

## THE ROMANIAN ENERGY CENTER ASSOCIATION ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY PARTNERS OF ENERGYSHIELD PROJECT CONSORTIUM

15<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center (CRE) Association actively contributed and participated at the online Workshop entitled – „*Trends, Opportunities and Choices in Designing a Cyber Resilient European Power Energy System (EPES) Infrastructure*”, on 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, 10:00 – 12:30 CET (11:00 – 13:30 RO). The event was initiated and organized by the following three EnergyShield partners: Software Imagination & Vision (SIMAVI, Romania) – Project Coordinator, KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm – Dissemination & Communication Leader and National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) - Collaboration Leader. The Workshop was counted by energy and cybersecurity stakeholders, representatives from the European Commission, European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), standardization, and policy-maker bodies.

The main objective of the [Workshop](#) aimed at engaging different stakeholders in cross-domain topics such as: standardization efforts and policy updates impacting critical infrastructures and cyber security and demonstration of [EnergyShield](#) toolkit. The Workshop followed an opening session in which were addressed important topics such as: recent policy developments in cybersecurity for critical infrastructure protection; ENISA's activities in the energy sector; bridging the gap between EPES and cybersecurity; combining Meta Attack Language (MAL) with safety and functional modelling, and EnergyShield toolkit demonstration. Further on, two consecutive panels lead by high profile experts from the field followed. The first one elaborates on the effect of work from home on Energy and IT infrastructures, while the second one addresses latest incidents targeting critical infrastructure and their impact on designing new technologies, business models and policies.

With nearly 100 participants to the event, [CRE](#) Association actively contributed to the panel discussion entitled – „*Work from home impact on the Energy and IT infrastructures*”. **Vice President and Manager of Projects and Innovation of CRE, Dr. Mihai PAUN highlighted:** „*The Work from Home (WfH) became one of the most challenging issue for the entire population. WfH increased mainly due to COVID 19 pandemic that could not be predicted nor prepared. Employees are currently not sufficiently trained for this WfH, of course, there are variations, depending on several situations. What we predict due to high productivity and efficiency of this WfH, will become standards and a normal way of acting from now on*”.

During the panel discussion, **Daniela BICHR - Vice-president Human resources and Governance, SIMAVI** underlined: „*I don't think creating value from home is harder, it's just a matter of adaptation and flexibility. I do believe that the future belongs to the work from home, maybe in a mixed way, some days at the office, some days at home*”.

**Javier VALIÑO - Head of Energy, Climate & Decarbonization Unit, Atos Research & Innovation** pointed out that the Innovation and Creativity depend on the happiness of the people. „*If we succeed to provide our employees a state of mind, they will be productive and creative. As managers, make sure that you still have time to devote to everybody and to make sure that, even if people work from home, they feel that they have close contact with you*”.

Further on, **Vice President and Manager of Projects and Innovation of CRE, Dr. Mihai PAUN**, underlined that CRE is representing most of the Energy and Gas Transport and Distribution critical infrastructure and all utilities and members are fully aware of the challenges. „*Current challenges can be turned into opportunities, and those opportunities are the result of the Innovation and Creativity brought by the teams working remotely, or in office from time to time. Critical infrastructure in the Power Sector was among the latest domains equipped for switching to WfH conditions and the critical infrastructure's ICT systems were designed isolated for cybersecurity reasons. CRE is actively involved in Cybersecurity projects in the Power Sector, and we managed to identify solutions together with our European partners, regarding the protection, for example, Electricity Distribution Transmission Grid against cyber-attacks. I think the cooperation between the European Institutions and Associations, mainly in electricity transmission, and newly created EU Distribution Systems Operator (DSO) at European level is of crucial relevance. The communication and the cooperation among those partners will be at least at the same level of importance as it was so far*”.

After six years of intensive activity of the [Innovation and Development Department](#), CRE is among the top ten Romanian organizations from over three thousand entities that managed to win European funding, with a total exceeding four million euros, according to the [statistics](#) of the European Commission (EC). CRE already implemented [SUCCESS](#) Project and is currently implementing other cyber security projects in which the Innovation and Development Department has a significant contribution.

In this regard of cyber security domain, EC Policy Priorities will follow: cyberdiplomacy; ENISA activities in cooperation with DG ENER, DG CNECT, ACER, ENTSO-E, EU DSO; European Electronic identification (e-ID) and NIS 2.0.

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](#).

