

## ROMANIAN ENERGY CENTER ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATED AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> INNOGRID EDITION FOCUSING ON "LIVING THE TRANSITION"

17<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center (CRE) Association participated at the 10<sup>th</sup> InnoGrid Edition focused on "Living the Transition", jointly organized Online by the Association of the European Distribution System Operators (E.DSO) and the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E), on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2021. The Event brought together experts from Transmission and Distribution System Operators (TSOs and DSOs), European Union (EU) Officials, Academics, Representatives of Civil Society and Industry.

**ENTSO-E** represents 42 electricity Transmission System Operators (TSOs) from 35 countries across Europe. ENTSO-E was established and given legal mandates by the EU's Third Legislative Package for the Internal Energy Market in 2009, which aims at further liberalising the gas and electricity markets in the EU.

**E.DSO** promotes and enables customers empowerment and 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 regulation. E.DSO gathers 41 leading electricity Distribution System Operators (DSOs) in 24 countries, including two national associations, cooperating to ensure the reliability of Europe's electricity supply for consumers and enabling their active participation in our energy system.

**InnoGrid** Conference on 4<sup>th</sup> of June highlighted the important role of networks in the energy transition and how they are enabling it today. During the Event, on 11<sup>th</sup> of June, the audience had the opportunity to learn more about leading EU funded Research and Development (R&D) projects that contribute to the transition by developing innovative solutions to digitalization, renewables integration, flexibility, and new market opportunities.

Opening the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of InnoGrid, on 4<sup>th</sup> of June, European Energy Commissioner, Mrs. Kadri SIMSON stressed the three major trends affecting Europe's energy system: decarbonisation, decentralization and digitalization. Mrs. Kadri SIMSON pointed out the important role of transmission and distribution system operators in managing the impact of these trends on the power system. The InnoGrid first day showed that TSO & DSO cooperation is very strong, regarding innovation, flexibility or sector integration, and that it will remain a key enabler in the years to come for reaching the objectives under the **EU Green Deal**.

Innogrid Day 2 - "**Beyond Sandboxes**" focused on Innovation in Asset Management and Markets. Introduced by Mr. Uros SALOBIR - Vice-Chair of ENTSO-E Research, Development and Innovation Committee, and Mr. Richard VIDLIČKA - Chair of E.DSO Innovation & Research Committee, the second day of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of InnoGrid gave the opportunity to participants to deep dive in some of the Horizon2020 Projects in the areas of asset management and markets.

In the opening session, Mr. Cristobal IRAZOQUI - Policy Officer, Innovation, Research, Digitalisation, Competitiveness in DG Energy, European Commission, underlined the importance of Innovation for providing evidence to support the development of European Policies on the Energy Transition. „We want to reach the 2050 targets regarding Innovation and we need Innovative Solutions to make our Energy Systems more sustainable, secure and competitive” pointed out Mr. Cristobal IRAZOQUI.

The electricity grid will play an important role in reaching climate neutrality by 2050 as per the EU Green Deal objectives. The projects **Flexitranstore**, **Farcross**, **Interconnect** and **Platone** had the opportunity to present during the Event, how the innovative solutions in Grid Asset Management they are working on, can accelerate the green transition. Moreover, the following Projects: **Interface**, **Coordinet**, **OneNet** and **EUniversal** underlined how their work is advancing on such key ingredients as interoperability, product and services standardization and seamless coordination among the different actors of the electricity value chain.

Innovation projects are a priority for **CRE** Association, for its Members and for all entities that have related concerns in this field. CRE is in a continuous development and aims to successfully implement the eleven European Projects, funded by the European Commission (EC) through the H2020 and Erasmus+ Programs, in which it is a member, together with its partners. After six years of intensive activity of the **Innovation and Development Department**, CRE is among the top ten Romanian Organizations from over three thousand entities that managed to win European funding, with a total exceeding four million euros, according to the **statistics** of the EC.

CRE already implemented five European H2020 Projects: **SUCCESS**, **RESERVE**, **NRG5**, **WISEGRID** and **SOGNO**, is currently implementing other five projects: **CROSSBOW**, **PHOENIX**, **TRINITY**, **EDDIE** and **EDGEFLEX** and will start **CYBERSEAS** in October this year.

CRE Association is an active and strategic partner together with its members and other potential members in international consortia for deploying energy projects funded by the EC.

