

International research collaboration opportunities fostering EU Clean Energy transition in Cyprus

Date: 1 June 2022

Time: 09:00 – 15:30 EEST

Location: University of Cyprus, 1 Panepistimiou Avenue, 2109 Aglantzia, Nicosia –
Room LRC 019 in the Library building

Cyprus is 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. Even though the picture is a bit different on the realisation of the European Union's Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan Implementation Plans, where Cyprus is very active in several Implementation Working Groups, there is still ground for improvement.

In this context, [SUPEERA](#) project with a strong support from the [PANTERA](#) project is aiming 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 of the research community of Cyprus and bringing them closer to the R&I activities of Europe and reap more benefits from their participation in 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 of the R&I family of Cyprus in the upcoming research and innovation activities and work to identify our strong points and nurture solutions for building a competitive advantage.

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.

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 Bulgaria).

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.



Draft Agenda

Time (EEST)	Topic	Speaker
09:00	Welcome and objectives of the workshop	Ivan Matejak, EERA
09:05	Green deal objectives and beyond European strategy and latest policy and legislative developments supporting the Clean Energy Transition	Thanos Athanasiou, EC Office in Cyprus
09:30	The SUPEERA project: Mobilization of EU-13 national public research resources in the Clean Energy Transition: challenges and opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SET Plan and CET - benefits and engagement possibilities ○ Investment and reform measures of Cyprus for CET SUPEERA findings: engagement of Cyprus in H2020 or other EU R&I financial instruments	Ivan Matejak, EERA Spyridon Pantelis, EERA
10:00	R&I best practices for Cyprus Sharing experience in international R&I collaborative projects and best practices: Cyprus best practices in energy R&I	Nestor Fylaktos, Cyprus Institute
10:20	Q&A	
10:40	Coffee break	
11:10	Panel Discussion Energy strategy of Cyprus and pressing needs in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy and regulation ○ Addressing the needs of the Green Deal and REPowerEU ○ System infrastructure and services ○ R&I supporting mechanisms and growth 	Moderator: Ivan Matejak, EERA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nikos Hadjinikolaou, Ministry of Energy of Cyprus ● Marilena Delenta, CERA ● Anna Maria Christoforou, RIF ● Alexandros Nicolaidis, TSOC
12:10	Q&A	
12:30	Lunch break	
13:30	Cyprus R&I strategy: Focus to Energy R&I activities of Cyprus in building appropriate policies and actions in line with the strategic objectives of the country: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policies and actions ○ European and national programmes 	Evgenios Epaminondou, DMRID Anna Maria Christoforou, RIF
14:10	Norway/EEA Grants	Petter Støa, Vice President Research, SINTEF Energi AS, Norway

14:20	PANTERA project and the EIRIE platform PANTERA project and the launching of the EIRIE platform in support of the R&I community in Cyprus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives and opportunities • Actively participating & contributing in the EIRIE platform: The Cyprus corner) 	Venizelos Efthymiou, FOSS Kyriaki Psara, FOSS
15:10	Q&A	
15:25	Wrap up and closing remarks	Ivan Matejak, EERA

Background information for Cyprus

Based on Cyprus' [final national energy and climate plan](#), and on the investment and reform priorities identified for Cyprus in the European Semester, the Commission services invite Cyprus to consider, while developing its national recovery and resilience plan, the following climate and energy-related investment and reform measures:

- Measures introducing a green tax reform coupled with measures to promote sustainable mobility, including greening public transport and creating appropriate infrastructure;
- Measures opening up the electricity market to facilitate the increase of the production and use of renewable energy, notably in transport and energy production;
- Measures improving energy efficiency of all sectors of the economy, including buildings, and covering both urban and rural households.

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

