The trusted voice of Distribution System Operators in Europe
E.DSO
European Distribution System Operators

E.DSO is the key interface between Europe’s Distribution System Operators (DSOs) and the European institutions. E.DSO gathers 41 leading electricity DSOs in 24 countries, including 2 national associations, cooperating to ensure the reliability of Europe’s electricity supply for consumers and enabling their active participation in our energy system. How? By shaping smarter grids for your future.

E.DSO and its members are committed to taking on the vast challenges associated with the realization of the European Energy Union, which builds on the EU’s ambitious objectives for energy, climate, security of supply, jobs and growth. This involves ensuring the reliability and security of electricity supply to consumers, while enabling them to take an active part in our energy system (via the use of smart grids). E.DSO provides guidance on relevant EU policy, research and innovation (R&I), and on Member State regulation to support the development of smart grids for a sustainable energy system for the future.

Find out more:
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41
Distribution System Operators, including 2 associations

>350
million customers

7
million kilometres of distribution lines
Members

24 Countries
39 Companies
2 Associations

AT: Energienetze Steiermark
Netz Niederösterreich
BE: Fluvius
ORIES
CY: Electricity Authority of Cyprus
CZ: ČEZ Distribuce
PREDistribuce
DE: E.ON
EWE Netz
innogy
Netze BW
Rheinische NETZ Gesellschaft
ES: e-distribución
E-REDES
i-DE
UFD
Viesgo Distribución Eléctrica
FI: Caruna
FR: ENEDIS
GR: HEDNO
IE: ESB Networks
IT: areti
e-distribuzione
LT: Energijos Skirstymo Operatorius
LV: Sadales tiks
NL: Alliander
Enexis
Netbeheer Nederland
STEDIN
PL: Enea Operator
Energa Operator
PGE Dystrybucja
PT: EDP Distribuição
RO: e-distributie Banat
e-distributie Dobrogea
e-distributie Muntenia
SI: SODO
SE: Vattenfall
UA: DSO(E)
DTEK GRIDS
UK: NIE Networks
10 years of E.DSO

Club of 11 CEOs join forces to form EDSO for Smart Grids (E.DSO)

2010

E.DSO members cover more than 50% of metering points in Europe

2011

First InnoGrid event takes place in Brussels in February 2012

2012

E.DSO engages in three EU research projects and doubles its staff with two new team members

2013
The Energy Union Strategy recognises the importance of DSOs in the energy transition.

The European Commission proposes a Clean Energy Package enhancing the role of DSOs in the energy system.

E.DSO fully commits to digitalization by signing the Tallinn e-Energy Declaration.

E.DSO sets up a new identity with more than 40 members in Europe and an enlarged Secretariat.

E.DSO launches its three Committees on policy, projects and technology.

E.DSO launches the Stakeholder and Innovation Council to set a future vision for electricity networks.
Our energy sector has seen a transformative change over the past decade. This is being driven by a whole raft of new challenges including the development and integration of distributed energy resources and smart meters, together with the digitalisation of the power system and rising customers’ expectations.

These changes called for a pressing need to smarten our electricity grids, making it possible to meet the generational shift in supply and demand. Instead of the traditional power grid transferring electricity in one direction from the large power plants all the way to passive customers, the smart grid can transfer electricity both ways.

Distribution system operators are central to this transformation. They will increasingly manage small generators connected directly to their networks - from domestic solar panels and wind turbines to electric vehicles (EVs) and small cogeneration units. DSOs will also enable customers to play a more participatory role by encouraging them to change their electricity usage patterns, thereby contributing to enhanced security of supply and quality of service.
NOW

Power plant → Transmission → Distribution system operators → Wind integration → CHP connection → PV Integration → Demand-side participation

Active network management → Energy storage → EV Charging
Policy & Regulation

E.DSO acts as a policy platform between the power distribution business in Europe and stakeholders as well as institutions at European Union level. It monitors ongoing and new legislative developments, and provides industry advice to policy makers, drawing from the vast pool of our members’ expertise in electricity distribution, innovation, smart grids and digitalisation. E.DSO lends its expertise to the European Commission through the Smart Grids Task Force and by contributing to various consultations and meetings. E.DSO also collaborates closely with all stakeholders, for instance in the TSO-DSO Platform or through its own Stakeholder and Innovation Council.

E.DSO has been relaying the DSOs’ voice on major legislative proposals, including the Clean Energy for All Europeans Package and the new Electricity Market Design acts. Besides energy policy, it keeps a close eye on initiatives that have a cross-sectoral impact and also affect DSOs, such as sustainability and climate change, data and digitalisation.
Research & Innovation

The European Union’s goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing the share of renewables and to place customers at the centre of the energy system cannot be achieved without smart forward-looking electricity grids. Research & Innovation (R&I) is therefore one of E.DSO’s main priorities to ensure a distribution grid that is fit for these demands.

E.DSO engages directly and through its Members in R&I projects and initiatives to facilitate the integration of new technologies and solutions for the energy system of the future. It is a major contributor of the European Technology & Innovation Platform on Smart Networks for the Energy Transition (ETIP SNET) and has been taking part in 12 EU-funded projects since 2010. It gathers knowledge from energy research by collecting findings and recommendations from its Members’ projects, participating in Advisory Boards and co-organising with ENTSO-E the annual InnoGrid conference. E.DSO also co-sponsors the Ana Aguado Scholarship that supports young talent in the energy sector.
Technical Expertise

As the energy transition requires thorough adaptation of the DSOs to the energy system of the future, E.DSO also aims to gather and accompany its members in dealing with new technical challenges related to smart distribution grids, in line with EU energy policy developments.

It encourages the exchange of knowledge on smart grids in order to monitor the risks and opportunities of already established technologies focusing on five priority areas: Active Network Management, Electric Vehicles grid integration, Data Management, Cybersecurity, and Network Codes.

E.DSO has established structured cooperation and partnerships with a large array of organisations, such as CEN/CENELEC (standardisation), ENCS (cybersecurity), ENTSO-E (network codes) and ESA (earth-observation).

Additionally, E.DSO identifies and monitors emerging technologies in distribution grids and supports the design of roll out strategies.
Meet our Members
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