

STRIDE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

THE STRIDE WEB PLATFORM

The new [STRIDE Web Platform](#) is now live and available to all project members and publicly to all interested parties. The STRIDE “Danube Smart Energy Platform” shall serve as a network of experts, policy makers, and other stakeholders from all target groups and therefore build capacity for the STRIDE project—in fact, it will not be limited within the partnership but rather free for all interested and partners, involving members from the whole Danube Region. The platform allows members to exchange ideas, experiences, and knowledge of the STRIDE project topics and share them with the public.



All visitors have access to project information, notifications, and project events and can download project newsletters—all benefits available even without registration on the platform. Additional benefits are available to those who choose free registration to the platform.

There are several communication channels available on the STRIDE Web Platform to spread ideas, knowledge, and experiences amongst registered members. An Events and News channel allows project members to inform the public and other members about project-related activities. Project documents are also published within a second channel, and a forum has been established to enable direct communication amongst stakeholders. Finally, members can access educational materials created by STRIDE project members—including selected online videos from YouTube and self-assessment quizzes—under a fourth channel on the STRIDE platform. [Register here](#)



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PROJECT DETAILS

- Period:** July 2020-Dec. 2022
- Budget:** € 1,061,969.77
- ERDF:** € 834,497.49
- IPA :** € 68,176.80
- ENI:** € 0



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PROGRESS ON REGIONAL STRIDE REPORTS

Between October 2020-April 2021, the STRIDE project partnership conducted research to prepare Report 1 - *Analysis of the current regional energy situation* and Report 2 - *Regional potentials of smart grids* for each of the partner regions.

To serve as the basis of the research, partners held a series of meetings with stakeholders. The STRIDE reports shall have impact on building capacity of smart grid infrastructure in the Danube region.

STRIDE PROGRESS ACROSS THE DTP

Bulgaria

On the 25th of March 2021, the Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum (BEMF) organised a virtual meeting with stakeholders within selected target groups from the public sector, private sector and the academia. Mr. Ivan Hinovski, Chairman of BEMF and member of the 45th National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Parliament opened the meeting and presented the objectives and activities of the STRIDE project. The BEMF staff presented the status of the "Analysis of the current regional energy situation" Report developed within STRIDE, devoted specifically to the current energy situation in Bulgaria.



The participants actively took part in a comprehensive discussion on the challenges in the sector. For example, Mr. Ivaylo Alexiev, Chairman of the Sustainable Energy Development Agency, stressed that the new *Regulation 2020/2155* of 14 October 2020 supplementing *Directive 2010/31/EU* of the European Parliament and of the Council aims to establish a common EU scheme for rating the smart readiness of buildings and give some definitions for smart readiness, yet there is a lack of a common definition of 'Smart Grid'; the EU Member States, therefore, must transpose these definitions in the national regulations. The STRIDE project has an opportunity to help the authorities of EU MS countries in creating definitions for the legislation (i.e. energy community, energy cooperative, etc.) and to facilitate the development of smart energy communities.



VPP Podveležje (source: [M Kvadrat](#))

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In addition to preparing the first two STRIDE reports and concluding that the selected Region has great potential to increase the share of RES production, and thus the development of smart grids, CENER 21 (Bosnia and Herzegovina) researched three good practices and prepared subsequent reports on good practices. The first GP refers to the application of SCADA systems in the distribution network. The second GP refers to the integration of WPP Podveležje to the network, and the third to energy management in the business building of JP EP HZHB.

Other project activities conducted by CENER 21 include holding a meeting with regional stakeholders STRIDE, the Tešanj Development Agency and one of the two operating system distributors (JP EP HZHB). CENER 21 has also published two external publications on STRIDE— "[Peacebuilding Network](#)" with which CENER 21 has established cooperation, and the other being a publication on the website of the [Tešanj Development Agency](#).

Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, the analysed region from the point of view of smart grid development is to be the Zlín Region. For this purpose, cooperation was established with the Energy Agency of the Zlín Region (EAZK).

In cooperation with the EAZK, national public institutions were contacted in order to obtain as much relevant data as possible. The provided data was used to prepare Regional Smart Grid Analysis. At the same time, the municipality of

STRIDE Regional Updates

Hostětín was approached with the possibility of involvement in the project, and municipality agreed to participate in the project as the first example of Good Practice.

To further promote the project, cooperation was established with the Association of Energy Managers of Towns and Municipalities (SEMMO). Two press releases were published on the SEMMO website and the company's website.

Hungary

The STRIDE Report 1 on the analysis of the current energy situation has been completed at BZN, the Hungarian STRIDE partner. Following numerous meetings and discussions amongst the colleagues of the Hungarian AP, The Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority (HEA), who serves as the regulatory body of the energy and public utility market and supervises the national economy's sectors of strategic importance. BZN has also identified several topical EU projects with relevant Hungarian participation preceding this study. The objective of the EU-funded H2020 ANM4L (Active network management for all) project, for example, is to demonstrate how active grid management solutions help the grid's renewable energy absorption capacity.

Additionally, BZN are continuing to map and prepare the list of national stakeholders in the triple helix. They have registered for the 67th Wandering Assembly Conference and Exhibition of the Hungarian Electrotechnical Association, which is the largest annual professional meeting of the electrical engineering and energy industry in Hungary; here, BRN are planning to present the STRIDE project plans and ambitions in a presentation.

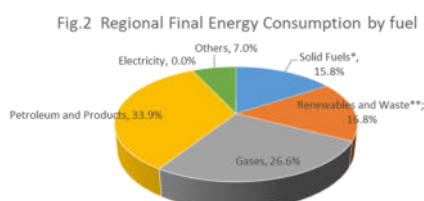


Interconnections between ENTSO-E Members (via BZN)

Finally, the preparation of the second STRIDE report on the regional potentials of smart grids (i.e. establishing the main chapters, data sources) is underway, and discussions with regulatory experts have been begun.

Germany

In Germany, the new funding programme "Smart Energy Showcases - Digital Agenda for the Energy Transition" (SINTEG) aims to develop and demonstrate in model regions new approaches to safeguarding secure grid operation with high shares of intermittent power generation on the basis of wind and solar energy. ICT-based smart grids in the SINTEG model regions are to safeguard system security for the feed-in of electricity generated from up to 100% renewable energy and demonstrate greater interplay between electricity generation, consumption, storage, and the grid. Within STRIDE, the European Institute for Innovation -Technology (Eifl-Tech) has conducted a regional analysis on the current energy situation of the municipality of Dorfen, STRIDE Associated Partner located in



9TH INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE

The 9th International Energy Conference "Energy and Cyber Security - Risks and Protection" was held on 11 February 2021 via Zoom.

The event was organised by the Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum (BEMF) in partnership with the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria, AES Bulgaria, ContourGlobal, and under the patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria Mrs. Mariyana Nikolova.



The international conference was organised in four thematic panel sessions, and the legal framework, practices, concepts, and technologies for cyber security at EU and also at companies' level were presented and discussed.

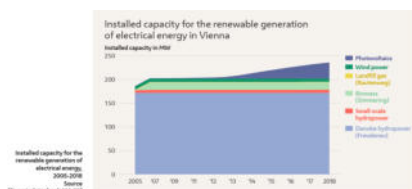
STRIDE Regional Updates

Upper Bavaria, whom Efl-Tech shall support in their implementation of smart grid systems.

Austria

For the STRIDE project, Con-PlusUltra will assess three projects, the *Seestadt Aspern*, *Viertel Zwei* and *Microgrid Campus* in Vienna as Good Practices.

Vienna is particularly interesting as a model region for a number of reasons. Not only is Vienna the federal capital of Austria and has about 2 million inhabitants, but the city is also of particular importance from the point of view of energy consumption.



Vienna has a gross energy consumption of 39.678 GWh and a recent share of renewable energy of 20 %, based on gross energy consumption. The main energy sources in Vienna are six large power plants which use combined heat and power to provide heat and electricity to the grids. There are major plans to massively invest in renewable energies in the city, with the nationwide goal of 100% gross electricity production from renewable sources by 2030. The three projects are intended to make a contribution to the exciting energy transition in Vienna.

Slovenia

Within the first six months of the STRIDE project, Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (LEASP) as project Lead Partner established a management team, and procedures and provides all the needed guidance and support to



partners regarding day-to-day management and reporting.

LEASP has organised numerous events bringing together all project partners, their associated strategic partners and, when relevant, other interested stakeholders. By now, STRIDE has already set a strong basis in regional environment with a wide list of stakeholders being interested in the outputs and the benefits of the project. LEASP has also conducted a regional analysis of the current energy situation, which will be a part of Podravje Smart Grid Analysis. The analysis will be starting point for further elaboration of smart grid strategy with action plans for the Podravje region.

Coming to the end of first period, LEASP has already identified one Good Practice, namely the Japanese-Slovenian project, NEDO, in which LEASP also participated as a partner. The main purpose of the project was to use of advance solutions that can respond to the challenges of modern electricity systems while considering the sustainable development and environmental-friendly solutions.



EUROPEAN PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

European countries are connected with one another for decades now and transmission system operators have been working in regions since the 1950s: managing one's grid means coordinating actions with your neighbours. The EU-funded H2020 [ANM4L project](#) develops solutions to enable integration of renewables with the agility required from developments in demand and production.



(Image via ANM4L project website)

The H2020 project, [INTERFACE](#), meanwhile, shall develop an interface between transmission and distribution system operators (TSOs and DSOs) and the customers to allow seamless integration and efficient use of renewable energy in the electricity grid.



ABOUT THE STRIDE PROJECT

ISSUES ADDRESSED

In recent years, Smart Grids have established a position very high on the European Union's agenda. As the development of new technologies have allowed for more concrete and realistic system solutions in regards to smart grids, Smart Grids increasingly represent the entire future development of the electric power system. Smart Grid concepts cover many areas, from the planning, operation, maintenance of the grid on one side and on the other side, from production, transmission, distribution and end-use.

Although prepared from a technological standpoint to implement Smart Grids, the Danube region is still in the early stages of the actual deployment of smart distribution systems. Local policy change to integrate the Smart Grid concept is essential in the further development of Smart Villages, Smart Cities or Smart Regions.



EU ENERGY SYSTEM INTEGRATION STRATEGY

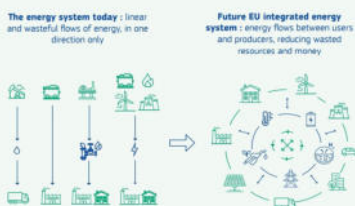
The launch of the EU strategy for energy system integration by the European Commission in July 2020 encourages smart sector integration as part of the European Green Deal. The strategy was planned to be discussed by the Council and the European Parliament in the coming months with a view to guide the Commission on future concrete legislative and non-legislative action.

PROJECT GOALS

Through knowledge transfer and the development of planning tools, the STRIDE project, standing for *Improved energy planning through the Integration of Smart Grid concepts in the Danube Region*, aims to provide comprehensive support for local/regional policy makers for the improvement of energy planning. Some of the main objectives in this transnational project include regional analyses, developed strategies, action plans and other tools (i.e. methodologies, guidebook, digital platform) that will enable and accelerate the integration of Smart Grid concepts into local and regional policies across the Danube region.

LONG-TERM RESULTS

The STRIDE project is aligned with the Danube Transnational Programme's *Priority Axis 3 - Better connected and energy responsible Danube region*, and will directly contribute to the programme *Specific objective 3.2 - Improve energy security and energy efficiency*. The STRIDE methodology for regional analysis, good practice guidebook and digital platform will be designed in a way that allows for their application to be rolled out across the Danube region — this shall have impact on building capacity of smart grid infrastructure in the Danube region. Replication of the STRIDE project shall provide much needed scalability across the Danube region and beyond.



ONLINE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Due to COVID-19, the international STRIDE consortium has convened online several times since July 2020 for their Steering Committee Meetings and exchange events — including the two-part partner meeting on the 12th and 19th of May 2021.

STRIDE PROJECT ANIMATION

A task overseen by the German STRIDE partner and Communication Manager, the European Institute for Innovation—Technology (Eifl-Tech), the STRIDE Animation was procured, and work has commenced on the promotional tool.

The animation shall be available for use on the website through all popular social media outlets and for use at conferences to ensure effective communication and



dissemination of the STRIDE project.

More specifically, the animation shall include an outline of the project & smart grids as well as the stakeholder involvement, with focus on the STRIDE platform.

For more information, visit our [project website](#).

PROJECT PARTNERS

The international STRIDE consortium is well-balanced with competent partners, including energy agencies, R&D organisations, energy clusters, a university and policy makers:

- Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (Slovenia)
- European Institute for Innovation-Technology (Germany)
- ConPlusUltra (Austria)
- Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research (Hungary)
- University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (Croatia)
- Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum (Bulgaria)
- EGÚ Brno, a.s. (Czech Republic)
- Centre for Energy, Environment and Resources—CENER 21 (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



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