

THE ROMANIAN ENERGY CENTER WELCOMES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CYBERSECURITY INNOVATION CLUSTER FOR ELECTRICAL POWER AND ENERGY SYSTEMS

23rd of July 2021, Emiliano MARQUESINI

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center Association (CRE) participated and actively contributed at the Virtual Meeting entitled *"Cybersecurity Innovation Cluster for Electrical Power and Energy Systems (EPES)"* within the European Project *"PHOENIX" – "Electrical Power System's Shield against complex incidents and extensive cyber and privacy attacks"*. PHOENIX Project is funded by the European Commission (EC) through the Horizon 2020 Program. The Virtual KickOff Meeting aimed at announcing the establishment of Cybersecurity Innovation Cluster for EPES and took place on Friday, 4th of June 2021.

The **Cybersecurity Innovation Cluster for EPES** has been organized under the auspices of H2020 Projects: [PHOENIX](#), [SDN MICROSENSE](#), [CYBERSEAS](#), [ENERGYSHIELD](#) and [ELECTRON](#) as an independent initiative, supervised by the European Commission. During this important Meeting, the goals of the cluster were clearly stated and the plan for the upcoming period has been agreed towards coordinating actions for ensuring Cybersecurity and Resilience of EPES Infrastructures. The H2020 Projects are funded by the European Commission and European Research Executive Agency (REA) under the Digital Security Call "Cybersecurity in the Electrical Power and Energy System".

[CRE](#) representatives for PHOENIX Project participated in the KickOff Meeting. The discussion highlighted the Goals and Mission of the **Cybersecurity Innovation Cluster** in order to have a better understanding of its direction, the current status, its scope and objectives. Also, the meeting focused on the H2020 Projects introduction, the main identified cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities, as well as the scope and structure of the cluster.

The **Cybersecurity Innovation Cluster for EPES (CyberEPES)** will act as a think-tank and information exchange ecosystem in order to guide and coordinate the Cybersecurity Research and Innovation results; synchronize the EPES Infrastructure Stakeholders' continuous effort on improving the Cybersecurity and Resiliency of their Infrastructure; and contributes on building the Culture of Security for the wider community and end users via Training, Awareness and Dissemination activities.

The **Cybersecurity Innovation Cluster**, based on the common project approaches, will provide Research and Development (R&D) activities such as the coordination of activities and proposals towards the establishment of common cybersecurity procedures for EPES in particular, and for Critical Infrastructures in general, including Cyber-Threat Intelligence (CTI) information collection, storage and sharing, and technical measures towards cybersecurity.

CRE is a direct partner in [PHOENIX](#) Project together with its two members TRANSELECTRICA, DELGAZ (RO), as well as TELETRANS and Transport and Distribution System Operators (TSOs and DSOs). Other Energy Stakeholders from Central and South-East Europe: ASM TERNI (IT), ELEKTRO LJUBLJANA (CR), and PPC (GR), as well as other Industrial and Telecommunications partners from 11 European countries (France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Norway, and Netherlands) are Partners in PHOENIX Project.

[PHOENIX](#) Project officially started in 2019, has a three-year implementation period and a budget of 11 Million Euro. The coordinator of the Phoenix Project is Capgemini Technology Systems from France. The main objective of the Project is to improve the CyberSecurity of EPES. PHOENIX aims to offer a cybershield armour to European EPES infrastructure enabling cooperative detection of large scale, cyber-human security and privacy incidents and attacks, guarantee to minimize cascading effects in infrastructure, the environment, the citizens and the end-users at reasonable cost.

Furthermore, CRE Association recently expands its portfolio of EU Funded Projects, with a new one entitled *"CyberSEAS" – „Cyber Securing Energy dAta Services" in the field of CyberSecurity*, due to start on 1st October 2021, together with TRANSELECTRICA. Twenty-six European organizations from - IT, DE, EE, ES, SI, RO, EL, HR are part of the Consortia coordinated by ENGINEERING - INGENIERIA INFORMATICA SPA from Italy.

[CyberSEAS](#) Project ambition is to improve the resilience of energy supply chains, protecting them from disruptions that exploit the enhanced interactions and extended involvement models of stakeholders and consumers in complex attack scenarios, characterised by the presence of legacy systems and the increasing connectivity of data feeds.

CRE already implemented five European H2020 Projects: [SUCCESS](#), [RESERVE](#), [NRG5](#), [WISEGRID](#) and [SOGNO](#), and is currently implementing other five projects: [CROSSBOW](#), [PHOENIX](#), [TRINITY](#), [EDDIE](#), [EDGEFLEX](#) and [CYBERSEAS](#).

CRE Association is an active and strategic partner together with its members and other potential members of the International Consortium for the implementation of multiple Energy Projects funded by the EC.

