AGENDA

Venue: EIT House (Rue Guimard, 7, 4th floor, 1040 Brussels)

This workshop is jointly organised as part of the Stairway to Excellence (S2E) project and the Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3PEnergy) initiative, managed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission (EC), in close cooperation with DG REGIO and DG ENER.

This workshop aims to test approaches to **improve transnational networking** in the area of smart grids and draw lessons to build a more **diversified approach to cooperation** across territories and European actors in a RIS3 context in the smart grids sector.

Background and Rationale

Digital transformation of the energy sector, in terms of technologies, infrastructures and services, is indeed emerging as a crucial enabler of the energy transition an contribute to the general objectives of the European Green Deal. To support this, a new consistent European framework must be developed for an ambitious, innovative and rapid roll-out of smart grid technology and its digitalised system, facilitating the safe and efficient integration of large-scale renewable production, decentralised renewable energy resources, electric vehicle recharging services, etc. It must consider the technological aspects but also matters of social acceptance and business models.

Building on the international dimension of the smart specialisation approach, **R&I collaboration across territories** contributes to reshape EU-wide value chains and facilitates a more effective innovation policy. Stronger links of regions and regional actors with transnational R&I networks and with actors in other territories across the EU are needed to allow building capacities, exploiting complementing regional R&I existing capabilities, increasing the critical mass and overcoming interregional fragmentation of publicly funded activities across the EU.

The **Working Group "H2020 for RIS3"** on optimising the use of H2020 in implementing smart specialisation has already discussed this crucial need for internationalisation and interregional cooperation in previous meetings. In this event, the members of the Working Group, along with other interested regions and countries and international networks working on Smart Grids, will reflect on the particular area of smart grids, a field involving applications with far-reaching social and economic impact for the European regions.

Smart grids topic has attracted the attention from many European regions, in the context of their smart specialisation strategies (RIS3). About 30 EU regions identified this area as R&I priority in their RIS3. In particular, a group of 12 regions, led by the Basque Country (ES) and South Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (FR) form an **interregional S3 partnership on smart grids** under the S3PEnergy. The aim of this partnership is to highlight the most promising areas in smart grid for regional development, to identify replicability/scalability investment priorities and to allocate funding resources more effectively. Special attention is given to the potential for interregional collaboration, building on existing and future synergies at institutional and industrial level.

The relevance of smart grids and the digital transformation of the energy system in Europe is also reflected in the existence of several **organisations or initiatives supporting smart grids R&I and deployment**, such as ERA-Net Smart Energy Systems, InnoEnergy, ETIP SNET, Connecting Europe Facility programme, ECSEL Joint Undertaking, the BRIDGE initiative, the European Green Vehicles Initiative (EGVI), the Global Smart Grid Federation, the Clean Energy Solutions Centre, and many other interesting EU projects, etc. Specific JRC activities on technical, economic and social issues relating to the power system and energy market transformation will also be presented during the workshop[1].

Target group

The workshop will be open to Managing Authorities and line ministries or intermediate bodies that are responsible for the identification and development of smart grids programmes and projects: the S3 (R&I) responsible authorities and /or representatives from the managing authorities of ESI Funds dealing with energy.

The event will also be open to a limited number of agents from the research and industry sectors.

Objectives

This workshop aims to offer participants an overview on the how/why/who of smart grids in Europe. The **main objective** is to support national/regional authorities and key stakeholders across Europe in planning and designing the allocation of their EU funds for supporting investments in smart grids R&I and deployment during the 2021-2027 programming period. The workshop provides an opportunity to create or reinforce of governance models that allow stronger links with other regions in Europe and with international networks.

Representatives from various EU/international organisations or initiatives will provide the participants with valuable information on smart grids, and the means in which they can be useful for the regions/countries, particularly in view of the new Multiannual Financial Framework. The participating European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Managing Authorities and RIS3 managing agencies will have the opportunity to share experiences and gain better knowledge of ways for setting or improving collaborations with other regions with similar interest and access international networks in the field of smart grids.

The **specific objectives** of the event will be to:

- Showcase R&I initiatives and relevant projects related to smart grids in the EU
- Connect regions with complementary RIS3 priorities / interests related to smart grids

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[1] https://ses.jrc.ec.europa.eu/

- Engage the dialogue between public authorities responsible for Cohesion Policy funding related to Energy, RIS3 managers and other EU and non-EU actors active in the field of smart grids R&I
- Raise awareness on the potential of putting in place measures for stronger collaboration between interested groups of actors -both within regions and with others-, coordinated investment actions with more impact on regional issues, multilateral joint programming, aligned strategies, etc.
- Draw lessons for other areas in the frame of the Working Group "H2020 for RIS3"

Approach

The event is organised with a triple perspective: to provide information, to facilitate networking and to disseminate experiences.

Participants will benefit from direct exposure with representatives from the EC services, from key European initiatives supporting smart grids, and from other regions or countries active in this field. They will be able to apply the knowledge acquired during the workshop in the implementation of their respective programmes, priorities and schemes for the current funding period and in preparation of the new one.

The activities are designed as a mutual learning event where participants may table specific requests, and where ideas, good practices, doubts, questions and potential solutions will be shared and discussed. Participants will have the opportunity to present themselves and the current situation in their region/country. In order to prepare the ground for effective discussion, a session dedicated to policy context will introduce basic information and mechanisms. In the participatory exercises, participants are also expected to (1) interact, (2) identify and elaborate issues, obstacles and barriers, (3) propose policy actions to address these issues, and finally (4) set out collective outcomes.

Timing and venue

Date: This event will take place on 6 February 2020
Venue: EIT House (Rue Guimard, 7 - Brussels)

The event will take place back to back the 4th Meeting of the **Working Group 'H2020 for RIS3'** on optimising the use of H2020 in implementing smart specialisation, **to be held on 7 February**.
The output of this workshop on smart grids will be reported to the WG the day after.
More info here: https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/-/4th-meeting-of-the-working-group-h2020-for-ris3-on-optimising-the-use-of-h2020-in-implementing-smart-specialisation

Some useful acronyms

ESIF European structural and investment funds
OP   Operational Programme
MFF   Multiannual Financial Framework
MAs   Managing authorities
IB   Intermediate Body
S3   Smart Specialisation Strategy

Joint
Research
Centre

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9:00 - 9:30	*Registration and welcome coffee*

9:30 - 10:30	**WELCOME AND CONTEXT SETTING**
	Tour de Table
	
	• *Introduction to the workshop rationale, objectives and methodology*, by **KarelHAEGEMAN** and **Fernando MÉRIDA**, Territorial Development unit, Joint Research Centre (JRC), EC
	
	• *What is Smart Grids (SG) - Vision for the future*, by EC representatives:
	  - **Mathieu FICHTER**, Smart and Sustainable Growth unit, DG REGIO, EC
	  - **Henriette NESHEIM**, Internal Market: Networks & Regional Initiatives unit, DG ENER, EC
	  - **Marcello BARBONI**, Energy Security, Distribution and Markets unit, JRC, EC
	  - *Digital Transformation in Energy*, by **Annita KALPAKA**, Territorial Development unit, JRC, EC
	
	Q&A

10:30 - 11:00	*Coffee and networking*
11:00 - 11:45	**EXPERTS PANEL 1: Identification and involvement of actors to design efficient policies in SG** • **Venizelos EFTHYMIOU**, University of Cyprus and representative of PANTERA[2] and ETIP SNET[3] (Chair of the WG5 on 'Innovation implementation in the business environment') • **Álvaro NOFUENTES**, ETRA Group and representative of the BRIDGE Initiative[4] (Chair of the WG on 'Customer Engagement') • **Sergio SAIZ**, Energy Efficiency and Industrial Sustainability Director at Tecnalia and presenting EIP-SCC[5] • **Roberto ZANGRANDI**, Secretary General at E.DSO for Smart Grids[6]

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[2] https://pantera-platform.eu PAN European Technology Energy Research Approach
[3] https://www.etip-snet.eu ETIP Smart Networks for Energy Transition (SNET)
[4] https://www.h2020-bridge.eu Cooperation group of Smart Grids and Energy Storage H2020 projects
[5] https://eu-smartcities.eu European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities
[6] https://www.edsoforsmartgrids.eu E.DSO European Distribution System Operators

11:45 - 12:45	After the presentations, the audience will be divided into **several groups**. Each group will reflect on the following ideas and questions:
	- *How to attract the interest of the stakeholders;*
	- *How to ensure local actors engagement thus allowing for a common understanding of policies objectives and empowering them to take an active role in the process of smarting of the system.*
	- *How to use the S3 expertise to foster and maintain the bottom-up component inherent to the development of smart grid initiatives; How to carry out effective consultations throughout the whole process.*
	In plenary: the rapporteur for each group reports back on the groups' discussions.
12:45 - 13:45	*Networking lunch*
13.45 - 14:30	**EXPERTS PANEL 2: Internationalisation as a tool for better SG development planning in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**
	Specific focus will be given on: internationalisation and connectedness with the wider EU R&I landscape in Smart grids; strategic alignment with other regions; coordination between different policies (R&I, Energy, ICT, Transport, etc.), etc. to strengthen the capacities of the MAs in the next MFF preparation
	• **Etienne VERHELLE** and **Katharina KRELL**, Interreg Europe[7]
	• **Sara MINISINI**, Regional Development Agency of Brittany .(Bretagne Développement Innovation) and SET-UP project[8] lead partner
	• **Urban PEYKER**, Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and representative of the JPP SES, Consortium Management[9]
	• **Mohamed SHALABY**, DERlab[10] and PANTERA project
14:30 - 15.30	After the presentations, the audience will be divided into **several groups**. Each group will reflect on the following ideas and questions:
	- *What are the main weaknesses in your country/region regarding connectedness with the wider EU R&I landscape in Smart Grids (KICs, H2020, Interreg, S3 thematic platforms, JU, ERA-Net, ETIP, etc.)?*
	- *How to use these networks to design better strategic interventions that will create the adequate conditions required for the development of Smart Grids and its elements, and respond to the existing needs, barriers for its use?*
	- *Do you think it will be possible for the next programming period to set any exchange with other regions or MS to increase the effectiveness of your policies on smart grids? Would you be interested in developing strategic alignment?*
	In plenary: the rapporteur for each group reports back on the groups' discussions.
15:30 - 15:45	*Coffee Break*

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[7] https://www.interregeurope.eu/

[8] https://www.interregeurope.eu/set-up/ Smart Energy Transition to Upgrade regional Performance

[9] https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/ Joint Programming Platform (JPP) ERA-Net Smart Energy Systems (ERA-Net SES)

[10] https://der-lab.net/ European Distributed Energy Resources Laboratories

15:45 - 16.15	**EXPERTS PANEL 3: Funding and support mechanisms for Smart Grids** Specific focus will be given on: how to build synergies with other available EU funding and support instruments in the whole smart grids' value chain (from R&I to deployment), key issues for financial management, required capacities and existing assistance initiatives for financial engineering, etc. • **Francisco IGNACIO SERRADILLA**, Programme Officer, ECSEL Joint Undertaking[11] • **Luciano MARTINI,** RSE and Coordinator of the EERA JP Smart Grids[12] • **Christina PAPADIMITRIOU**, FOSS and representative of the PANTERA project and ETIP SNET (WG5, Coordinator of working Team 3) • **Johan SÖDERBOM**, Thematic Leader Smart Grids & Energy Storage, InnoEnergy[13]
16.15 - 17:15	After the presentations**,** the audience will be divided into **several groups**. Each group will reflect on the following ideas and questions: - *How to improve the current internal administrative capacities to make the most of all available EU funding possibilities and support mechanisms for smart grids?* **In plenary**: the rapporteur for each group reports back on the groups' discussions.
17:15 - 17:45	**PLENARY SESSION and CLOSING OF THE EVENT** Final discussions on the results of the previous parallel sessions

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[11] https://www.ecsel.eu/ Electronic Components and Systems for European Leadership (ECSEL)
[12] http://www.eera-sg.eu/ European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) Joint Programme on Smart Grids
[13] https://www.innoenergy.com/