



HIGH LEVEL EVENT
S3P ENERGY

Smart Grids Partnership

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Smart Grids Partners

- **Co-leaders**

- Basque Country, Spain
- Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France

- **Partners**

- Algarve, Portugal
- Brittany, France
- Cyprus
- East Central Sweden, Sweden
- Ostrobothnia, Finland
- Pomorskie, Poland
- Puglia, Italy
- Slovenia

→ Smart Grids Partnership **launched in autumn 2016**

- **Initial step: invitation to fill in a questionnaire** (stating main interests, capabilities, expertise, EU initiatives and projects, etc...).

- **Interested Regions**

- North West Croatia, Croatia
- Valencia, Spain



Main activities in 2017


- **Three meetings in March, July, October 2017**
 - ❑ **Learning phase:** exchange of best practices, knowledge transfer, analysis of policy context, identification of related EU calls and initiatives, etc...
 - ❑ **Connecting phase:** networking activities and involvement of key regional stakeholders
 - ❑ Publication of the *Smart Grids Partnership Scoping Note* (1st version) in December 2017: **definition of the mission, rationale and scope of the partnership**



Partnership's objectives

- **Accelerate the deployment of smart grids** across European regions
- **Increase the competitiveness and attractiveness of the partner regions** by developing new opportunities and arenas for testing, collaboration and new ventures
- **Develop an overall and combined approach to the value chain of smart grids** across European regions

Ambitions

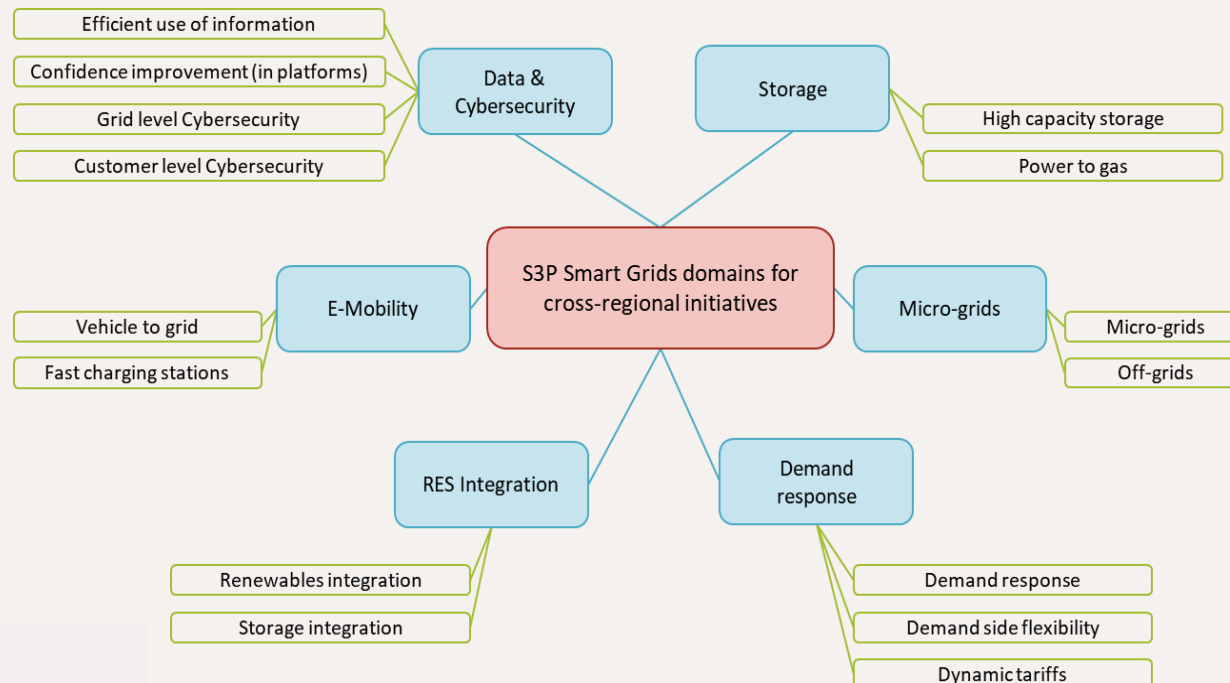


Build upon current capabilities (e.g. projects) to combine expertise, RIS3 and technological bricks; create new opportunities for projects and investments.

Operational principles

Co-investment / joint application for EU funds; focus on horizontal aspects (regulatory/policy influence, standardisation, training harmonisation, etc...)

Pre-identified domains of applications for cross-regional initiatives of the Smart Grids Partnership



All types of activities considered: R&D / demonstration / deployment and roll-out projects - to be evaluated for each application area.

Next steps for the Partnership

First half of the year:

- Validation of the Scoping Note: detailing scoping areas further;
- Selection of application areas with which to move forward;
- Identification of lead partner(s) and development of concept note for each application area.

Subsequent steps (medium/long-term):

- Design of projects with industry partners;
- Streamlining of appropriate finance to ensure funding match for the desired pilot project(s);
- Business plan development and final matching with financial mix;

→ **Development of investment projects**

Financing of interregional partnerships (1/4)

Existing financing/funding schemes at EU level:

- ESIF (ERDF)
- Horizon 2020
- INTERREG (Europe and others)
- COSME
- EFSI / financial instruments...

→ Offer **interesting opportunities** to support policy learning & coordination, networking and benchmark activities, collaborative research projects, etc...



Financing of interregional partnerships (2/4)

...but **important limitations:**

- Uncertainty of EU calls / low success rate;
- Disparity in ERDF availability among Regions; difficulty to use regional funds for cross-regional collaboration (article 70.2);
- Limited funding available for investment in demonstration activity or infrastructure in INTERREG Europe / Horizon 2020;
- Complexity of ESIF/H2020/financial instruments combinations.

→ **Difficulty to set up continuous pipeline of industrial investments for interregional collaboration projects (e.g. shared demonstration facilities, etc...).**

Financing of interregional partnerships (3/4)

→ **Need for common financing framework** for the Regions to go beyond networking/ benchmarking of policies and instruments.

Commission support is needed to develop new European funding mechanisms or reshape existing programs.



Financing of interregional partnerships (4/4)

- ❑ A renewed INTERREG Europe going beyond policy learning?
- ❑ New type of calls 'territorial connections' to boost R&I ecosystems in FP9: connect local and regional ecosystems in the EU around complementary S3 priorities;
- ❑ Support by INTERACT;
- ❑ New European tool to allow interregional investment projects to benefit from a specific legal framework, to overcome diverging national laws
- ❑ Support for public-private pan-European co-investment models;
- ❑ New financial instruments?



Thank you for your attention!



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