and steel sectors now have producers emerging as global leaders in transforming industry. Countries with established steel industries can build resilient, next-generation steelmaking by defining clear pathways to climate neutrality. Emerging producers have the opportunity to develop competitive, clean steelmaking industries from the outset – driving a global shift towards green heavy industry. As a major anchor for green hydrogen demand, the steel sector's transformation can also create multiplier effects that unlock investments across other industries.

What happened in the last year

In 2025, the team of 17 experts at Agora Agriculture worked on policy options to better combine competitiveness and sustainability in the agriculture and forestry sectors. With our knowledge of land use, food and the bioeconomy, we developed concepts for strengthening long-term food security and strategic autonomy in the EU

As geopolitical tensions and increasing pressure on the EU budget put the Common Agricultural Policy under scrutiny, we developed proposals that target agricultural spending more effectively towards public goods while supporting a competitive agricultural sector.

The beginning of 2025 was dominated by debates on major agricultural and food policy issues ahead of the German federal election in February. Agora Agriculture contributed to these debates by outlining concrete policy options that combine sustainability and competitiveness. These proposals build on our comprehensive EU study on agriculture, forestry and food in a climate-neutral EU.

At the EU level, geopolitical instability and concerns about competitiveness and strategic autonomy increasingly shaped the political agenda, and particularly the debate on the next EU financing period. The European Commission put forward its proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), including a fundamentally new approach to the future funding of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

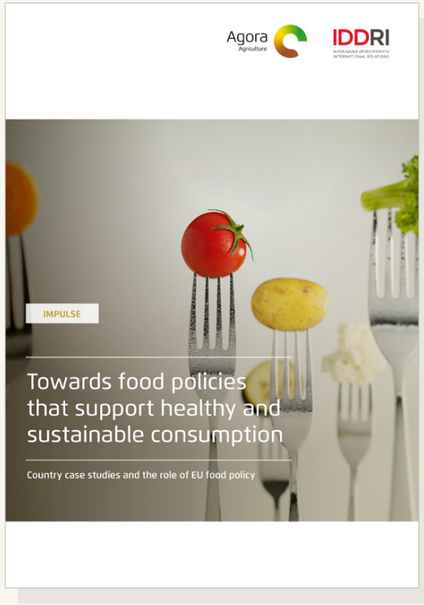
The proposed new structure of the MFF – no longer giving the CAP a separate and prominent position in the EU budget – and increasing competition for public funds highlighted the growing pressure on agricultural spending relative to other priorities such as defence and competitiveness. We contributed to the debate on the next MFF with proposals to target public funds more effectively towards public goods while strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of EU agriculture.

As agriculture, forestry and food are central to strengthening sustainability, resilience and competitiveness in Germany and the EU, we highlighted the importance of the availability of public funds. More targeted spending would improve support for public funding of the agricultural sector, which is needed to contribute to strategic autonomy and long-term food security while delivering on climate and biodiversity objectives.

We also advanced concepts and debates on climate policy for the land-use sectors, sustainable and fair food environments, and a sustainable bioeconomy.

Alongside our analytical and policy work, we further strengthened our networks in Germany, in the Member States and at EU level, deepening exchanges with political institutions and partners.

Towards food policies that support healthy and sustainable consumption



Food policy sits at the intersection of some of Europe's most pressing challenges: food security, public health and environmental sustainability. Changing food consumption patterns has significant, largely untapped potential to address all three at once. Yet demand-side food policies remain underrepresented, and a coordinated approach is still rare among European countries.

By engaging in the debate around food policies, we aimed to close this gap. In 2025 we published the study "Towards food policies that support healthy and sustainable consumption", together with the French think tank IDDRI. We outline the importance of a paradigm shift: instead of relying on education and information alone, we outline the potential of fair food environments – in canteens, schools, workplaces and shops where food choices are made. Key is to improve people's food-related competences while also making healthy and sustainable options more available, affordable and appealing.

Drawing on eleven country case studies, we identified promising policy instruments already in use and examined the policy development process itself, highlighting success factors and the role of national food strategies in negotiating a shared vision across ministries and stakeholders.

The study gained a lot of interest among policy makers particularly, since we presented it ahead of the Danish EU Presidency, engaging with Danish and European policymakers to help shape the presidency's food and agriculture priorities. In May 2025, reaching more than 500 participants from policymaking, civil society and industry stakeholders across several Member States.

We continue to engage with Member States preparing national food strategies and with EU institutions, ensuring demand-side policies stay on the European agenda.

Publication details

About Agora Think Tanks
Agora Energiewende, Agora Industry and Agora Agriculture develop scientifically sound and politically feasible strategies for a successful pathway to climate neutrality – in Germany, Europe and internationally. The organisations which are part of the Agora Think Tanks work independently of economic and partisan interests. Their only commitment is to climate action.

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