DSOs DISCUSS THE ADDED VALUE OF DATA EXCHANGE AND INNOVATION FOR THE FUTURE GRID

18th of March 2021, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center (CRE) Association participated on Wednesday, 10th of March 2021, at the Webinar entitled "*DSOS AT THE CENTER OF DATA EXCHANGE*" organized by European Distribution System Operators (E.DSO) as a first event in the "Projects in the Spotlight" series. The Webinar underlined the work of E.DSO to address challenges in distribution operation in new innovative ways which will help shape the energy sector of the future.

The Webinar "DSOs AT THE CENTER OF DATA EXCHANGE" highlighted the role of the DSO in the data exchange related activities. The roll out of the smart meters has brought new opportunities but also increased responsibility with regards to the data the meters collect. The Webinar underlined the presentation of three H2020 BRIDGE Projects - PlatOne, InterConnect and EUniversal and their results regarding data management.

The Webinar was opened by Mindaugas KEIZERIS – Vice-Chair of E.DSO and CEO of Energijos Skirstymo Operatorius AB (ESO), one of the largest energy companies in the Baltic States, acting in electricity and natural gas distribution. He pointed out the crucial role of DSOs for the energy transition in relation to data, cybersecurity, digitalization, interoperability of the system, as a value proposition for consumers. Further on, Mark VAN STIPHOUT – Deputy Head of Unit in the DG Research and Innovation, European Commission underlined the need to facilitate data exchange in the light of the Green Deal goals.

The panel discussion was moderated by Pradyumna BHAGWAT – Head of Research at Florence School of Regulation, and highlighted the main results of the three projects. The panellists discussed the role of the DSOs in the data management and the increased responsibility in terms of data collected by the smart meters. The main objective of the debate was to have a vision on the importance of the role of DSOs in the energy transition and their central role to connect all stakeholders. The speakers pointed out the increasing need to include all the customers by directly communicating with them and making them join the flexibility market.

The event was concluded by Professor Antonello MONTI – Institute Director at the RWTH Aachen University, and coordinator of the OneNet Project. This project will build on lessons from PlatOne, EUniversal and InterConnect. As one of the architects of the initiative, he emphasized the complementarity and the integration of a consumer centric approach within the three projects.

The aim of the PlatOne Project is to provide a cost-effective, seamless and secure power supply for customers as active players, by combining flexibility measures, storage and demand response services with Smart Grid technologies and automation instruments for a major control of network and the distributed energy resources.

InterConnect Project aims to bring efficient energy management within reach of the end customer by developing interoperable solutions, connecting smart homes and smart building to the Smart Grid. In this regard, InterConnect Project emphasized the mission in the Grid domain as follow: Grid focus – to define services and requirements; Connectivity such as architectures and data flows; Data representations - to develop strategies to represent assets, systems and functionalities, and Services and Regulations – a pragmatic use with increasingly realistic range.

The main objective of the EUniversal Project is to enable the Universal access of DSOs to flexibility by applying the Universal market enabling interface and thereby accommodate changes in energy consumption and foster innovate market mechanisms.

CRE Association is an active and strategic partner together with its members and other potential members in international consortia for deploying energy projects funded by the EC, such as: **CROSSBOW, PHOENIX, TRINITY**, **EDDIE**, **EDGEFLEX, SUCCESS, RESERVE, NRG5, WISEGRID, SOGNO** and **CYBERSEAS**.