**LEARNING LAB**

# Supporting the effective uptake of Cohesion Policy funds in energy

S3 as a tool to enhance innovation capabilities in EU13

# AGENDA

*Venue: 1134 Budapest, Váci út 45./D 701 meeting room*

This learning lab is organised as part of the Stairway to Excellence (S2E) project and the Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3PEnergy), managed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission (EC), in close cooperation with DG REGIO and in collaboration with the Ministry for Innovation and Technology and the National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary. The aim of the initiative is to improve governance models in EU13 in view of optimising the spending of the EU funds in sustainable and innovative energy solutions and addressing societal challenges such as the clean energy transition, both for the remaining MFF and the next programming period.

This learning lab focuses on the challenges faced by EU13 regions regarding energy-related innovation policies in their territories through a participatory dialogue and active debates between Managing Authorities, EC representatives and other energy-related stakeholders. Also, it will provide insights to reinforce the participation of the EU13 regions in the energy thematic partnerships and in the S3PEnergy present and future interregional activities.

The specific objectives of the learning lab are to:
- engage the dialogue among public authorities, related EC services and other stakeholders,
- assess the main challenges and barriers regarding energy-related innovation policies, and debate on potential (short term and long term) solutions,
- share experience and showcase good practices,
- identify the actions needed to be involved in the global value chains,
- prepare for the prospect of capacity building activities,
- draw lessons for the future, and
- Identify follow-up actions to strengthen the engagement in S3PEnergy.

The learning lab is open to Managing Authorities from EU13 member states and regions, as well as invited experts and related stakeholders.

**Approach**

The activities are designed as a Mutual Learning Event where cases showing good practices will be shared and discussed, where participants may table specific requests, and alternative solutions will be debated. Participants will have the opportunity to present themselves and the current situation in their region/country. In the participatory exercise, 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. In order to prepare the ground for effective discussion, a session dedicated to policy context will introduce basic information and mechanisms.

# DAY 1 – Wed. 3 July 2019

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| *09.00 – 09.30* | *Registration* |

**09.30 – 09.45** — **Welcome and opening session**

**Gábor KUNFALVI**, Head of Department of Operational Programme Coordination at the Managing Authority of Environmental and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme, Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary

**István SZABÓ**, Vice President for Innovation and General Affairs, National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary

**Fernando MÉRIDA-MARTÍN**, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission (EC)

**09.45 – 10.40** — **Setting the context**

Tour de Table

Presentation of the Stairway to Excellence (S2E) project and Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3PEnergy):
- *Addressing the Innovation Gap in Europe: Cohesion Policy, Smart Specialisation & Synergies*, **Nida OZBOLAT**, JRC, S2E
- *Smart Specialisation and Energy*, **Isabelle SEIGNEUR**, JRC, S3PEnergy

Introduction to the Learning Lab rationale, objectives and methodology, **Fernando MÉRIDA-MARTÍN**, JRC, EC

Q&A

**10.40 – 11.00** — **Keynote speech**

*Breakthrough in Energy Innovations in Lithuania. Challenges and Opportunities*, **Lina SABAITIENE**, Vice-minister, Ministry of Energy, Lithuania

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| *11.00 – 11.30* | *Coffee & Networking* |

**11.30 – 12.30** — **PARALLEL SESSION 1:**
**Group discussions on governance**

After several **pitches** from selected regional and/or national representatives on their current situation on **governance including the alignment of R&I and Energy policies**, the audience will be divided into several groups.

*Each group will address the following:*

- *What are the main challenges in your country/region regarding energy-related innovation governance?*
- *Which have been the initiatives developed to enhance the quality of governance of the energy and innovation system? What have been the successes or failures of those actions?*
- *How to increase the interaction between i) Research & Innovation and ii) Energy policies in your region?*

**12.30 – 12.45** — **PLENARY SESSION: Reporting back from the groups**

The rapporteur for each group reports back on the groups' discussions.

| 12.45 – 14.00 | *Networking lunch* |
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**14.00 – 15.00**

**PARALLEL SESSION 2:**
**Group discussions on capacities & appropriate skills**

After several pitches from selected regional and/or national representatives on their current situation on capacities & appropriate skills, the audience will be divided into several groups.

Each group will address the following:

- *Do you have sufficient expertise/staff to undertake your activities? Which are the challenges related with human capacities and skills that could affect a successful implementation of low carbon economy initiatives?*
- *To what extent your country/region is facing the need to update the required skills and competences for a clean, fair and effective energy transition? Which would be your training needs?*
- *To what extent is your country/region active in international environments where to get competences for working in wider value chains?*

**15.00 – 15.15    PLENARY SESSION: Reporting back from the groups**

The rapporteur for each group reports back on the group discussions

| 15.15 – 15.45 | *Coffee & Networking* |
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**15.45 – 16.45**

**PARALLEL SESSION 3:**
**Group Discussions on EU13 internationalisation and connectedness with the wider EU R&I landscape**

After several pitches from selected regional and/or national representatives on their current situation on internationalisation and connectedness with the wider EU R&I landscape, the audience will be divided into several groups.

Each group will address the following:

- *What are the main weaknesses in your country/region regarding connectedness with the wider EU R&I landscape in energy (KICs, H2020, Interreg, S3 thematic platforms, COSME…)?*
- *What actions can be taken to overcome the main issues? By whom? Which have been the successes or failures of those actions?*
- *Do you think it will be possible in the current programming period to set any exchange with other regions or MS to increase the effectiveness of your policies in energy? And for the next 2021-2027 period, would you be interested in developing strategic alignment?*

**16.45 – 17.00    PLENARY SESSION: Report back from the groups**

The rapporteur for each group reports back on the group discussions

**17.00          Closing of the 1st day**

# DAY 2 – Th. 4 July 2019

| 09.30 – 11.00 | **PLENARY SESSION: Good practices and perspectives for the future** |
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- *Presentation of the tools and support services for regions from JRC* (Lagging regions project, Peer eXchange and Learning (PXL) workshops, etc.), by **Isabelle Seigneur**, JRC

- *EIT Innovation Model & Roles and contributions of KICs to regional innovation ecosystems*, by **Laura SUPJEVA**, European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)

- *EIT Climate KIC: cooperation with managing authorities and other organizations regarding EU funds,* by **Cristian MATTI**, Transitions Hub, Knowledge and Learning Manager, Climate KIC

- *Implementation of energy initiatives via Financial Instruments,*
    - **Črtomir KURNIK**, Local Energy Agency of Gorenjska (LEAG), Slovenia
    - **Mindaugas TAUJENIS**, Manager of Financial Partnership Division, Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA), Lithuania

- *Good practices examples in Energy in the EU13*, by **Katharina KRELL**, Thematic Expert Low-carbon economy, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform (PLP)

- *The management of energy and innovation in Andalusia*, by **Joaquín VILLAR**, Head of Internationalisation and Prospective Department, Andalusian Energy Agency, and lead region of the Sustainable Buildings partnership

- *Development of SMARTCity and SMARTVillage technologies and services,* by **Szilárd Óvári**, R&D manager from Sagemcom Hungary Ltd

Moderated by **Nida OZBOLAT,** JRC, S2E

| 11.00 – 11.30 | *Coffee and networking* |
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| 11.30 – 12.45 | **OPEN FORUM** |
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- Global discussion on the working sessions and the insights from the presentations with the participation of the regions / MS and experts
- Open floor for participants to comment on the outcomes

Moderated by **Isabelle SEIGNEUR**, JRC, EC

| 12.45 – 13.00 | **Conclusions and Closing of the Learning Lab** |
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**Henrietta Enikő CSATÓ**, Head of Unit, Department of Monitoring and Evaluation, Ministry of Innovation and Technology,

and **Fernando MÉRIDA-MARTÍN**, JRC, EC