



# ETIP SNET

EUROPEAN  
TECHNOLOGY AND  
INNOVATION  
PLATFORM

SMART  
NETWORKS FOR  
ENERGY  
TRANSITION

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## NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS COORDINATION GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Chair: Michael Hübner (bmvit-Austria), Vice-chairs: Cédric Thoma (DGEC-France), Annabel Fürstenau (BMWI-Germany)

NSCG established 23 Dec 2016

## Table of Contents

Background for ETIP SNET Working Groups .....	1
The National Stakeholders Coordination Group.....	3
NSCG Goals and Impact .....	3
NSCG Governance.....	4
NSCG Target Audience.....	5
NSCG Activities.....	5
Collaboration and Coordination within ETIP SNET .....	6
Annex 1: Key input documents .....	7

## Background for ETIP SNET Working Groups

In September 2015, the European Commission issued the SET-Plan Communication<sup>1</sup>, addressing innovation in the context of the strategy of the Energy Union. Among the priorities highlighted, of particular interest for the energy networks community is the priority "**Number 4 – Increase the resilience, security, smartness of the energy system**"<sup>2</sup>.

The European Technology and Innovation Platform for Smart Networks for the Energy Transition (ETIP SNET) was set-up to reflect the increasing need to consider the smart grids as an integral part of the energy system. The mission of the Platform is to guide research and innovation activities to support Europe's energy transition. The ETIP SNET will elaborate a vision and a Roadmap for R&I activities (and the associated Implementation Plans) for smart networks, storage and other sources of flexibility, and integrated energy systems, engaging all stakeholders. It will also look at customer participation and the impact of digitisation. It will identify innovation barriers, notably related to market design, regulation and financing.

A number of permanent Working Groups and a National Stakeholders Coordination Group are set up in the ETIP SNET to ensure the involvement and contribution of all the stakeholders of the energy system as a whole, providing vision, inputs, guidance and continuous feedback for the development of the integrated R&I Roadmap. The Working Groups are set up to ensure the most adequate balance between the effectiveness of their work on the planned deliverables and the openness towards new subjects and new issues which may appear. The following Working Groups are established:

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<sup>1</sup> Towards an Integrated Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan: Accelerating the European Energy System Transformation" (C(2015)6317).

<sup>2</sup> Other priorities, such as priorities one and three for instance, will also impact the energy system transformation.

- ❖ WG1: Reliable, economic and efficient smart grid system
- ❖ WG2: Storage technologies and sector interfaces
- ❖ WG3: Flexible Generation and integration of new functionalities of the Renewable Energies
- ❖ WG4: Digitalisation of the electricity system and Customer participation
- ❖ WG5: Innovation implementation in the business environment

WG1 to WG4 are dedicated to the different aspects of development of the energy system along its different main development paths; WG5 is focussed on technology transfer and impact enhancement, knowledge building through the analysis of results, knowledge sharing and application, analysis of applications and market uptake and identification of the actions to overcome the “valley of death” of innovation.



## The National Stakeholders Coordination Group

The **National Stakeholder Coordination Group (NSCG)** shall provide a **sounding board and exchange platform for national stakeholders** in the area of integrated and flexible energy systems<sup>3,4</sup>

On 15 November 2016 the Austrian Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology together with the European Commission, supported by ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus and ETIP SNET organised a constitutional meeting in Barcelona to consult with national stakeholders the formation of a National Stakeholder Coordination Group. These ToR are based on the findings of this meeting (NSCG A4-20161115, Constitutive Meeting- Minutes) and the conclusions from the ETIP SNET Governing Board Meeting of 09 December 2016.

### *NSCG Goals and Impact*

The National Stakeholder Coordination Group is a sounding board and exchange platform for national R&I stakeholders in the area of energy systems and networks. Its purpose and goal is to support the implementation of SET-Plan Action 4 on Integrated and Flexible Energy Systems. It shall enable national stakeholders to contribute actively and in a coordinated way to the SET-Plan goals and particularly to the goals as agreed in the Stakeholder Declaration on SET-Plan Action 4.

This shall be achieved by

- exchanging information on activities in member states
- transferring information and knowledge forth and back between the stakeholders on national and regional level and the expert working groups of ETIP SNET<sup>4</sup>.
- reflecting and commenting from a national stakeholders perspective the outcomes of the expert working groups of ETIP SNET<sup>4</sup>.
- providing a platform for ETIP SNET<sup>4</sup> to find partners and experts from national level that are ready to contribute to the ETIP activities, working groups and projects

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<sup>3</sup> The focus area for the NSCG is understood to be related to the SET-Plan Action 4 – one of 10 Key Actions as named in the EC publication “Transforming the European Energy System through Innovation, Integrated SET-Plan Progress in 2016, European Union, 2016” and outlined in the Stakeholder Declaration as endorsed by the SET-Plan Steering Group in October 2016, revised version from 28.11.2016 as provided by the EC (4.1 *An optimised European power grid*, 4.2 *Integrated local and regional energy systems*). The “temporary working group” of the SET Plan Steering Group on Action 4 will be in charge to further develop the stakeholder declaration, particularly defining concrete goals.

<sup>4</sup> In case that other ETIPs than ETIP SNET will explicitly take responsibility for the implementation of parts of the SET-Plan Action 4, the NSCG will work in equal measure with all those ETIPs (“Explicitly” meaning: not involved via participation in ETIP SNET itself, but as a separate entity, taking responsibility for the implementation of a part of the action).

- transferring information and knowledge forth and back between the Temporary Working Group on Action 4 in the SET-Plan Steering Group and the stakeholders on national level
- building a link to the members of the Set-Plan Steering Group and the Energy Programme Committee

Thus the National Stakeholders Coordination Group will increase and broaden the impact of the ETIP SNET<sup>4</sup> activities.

### *NSCG Governance*

The NSCG gathers representatives of stakeholders on national level from EU member states, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey (according to the representation in the SET-Plan Steering Group). It is coordinated by a Chair assisted by one or more vice-chairs, together with co-chairs representing the targeted stakeholder groups. The NSCG chairs and vice chairs are appointed by the SET-Plan Steering Group<sup>5</sup>. The NSCG Co-chairs will be appointed by the NSCG chair and vice-chairs, selected from volunteers answering a call among national stakeholders. These calls will be communicated in the NSCG. An initial call was communicated in the constitutional meeting in Barcelona 2016. The term of the co-chairs shall be two years. The chair, vice-chairs co-chairs will act as a communication channel to the entire stakeholder group.

The NSCG is organised by member states, supported by ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus. Additionally it is facilitated by the European Commission and ETIP SNET<sup>4</sup>. The EC and the ETIP SNET governance board<sup>4</sup> are asked to endorse the NSCG, the chairs, vice-chairs and co-chairs. All chairs and NSCG members contribute to the joint activities on a voluntary basis and no reimbursement of expenses is foreseen. Decisions in the NSCG are normally taken by consensus (or through majority vote in cases consensus cannot be reached).

The initial chair and vice-chairs – according to the nomination of member states representatives to the ETIP SNET governing board by the SET Plan Steering Group - are: Michael Hübner (Chair, bmvit-Austria), Cédric Thoma (Vice-Chair, DGEC-France), Annabel Fürstenau (Vice-Chair, BMWI-Germany).

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<sup>5</sup> typically the member states representatives as nominated to the governing board of ETIP SNET and eventually other explicitly involved ETIP(s) – see footnote (4). If other ETIPs besides the ETIP SNET get involved in Action 4 at later date, in accordance with the presidium, either the already appointed chair and vice-chairs can be partially re-appointed or additional vice-chairs can be appointed.

The above mentioned chair, vice-chairs and co-chairs, together with representatives from the facilitators<sup>6</sup> form the presidium, which shall regularly exchange information in order to coordinate the activities and prepare the meetings of the group.

### *NSCG Target Audience*

The national R&I stakeholders in the area of energy systems and networks addressed by the National Stakeholders Coordination Group shall be complementary to the members of the ETIPs, which are typically European wide associations. They are represented by the following target groups:

- National and regional R&I policy makers
- National and regional R&I funding program managers<sup>7</sup>
- National and regional key research institutes
- National and regional R&I platforms in the field of energy systems and networks, normally so called “Technology Platforms”<sup>8</sup> (NOT: national industry associations per se)
- National regulators

### *NSCG Activities*

NSCG will hold 1-2 regular 1 day meetings per year. Furthermore “ad hoc working groups” can be formed within NSCG in order to support the work of ETIP SNET<sup>4</sup>, according to available resources from members. Typical planned activities are:

- Present and discuss at NSCG meetings and events
  - roadblocks and learnings about implementation results
  - national and regional programs and initiatives
  - national key research facilities and research agendas
  - national and regional implementation strategies and roadmaps
  - outcomes from key demo projects on national or regional level
  - findings from the ERA-Net Knowledge Community
  - findings from the relevant EERA Joint Programs
- Join forces for mapping exercises, initiatives on labelling and KPIs on project level

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<sup>6</sup> 1 representative from the European Commission, nominated by the responsible department of the EC, 1 representative from each ETIP explicitly involved (see footnote 4), nominated by the entire ETIP governing board.

<sup>7</sup> typically from national funding agencies, responsible for a national or regional funding program in the area

<sup>8</sup> typically involving grid operators, technology providers, R&D-institutes, regulators, etc.

- Support the development of roadmap and implementation plans on European level
- Support projects that contribute to key demonstrators of the implementation roadmap
- Support the recruiting of participants for ETIP working groups from national stakeholders

The NSCG secretariat function is assured by the ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus Office, in cooperation with the INTENSYS4EU (H2020) project. It provides a permanent logistical support to organise and document presidium meetings and NSCG meetings and interacting with the chairs on a permanent basis as well as following-up the execution of decisions and action points.

### *Collaboration and Coordination within ETIP SNET*

The NSCG is free how it operates within the ToR. NSCG chair and vice chairs will be ready to report outcomes from the NSCG to the ETIP SNET governing board as well as to participate in the ETIP SNET EXCO in order to coordinate with the leaders of the ETIP SNET working groups. ETIP SNET working group leaders will be invited to present and discuss their outcomes and to reach out for participants among the national stakeholders.

## Annex 1: Key input documents

- Strategic Energy Technology Plan - Towards an Integrated Roadmap: Research and Innovation challenges and needs of the EU energy system [[https://setis.ec.europa.eu/system/files/Towards%20an%20Integrated%20Roadmap\\_0.pdf](https://setis.ec.europa.eu/system/files/Towards%20an%20Integrated%20Roadmap_0.pdf)]
- Communications of the EC COM(2015) 80 final: A Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy [<http://www.eea.europa.eu/policy-documents/com-2015-80-final>]
- Communications of the EC C(2015) 6317 final: Towards an Integrated Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan: Accelerating the European Energy System Transformation [[https://setis.ec.europa.eu/system/files/Communication\\_SET-Plan\\_15\\_Sept\\_2015.pdf](https://setis.ec.europa.eu/system/files/Communication_SET-Plan_15_Sept_2015.pdf)]
- SET Plan – Declaration on Strategic Targets in the context of an Initiative on Energy Systems [draft] as endorsed by the SET-Plan Steering Group in October 2016, revised version from 28.11.2016 as provided by the EC (4.1 An optimised European power grid, 4.2 Integrated local and regional energy systems)
- “Transforming the European Energy System through Innovation, Integrated SET-Plan Progress in 2016”, European Union, 2016 (Brochure presented at the SET-Plan Conference on 1 December 2016 in Bratislava).