

EDDIE PROJECT PARTICIPATED AT 4th E.DSO PROJECTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT EVENT

24th April 2023, EDDIE Consortium

Representatives of the EDDIE Project participated in the "4th E.DSO Projects in the Spotlight Event - DSOs at the Centre of Cross-Sector Integration" which was held on 29th of March 2023, Online. The fourth edition of the E.DSO Projects in the Spotlight Event took on a novel format to discuss different challenges that might arise due to cross-sector integration which we are currently facing in order to achieve the FitFor55 and REPowerEU targets. The event started with an introduction of the above-mentioned topic and was followed by an identical set of questions that were posed to three Horizon Projects: OneNet, Platone, and InterConnect. The latter was done in order to highlight different perspectives and shared insights that the projects have. The event was complemented with a keynote speech by the Erasmus+ EDDIE project which addressed the current skills-gap issue in Europe and was finally followed by a wrap up of the whole event and possible upcoming steps by CEN and CENELEC.

The European Distribution System Operators ([E.DSO](#)) is a valuable Partner in the EDDIE Project. E.DSO promotes and enables customer empowerment together with the increase in the use of clean energy sources through electrification, the development of smart and digital grid technologies in real-life situations, new market designs and also regulation. E.DSO gathers 35 leading electricity distribution system operators (DSOs), including 2 national associations, which cooperate to ensure the reliability of Europe's electricity supply for consumers and enabling their active participation in our energy system. E.DSO is leading Work Package 3 (WP) within EDDIE - Stakeholder mapping and strategic network building.

With more than 70 participants, E.DSO held the [4th Edition of its Projects in the Spotlight](#) Event focusing on the role played by DSOs as facilitators of energy system integration.

The decarbonisation of the European economy pivots around the electrification of traditionally high-emitting sectors, calling for coordinated planning and operation of infrastructures, smarter interconnections, and strong consumer empowerment. As Richard VIDLIČKA – Vice Chair of the Innovation and Research Committee of E.DSO underlined in his welcome address "EU projects maximise the impact of new technologies towards the digitalisation, resilience and energy efficiency at the core of the energy system evolution."

The urgency to accelerate sector-coupling amidst the current climate crisis and geopolitical tensions was further highlighted by Zoe DE LINDE - Deputy Head of Unit at DG CNECT in her keynote opening. The Digitalisation of the Energy Action Plan has set a common European strategy to enhance sector interconnectivity and information exchange.

Three DSOs, Areti SpA, Enedis, and E-REDES, were given the stage and the spotlight to discuss the challenges posed by energy system integration in the planning and operation of their grids and to share their experiences from Horizon 2020 projects tackling the barriers to overcome for a fully integrated EU energy system. In the roundtable discussion moderated by Valerie REIF – Research Associate at the Florence School of Regulation, the three experts discussed load electrification, power system coordination and digitalisation of grid management.

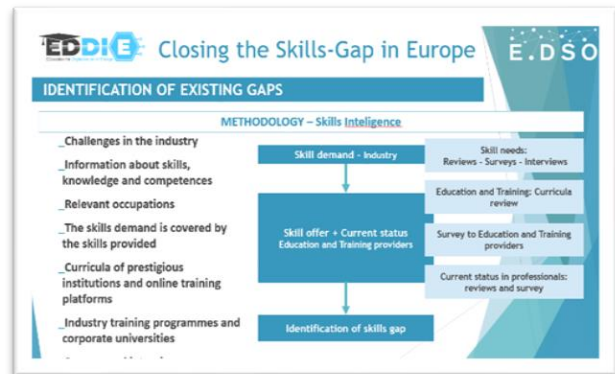
The [EDDIE Project](#) was represented by María DURÁN – Innovation and Technology Manager at Iberdrola which highlighted the topic of Closing the Skills-Gap in Europe. In a system of increasingly interlinked sectors, the professional upskilling of DSOs' workforce has become a priority for the achievement of the green and digital transition, more than ever before. To address the emerging skills gaps and needs, the EDDIE project is creating a Sector Skills Alliance (SSA) by bringing together all the identified relevant stakeholders in the Energy value chain such as



industry, education and training providers, European organisations, recruiters, social partners, and public authorities.

María DURÁN pointed out that "EDDIE Project will set the ground for a new generation of technicians, engineers and researchers who are able to use, develop, improve, and deploy new energy technologies".

In this context, the first objective of the EDDIE Project was to define a methodology to identify skill gaps for the digitalisation of the Energy sector by developing a common approach for assessing the current situation and anticipating future needs. An analysis regarding to the "**Identification of the Skills Gaps in both Industry and Curricula**" was conducted within EDDIE's WP2. The methodology was based on Skills Intelligence which is the outcome of identifying and analysing quantitative and qualitative skills in labour market as well. The methodology included firstly addressing the challenges being faced in the industry, followed by an analysis of the information available about skills, knowledge, and competences. After that, an identification of relevant occupations to the project together with relevant curricula of prestigious institutions and online training platforms, industry training programmes and corporate universities conducted. The WP was then concluded through the conducting of surveys and interviews. The conclusions were that were drawn following the here in mentioned analysis were that there exists a lack of adequate skills of employees, that a mismatch could arise should the provided skill set be greater than the demand. A large amount of data is being generated which ultimately means that Artificial Intelligence-related jobs and regulatory issues related thereto will be needed in the future. It was finally concluded that the biggest challenges in the upskilling process can be summarized by the word **integration**, and the most significant skills gap are those of data management & analysis, big data, cybersecurity and programming and development competences.



During the round table, Carlos Damas SILVA - Project Manager at E-REDES underlined that "Ensuring grid stability goes hand in hand with safeguarding user interests". In the Portuguese demo of **InterConnect**, E-REDES is validating a DSO interface supporting flexibility management and optimising connection of decentralised resources on customer's premises to the grid.

Aleth BARRIER - Project Manager at Enedis stressed that coordination between DSO and TSO is of utmost importance to ensure grid flexibility management and development. In the **OneNet** project, Enedis is participating with RTE to set up a back-office platform to simplify and optimise renewable flexibility management from order activation to compensation of the curtailment and to test blockchain technology.

In her concluding remarks, Catherine VIGNERON - Account Manager for Energy & Living at CEN and CENELEC provided an outlook on the role played by standardisation in fostering the twin green and digital transition in the light of cross-sector integration.

More information:

- More details including the recording of the event and the slides used, can be obtained upon request to the **E.DSO Projects Team** via projects@edsoforsmartgrids.eu

