

THE ROMANIAN ENERGY CENTER ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATED AT THE ETIP SNET WEBINAR

10th of October 2022, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center Association (CRE) participated at the *"Digitally enabled renewable energy communities: The role of citizens in the clean energy transition"* Webinar, organised by ETIP SNET Platform, on Wednesday, 7th of September 2022, hosted online. This webinar presented guidelines and practical implications of how adopting a consumer/prosumer-centric approach and enabling energy communities can be pivotal in enhancing the energy transformation for reaching Fit for 55 targets and supporting the REPowerEU plan through the use of digital solutions.

The Agenda of the *"Digitally enabled renewable energy communities"* Webinar highlighted key topics from high-level representatives such as: consumer-centric approach and digitalization; digital enabling of renewable energy communities; the adoption of innovative digital solutions, customers (prosumers and consumers) involvement and the role of youth continuous education in energy and digitalization.

The European Commission (EC) under the lead of DG Energy has set the scene within the framework of the upcoming Digitalisation of Energy Action Plan. The Action Plan is very important and relevant for **EDDIE project - Education for Digitization of Energy** as for the development of the long-driven sector skills strategy and creation of a large-scale partnership on digitalization of the energy value chain around the future entity proposed by the Blueprint Erasmus+ project. CRE association is a partner in EDDIE Project, an Erasmus+ funded by the European Commission. **ETIP SNET** complemented it with a European multi-stakeholder point of view through the voices of industry, research and university. The European Youth Energy Network (EYEN) discussed the unique perspective of the first and only federation of energy-focused youth organisations, while the Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation (AIOTI) and GAIA-X Project underlined aspects on energy communities with a focus on digital solutions.

This Webinar makes reference to the High-Level Use Case 5, part of the **ETIP SNET R&I Implementation Plan 2022-2025**, which aims to develop the necessary R&I to facilitate one-stop-shop and consumer/citizen participation in the energy system and, correspondingly, the inclusion of the energy system in the concept of data economy. The motivation of the High-Level Use Case 5 is referring that prosumers and consumers have proactive role to accelerate the adoption of new energy services, pace for consumer impact design of cross sectorial energy infrastructure, and integration of the energy system into the broad picture of data economy.

Furthermore, very important aspects regarding the challenges of the local energy management were addressed during the Webinar. These challenges are related to the energy management functions on large scale, automation and scaling of all functions, forecasting on local levels, planning and scheduling with respect to privacy and habits of the citizens, and data availability. GAIA-X Project proposed several solutions such as: interoperability of data and services, portability of data and services, security and trust and open source.

European Technology & Innovation Platforms (ETIPs) have been created by the European Commission in the framework of the new Integrated Roadmap Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) by bringing together a multitude of stakeholders and experts from the energy sector. The ETIP Smart Networks for Energy Transition (SNET) role is to guide Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) to support Europe's energy transition. Its mission is to: set-out a vision for RD&I for Smart Networks for Energy Transition and engage stakeholders in this vision; prepare and update the Strategic Research and Innovation Roadmap; report on the implementation of RD&I activities at European, national/regional and industrial levels; and to provide input to the **SET Plan** action 4 which addresses the technical challenges raised by the transformation of the energy system. The SET Plan is a key stepping-stone to boost the transition towards a climate neutral energy system through the development of low-carbon technologies in a fast and cost-competitive way.

CRE already implemented six European H2020 Projects: **SUCCESS**, **RESERVE**, **NRG5**, **WISEGRID**, **SOGNO**, **CROSSBOW** and is currently implementing other five projects: **PHOENIX**, **TRINITY**, **EDDIE**, **EDGEFLEX**, and **CYBERSEAS**.

CRE Association is an active and strategic partner together with its members and other potential members of the International Consortium for the implementation of multiple Energy Projects funded by the EC.