



RESERVE PROJECT SHOWS ENGAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY IN THE BRIDGE INITIATIVE MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS

22 November 2017, Mihai MLADIN

RESERVE Project has been pro-actively engaged in the two meetings recently organized within the framework of the BRIDGE Cooperation Group for Smart-Grid and Storage projects funded under Horizon 2020 and supported by the European Commission DG ENER and DG Connect. The BRIDGE process fosters continuous knowledge sharing amongst projects thus allowing them to deliver conclusions and recommendations about the future exploitation of the project results, with a single voice, through four different Working Groups representing the main areas of interest: Coordination and exchanges on Business Models, Consumer Engagement, Data Management and Regulation. Key topics related to these areas have been intensively discussed by more than 100 participants during the individual Working Group meetings and the Coordination meeting organised between Monday 20 and Wednesday 22 November 2017 at the European Commission DG ENER in Brussels.

RESERVE Project has been included in the agenda and presented during the first day of the BRIDGE Working Group on Regulation meeting, as well as in the Coordination meeting on the second day.

Dr. Mihai Paun, Vice-President of the Romanian Energy Center and leader of the Work Package “Regulatory, legal issues & business models for RES”, represented RESERVE and presented the project focusing on current results and achievements, as well as future expectations regarding the BRIDGE WG Regulations and on the RESERVE approach. Technical, policy & regulatory Impact, as well as potential barriers and obstacles to innovation have been highlighted. RESERVE Project is playing even a more active role in Bridge Regulation WG, as Mihai Paun is currently acting as “Rapporteur”. His strategic role is key for ensuring recommendations and consultation on regulatory issues are based on the experience acquired in the projects and contribute to better development of the Smart Grids and Storage in Europe.

*“One of our **current objectives** in RESERVE is to propose a set of **key regulatory principles**, referred to as “options”, to be considered when determining the appropriate governance framework for the future electricity networks beyond 2040”* highlighted Mihai Paun in the Coordination Working Group meeting. *“Our results include **network code** and **ancillary services** definitions and will carefully address the **main regulations issues faced within the project**, including: developing new elements of harmonized set of rules expected to better address governance & regulatory issues of cross-border HV electricity flows and transactions in Europe, adequate to the challenging transition towards up to 100% RES integration and close coordination and communication with European TSOs. In order to define a set of harmonized network codes, a wish list is identified, combining a both ways top-down and bottom-up approaches.”* he added. Addressing the role of storage in RESERVE, the rapporteur of the WG Regulation stressed: *“**Storage** is one of the key points in the **management of the up to 100% RES power systems** addressed by RESERVE. Greater measures are*





needed to ensure the grid and system integration of variable renewables, including: better planning for HV electricity transmission projects for the development of smart grids, the creation of demand response mechanisms and the promotion of storage technologies. Transmission, distribution and storage of electricity need to be more efficient and flexible, so fluctuating and decentralized production can be handled easily and economically.” he concluded.

Bridge was established in November 2015 as a cooperation group for all LCE Smart-Grid and Storage projects funded under Horizon 2020. It is composed of four Working Groups: Business Models, Consumer Engagement, Data Management and Regulation. The coordination team consists of the chairs and rapporteurs of these four working groups, and Bridge meetings take place every six months. The aim of Bridge is to share knowledge, experience and best practice, and to allow projects to speak to the European Commission with one voice. Participation in Bridge also increases the profile of projects and provides dissemination opportunities.

Currently there are 32 Horizon 2020 Smart Grids and Energy Storage Projects participating in BRIDGE, involving 379 organisations in 31 countries (five outside of the EU). The total EC contribution to all projects is €337 million.

The Working Group Bridge Regulations aims to identify the main current regulation issues hampering innovative projects’ use cases & suggest future regulations to facilitate their deployment and to elaborate a set of experience-based recommendations for regulation issues for efficient integration of Storage and Smart Grids in Europe.

The European Commission presented at the BRIDGE Coordination event the current status of negotiations with Member States for the package of measures published in November last year in order to keep the European Union competitive as the clean energy transition is changing global energy markets.

The Commission wants the EU to lead the clean energy transition, not only adapt to it. For this reason the EU has committed to cut CO₂ emissions by at least 40% by 2030 while modernising the EU's economy and delivering on jobs and growth for all European citizens. The EC proposals have three main goals: putting energy efficiency first, achieving global leadership in renewable energies and providing a fair deal for consumers.

Consumers are active and central players on the energy markets of the future. Consumers across the EU will in the future have a better choice of supply, access to reliable energy price comparison tools and the possibility to produce and sell their own electricity. Increased transparency and better regulation give more opportunities for civil society to become more involved in the energy system and respond to price signals. The package also contains a number of measures aimed at protecting the most vulnerable consumers.

The BRIDGE initiative recently participated in [EUSEW 2017](#) and [InnoGrid2020+](#), EU events held in Brussels focused respectively on sustainable energy policy issues and innovation in electricity networks. BRIDGE was also showcased during European Utility Week in Amsterdam, which is one of the most active business, innovation and information platform covering the entire smart system value chain. Several BRIDGE projects, including RESERVE, were showcased at these events and representatives took part in a number of discussion forums, offering the audience best practices and key learnings from their intensive work within BRIDGE on: the main obstacles to engaging customers, innovative approaches to data management to boost the removal of existing barriers, key ingredients to enable new business models, recommendations on policy issues.