International research collaboration opportunities fostering EU Clean Energy transition in Baltic States – PANTERA / SUPEERA joint workshop

Date: 27 April 2022

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 EEST

Location: AC Hotel by Marriott, Dzirnavu iela 33, Riga, Latvia

Broadcasting: 9.30 – 16.30, https://events.tiesraides.lv/pantera-supeera

Baltic States are actively working towards the success of the energy transition objectives and implementation of declared policies for achieving the low carbon economy. Yet, together with other less involved countries they have low participation rates in research and innovation (R&I) activities and the realisation of the European Union's Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan Implementation Plans. As a consequence, and unlike more successful Member States they have received only a marginal contribution of EU R&I Horizon 2020's budget.

In this context, PANTERA and SUPEERA are joining forces with the objective to enhance collaboration in R&I activities in these countries, facilitate knowledge exchange and showcase best practices of how international networking and cooperation between national stakeholders and key international associations and organisations can be beneficial for establishing long-lasting interactions and fostering joint R&I activities.

Therefore, the workshop will offer a detailed overview of the European policies, strategies, EU funding programmes and collaboration opportunities at the disposal to the research community of the Baltic States and bringing them closer to the R&I activities of Europe and get active with the SET Plan process. Meanwhile, the invited experts and stakeholders will share their experience in the project implementation. All together we will discuss the possibility of developing a shared vision and strategy for cooperation between the Baltic States in the upcoming research and innovation activities and work to identify our strong points and nurture solutions for building a competitive advantage.

The PANTERA project and the EIRIE platform

PAN European Technology Energy Research Approach (PANTERA) is an EU H2020 project aimed at setting up a European forum composed of R&I stakeholders active in the fields of smart grids, storage and local energy systems, including policy makers, industrial stakeholders, standardisation bodies and experts in both research and academia, representing the EU energy system (https://pantera-platform.eu/). The long-term objective of PANTERA is to strengthen EU clean energy R&I activities with special focus on the countries that appear to be less involved (including all Baltic states).

To reach these goals, PANTERA launched an interactive multi-functional collaborative platform EIRIE that stands for European Interconnection for Research Innovation & Entrepreneurship (https://ses.jrc.ec.europa.eu/eirie/en). EIRIE vision is to become a reference operational point to unify European activity, incentivise further investments in smart grids and support access to exploitable results that can spark further cooperation and bridge the existing gaps.

Alignment and collaborative work are essential to create the pan-European modus operandi envisioned within PANTERA. The feedback and continuing support of relevant national and international stakeholders, EU platforms and initiatives, national and international projects, will enable EIRIE to fulfil its goals.

The European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) and SUPEERA project

The European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) is an association of European public research centres and universities active in low-carbon energy research. EERA pursues the mission of catalysing European energy research for a climate-neutral society by 2050. Bringing together more than 250 organisations from 30 countries, EERA is Europe's largest energy research community. EERA coordinates its research activities through 18 Joint Programmes and is a key player in the SET Plan. For further information, see https://www.eera-set.eu/.

Among different high-level objectives, the "SUPEERA" project aims at raising awareness about the SET Plan and the Clean Energy Transition among research organisations, funding bodies and National Contact Points (NCPs) from the EU-13 countries and it proposes to widen the activity of those countries towards the SET Plan by facilitating the mobilisation of the identified stakeholders. SUPEERA aims to realise these objectives through the implementation of the following actions:

- The **identification and mapping** of national research organisations from targeted EU-13 countries with limited or inexistent participation in the SET Plan Implementation Plans, with great potential to be strategically involved in the future;
- The **engagement at EERA activities and the SET Plan** of those stakeholders beyond EERA network through the organisation of workshops and events;
- The **facilitation of knowledge exchange activities and sharing best practices** between EU-13 stakeholders and key EERA members with the ambition of establishing long-lasting interactions.

Agenda

Time	Content	Presenter
9:00 – 9:30	Registration and coffee	
09.30 – 09:35	Welcome address	**Dr Anna Mutule**, Head of Smart Grid Research Centre, Latvia
9:35 – 09:50	European strategy and latest policy and legislative developments supporting clean energy transition	**Aleksandra Kronberga**, Policy Officer at New Energy Technologies' Unit, DG Energy, European Commission
09:50 – 10:20	R&I activities supporting clean energy transition in Latvia: • Strategy • Priorities • Challenges and opportunities	**Einārs Cilinskis**, Senior Expert, Department of Sustainable Energy Policy, Ministry of Economics **Jānis Ancāns**, Head of National Contact Point for Horizon Europe, Latvian Council of Science
10:20 – 11:20	Sharing experience in international R&I collaborative projects and best practice: • Latvian best practice in energy R&I, experience in implementation of Projects of Common Interest • Lithuanian best practice in energy R&I • Estonian best practice in energy R&I • Nordic best practice in energy R&I	**Dr Antons Kutjuns**, Head of Development and Research Division, Augstsprieguma Tīkls, Latvia **Dr Žaneta Stasiškienė**, Director of Institute of Environmental Engineering, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania **Karl Kull**, researcher in Tallinn University of Technology, Department of Electrical Power Engineering and Mechatronics, Estonia **Dr Irina Oleinikova**, Head of Power System Operation and Analysis group, Department of Electric Power Engineering Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

11:20 – 11:40	Coffee break	
11:40 –11:55	SUPEERA findings: engagement of Baltic States in H2020 or R&I	**Dr Ivan Matejak**, SUPEERA coordinator, EERA, Belgium
11:55 –12:10	PANTERA process	**Dr Venizelos Efthymiou**, PANTERA coordinator, FOSS Research Centre of University of Cyprus
12:10– 13:00	Panel discussion: Opportunities to increase participation in joint R&I activities	***Moderator:*** **Dr Paula Carroll**, Centre for Business Analytics | Energy Institute Management Information Systems Department, University College Dublin ***Panellists:*** **Dr Antons Kutjuns** **Dr Žaneta Stasiškienė** **Karl Kull** **Dr Irina Oleinikova**
13:00-13:20	EIRIE platform, how is accessed, the roles of various users, collaboration area, matchmaking area etc.	**Dr Venizelos Efthymiou** **Tasos Tsitsanis**, Suite5, Cyprus **Dr Kyriaki Psara**, FOSS Research Centre of University of Cyprus
13:20-13:30	Wrap up and feedback	**Dr Venizelos Efthymiou**
13:30-14:30	Lunch and networking	
14:30-14:50	The SUPEERA project: Mobilization of EU-13 national public research resources in the Clean Energy Transition: challenges and opportunities ○ SET Plan and CET - benefits and engagement possibilities ○ Investment and reform measures for Baltic States for CET	**Dr Ivan Matejak**, SUPEERA coordinator, EERA, Belgium
14:50-15:20	R&I opportunities for collaboration and funding • Horizon Europe ○ Clean Energy Transition Partnership ○ Widening Calls • Norway/EEA Grants	**Spyridon Pantelis**, Project Manager, EERA, Belgium **Petter Støa**, Vice President Research, SINTEF Energi AS, Norway
15:20-16:20	• Energy technology policy formation in Lithuania • Experience and benefits from the participation in the energy international networks • ETIP SNET as an active link of national stakeholders with EU's R&I prime movers	**Daumantas Kerezis,** Adviser at the Innovation Group of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania **Dr Rolandas Urbonas**, Deputy Director of the Lithuanian Energy Institute **Dr Venizelos Efthymiou,** PANTERA coordinator, FOSS Research Centre of University of Cyprus
16:20-16:30	Wrap-up and closing remarks	**Dr Ivan Matejak**, SUPEERA coordinator, EERA, Belgium
16:30-17:00	Networking	

Background information for Baltic States

Latvia

Based on Latvia's final National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), and on the investment and reform priorities identified for Latvia in the European Semester, the EU suggests that more emphasis is given to the following climate and energy-related investment and reform measures:

- Measures accelerating the deep renovation of buildings and improving energy efficiency in the industry as well as in the heating and cooling sectors;
- Measures improving energy efficiency and renewable energy use in transport, including by developing the infrastructure for electric mobility, and supporting a modal shift; Measures to complete Rail Baltica;
- Measures supporting the further deployment and integration of renewable energy, including promoting the use of renewables in buildings; measures to phase out fossil fuel tax advantages, and aligning heating tariffs and car taxation with emission intensity; in cooperation with other concerned Member States, investments and related measures required for the synchronisation with the European continental grid by 2025.

Estonia

Based on Estonia's final National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), and on the investment and reform priorities identified for Estonia in the European Semester, the EU suggests that more emphasis is given to the following climate and energy-related investment and reform measures:

- Measures for reforms and investment into the expansion of renewable sources of energy in view of supporting the phase-out of oil shale from electricity production, including accompanying investments into the electricity grid and into storage solutions;
- Measures supporting the renovation of buildings, including integration of renewables, and continue the phase-out of carbon-intensive heating technologies;
- Measures for reforms and investment into sustainable transport modes, including the completion of Rail Baltica and increased rail electrification.

Lithuania

Based on Lithuania's final National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), and on the investment and reform priorities identified for Lithuania in the European Semester, the EU suggests that more emphasis is given to the following climate and energy-related investment and reform measures:

- Measures addressing energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings, in particular through the modernisation of heating systems; measures addressing energy efficiency in industry; measures increasing renewable electricity production and supporting the implementation of the renewables energy targets; in cooperation with other concerned Member States, investments and related measures required for the synchronisation with the European continental grid by 2025;
- Measures promoting sustainable transport, including public transport at local, regional and national levels, through investments in e-mobility, the deployment of recharging infrastructure and alternative fuels, including advanced biofuels; measures aimed at the completion of Rail Baltica;
- Measures promoting a green tax reform, by increasing environmental taxes and cancelling tax exemptions, while taking into account distributional effects

The Research & Innovation component in the execution of these measures is essential, and in this regard the PANTERA/SUPEERA project aims to support the research institutions in their efforts in reaching 2030 & 2050 climate goals.