PANTERA

Pan European Technology Energy Research Approach

Work Package 5

Workshop and dedicated stakeholders meeting organisation

D5.4

Report on the outcomes of Pan-European and Global Workshops (intermediary)

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All Authors/Partners   [Mohamed Shalaby / DERlab]

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Table of contents

Abbreviations

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DG ENER	Directorate-General for Energy
EC	European Commission
EERA JP	European Energy Research Alliance Joint Programme
EIRIE platform	European Interconnection for Research Innovation & Entrepreneurship Platform
ETIP SNET	European Technology & Innovation Platforms Smart Networks for Energy Transition
EU	European Union
EUSEW	EU Sustainable Energy Week
ICCS/NTUA	The Institute of Communication and Computer Systems of National Technical University of Athens
JRC	Joint Research Centre
NECP	National energy and climate plans
PANTERA	Pan European Technology Energy Research Approach
R&I	Research & Innovation
RTD	European Research and Technological Development
RIS3 or S3 platform	Smart Specialisation Platform
SET-Plan	European Strategic Energy Technology Plan
WP	Work Package

Executive Summary

The PANTERA consortium dedicated a specific work package (WP5: Workshop and dedicated stakeholders meeting organisation) within its project to organise Pan-European and regional workshops. This deliverable (D5.4: Report on the outcomes of Pan-European and Global Workshops (intermediary)) summarises the work done within T5.3: Pan-European and Global Workshops and the main outcomes from the Pan-European workshops that took place during 2019 and 2020.

Although, the COVID-19 pandemic gradually affected the physical PANTERA workshops starting from March 2020, the consortium managed to organise a successful Pan-European online workshop. The workshops could not be organised due to the introduction of travel restrictions in the European member states, which can be considered as Force Majeure circumstances

This workshop that was organised under the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) on the 24th of June 2020, it was registered as an Energy day to receive wider publicity and attract wider participation. The title for the workshop was "For widening R&I activities in the EU in support of the Energy transition" aiming to convey the main objective of the PANTERA project through its collective activities. Around 50 participants attended the online workshop and interaced with the speakers to ask questions and give their feedback.

Even though the workshop was virtual, all went as planned with good stakeholder participation throughout the duration of the workshop and actively through the use of the Glisser online tool. The event proved that the objectives of workshops can be met provided that technically there is good visibility of the experts participating and participants have the opportunity to express their views through online systems such as the Glisser. The workshop has taught us a lot in how we can organise such events to be successful and the consortium has gone through extensive analysis of the outcome and taken appropriate decisions for future events that are indicated in the paragraphs below.
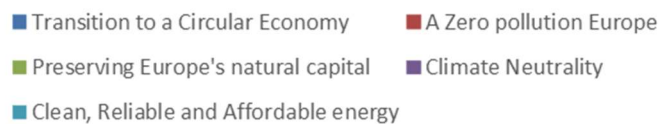

Figure 1: What does the Green Deal mean to you?

The research and innovation pursued through the EU policy was well covered raising high interest from the participants reflected through the questions that were raised at carefully selected periods of the virtual workshop. This was well covered through the role towards the green recovery leading

to a strategy that is promising in achieving the high objectives of 2050. Under this prism, it was mentioned that at least 35% of Horizon Europe funding will focus on climate and energy solutions whereas the European Commission will invest around €1 billion in Horizon 2020 Green Deal Call. The structure of the green deal calls and the areas in which the green deal will focus on, were presented and the audience had the opportunity to get informed thoroughly. The participants reflected their views through targeted questions (see one example in figure 1 feeding in one very important view point of the stakeholders attending the workshop) that helped the invited experts to elaborate on the themes and give further inside into the adapted policies.

Also, insights on SET-Plan and the progress made by the implementation of related working groups were presented. Stakeholders were invited to check European Research and Technological Development (RTD) factsheet[1] for a more thorough update on achieved objectives.

The participation of the representatives of the EU JRC RIS3 initiative raised a lot of interest among the participants. They showed particular interest in the presented governance model of RIS3 and how this could be used in support of the Green Deal, in general, in a way that it can be ensured that RIS3 is addressing the needs of the regions and respond to their expectations. As it was revealed, the governance model of RIS3 integrates many levels. It does not only focus on the regions, but it includes the national, European and international dimension too, and it includes all kinds of actors (e.g., business, academia, civil society…etc.). It was concluded that the biggest challenge in the model of RIS3 is to integrate all the actors from the beginning. This is what is of importance to the PANTERA project aiming through this close collaboration with RIS3 activities and JRC to address current limitations re-iterated through the views of the stakeholders participating in the workshop (see the responses in figure 2 below) aiming to bridge existing gaps addressing the priorities of regions for raising interest and active participation.

Figure 2: How relevant are the actions taken through the Green Deal to the priorities of your Region?

The PANTERA project has clearly identified the need to work closely with ETIP SNET and BRIDGE in building solutions suitable for the R&I enhancement in the countries revealing currently low activity. For this reason the invited guests to the second round table discussion were selected to represent

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[1] *https://bit.ly/394307v*

the voice of ETIP SNET and BRIDGE and centre the discussion on how this collaboration can strengthen to deliver the targeted benefits to the R&I community of Europe. Posing the question to them "Given the identified challenges, in which way the newly formed Task Force of BRIDGE "R&I priorities" plans to contribute in quantitatively identifying priorities utilizing project results?" we aimed to link this important common objective and together work out possibilities of enriching this process.

The guests responding to the question indicated that the "R&I priorities" Task Force is a joined effort between BRIDGE and ETIP SNET within the context of the European Green Deal. This task force aims to collect and analyse the results of projects and based on findings to discuss with the appropriate stakeholders the prioritization of the research needs and innovation activities. Hence, the objective of the task force is to help the Commission, national institutions, and private stakeholders to identify progress made, the most promising technologies that spring from it and find ways to support them on their way to the market.

As an extension to the above question and related answers the experts to the discussion were further asked as to: *"How the task force of BRIDGE "R&I priorities" can be effectively linked to the activities of the ETIP SNET that generates the 10-years R&I Roadmap and Implementation Plans"*

Responding to the question the expert of ETIP SNET presented his thoughts showing the link between the task force of BRIDGE and what was done in ETIP SNET. The EU Green Deal and its policies have several energy-related aspects and implications, which require R&I developments, hence, the EU Green Deal policies are related to Energy and they can easily be mapped to the vision 2050 ETIP-SNET energy system building blocks, the required functionalities, and research areas. These responses has indicated the importance of this collaboration and how it can play an important role in the evaluation of projects in a pluralistic, systematic and universal way to be hosted on the EIRIE platform and made available for use by all relevant stakeholders.

Most importantly, the discussion with the expert of the Commission and ETIP SNET has confirmed that the EIRIE platform is a very important step in a direction that is much needed for the R&I community of Europe. As it was revealed. there are currently many very interesting platforms that are available, and each platform looks at the smart energy systems from a different perspective. It was emphasised that it is quite hard for the public and policymakers to navigate between many platforms. Thus seeing the EIRIE platform setting up as primary objective to solve this very problem, since the EIRIE platform was initiated to act as one-stop-shop, connecting all the smart energy platforms through one platform. They have revealed their overall satisfaction for this development stating that the EIRIE platform will strengthen the access to knowledge about R&I in the smart energy field and will help researchers, innovators, and policymakers to have access to the project results.

This fundamental service of the EIRIE platform was well understood by the participants to the workshop as well since through their selected preferences through the Glisser tool (see Figure 3 below as an example of the effectiveness of the Glisser tool but also the overwhelming support to the messages that the EIRIE platform conveys to the related stakeholders) they have confirmed the following:

- Have high expectations from the EIRIE platform in the areas that we have promised to deliver and this shifts a lot of responsibilities on our shoulders to deliver as promised.

- All promised services of the EIRIE platform are of high interest to the stakeholders, seeing vividly the benefit that we have envisioned.

- Look at the EIRIE platform as the single point of reference of their work in the field of smart grids, storage and local energy systems aiming to build working relations and strengthen their portfolio of tools and resources to achieve their objectives.

- See the EIRIE platform as a high contributor to the materialisation of the objectives of the Green Deal giving through this positive approach their verdict that Member States and

Regions should look at the EIRIE platform as a source for solutions in their endeavours to move the Green Deal to fruition.

EIRIE platform providing leverage and data not only to the R&I community, but also to the EU policymakers and decision-influencing bodies
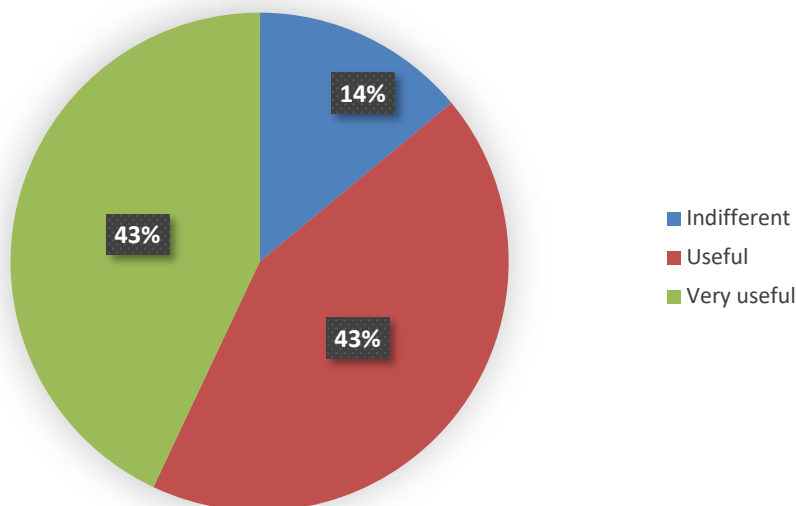

Figure 3: EIRIE platform providing leverage and data not only to the R&I community but also to the EU policymakers and decision-influencing bodies?

What raised a lot of satisfaction to all participants of the workshop is the mere fact that the EIRIE platform will be hosted on the Smart Energy System servers of JRC to guarantee the sustainability of the platform after the PANTERA project is completed. It is evident from this reality, that the conceptual architecture of the platform and the work plan and progress achieved for the design and development of the multifunctional platform offer high expectations that are not going to be lost but thrive through constant support from the side of the Commission since JRC and DG Energy will offer this continuity.

Overall, it is concluded that the PANTERA consortium managed to organise a virtual Pan-European workshop with more than 50 active participants from all around Europe. Since the event was organised under the Energy Days for European Sustainability Energy Week (EUSEW), has helped to increase the visibility of the PANTERA project and the EIRIE platform. The European Commission and the European Smart Grid networks/associations/initiatives were well presented (e.g., JRC, ETIP SNET, BRIDGE, RIS3) in the workshop revealing the importance that the PANTERA project is investing in for building strong working relations for promoting / raising the R&I activities in countries that currently are not doing enough.

The workshop attendees were lively acting positively through the offered capabilities of the Glisser online tool for direct communication to the structured questions that were included in the two round table discussions.

The record of the workshop and its report is publicly available on the project website under the following link: *https://pantera-platform.eu/pan-european-pantera-virtual-workshop-eusew-2020-outcomes/*

The PANTERA consortium is planning to continue the series of Pan-European workshops by

organising at least three online and (if possible) physical workshops in 2021. The first workshop will focus on presenting the EIRIE platform to the research and innovation Smart Grid community. The second and the third workshop will be organised within EUSEW and Enlit Europe conferences, respectively to attract stakeholders to the project and its platform.

1 Introduction

One of the main objectives of the PANTERA project and specifically WP5, is Organisation of dedicated workshops which facilitate exchanges of experience and building up active participation of members of the R&I community. The participation of stakeholders in the organised workshops in collaboration with already on-going activities is aiming to wider participation, enlightening on policies adapted, strengthen objectives and extent impact of achieved results. Under this prism, the PANTERA consortium is organising these regional and pan-European workshops with a specific focus on the countries which are less active in research and innovation in smart grids, storage and local energy systems.

However, each workshop is centred around a selected theme that is of vital importance to the region that is hosting the workshop aiming to alert policy makers attending the workshop, hear their view; discuss possible solutions and mobilise support from the active stakeholders of the region. Bringing together policy makers with the European dimension on the selected themes and discussing options and solutions with the interested stakeholders was and is central in the proceedings of the organised workshops not only as a day discussion but as an initial step in bringing attention to the selected themes to both policy makers and stakeholders and build the appropriate platform through which interest will continue and be strengthened for lasting solutions.

1.1 Scope of the Document

The main objective of this document is to describe the work carried out within the task 5.3 "Pan-European and Global Workshops" (WP5-Workshop and dedicated stakeholders meeting organisation) and to present the main outcomes of the Pan-European workshops that were organised during the first two years of the project (2019 and 2020).

1.2 Structure of the Document

This document consists of four sections and it is structured as follows:

- Introduction
- "PANTERA Workshop format" – this section gives a high-level overview of the Pan-European workshop that took place during 2019 and 2020.
- "Workshop report and outcomes" – this section presents the main outcomes of the Pan-European workshop.
- "Conclusion and Future Outlook" – this section presents the conclusion and an outlook on the future planned Pan-European workshops and webinars.

2   PANTERA workshop format

2.1 Widening R&I activities in the EU in support of the Energy transition, EUSEW Energy Day 2020

2.1.1 Introduction

The PANTERA project organised the first Pan-European Workshop under the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), and this event was registered as an Energy day, which took place online on 24th of June 2020. The main objective of this workshop was to widen the research and innovation activities in the European Union in support of the Energy transition.

2.1.2 Workshop preparation

The PANTERA consortium organised this workshop virtually, as it was not possible to organise it as a physical workshop due to COVID-19 pandemic. The main objective of this workshop was to widen the research and innovation activities in the European Union in support of the Energy transition. Although this workshop was organised at European level, special focus on stakeholders' engagement coming from low activity countries has been given. Therefore, PANTERA project's mission and goals were presented, along with the value, it will bring to the research and innovation energy community via PANTERA regional desks, working teams and the EIRIE platform. Moreover, the EU policy on Energy and Climate for 2030 and 2050, along with the role of the R&I community towards a green recovery were discussed.

Two round tables were organised with all stakeholders attending the workshop. The main theme of the first-round table was the collaboration with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Smart Specialisation Platform for meeting the objectives of the Green Deal vision. A series of questions related to the Green Deal and its impact at regional level, together with a set of questions on the EIRIE platform content and objectives were asked to all participants through an on-line tool.

The second-round table centred around the teaming of ETIP-SNET and BRIDGE in enhancing the evaluation process of projects in support of R&I priorities roadmap. The newly launched "R&I priorities" Task Force, a joint effort of BRIDGE and the ETIP-SNET in the context of the European Green Deal was presented. Discussion further touched on the R&I objectives of the EU Green Deal and its energy-related policies, aspects and implications. For more details see the agenda for the workshop which is presented in attached Annex.

The PANTERA consortium facilitated the virtual workshop through the well-known platform "GoToMeeting" and the online tool Glisser[2] facilitating the posing of questions and attractive tabulation of responses visually available to all participants to the workshop. Hence, the Glisser tool was used to set out selected questions and collected online the responses of the participants and visually presented to all participants.

The workshop report is presented in section 3 and it is also available online[3]: Furthermore, the workshop was recorded and it is available on PANTERA YouTube channel[4]

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[2] https://www.glisser.com/

[3] *https://shorturl.at/nNPR7*

[4] https://youtu.be/0e_YxxclYeM

2.1.3 COVID-19 and its impact on PANTERA Pan-European workshop

Initially, the PANTERA consortium planned the first Pan-European workshop "For widening R&I activities in the EU in support of the energy transition" to take place physically in Brussel within the framework of the EUSEW to reach and engage more stakeholders visiting the sustainable energy week or that are Brussels based. A suitable meeting room was booked for that workshop, with all facilities including a working dinner dedicated for the advisory board to discuss the progress of the project, update on the progress made in the establishment of the EIRIE platform and listen to their thoughts on steps to follow that can add value and content to the activities of the project PANTERA.

Unfortunately, due to Force majeure circumstances caused by COVID-19 pandemic, the PANTERA consortium had to shift the workshop from physical workshop to a virtual workshop. Although the workshop was transformed into a virtual one, the PANTERA consortium managed to attract the stakeholders to attend the workshop, participate actively and give their feedback via the Glisser tool as reported in Sections 2 and 3 of this report .

3 PANTERA Pan-European workshop Outcomes

"For widening R&I activities in the EU in support of the Energy transition"

3.1 Opening the workshop and introduction to the PANTERA process

The PANTERA project was presented to the audience alongside its goals and mission. Furthermore, the value that PANTERA will bring to the research and innovation energy community via PANTERA regional desks, working teams, and the EIRIE platform was highlighted.

3.2 EU policy for 2030 to 2050 and the role of the R&I community

This section focused on the research and innovation and EU policy role towards the green recovery. The main objective of this section was to perform a thorough update on the EU policy serving as a kick off for Roundtable 1. Under this prism, it was mentioned that at least 35% of Horizon Europe funding will focus on climate and energy solutions whereas the European Commission will invest around €1 billion in Horizon 2020 Green Deal Call. The structure of the green deal calls and the areas in which the green deal will focus on, were presented and the audience had the opportunity to get informed thoroughly. Also, insights on SET-Plan and the progress made by the implementation of related working groups were presented. Stakeholders were invited to check European Research and Technological Development (RTD) factsheet[5] for a more thorough update on achieved objectives.

3.3 Roundtable 1: Collaborating with JRC and the Smart Specialisation Platform for meeting the objectives of the Green Deal for reaching out and leaving no one behind

Roundtable 1: An interactive session with the audience through the questions below:

"How the Green Deal influences/widens the research and innovation community priorities?"

Discussing the theme of this question, it was noted that the role of the EU Smart Specialisation platform (S3P) in the energy transition, is to advise the EU countries and regions to design and implement their strategy. Furthermore, the S3P supports innovation-led growth in EU regions. The Smart Specialization Platform is considered an essential part of multi-level governance in EU policy

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[5] https://bit.ly/394307v

which can connect the top-down with bottom-up creativity.

The main objectives for S3P in relation to Energy[6], are to support the implementation of smart specialisation strategies of the regions/countries that have chosen energy-related priorities in their strategies and to assist countries for the optimal uptake of the cohesion policy funding opportunities for energy.

The Green Deal and the corresponding EC priorities were presented with emphasis on the role that smart specialization is playing in this new paradigm change. It was stressed that the Green Deal integrates within one setup several topics on which the EC has been working for several years. As an example it was stated that the Green Geal is trying to integrate the climate ambition with the clean energy with smart mobility and on top, it is trying to have sustainable concepts and for sure leaving no one behind.

Through the discussions the importance of having a single process that would support the green deal objectives and a coherent model to combine the bottom-up and top-down approaches were highlighted.

The participants to the workshop were asked: "What does the Green Deal mean to you?"

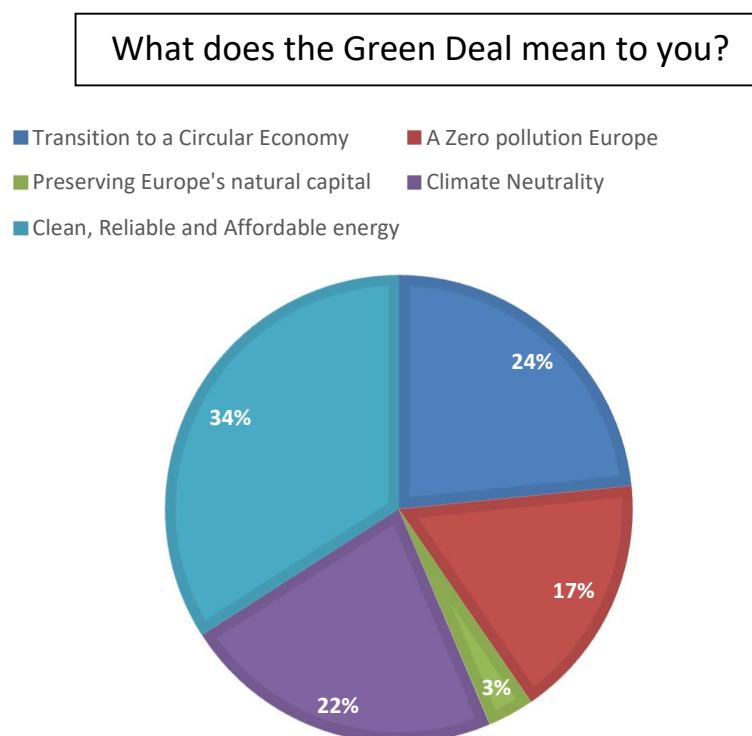The feedback was received on line through the smart Glisser tool and is presented in Figure 4

Figure 4: What does the Green Deal mean to you?

The results were shown to the guests to the roundtable and were asked to comment. From the discussion that followed, it was noted that it is quite interesting to find out that different regions have

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[6] *https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/*

a different perspective on the Green deal. A unified approach from all countries as a perception would be needed without disregarding the competences of the different countries. So, there seems to be a need of a process that unifies this approach and at the same time support the building up on the competences and the specificities of the countries.

"Is the Green Deal technology neutral?"

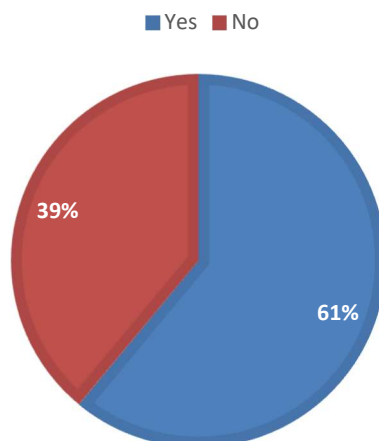## Is the Green Deal technology neutral?

Yes ■ No

Figure 5: Is the Green deal Technology neutral?

Although the main goal of the green deal is to be climate neutral by 2050, a big part of the audience finds that the Green Deal is not technology neutral. This view of the audience, calls for corrective actions from the Commission to avoid such possibility. Moreover, however, this perception may come from the fact that many countries do not have access to a common source of data and knowledge and this is a weakness that calls for rectification and bring all the R&I community of Europe on equal footing. This to a certain extent is aimed to be achieved through the development of the EIRIE platform and this has been underlined as a need by the participants to the round table discussion.

*Following question addressed to the participants was: **"Is the Green Deal leaving no one behind**?"*

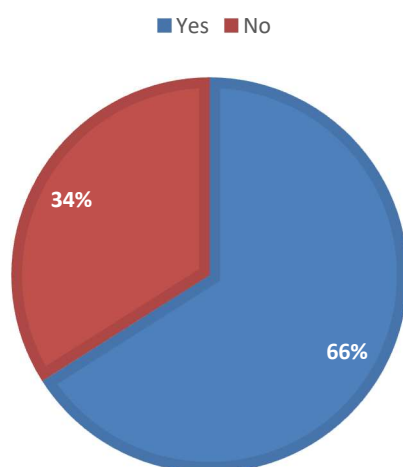## Is the Green Deal leaving no one behind?

Yes ■ No

Figure 6: Is the Green Deal leaving no one behind?

The experts of the round table have noted from the reaction of the participants that some countries are still left behind on the road to energy transition and adaption of the emerging technologies that will lead us there. Based on this outcome of the voting, it was stressed that activities like the PANTERA project can play a corrective role boosting the research and innovation in countries with low activity. In reality, this outcome is not criticizing the Green Deal, it is mirroring the prevailing view of regions, and what the research and innovation communities are facing in those regions. Also, this result can be seen as a negative trend based on previous experience conveying the message that corrective action is necessary. In reality, the Commission is trying for a long time to decrease the gap between the less advanced and more advanced regions, but more should be done towards this direction and PANTERA project is one such activity in the correct direction.

The next question that was addressed to the participants was: "How relevant are the actions taken through the Green Deal to the priorities of your region?"

Figure 7: How relevant are the actions taken through the Green Deal to the priorities of your Region?

The responses of the audience are quite varied revealing through this feedback that priorities are different between regions and their needs are not adequately reflected in the adapted actions through the Green Deal priorities. This calls for rectification both at EU level, and country / region level to adapt the local priorities aligned to their actual needs and potential.

The representatives of S3P to the round table discussion responded to the posed question: "How we address the needs to secure the research & innovation community priorities from JRC perspective and RIS3 regional activities?" by extending the question to the following and then commenting:

- *How we ensure a strong policy response?*
- *How we ensure investment leverage? How we support the Just transition mechanism?*
- *How we support the territorial plans/regional plans?*
- *How we integrate the social dimension in these plans?*
- *How we support the R&I community in data resources/knowledge resources?*

During the last period we learned a lot since 2014, and regions are taking advantage of what has been learned. Further on, they added that the governance model of RIS3 could be used in the Green Deal, in general, to ensure that we are addressing the needs of the regions and respond to their expectations. The governance model of RIS3 integrates many levels. It does not only focus on the regions, but it includes the national, European and international dimension too, and it includes all kinds of actors (e.g., business, academia, civil society…etc.). The biggest challenge in the model of RIS3 is to integrate all the actors from the beginning.

Then went on to add that the advanced European regions are involving more stakeholders. Furthermore, they are getting a political commitment to develop the strategy. The member states, DG-ENER, DG-Region and JRC are now more able to identify, what could be the regulatory challenges and the changes needed to be implemented, so the regions will be aligned with the strategy.

The next question was directed to the participants to respond through the Glisser tool: "From your perspective, which of the following strengths have a major impact on the Green Deal"
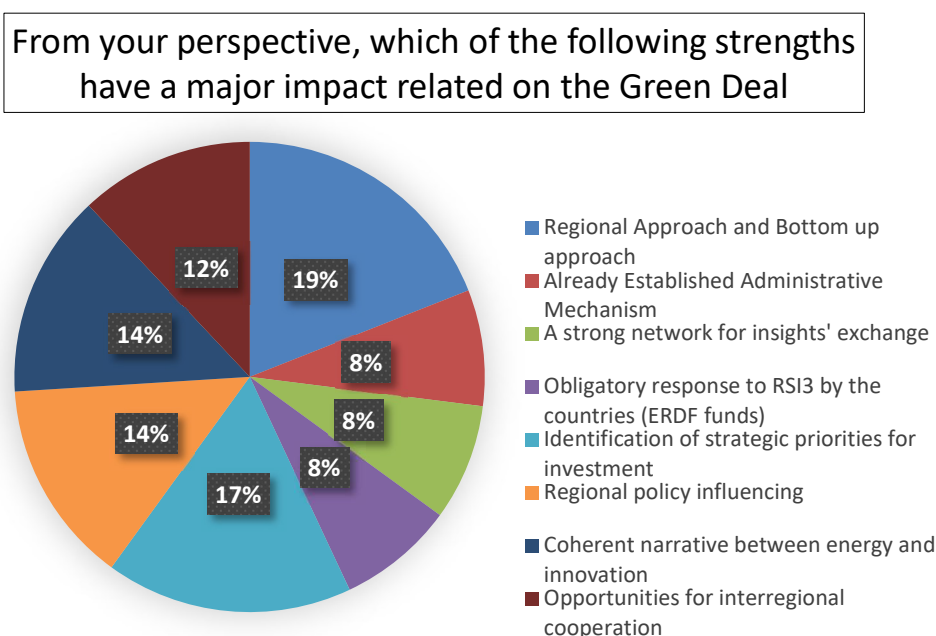

Figure 8: From your perspective, which of the following strengths have a major impact related on the Green Deal?

The noted answers indicated that all identified strengths are of importance, with some higher importance related to coherence between energy and innovation and secondly on a regional approach and bottom-up approach. Thus in this respect the Green Deal can be considered that is adequately addressing the strengths of regions and it is a question of Member States and Regions capitalizing on that and making the most for raising interest and participation.

The question: "From your perspective, which of the following weaknesses have a major impact related to the Green Deal" followed, addressed to the invited participants to vote via the Glisser tool.

From your perspective, which of the following weaknesses have a major impact related to the Green Deal

Legend:
- Low administrative resources
- Low economical resources
- Lack of capacities (administrative, financial, technical…)
- Lack of stakeholder's commitment (lack of trust)
- Insufficient political commitment
- Regional granularity can be seen as disadvantage on national policy influencing
- Inefficient governance of the system
- Inefficient performance of communication channel
- Uniqueness of needs of each country
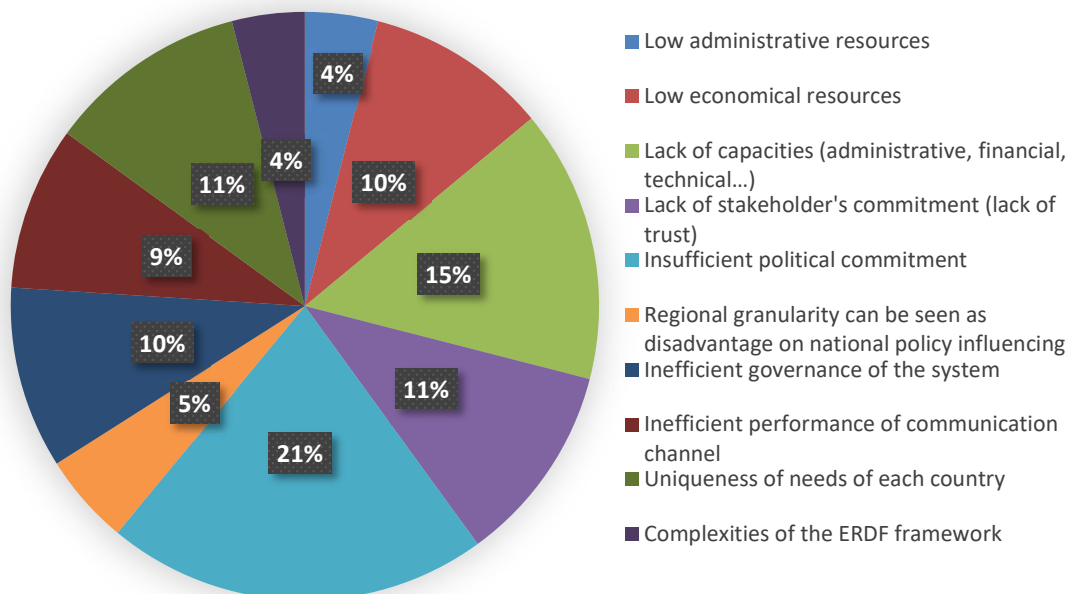- Complexities of the ERDF framework

Figure 9: From your perspective, which of the following weaknesses have a major impact related to the Green Deal?

Looking at the weaknesses of Member States and / or Regions in responding to the set out objectives of the Green Deal, the participants have responded with varied views giving evidence that all listed should be taken into consideration when planning out actions for achieving the set out objectives of the Green Deal. Certainly, more votes were casted to "insufficient political commitment" and "Lack of capacities" calling for more sensitivity to be exercised when addressing related issues.

3.3.1 The EIRIE platform

The PANTERA consortium presented the EIRIE platform to the participants and its role in boosting R&I activity in Europe and playing an active role in support of the R&I community by giving them access to data and information through friendly and responsive tools. Following, a detailed presentation of capabilities of the EIRIE platform and available options to all prospective users, a set of questions were addressed to the participants focusing on the planned functionalities and services of the EIRIE platform.

The first question addressed to the participants to vote through the on line Glisser tool was: "EIRIE platform acting as a single point of reference for the R&I community regarding data and knowledge sharing: Indifferent or Useful or Very useful".

EIRIE platform acting as a single point of reference for the R&I community regarding data and knowledge sharing
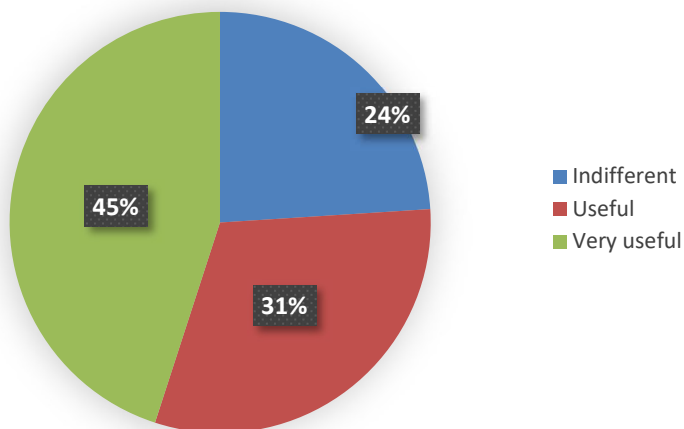

Figure 10: EIRIE platform acting as a single point of reference for the R&I community regarding data and knowledge sharing?

The second EIRIE question addressed to the participants read as follows: "EIRIE platform acting as a meeting point of bottom-up and top-down approaches on R&I priorities: Indifferent or Useful or Very useful".

EIRIE platform acting as a meeting point of bottom up and top down approaches on R&I priorities
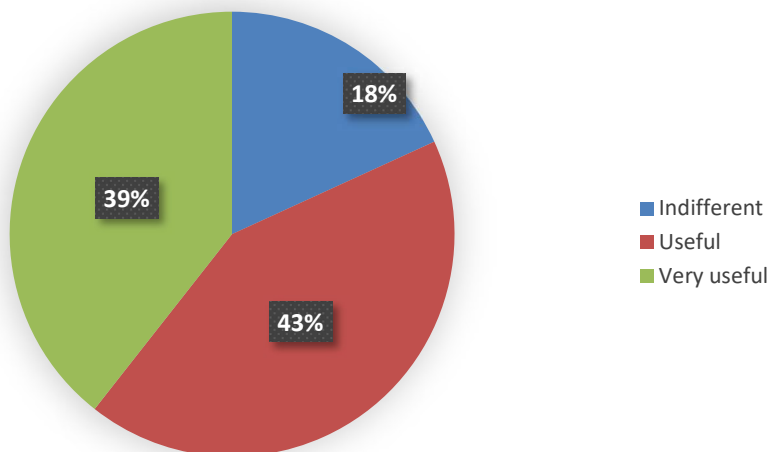

Figure 11: EIRIE platform acting as a meeting point of bottom up and top down approaches on R&I priorities?

The third EIRIE question addressed to the participants read as follows: "EIRIE platform acting as a hub for the R&I community that complements investments": Indifferent or Useful or Very useful".
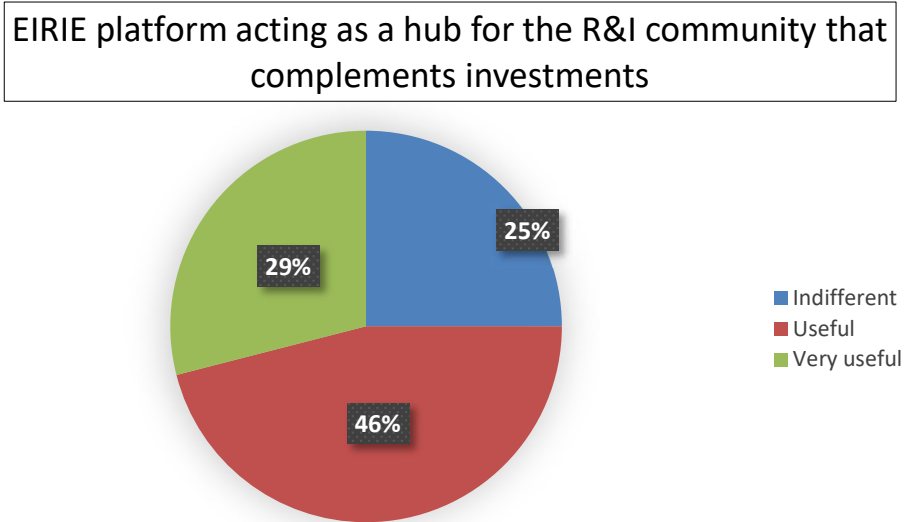

Figure 12: EIRIE platform acting as a hub for the R&I community that complements investments?

The fourth EIRIE question addressed to the participants read as follows: "EIRIE platform providing leverage and data not only to the R&I community but also to the EU policymakers and decision-influencing bodies": Indifferent or Useful or Very useful".
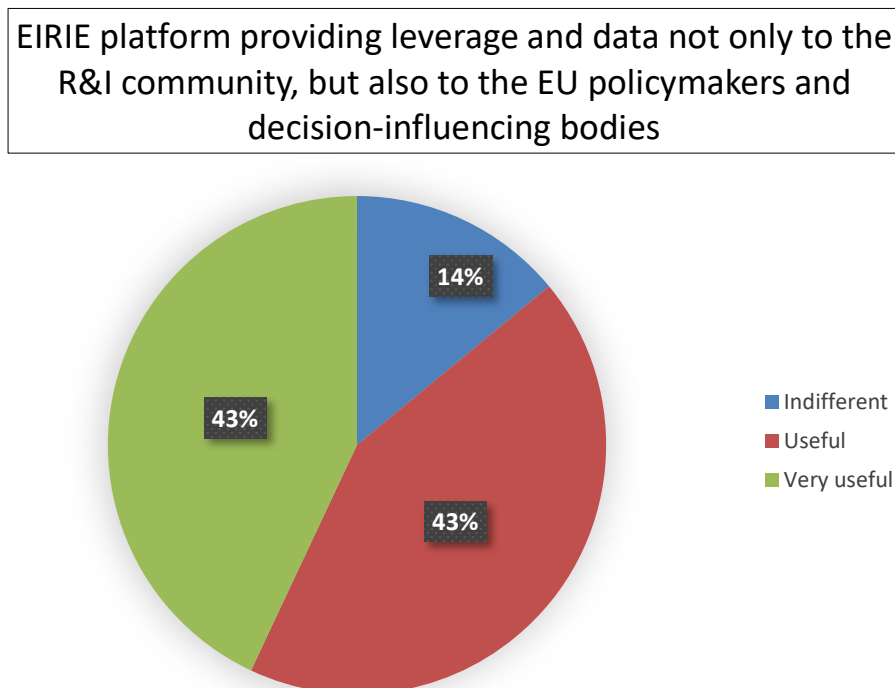

Figure 13: EIRIE platform providing leverage and data not only to the R&I community, but also to the EU policymakers and decision-influencing bodies?

The fifth EIRIE question addressed to the participants read as follows: "EIRIE platform leveraging the implementation of the Green Deal priorities through tools and functionalities, and support to public consultation: Indifferent or Useful or Very useful".

EIRIE platform leveraging the implementation of the Green Deal priorities through tools and functionalities and support to public consultations
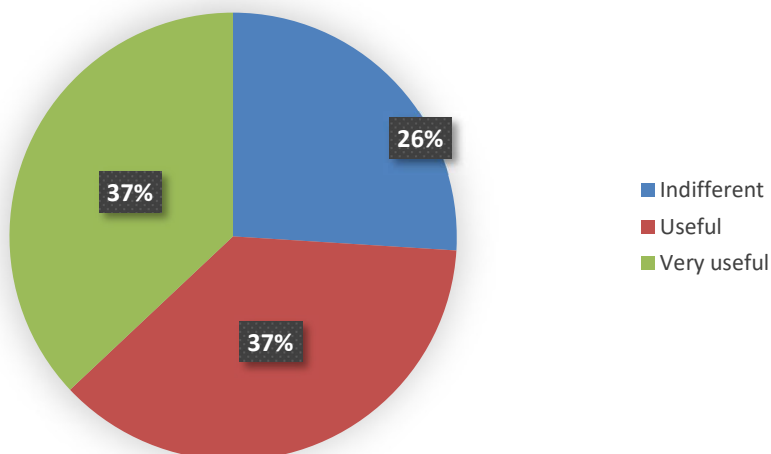

Figure 14: EIRIE platform leveraging the implementation of the Green Deal priorities through tools and functionalities and support to public consultations?

The sixth EIRIE question addressed to the participants read as follows: "EIRIE platform as a platform where a variety of different stakeholders come together: Indifferent or Useful or Very useful".

EIRIE platform as a platform where variety of different stakeholders come together
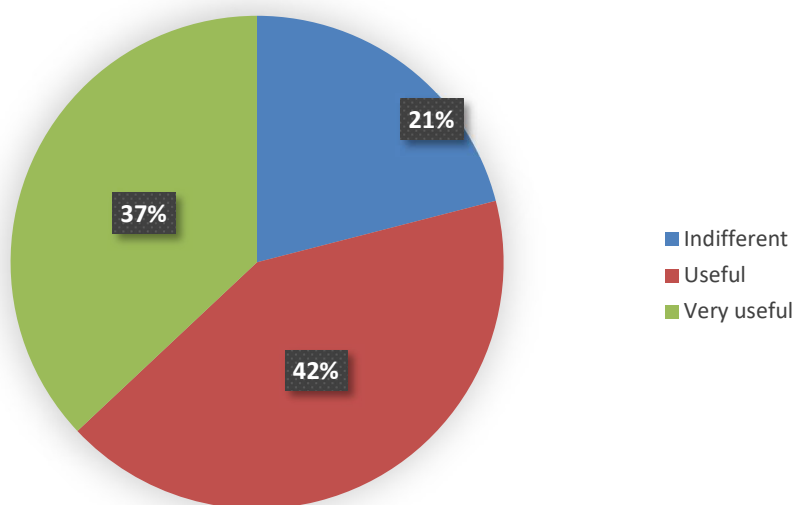

Figure 15: EIRIE platform as a platform where variety of different stakeholders come together?

From the responses of the participants it is evident that the stakeholders:

- Have high expectations from the EIRIE platform in the areas that we have promised to deliver and this shifts a lot of responsibilities on our shoulders to deliver as promised.
- All promised services of the EIRIE platform are of high interest to the stakeholders, seeing vividly the benefit that we have envisioned.
- Look at the EIRIE platform as the single point of reference of their work in the field of smart grids, storage and local energy systems aiming to build working relations and strengthen their portfolio of tools and resources to achieve their objectives.
- See the EIRIE platform as a high contributor to the materialisation of the objectives of the Green Deal giving through this positive approach their verdict that Member States and Regions should look at the EIRIE platform as a source for solutions in their endeavours to move the Green Deal to fruition.

Through the free text possibilities of the Glisser tool, a participant to the workshop has sent the following comment which was taken up by the experts of the round table:

"It is not only about funding but also about the governance deficiencies that exist in some countries, e.g., in Bulgaria. And the Green Deal doesn't have instruments to avoid this"

The experts agreed with the comment considering it as accurate and true. They have underlined the fact that the Green deal is missing a governance model that can handle effectively the very promising policies that spring from it. They went on to underline the fact that a platform like EIRIE could help a lot by presenting information about best practices and how regions could learn from each other.

3.4 The EIRIE platform in support of the R&I community in EU and much more

In addition to what was presented earlier under Section 3.3.1 and the related questions to the participants of the workshop, the EIRIE platform and its concept were presented under this section of the workshop giving more details and clarifying earlier questions raised. During this presentation, the vision of the platform in supporting the Energy Research & Innovation community in Europe by providing them with tools and features that would support them with the needed knowledge, information, and data were detailed.

Moreover it was indicated that the platform will interconnect with other similar platforms (e.g., EXPERA, BRIDGE, JRC, ETIP-SNET, Mission Innovation …etc) to enhance the accessibility to all users, improve collaboration, meet the requirements of wider interest, provide appropriate tools to facilitate the use of project results thus avoiding R&I work that has already been addressed hence avoiding duplication and lost Euros.

EIRIE will be hosted on the Smart Energy System servers of JRC to guarantee the sustainability of the platform after the PANTERA project is completed. The conceptual architecture of the platform and the work plan and progress achieved for the design and development of the multifunctional platform was presented giving evidence that plans are on track meeting all expectations of future users of the platform.

3.5 Roundtable 2: Teaming with ETIP SNET and BRIDGE in enhancing the evaluation process of projects in support of R&I priorities roadmap

The second roundtable was also organised as an interactive session with the audience using the online Glisser tool to capture the reaction of the participants to the workshop. The speakers were

having as main objective to define and highlight the commonalities and the cooperation of the ETIP SNET/BRIDGE initiatives with the PANTERA and the EIRIE platform.

After a short introduction of the experts to the discussion, **the guests to the round table discussion representing the Commission and ETIP SNET were asked: "Given the identified challenges, in which way the newly formed Task Force of BRIDGE "R&I priorities" plans to contribute in quantitatively identifying priorities utilizing project results?"**

The guests responding to the question indicated that the "R&I priorities" Task Force is a joined effort between BRIDGE and ETIP SNET within the context of the European Green Deal.

This task force aims to collect and analyse the results of projects and based on findings to discuss with the appropriate stakeholders the prioritization of the research needs and innovation activities. Hence, the objective of the task force is to help the Commission, national institutions, and private stakeholders to identify progress made, the most promising technologies that spring from it and find ways to support them on their way to the market.

As an extension to the above question and related answers the experts to the discussion were further asked as to*: "How the task force of BRIDGE "R&I priorities" can be effectively linked to the activities of the ETIP SNET that generates the 10-years R&I Roadmap and Implementation Plans"*

Responding to the question the expert of ETIP SNET presented his thoughts showing the link between the task force of BRIDGE and what was done in ETIP SNET. The EU Green Deal and its policies have several energy-related aspects and implications, which require R&I developments, hence, the EU Green Deal policies .are elated to Energy and they can easily be mapped to the vision 2050 ETIP-SNET energy system building blocks, the required functionalities, and research areas.

As most of the participants had previous experience with R&I projects, a question was addressed to them wanting to know their point of view on how the main project outcomes can be transformed into key exploitable results useful for the product's evolution and success in the market, by ranking the following statements from 1 star to 5 stars (most important) using the Glisser tool:

In the initial phase of the project (e.g. within the first 6 months):

- **Make a market evaluation for positioning the key exploitable results of the project?**
- **Develop/define suitable KPIs for the foreseen key exploitable results to be achieved?**
- **Identify the innovation processes governing all different phases of the project evolution?**

Make a market evaluation for positioning the key exploitable results of the project?

The average response for the statement "*Make a market evaluation for positioning the key exploitable results of the project*" was 4 out of 5.

The invited expert of the Commission commented on this by mentioning the importance of exploitation and market evolution. She mentioned that in some cases the Commission requests from the project partners to make a market evolution for their solution and what needs to be done to bring the project solution to the market, especially in high TRL projects.

Develop / define suitable KPIs for the foreseen key exploitable results to be achieved?

The average response for the statement "*Develop/define suitable KPIs for the foreseen key exploitable results to be achieved*" was 4.1 out of 5. The expert of ETIP SNET agreed with the participants on the importance of KPIs. It is quite important to have a measurable KPI. This was confirmed by the expert of the Commission underlining the importance of setting the KPIs. It is also important to set specific KPIs based on what the project wants to achieve. More importantly, it is important to set KPIs, for which the project has control.

Identify the innovation processes governing all different phases of the project evolution

The average response for the statement "*Identify the innovation processes governing all different phases of the project evolution*" was 3.8 out of 5. Both invited experts agreed with the view of the participants indicating that projects are very well aware of their prime research objectives at concept phase, hence, it is natural that consortia of projects can define in detail the innovation phase that they intend to go through. This can be done at the early stages of the project, hence well positioned to pinpoint the targeted Key Exploitable Results and design appropriate plans to achieve them.

The invited experts were posed with this very important question related to the EIRIE platform: "What supportive role do you foresee for the EIRIE platform in the selection of R&I priorities and in enhancing the exploitation of the projects' results?"

The expert of the Commission indicated her belief that the EIRIE platform is a very important step in a direction that is much needed for the R&I community of Europe. There are currently many very interesting platforms that are available, and each platform looks at the smart energy systems from a different perspective. It is quite hard for the public and policymakers to navigate between many platforms. To solve this problem, the EIRIE platform was initiated to act as one-stop-shop, connecting all the smart energy platforms through one platform. Thus, the EIRIE platform will strengthen the access to knowledge about R&I in the smart energy field and will help researchers, innovators, and policymakers to have access to the project results. Looking at it from this angle, it would help in setting-up the R&I priorities.

Using the benefits of the Glisser the online tool, the participants to the workshop have raised appropriate questions to the experts of the Commission and ETIP SNET:

The 1st question:

Are there any instruments or direct requirements to align for example NECPs and 2050 roadmaps to S3 strategies and their implementation?

The expert of the Commission answered this question by mentioning that the Commission goes back to the Member States and tries to highlight the aspects that need to be considered.

The 2nd question:

Is there any generalized/common project evaluation/technology evaluation method that EC follows at the end of projects funded by EC?

The expert of the Commission indicated that as part of the process of project implementation, projects need to present an exploitation plan, or how the project results will be used at the end of the project. However, most of the time the exploitation activities are left towards the end of the project, when partners are busy with completing the project deliverables, hence under performing in the important field of exploitation of project results. Hence, there is a need for improvement in this field and we are pushing for exploitation activities to be part of the project execution and consortia to be obliged to be active at least one year before the end of the project with specific deliverables to respond to.

The 3rd question:

What are the next steps after R&I priority task force? And how can PANTERA project help?

The expert of ETIP SNET responded to this question by commenting that the "R&I priority" task force has just started, and currently the objective is to collect information and aiming to provide quantification to various prioritized areas. It requires a lot of effort to collect all this information. A questionnaire will be circulated to the members of the task force to collect some feedback on projects

in which they are involved. The link with PANTERA project and the EIRIE platform is of prime importance for providing to ETIP SNET the means to feed-in this information.

The expert of the Commission added that this R&I priority task force is a long-term process and the activities have just started.

The 4th question:

Is the "R&I priority" task force collecting information from ongoing projects or also recently closed projects too?

The expert of ETIP SNET answered that the "R&I priority" task force is collecting information from recent projects.

The 5th question:

How the NECPs R&I priorities are considered in the green deal plan?

The expert of the Commission commented that the "R&I priority" task force is looking towards the contributions that will come from the Green Deal activities. The NECP is embedded in the regulation and it will be connected with the green recovery plan.

3.6 Wrap up and conclusions

The workshop was handled virtually due to the COVID 19 pandemic, however, all went as planned with good stakeholder participation throughout the duration of the workshop and actively through the Glisser online tool. The event proved that the objectives of workshops can be met provided that technically there is good visibility of the experts participating and participants have the opportunity to express their views through online systems such as the Glisser. The workshop has taught us a lot in how we can organise such events to be successful and the consortium has gone through extensive analysis of the outcome and taken appropriate decisions for future events that are indicated in the paragraphs below.

The research and innovation pursued through the EU policy was well covered raising high interest from the participants reflected through the questions that followed. This was well covered through the role towards the green recovery leading to a strategy that is promising in achieving the high objectives of 2050. Under this prism, it was mentioned that at least 35% of Horizon Europe funding will focus on climate and energy solutions whereas the European Commission will invest around €1 billion in Horizon 2020 Green Deal Call. The structure of the green deal calls and the areas in which the green deal will focus on, were presented and the audience had the opportunity to get informed thoroughly. Also, insights on SET-Plan and the progress made by the implementation of related working groups were presented. Stakeholders were invited to check European Research and Technological Development (RTD) factsheet[7] for a more thorough update on achieved objectives.

The participation of the representatives of the EU JRC RIS3 initiative raised a lot of interest among the participants. They showed particular interest in the presented governance model of RIS3 and how this could be used in support of the Green Deal, in general, in a way that it can be ensured that RIS3 is addressing the needs of the regions and respond to their expectations. As it was revealed, the governance model of RIS3 integrates many levels. It does not only focus on the regions, but it includes the national, European and international dimension too, and it includes all kinds of actors (e.g., business, academia, civil society…etc.). It was concluded that the biggest challenge in the model of RIS3 is to integrate all the actors from the beginning.

The discussion with the expert of the Commission and ETIP SNET has confirmed that the EIRIE platform is a very important step in a direction that is much needed for the R&I community of Europe. As it was revealed there are currently many very interesting platforms that are available, and each

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[7] *https://bit.ly/394307v*

platform looks at the smart energy systems from a different perspective. It was emphasised that it is quite hard for the public and policymakers to navigate between many platforms. Thus seeing the EIRIE platform setting up as primary objective to solve this very problem, since the EIRIE platform was initiated to act as one-stop-shop, connecting all the smart energy platforms through one platform. They have revealed their overall satisfaction for this development stating that the EIRIE platform will strengthen the access to knowledge about R&I in the smart energy field and will help researchers, innovators, and policymakers to have access to the project results.

This fundamental service of the EIRIE platform was well understood by the participants to the workshop as well since through their selected preferences through the Glisser tool they have confirmed the following:

- Have high expectations from the EIRIE platform in the areas that we have promised to deliver and this shifts a lot of responsibilities on our shoulders to deliver as promised.

- All promised services of the EIRIE platform are of high interest to the stakeholders, seeing vividly the benefit that we have envisioned.

- Look at the EIRIE platform as the single point of reference of their work in the field of smart grids, storage and local energy systems aiming to build working relations and strengthen their portfolio of tools and resources to achieve their objectives.

- See the EIRIE platform as a high contributor to the materialisation of the objectives of the Green Deal giving through this positive approach their verdict that Member States and Regions should look at the EIRIE platform as a source for solutions in their endeavours to move the Green Deal to fruition.

What raised a lot of satisfaction to all participants of the workshop is the mere fact that the EIRIE platform will be hosted on the Smart Energy System servers of JRC to guarantee the sustainability of the platform after the PANTERA project is completed. It is evident from this reality, that the conceptual architecture of the platform and the work plan and progress achieved for the design and development of the multifunctional platform offer high expectations that are not going to be lost but thrive through constant support from the side of the Commission since JRC and DG Energy will offer this continuity.

Overall, it is concluded that the PANTERA consortium managed to organise a virtual Pan-European workshop with more than 50 active participants from all around Europe. Since the event was organised under the Energy Days for European Sustainability Energy Week (EUSEW), has helped to increase the visibility of the PANTERA project and the EIRIE platform. The European Commission and the European Smart Grid networks/associations were well presented (e.g., JRC, ETIP SNET, BRIDGE) in the workshop. The workshop attendees were lively acting positively through the offered capabilities of the Glisser online tool for direct communication as questions or response to the structured questions that were included in the two round table discussions.

4 Lessons learned and Future Outlook

The successful completion of the virtual workshop during the EUSEW of 2020 has offered valuable lessons for the future plans of the PANTERA consortium. These can be summarised as follows:

- The virtual workshop to be attractive and preserve the interest of the participants should be of reasonable duration that cannot be much longer than about 2 hours without any break.
- Breaks are not helpful to online workshops since you lose the continuity and the dead time in between sessions is not offering any productive possibilities to the participants hence it is highly probable that they will connect only for the section that they are mostly interested.
- The active participation of the attendees to the workshop through easy to use online tools is highly effective giving the right platform to be communicative and responsive to the expectations and views of the audience.

- On line tools to be effective should be managed with easy to pick responses and not relying on open questions since these do not reflect collective views through pie charts etc and hence not useful for the on line discussions with the experts to the round table discussions.
- The selection of the experts for the round table discussions both those coordinating the sessions but also the invited guests participating in the discussions is pivotal for the success of the workshop. They should be knowledgeable of the theme of the workshop and have the competence to manage the online questions and draw appropriate conclusions following the response of the participants.

Based on the success of the first virtual workshop of the PANTERA consortium it was agreed that such events should be repeated since the participation is much wider and enriched provided that the above qualitative pre-requisites are met. Travelling to physical events can be very prohibitive to experts from the targeted stakeholders but connecting for two hours to an online enriched workshop has proved much more attractive and hence the preferred option.

For this reason, the PANTERA consortium is planning to continue the series of Pan-European workshops in 2021 and 2022. When present travel restrictions will be lifted, the consortium will organise also physical workshops within the third and fourth quarter of 2021 to benefit from the advantages of phase to phase contact. Otherwise, the consortium will continue with organising online workshops and webinars along the lines indicated above.

It is planned to organise at least three online and physical workshops in 2021. The first Pan-European workshop is planned to be in Q2/2021 and it is going to present the EIRIE platform following its deployment which is expected to happen sometime in March 2021. The workshop will be targeted to the research and innovation community of all Member States with specific emphasis to the countries with low activity in the field of Smart Grids, Storage and local energy systems. It is planned to be organised online to attract as many stakeholders as possible from the smart grid community.

The second Pan-European workshop is planned to be physical (if possible) and it would take place during the EUSEW 2021 to attract the European stakeholders. It is going to focus on the tools and options offered by the EIRIE platform and how to use them for optimal benefits for the end users.

The third Pan-European workshop is planned to be physical (if possible) and it would take place within the framework of the Enlit Europe conference in cooperation with related partners and projects (still to be agreed), aiming to attract wider audience coming from the industry and utilities in addition to academia which is more prone towards the benefits offered by the EIRIE platform.

ANNEX1

AGENDA of the pan-European virtual workshop during the European Union Sustainable Energy Week of June 2020

Time (CEST)	Content	Presenter/Moderator
14:00-14:10	Opening the workshop and introduction to the PANTERA process	Dr. Venizelos Efthymiou, PANTERA coordinator, FOSS Cyprus chairman (presenter)
14:10-14:20	EU policy for 2030 to 2050 and the role of the R&I community	Dr. Efstathios Peteves, Head of Unit, Joint Research Centre (JRC) European Commission
14:20-15:20	Collaborating with JRC and the Smart Specialisation Platform for meeting the objectives of the Green Deal for reaching out and leaving no one behind	Dr. Christina Papadimitriou (moderator) Special Scientist FOSS Invited contributors: Mrs. Isabelle Seigneur and Mr. Fernando Merida-Martin (EC Joint Research Centre (JRC), Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy (S3PEnergy team)
15:20-15:40	The PANTERA platform in support of the R&I community in EU and much more	Dr. Venizelos Efthymiou, PANTERA coordinator, FOSS Cyprus (presenter)
15:40-16:40	Teaming with ETIP SNET and BRIDGE in enhancing the evaluation process of projects in support of R&I priorities roadmap	Dr. Luciano Martini, RSE, Coordinator EERA JP on Smart Grid (moderator) Invited contributors: Ms. Michela Marasco (DG ENER) and Prof. Nikos Hatziargyriou (ICCS/NTUA)
16:40-16:50	Wrap up and conclusions	Dr. Venizelos Efthymiou, FOSS

ANNEX 2

Table of Figures