

THE ROMANIAN ENERGY CENTER ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATED AT THE 2nd INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD WITHIN EDDIE PROJECT

5th of July 2021, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center (CRE) Association participated and actively contributed at the 2nd International Advisory Board (IAB) of EDDIE Project – „*Education for Digitalization of Energy*”, hosted Online. This relevant and important meeting was organized by the Project Coordinator COMILLAS, on Thursday, 10th of June 2021. The role of Education in the Digital Era for Digitalization will create the framework for EDDIE Project to take part in the decision making process of Digitalization of the European Energy Sector (DEES).

In 2020, CRE expanded its research and innovation portfolio, through the European Project “**EDDIE**” - „*Education for Digitalization of Energy*”, funded by the European Commission (EC) under the ERASMUS+ Program. The main objective of **EDDIE** Project aims at creating a Sector Skills Alliance (SSA) by bringing together all the relevant stakeholders in the Energy value chain such as industry, education and training providers, European organizations, recruiters, social partners, and public authorities. The main objective of this SSA is to develop a long-driven Blueprint for the DEES to enable the matching between the current and future demand of skills necessary for the DEES and the supply of improved Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems and beyond.

The International Advisory Board plays a key role as an independent external quality consultant in the project, and it is providing requirements and inputs on goals and issues, monitoring project milestones and supporting with final feedback on results and future expectations in other sectors and other blueprints. Quality assessments are performed throughout the entire implementation period together with project progress reports. Members of the IAB are important stakeholders from the European Energy sector as follows: EUROGAS; DERlab - European Distributed Energy Resources Laboratories; FSR - Florence School of Regulation; T&D Europe; CESI - European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions; The City of Aachen; DAFNI Network; City of Herne; ENTSO.E - European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity and Italgas.

The 2nd International Advisory Board highlighted important and relevant topics for the current state of the project, best practices in education, blueprint strategy, stakeholder database, and dissemination activities. In addition, the focus was also on the assessment of the **First Technical Progress Report** which received positive reaction from the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Moreover, the path and strategies towards a new context of Education for Digitalization of Energy Sector, exploitation of the results, website, and social media interactions, were also topics on the 2nd IAB meeting agenda.

The digital transformation plays an important role in European Projects funded by the European Commission. In this regard, **CRE** Association is constantly preoccupied to create synergies between the telecommunications, energy and transport sectors in terms of investments in ICT, Digitalization and Infrastructure. CRE Association is currently part of a Digitization Hub, one of the 12 Hubs proposed by the Authority for the Digitalization of Romania (ADR) in Brussels.

Innovation projects are a priority for CRE, 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 11 European Projects, funded by the European Commission through the H2020 and Erasmus+ Programs, in which it is a member, together with its Partners. **The Innovation and Development Department** within the CRE Association is permanently concerned with achieving the strategic objectives of the association and maintaining the important position of the CRE, as a representative of the members working in the energy field, providing a constant contribution in the process of Development and Innovation of the National and European Energy System.

CRE already implemented five European H2020 Projects: **SUCCESS**, **RESERVE**, **NRG5**, **WISEGRID** and **SOGNO**, and 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.

