

## Parallel Event in Glasgow, Scotland

### OPEN DISCUSSION

The discussion focused on the implementation of the S3P ENERGY, addressing questions from the audience. The main issue was to reach understanding what the new Platform will look like in practice and what one can expect from it. To put it succinctly, the following aspects were raised:

- What kinds of activities or services will the S3P ENERGY offer for regions and Member States?
- What are the first concrete steps to be taken? What will happen next? When?
- What are the mechanisms to channel bottom-up input – i.e. propositions, initiatives and wishes – from the field actors to the Platform? How are these feedback processes organised? Who will assess the suggestions and take decisions? For instance, is there an advisory board or a steering group?
- What is the thematic scope of the the S3P ENERGY? Which sub-fields will it cover? Does it exclude any particular areas?
- What are the tools and practices to promote transregional networking and foster transnational cooperation? What is the Platform's role and offering in facilitating such collaboration with a view to project building?

To begin with, the Smart Specialisation concept was briefly elaborated while all participants were not quite familiar with all its nuances although it lays the foundations of the pertinent approach. The contribution of Cohesion Policy funds and possibilities to combine various funding instruments/programmes were clarified respectively since the question of financing appeared to be of general interest.

Scotland's experiences from the Vanguard Initiative and European energy projects were reflected as a background and a point of comparison. As a topical case shows in Scotland, private investments of multinational energy companies also play a role in piloting state-of-the-art technologies. Furthermore, the extensive reforms carried out during the past two years to reorganize the innovation and business promotion support in Scotland were taken into account to comprehend the contextual prerequisites. All this contemplation pinpointed a few important issues from the Scottish perspective:

- The central role of oil and gas industry in Scotland as well as possibilities to transfer technological know-how from this sector to renewable energy sources
- Focus on power generation in **harsh environmental conditions** (e.g. offshore renewable projects on wind, wave and tidal energy)
- Two specific areas of interest:
  1. **carbon capture and storage (CCS)**
  2. **renewable energy storage**

In sum, it was concluded that energy is a significant priority for Scotland and the choice of Scotland as a location for launching the S3P ENERGY was well founded. Scotland is chairing the energy dimension of the Vanguard Initiative, among other things.