

**ROMANIAN ENERGY CENTER ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATED AT THE WEBINAR AIMED AT ENERGY SECTOR ORGANIZED BY THE EMBASSY OF ROMANIA TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

7<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center (CRE) Association actively contributed to the discussion and participated at the Webinar under the title „*The EU Green Deal Implementation in Romania and The Role of Innovation for Renewable Energy Infrastructure Development*”, organized Online, by the Embassy of Romania to the Kingdom of Belgium and Romanian-Belgian Business Club (CAROMB), in collaboration with Price Waterhouse Coopers Romania (PwC), on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.

The valuable speakers and special guests from the Ministry of Economy, Romanian Energy Center Association and Price Waterhouse Coopers Romania contributing to the discussions were: Mr. Dan-Dragoș DRAGAN - State Secretary, Ministry of Energy; H.E. Mrs. Andreea PASTARNAC - Romania's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium; Dr. Mihai PAUN - Manager Development and Innovation of CRE; Mrs. Ruxandra CHIRITA - Director, Advisory Deals, PwC Romania; Mr. George URECHE - Director, M&A Leader, PwC Romania; and Mr. Sorin PETRE - Partner, Advisory Deals, PwC Romania.

The Webinar aiming at the Energy Sector highlighted important and interesting topics such as: The European Green Deal – summary of European Union (EU) ambition by 2030; Green Deal implementation in Romania - The National Energy and Climate Plan and The Long Term Energy Strategy; The Role of Innovation for Renewable Energy Infrastructure Development; EU financing support for Green Deal available to Romania, Energy investments and Opportunities for investors. The progress of the Romanian Energy Market was analyzed, highlighting the public and private investments for further developments in the Energy Sector related to Digitalization and Technology. The main areas targeted by the interventions within the future Operational Programs as well as the National Recovery and Resilience Plan were presented and discussed.

“I am very glad for the support we have from different actors from Romania and Belgium. I think we will find very interesting those topics that we discussed today during this meeting, and I am sure that we will find a lot of aspects to be used and discussed in further dialogues”, stressed H.E. Mrs. Andreea PASTARNAC - Romania's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium in the opening of the event.

“Romania will receive over nine billion Euro as part of the Modernization Fund. (MF). The MF is dedicated to support the ten lower income EU Member States, in their transition to Climate Neutrality, by helping to modernize their Energy Systems and improve Energy Efficiency. Based on the preliminary call, most investments will be in Renewables, High Efficiency, Co-Generation Storage, Gas and Electric Networks. We saw on the market screen that is a huge interest in development and transformation of the Energy Sector in Romania”, underlined Mr. Dan-Dragoș DRAGAN - State Secretary, Ministry of Energy.

„Innovation Fund is a Research and Development (R&D) funding mechanism focusing on highly innovative technologies and big flagship projects with European value added that can bring on significant emission reductions. The areas of funding are the following: Innovative Renewable Energy Generation, Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU), Energy Storage, Construction and Operation of Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS), and Innovative Low Carbon Technologies in Energy Intensive Industries”, communicated Mrs. Ruxandra CHIRITA - Director, Advisory Deals, PwC Romania.

CRE Association actively contributed to the discussions which addressed topics of the Event and highlighted “**The Role of Innovation for Renewable Energy Infrastructure Development**”. Dr. Mihai PAUN - Manager Development and Innovation of CRE, highlighted the main actions of the [European Green Deal](#): „The European Green Deal is a key element and is of high interest for our investors in Romania, for the entire European key players in the Power Sector and I would like to address the key role of this Communication, released on 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2019, where the European dimension of mobilising Research and Fostering Innovation is of high relevance. This Communication is an opportunity for us, as CRE Association, for investors and for a closer and more robust cooperation at National, Regional and European level. A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment is one of the targets. We are seeing everyday how the shift to Sustainable and Smart Mobility is accelerating, we are supporting and we are building ourselves Innovation in Energy and identify new solutions together with our partners and our members, and finally mobilising the entire Electricity Industry for Clean and Circular Economy”.

In this direction, Energy System Integration Strategy and Significant Challenges Ahead were presented during the discussions: „There is a strong need for interconnection and market coupling to Europe, coherent energy systems, more cooperation between all the sectors involved including electricity, gas, construction, telecommunication, heat and transport sectors. Apart from this, what is very relevant for our discussion today is that more intelligence is needed, and more innovative solutions are needed for bringing the projects to a successful end, intelligent energy using smart grid, for example, gas fired, the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Units and more flexible demand. The key role of renewables together with other sources, for example, the conversion of electricity to gas for more quantitative storage for later use in CHP units to new electricity production, as well as hydrogen. A combination of these solutions will be a successful approach in the future”, pointed out Mihai PAUN.

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 euro, according to the [statistics](#) of the European Commission (EC).

CRE already implemented five European H2020 Projects: [SUCCESS](#), [RESERVE](#), [NRG5](#), [WISEGRID](#) and [SOGNO](#), is currently implementing other five projects: [CROSSBOW](#), [PHOENIX](#), [TRINITY](#), [EDDIE](#) and [EDGEFLEX](#) and will start [CYBERSEAS](#) in October this year. 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.

