

FIRST INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR EDDIE PROJECT

11st of February 2021, Radu PLĂMĂNESCU

The newly funded Erasmus+ project of Romanian Energy Center innovation portfolio, EDDIE - (*EDucation for Digitalisation of Energy*) has the main objective to develop a long-driven Blueprint for the digitalization of the European Energy sector to enable the matching between the current and future demand of skills necessary for the digitalization of the Energy sector. For this project, the International Advisory Board (IAB) plays a key role as an independent external quality consultant in the project, and providing requirements and inputs on goals and issues, monitoring project milestones, and providing final feedback on results and future expectations in other sectors and other blueprints. Experts review will be carried at least three-times by the International Advisory Board, which is adequate to ensure proper external evaluation, with the involvement of higher education institutions. Sector representation is strong with relevant enterprises, umbrella organizations and Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) as associated partner.

The first meeting with IAB experts was carried out in November 2020 and an EDDIE project executive summary was presented, together with main achievements and planned activities summary. During this meeting several topics were raised, such as: The European Commission “Pact for Skills”, open-source communities within EDDIE project as they could be integrated in the project future work; cybersecurity as the power system is developing so fast in terms of needs for security; skill gaps and how they can be tackled; geographical dimension of EDDIE and how could the skills requirements and gaps are analyzed by country; exploitation of the results as the main purpose of the project is to get the maximum sustainability of its blueprint strategy; involvement of more countries in EDDIE investigations and assessments; website and social media interactions.

As WP7 (Dissemination, Exploitation and Policy recommendations) leader, [CRE](#) summarized during the meeting the consortium strategy and planned actions to disseminate, exploit and protect the foreground generated by a project and shall act as a guideline for the partners about the Dissemination and Exploitation activities to be carried out in the context of the [EDDIE](#) project. CRE as project partner and as a non-governmental organization in the energy sector, will facilitate the collection and transfer of information on training needs from the VET perspective, from its members (private organizations and public institutions operating in the energy field) to the project.

Also, a quest back survey was launched to 12 participants on early December 2020 to get specific external evaluation from IAB members to get on external evaluation outcome. Survey was prepared and launched by COMILLAS and DNV GL. Suggestions for improving or extending EDDIE's current strategy and objectives but also the importance of involving the associations of universities, the institutions that provide technical education and extend the current survey to other countries behind the consortium are main points collected throughout the survey. The most expected relevant result of a project focused on the digitization of the energy sector is strengthening of the training and educational system with more communication between all the partners involved that will allow for a new era in energy which improves sustainability without negative impacts on occupational levels. Improve safety, productivity, accessibility, and sustainability of energy systems. Breaking down the traditional boundaries between key sectors of the economy (energy, transport, buildings), opening the door to a new era of flexibility and supporting the achievement of a carbon neutral economy is stressed.

CRE is a partner and has promoted its members and other potential members in international consortium for the implementation of multiple energy projects funded by the European Commission: [SUCCESS](#) together with ELECTRICA, [RESERVE](#) together with TRANSELECTRICA, [WISEGRID](#), [NRG5](#) together with ROMGAZ, [CROSSBOW](#) together with TRANSELECTRICA, [SOGNO](#) together with CEZ Romania and TELEKOM Romania, [PHOENIX](#) together with TRANSELECTRICA, [TRINITY](#), [EDDIE](#), [EDGEFLEX](#) and [CYBERSEAS](#).