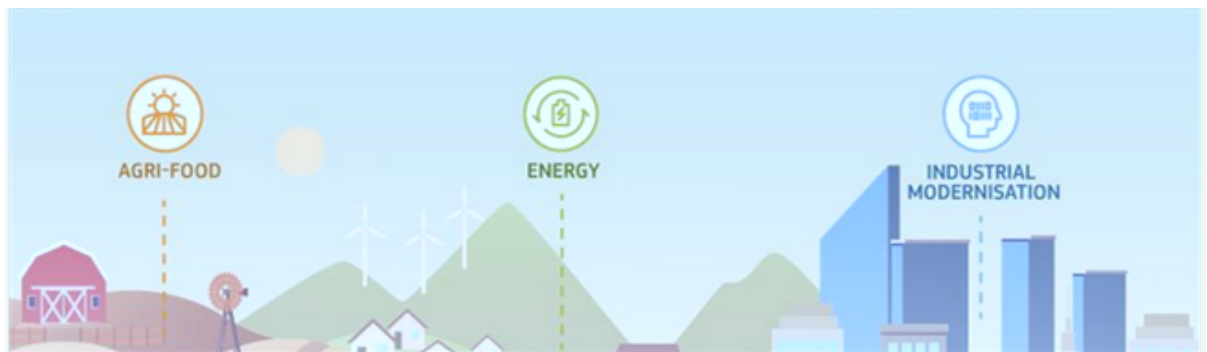


Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms Monitoring Progress Report

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership Monitoring Progress Report

This report is presented to the relevant Working/Steering Committee.

The report is updated every six months.

Confidentiality:

The management report (section I) and progress report (section II) will be made available to the public via your Partnership's web page.

The part on self-assessment is confidential.

Based on the monitoring results, the European Commission will decide on the following term's support.

* Reporting period

January - June 2020

* Please select the name of your partnership

Solar Energy

*** Start date of your partnership**

May 2017

Partnership's webpage<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3-energy-partnerships-solar-energy>**I. Management report**

*** Please provide the executive summary and the objectives of your partnership**

The Solar Energy Partnership was created in May 2017 as a way to support solar electricity generation and distribution in Europe, and to maintain the European concentrated solar power industry leadership worldwide. The Partnership, which is led by Extremadura (ES) and Alentejo (PT), currently comprises 10 further entities. The focus is aligned with the Thematic objective 4, Low carbon economy, in particular with "Generation a distribution of Renewable sources".

The partners have jointly identified 4 main areas of work: (1) the construction in Extremadura of a solar FOAK Power plant, (2) the deployment of a research facility for solar technologies, (3) the analysis of the Cooperation mechanisms Renewable Directive, and (4) the implementation of medium temperature solar energy in the agro industry.

To date, much of the partnership's activity has focused on the development of the solar FOAK project in Extremadura. The project has already completed the first phase of preparing the plant's value proposition; mapping potential stakeholder interest; preparing a preliminary business plan of the project; and consulting development options with industry players, financing institutions and off-taker countries. The next steps require identifying the necessary enabling conditions and launching the implementation phase.

OBJECTIVES:

The Solar European partnership has been created as a way to support solar electricity generation and distribution in Europe and maintain the European concentrated solar power industry leadership worldwide. The Solar S3 partnership offers interactive and participatory arenas for interregional cooperation along regions and MS who selected Solar energy as a priority in their RIS3 strategy. Among the different interesting thematic areas in solar energy, Concentrated Solar power (CSP) has been identified by different regions as one of the key technology. This is undoubtedly linked to the position of European CSP Industry as the worldwide leader along the full CSP value chain.

Furthermore, the Solar S3 Partnership is aligned with the Energy Union R&D and competitiveness priorities and promotes the energy related TO1 (Research and innovation), TO4 (Low carbon economy) and TO7 (Sustainable transport), together with the commitment to the Set Plan 10 key actions. The main objectives of this partnership are:

1. The S3 aims to maintain the global leadership of the European industry in Concentrating Solar Power /Solar Thermal Electricity (CSP/STE):
2. S3 in CSP must be focused on regional development, maintaining the competitiveness of the full value chain of the CSP European industry and strengthening its technological development (TO1, TO4);
3. The EU's Solar Industry must maintain its export opportunities in low-carbon technologies by strengthening partnerships among national governments, industry and research actors (TO4); and
4. S3 in solar (which aligns with the SET PLAN) must focus on achieving significant cost reductions of existing technologies (in the short term), and to work towards the development of next generation technologies (in the longer term) (TO1).

*** Please provide the list of leading regions**

Extremadura (ES)
Alentejo (PT)

*** Please provide the list of participating regions.**

If possible, please follow this format: "Name of the region in English (Country abbreviation), NUTS code".

e.g.: Lapland (FI), FI1D7

Andalusia (ES)
Asturias (ES)
Madrid (ES)

Please provide the list of interested regions or other entities (other than national /regional authorities)

Republic of Cyprus (CY)
Province of Trento (IT)
Veneto (IT)
Vaasa (Ostrobothnia) (FI)
Ministry of Montenegro
South Estonia (EE)
South Karelia (FI)

Please provide an overview of the **working areas** of your partnership

	Working area	Region in charge	Involved regions	Other actors
1	The construction in Extremadura of a solar FOAK Power plant: A large-scale Sustainable Energy Technology (SET) First of a kind (FOAK) project: Concentrated Solar power (CSP) Plant hybridised with Photovoltaic (PV) including storage to provide fully dispatchable power and would also demonstrate the technical and commercial viability of a solar generation plant installed in Southern Europe exporting renewable electricity to Northern European countries.	Extremadura	Alentejo	Potential EU off-taker regions
2	Research: A research facility for Solar technologies.	Alentejo	Extremadura	
3	Implementation of some industrial application: The use of medium temperature solar energy in the agro industry.	Extremadura	Madrid	
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Please provide information regarding past meetings, workshops and dissemination activities (six months prior to filling out the survey)

	Event	Date	Place	Any other information
1	Meeting between AGENEX and JRC to monitor the progress and explore new opportunities.	19 June 2020	Online	
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3				
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Please provide information regarding planned future meetings, workshops and dissemination activities

	Event	Date	Place	Any other information
1				
2				
3				
4				
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II. Progress report

Innovative results

Please describe innovative results and achievements that could be attributed to the partnership (specific examples of results vs. objectives)

One of the priority areas of the partnership and a major line of work is the construction, in Extremadura, of a "First Of A Kind" (FOAK) Power plant. The construction of a First of A Kind project as a result of partnership activity is intrinsically innovative.

The FOAK project will be a large-scale Sustainable Energy Technology (SET) First of a kind (FOAK) project: Concentrated Solar power (CSP) Plant hybridised with Photovoltaic (PV) including storage to provide fully dispatchable power and would also demonstrate the technical and commercial viability of a solar generation plant installed in Southern Europe exporting renewable electricity to Northern European countries.

New sources of financing are being explored: through the Connecting Europe Facility.

Tangible short- and medium-term socio-economic impacts achieved or expected (specific examples)

The desired impacts to achieve are the following:

1. The decarbonisation of the economy, through the progressive replacement of the high intensive carbon generation power plants in Europe. The design and development of a combined cycle generation concentrated solar plant, hybridised with photovoltaic plant and gas or biomass, is the only possibility to provide renewable base-load power for the European energy market.
2. The contribution to a fully-integrated internal energy market, and the analysis to import-export energy across Europe.

Inter-regional and inter-partnership collaborative results

Additional results obtained from working with other partnerships under the thematic S3 Platforms (specific examples)

Some members are participating in more than one of the energy partnerships at the same time, therefore some of the results can be shared, but at individual level; there are no specific examples.

Evaluation of the involvement of relevant business sector (clusters, SMEs, business associations, chambers of commerce, Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs), etcetera) in the Partnership activities (specific examples)

ESTELA (renewable energy industry association), Photovoltaic European technology and innovation platform, EERA Stage-STE, SET Plan (IWG-STE).

Evaluation of whether the level of inter-regional cooperation is sufficient to potentially provide practical and relevant socio-economic impacts (specific examples)

A successful inter-regional partnering would be sufficient for the projects to succeed and to have a relevant socio-economic impact.

New activities

Involvement of regions from EU13 Member States in the Partnership, in particular with respect to scoping, mapping and/or matchmaking. In addition, justification should be provided if no EU13 regions are involved

N/A

Involvement of regions/countries from outside of EU28 Countries. (Number of participants from non-EU countries (specify their contribution))

N/A

Advancement and promotion of the Partnership through publications and other communication/outreach activities (number of outreach activities that resulted from the partnership)

No new reports or communication activities have been published.

Activities and projects with partnerships working under other S3 Thematic Platforms (AgriFood, Energy and Industrial Modernisation)

N/A

Your Partnership and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The EU has a strong position when it comes to sustainable development and is also fully committed to be a frontrunner in implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda, together with its member countries and regions. Many interregional partnerships under the thematic S3 Platforms contribute strongly to the attainment of these 17 goals.

Please indicate to which Sustainable Development Goals and to what extent your thematic Partnership contributes?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition & promote sustainable agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives & promote well-being for all at all ages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality & empower all women and girls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment & decent work for all	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation & foster innovation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 11. Make cities & human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption & production patterns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas & marine resources for sustainable development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Goal 16. Promote peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>