

CRE ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATED AT 16TH ETIP SNET REGIONAL WORKSHOP

13th April 2023, Carina ZIDARU

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center (CRE) participated through EDDIE Project – *"Education for Digitalization of Energy"* at the *"16th ETIP SNET Regional Workshop Western Region"* which was held on 28th of February 2023, in Bilbao and online. European Technology & Innovation Platforms (ETIPs) have been created by the European Commission in the framework of the new Integrated Roadmap Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) by bringing together a multitude of stakeholders and experts from the energy sector.

The ETIP Smart Networks for Energy Transition (SNET) role is to guide Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) to support Europe's energy transition, more specifically, its mission is to: set-out a vision for RD&I for Smart Networks for Energy Transition and engage stakeholders in this vision; prepare and update the Strategic Research and Innovation Roadmap; report on the implementation of RD&I activities at European, national/regional and industrial levels; provide input to the SET Plan action 4 which addresses the technical challenges raised by the transformation of the energy system, and identify innovation barriers, notably related to regulation and financing.

The Workshop provided a unique opportunity to learn about Research & Innovation (R&I) projects around Europe and contribute to the identification of R&I gaps, challenges and priorities. The overall purpose of this event was to learn more about National and Regional Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) and how and if they are aligned to the RDI activities on the EU level and, specifically, to the ones identified in the ETIP SNET Implementation Plan 2022-2025.

In this regard, the ETIP SNET invited the representatives of national and regional funding and support programmes from Western Europe (Spain, France, Portugal, Ireland and the UK) that discussed together with the EC, national funding authorities and ministries about RDI priorities and next funding programmes.

The Agenda of the [16th ETIP SNET Regional Workshop](#) underlined important topics as follows: ETIP SNET and BRIDGE; ETIP SNET Roadmap 2022-2031; Panel Session: National/Regional representatives; Integrated Energy Networks; Renewable Energy Systems; Digitalisation & Citizen's Involvement, and Cybersecurity.

[EDDIE Project](#) was represented by Miguel Angel Sanchez FORNIÉ - University of Comillas which highlighted the topic of *"Supporting Digital Action Plan – Skilled Workforce to accelerate the Digital Transition"*. Miguel Angel Sanchez FORNIÉ underlined the Project Results achieved in M1-M36 as following: Management, Monitoring and Dissemination; skills, needs and gaps (demand/supply), trends; identification/classification of stakeholders, Database, and network; VET systems analysis, and best practices identification for VET, University education and Lifelong Learning; Educational programs templates and BSDE strategic roadmap, and Pilot activities.



Regarding the Identification and classification of stakeholders, Database, and network, the following stakeholder categories were identified: Industry Energy; Industry ICT technologies; Industry Equipment or Infrastructure; Industry Engineering; Education; Social and others, and Administration.

Moreover, Miguel Angel Sanchez FORNIÉ pointed out that *"EDDIE project is funded with the clear requirement of establishing a Blueprint (Strategy) according to other Sectors Skills Alliances projects"*. In this context, the Strategy has to ensure sustainability after the project ends – December 2023, becoming a major reference in the education of the sector in the future. In order to materialise the EDDIE's Strategy was created the EDDIE-ENTITY. The framework of this Entity is related to the energy transition to be accelerated in the European Union through the Fit for 55, REPower EU and the associated necessary skills to support EC'S Digitalization of Energy Action Plan, and education through Pact for Skills. The European Commission Action Plan for Energy with focus on digitalization and will support the energy transition.

CRE Association is Partner in [EDDIE](#) Project, an Erasmus+ funded by the EU Commission aiming to create a Sector Skills Alliance (SSA) by bringing together all the relevant stakeholders in the Energy value chain.