



Statement

**E.DSO welcomes the effort to establish
Horizon Europe - a cornerstone for the
completion of the Energy Transition**

November 2020

On 5th November the Working Party on Research met to discuss the proposal of the Council to the European Parliament in establishing Horizon Europe Framework to lay down the rules for participation and dissemination. This continues the European Council's previous efforts to reach agreement on the financing of EU research and innovation: the final Horizon Europe budget.

E.DSO, the Association of European Distribution Operators (DSOs) representing 41 members across 25 countries, welcomes the adoption and the draft regulation to establish Horizon Europe. With contribution in several RD&I projects, leading participation ETIP SNET and active involvement to various expert forums on smart grids E.DSO is shaping the European Energy Infrastructure to be fit for future needs.

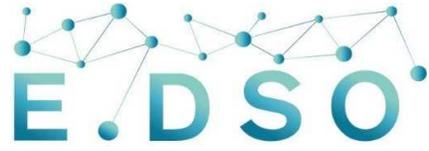
With the agreement on the Commission's recovery plan for Europe amid the Covid crisis, and the launch of a combined approach with the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the years 2021-2027 and the Next Generation EU (NGEU) the EU shows its willingness to invest in Europe's future. This mindset will also benefit Horizon Europe and support the EU's transformation into a digital reliable and crisis resilient player, able to tackle the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The efforts to secure Europe's Research and Innovation are paramount for the economy and the continuous development of new technology solutions to make EU's goal of a carbon free continent by 2050 a reality.

As the representative of Europe's largest and leading DSO's, E.DSO fully endorses the climate and energy targets to ensure that Europe becomes carbon free by 2050. To this end, E.DSO strongly recommends keeping a high level of investments in the innovation and digitalization of the grids, to support the delivery of the Energy Transition. Integration of new technologies into the energy infrastructure and the digitalisation of the energy sector are central to deliver on the decarbonisation and hurdles which must be solved through continued Research & Innovation in the electricity grid.

Thus, E.DSO warmly welcomes the two proposed energy-related Missions - "Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation" and "Climate-neutral and smart cities" of the Horizon Europe Program, which are compliant with ETIP SNET's 2050 Vision tackling the energy systems' key challenges. ETIP SNET & BRDIGE address the innovation needs of the smart energy systems and facilitate knowledge sharing among EU funded RD&I activities. E.DSO, as one of the chairs, has been committed to ETIP SNET since its very beginning. Furthermore, given the central role of its members E.DSO represents in ETIP SNET a gateway for the integration of the consumers into the future energy system in accordance with the Clean Energy Package. Under Horizon Europe E.DSO and its members will continue to shape the energy system of the future and the deployment of smart solutions by including insights from role model initiatives like ETIP SNET & BRIDGE.

The COVID19 pandemic indicates like no other event seen before the need to develop smart and digital solutions. The whole energy system relies on the rapid digitalisation to have a smart and resilient electrical grid for the coming years. E.DSO is therefore in the context of the EDDIE project - Education for Digitalisation of Energy - working to identify the need skills to accelerate the digitalization of the Energy Sector. Investments in education and digital economy, such as green skills, virtual communication platforms, flexibility solutions, IT, Data and Cybersecurity, are important to maintain the high quality of Europe's job market and RD&I sector. Efforts to cover the skill demand and advance the digitalization, should take a central role to ensure the resilience and prosperity of our society also in the future.

E.DSO puts its full expertise in support of the EU's Horizon Europe and backs the ambitions regarding efficient funding of innovation in the energy sector. E.DSO endorses the establishment of a committed focus on the innovation in electrical grids, while respecting regional differences, and reiterates its commitment as a reliable partner to the Commission in RD&I to tackle hurdles to reach the common goal of the energy transition.



SHAPING SMARTER GRIDS FOR YOUR FUTURE

E.DSO is a European association gathering leading electricity distribution system operators (DSOs) **shaping smart grids for your future.**

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