

STRIDE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

STRIDE MIDTERM DISSEMINATION EVENT

On the 16th of September, the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) STRIDE project held its Midterm Conference and inter-regional workshop to exchange technical and legislative knowledge on smart grids, as well as officially launch the **STRIDE Smart Energy Platform**. Hosted by ConPlusUltra in Vienna, Austria, the STRIDE Midterm Event and press conference were open to all interested parties involved in the energy sector or have influence in energy policy.



The STRIDE Midterm Event served as an opportunity for invited target groups and associated strategic partners of the STRIDE project to join an Interreg Danube interregional workshop encouraging knowledge transfer of smart grid concepts. Moderated by the European Institute for Innovation – Technology (Elfi-Tech), participants of the workshop were provided with a comprehensive introduction to the training material currently being developed within the scope of the STRIDE project, which will be made available to members of the **STRIDE Smart Energy Platform**. Topics of the STRIDE trainings ranged from smart grid motivations to smart grid strategies and energy policies at the local, regional, national and EU levels. All open-source training materials will continue to be developed and disseminated through the digital STRIDE platform. Stakeholders also heard engaging presentations and



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PROJECT DETAILS

Period: July 2020-Nov. 2022
Budget: € 1,061,969.77
ERDF: € 834,497.49
IPA: € 68,176.80
ENI: € 0



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STRIDE TRAINING MATERIAL

STRIDE project partner **UNIZG-FER** focused this period's activities on the organisation of the Inter-regional Workshop in September 2021 in Vienna, where the drafts of the training materials were presented and discussed with the project partners. Ranging from smart grid motivations to smart grid strategies and energy policies at the local, regional, national and EU levels, the open-source training materials will all be made available on the **STRIDE Smart Energy Platform**.

STRIDE PROGRESS ACROSS THE DTP

examples of good practices from the Slovenian-Croatian SINCRO.grid collaboration project, presented by ELES (Dr. Uroš Kerin); Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies (BEST), based in Austria; GAP Elektroistra (GAP - Grid Automation Planning), presented by the Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar in Croatia; and Vienna's Viertel Zwei project, presented by representatives of the Viertel Zwei project.

The STRIDE Midterm Event concluded with the presentation of the **STRIDE Smart Energy Platform**, now live, as well as the premiere of the STRIDE project's animated video. In addition to providing registered members with tools and resources for the improvement of energy planning, the STRIDE platform creates a network of experts, policymakers, and other relevant actors to boost the development of smart grids throughout the Danube Region. Registration to the platform is free.

Bulgaria

On the 18th of November, the Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum (BEMF) organised the first National Energy Conference on topic "Smart Grids in Bulgaria - Good practices and perspectives" at the Sofia Tech Park, both in person and online. The event was devoted to informing local policymakers about the STRIDE project. The STRIDE project objectives and activities were presented, as well as the project training materials. The municipality representatives were acquainted with basic notions, definitions and perspectives of Smart Grids (SGs). The event combined training of local policy makers for their preparation to include SG concepts in policy documents and the sharing of good practices and SG perspectives by the leading players in the energy sector in the country.



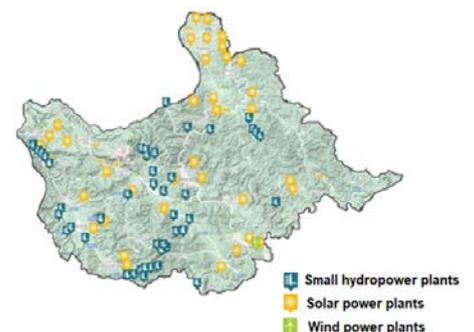
First National Energy Conference "Smart Grids in Bulgaria - Good practices and perspectives" in November 2021

Bosnia and Herzegovina

CENER 21's activities in the past period were aimed at completing the analysis of the current state of smart grids in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the results of which will be the basis for the development of smart grids strategies and action plans. Special attention was paid to the potential of smart grids in the region through the preparation of STRIDE reports and the development of scenarios for selected segments of smart grids. The criteria used to select the scenarios were the regional potential for smart grid development. The developed scenarios, which were prepared as three reports, referred to:

- Integration of large-scale RES—Wind power plant Vlašić;
- Electric mobility—electric vehicles;
- Distributed production systems—photovoltaic panels and household energy storage.

Additionally, CENER 21 has actively invited stakeholders to join the STRIDE Smart Energy Platform in order to have direct access to the exchange of knowledge and experi-



STRIDE Regional Updates

ences with the members of the STRIDE digital platform. Keeping in mind the importance of strategic documents, the CENER 21 project team has already held a meeting with the representatives of "Elektroprivreda BiH" on the occasion of the upcoming activity of drafting the regional strategy and action plans of smart grids. In the coming period, it is planned to hold meetings with other representatives of stakeholder groups in order to spread knowledge about smart grids and the importance of their integration for future development.



Power inverting solutions basic arrangement

Hungary

There was an accelerated change in the electricity system in recent year in Hungary. The Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority has published a **technology overview** examining Hungarian smart grid development on 19 July 2021. The present study examines the grid developments' effects on distribution networks and the possibilities of solving problems with a technical focus—it also examines the related regulatory issues. All this is a general technical document of 154 pages with detailed analysis of emerging technical issues resulting from the transformation of the Hungarian electricity system, e.g. intervening electric devices, their configuration options and the frequency

and not frequency related services from a technical point of view. The aim is to make regulatory issues and options more transparent so that they can be examined. The study has concluded that it is necessary to designate the direction of further investigations and consultations. This study can be used as official policy preparation, so it is important to include in the STRIDE training materials presented at the related Hungarian STRIDE events.

Croatia

Within the past six months of the STRIDE project, several novelties can be highlighted in Croatia significant in the context of smart grid development. After an extensive public discussion, in October 2021 the Croatian Parliament adopted the revision of the Electricity Market Act (OG 111/21), which leads the evolution of the electricity market in line with the EU's directives and energy transition goals. One of the novelties of this act relates to definition of citizen energy communities and provisions that allow local energy sharing within the communities on the same low voltage distribution feeder. This provision provides an additional economic incentive for developing advanced smart energy communities in line with the smart grid paradigm in electrical distribution grid. However, necessary by-laws still need to follow, as well as revisions of other important acts, such as Act on Renewable Energy to further foster the energy transition.



REGIONAL SMART GRIDS ANALYSIS

ConPlusUltra GmbH

(CPU) in Austria has overseen the implementation of the smart grid regional analyses, which seek to analyse the current situation in the partner regions relating to the use of smart grids. This resulted in the development of the deliverable "Regional Smart Grid Analysis" in December 2021, which will be shared on social media, the project's platform and on the project's website. Created for each of the partner regions, this document presents the specific characteristics of a given region in general, highlights the status of RES and smart grids, provides a SWOT analysis, identifies smart grid potentials, and focuses on challenges, conclusions and recommendations regarding smart grids for that specific region. This means that a total of eight regional analyses were prepared within STRIDE.

STRIDE Regional Updates

Czech Republic

Since summer 2021, EGÚ Brno has been preparing the templates for the development of strategy and action plans by each regional partner, which is a main activity of the next stage of the project. The first versions of the documents were presented at the first physical meeting of the project in September in Vienna. The finalised templates have been sent to partners, so that partners can start developing their strategies starting in the new year.



Additionally, an annual seminar on energy savings, which EGÚ Brno has been organising for the past five years, was held in October 2021. In addition to the topic of energy savings as such, the seminars always deal with other related topics. Presentations were provided on energy management, energy communities, photovoltaic power plants and batteries. Finally, EGÚ Brno hosted the annual Energetics conference, which boasted over 200 attendees. For more information, see “Energetics Conference” located in the side panel of this newsletter.

Germany

In Germany, three reports were conducted as a comprehensive regional analysis by the European Institute for Innovation – Technology (Elfi-Tech) in cooperation with the Stadtwerke Dorfen. The completed third report on *Scenario Developments*, together with *Report 1 – Current regional energy situation* and *Report 2 – Regional Smart Grid Potentials*, present a comprehen-

sive Regional Smart Grid Analysis for the region of Dorfen in Upper Bavaria, Germany.

Austria

ConPlusUltra (CPU) in Austria has concentrated on the implementation of the smart grid regional analyses, which seek to analyse the current situation in the partner regions relating to the use of smart grids. CPU shared the methodology for the reports and the analysis with the consortium, adapting its approach in accordance with the feedback received. While the first three reports are rather extensive, the analysis is a summary of the most important information. In addition, a good practice guide has been developed showcasing smart grids’ examples from the different regions. This will also be shared on the Danube website and the STRIDE platform for further dissemination.

Slovenia

In Slovenia, wind power as a renewable energy source is still largely untapped, although there is considerable high wind potential. Clearly there is a great urge to meet 2030 goals and wind farms could increase the share of renewable energy in countries total production. The two analysed scenarios for the development of wind power plants, conducted by LEASP, envisage the development of wind power plants up to 150 MWe by 2030, and between 200 and 335 MWe by 2040, in both scenarios with additional measures.



ENERGETICS CONFERENCE

The annual conference, **Energetics**, was held in September in the Czech Republic with the main theme of enterprise energy. Even with Covid-19 restrictions, the conference was attended by over 200 participants and featured a number of experts, including representatives of TSO, DSOs, ministries and the Czech electricity and gas market operator.



The importance of smaller dispersed resources in the corporate energy system will increase in the future; thus the increase in electricity prices was discussed as an opportunity for new investments—within this focus, co-generation or aggregation of flexibility were also presented.



WIND FARM TO MAKE STRIDES IN SLOVENIA

Planned for the near future is the construction of one wind farm in the Podravje region in Slovenia with six wind turbines, each with a rated capacity of up to 3.6 megawatts (MW), or a combined 21.6 MW capacity, built least half a kilometre from the nearest settlement.

The wind farm has the potential to produce 55-gigawatt hours of power. The units will be connected via a 20-kilovolt cable conduit to the wind farm substation, and from there by two further cables to transformer and distribution station.

ABOUT THE STRIDE PROJECT

ISSUES ADDRESSED

In recent years, Smart Grids have established a position very high on the European Union's agenda. As the development of new technologies have allowed for more concrete and realistic system solutions in regards to smart grids, Smart Grids increasingly represent the entire future development of the electric power system. Smart Grid concepts cover many areas, from the planning, operation, maintenance of the grid on one side and on the other side, from production, transmission, distribution and end-use.

Although prepared from a technological standpoint to implement Smart Grids, the Danube region is still in the early stages of the actual deployment of smart distribution systems. Local policy change to integrate the Smart Grid concept is essential in the further development of Smart Villages, Smart Cities or Smart Regions.



PROJECT GOALS

Through knowledge transfer and the development of planning tools, the STRIDE project, standing for *Improved energy planning through the Integration of Smart Grid concepts in the Danube Region*, aims to provide comprehensive support for local/regional policy makers for the improvement of energy planning. Some of the main objectives in this transnational project include regional analyses, developed strategies, action plans and other tools (i.e. methodologies, guidebook, digital platform) that will enable and accelerate the integration of Smart Grid concepts into local and regional policies across the Danube region.

LONG-TERM RESULTS

The STRIDE project is aligned with the Danube Transnational Programme's *Priority Axis 3 - Better connected and energy responsible Danube region*, and will directly contribute to the programme *Specific objective 3.2 - Improve energy security and energy efficiency*. The STRIDE methodology for regional analysis, good practice guidebook and digital platform will be designed in a way that allows for their application to be rolled out across the Danube region — this shall have impact on building capacity of smart grid infrastructure in the Danube region. Replication of the STRIDE project shall provide much needed scalability across the Danube region and beyond.

ONLINE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Due to COVID-19, the international STRIDE consortium has convened online several times for their Steering Committee Meetings and exchange events — including the two-part partner meeting in November 2021. The first in-person meeting took place in September in Vienna, though restrictions were in place as a safety precaution.

STRIDE WEB PLATFORM

The new STRIDE Web Platform is now live and available to all project members and publicly to all interested parties. The STRIDE “Danube Smart Energy Platform” shall serve as a network of experts, policy makers, and other stakeholders from all target groups and therefore build capacity for the STRIDE project—in fact, it will not be limited within the partnership but rather free for all interested and partners, involving members from the whole Danube Region. The platform allows members to exchange ideas, experiences, and knowledge of the STRIDE project topics and share them with the public.

[Register now at www.energy-stride.com](http://www.energy-stride.com)



PROJECT PARTNERS

The international STRIDE consortium is well-balanced with competent partners, including energy agencies, R&D organisations, energy clusters, a university and policy makers:

- Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (Slovenia)
- European Institute for Innovation-Technology (Germany)
- ConPlusUltra (Austria)
- Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research (Hungary)
- University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (Croatia)
- Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum (Bulgaria)
- EGÚ Brno, a.s. (Czech Republic)
- Centre for Energy, Environment and Resources—CENER 21 (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

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