

International research collaboration opportunities fostering EU Clean Energy transition in Bulgaria – SUPEERA / PANTERA joint workshop

Date: 25 May 2022

Time: 09:00 - 14:30 EEST

Location: Bulevard "Sveti Kliment Ohridski" 8, 1756 Studentski Kompleks, Sofia, Bulgaria, Bl. 2, Library Building

Bulgaria is actively working towards the success of the energy transition objectives and implementation of declared policies for achieving the low carbon economy. Yet, together with other less involved countries they have low participation rates in research and innovation (R&I) activities and the realisation of the European Union's Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan Implementation Plans. As a consequence, and unlike more successful Member States they have received only a marginal contribution of EU R&I Horizon 2020's budget.

In this context, SUPEERA and PANTERA projects are joining forces with the objective to enhance collaboration in R&I activities in these countries, facilitate knowledge exchange and showcase best practices of how international networking and cooperation between national stakeholders and key international associations and organisations can be beneficial for establishing long-lasting interactions and fostering joint R&I activities.

Therefore, this workshop will offer a detailed overview of the European policies, strategies, EU funding programmes and collaboration opportunities at the disposal to the research community of Bulgaria with the aim to bringing them closer to the R&I activities of Europe and get active with the SET Plan process. Meanwhile, the invited experts and stakeholders will share their experience in the project implementation.

The European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) and SUPEERA project

The [European Energy Research Alliance \(EERA\)](#) is an association of European public research centres and universities active in low-carbon energy research. EERA pursues the mission of catalysing European energy research for a climate-neutral society by 2050. Bringing together more than 250 organisations from 30 countries, EERA is Europe's largest energy research community. EERA coordinates its research activities through [18 Joint Programmes](#) and is a key player in the SET Plan. For further information, see <https://www.eera-set.eu/>.

Among different high-level objectives, the "SUPEERA" project aims at raising awareness about the SET Plan and the Clean Energy Transition among research organisations, funding bodies and [National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#) from the EU-13 countries and it proposes to widen the activity of those countries towards the SET Plan by facilitating the mobilisation of the identified stakeholders. SUPEERA aims to realise these objectives through the implementation of the following actions:

- The **identification and mapping** of national research organisations from targeted EU-13 countries with limited or inexistent participation in the [SET Plan Implementation Plans](#), with great potential to be strategically involved in the future;
- The **engagement at EERA activities and the SET Plan** of those stakeholders beyond EERA network through the organisation of workshops and events;
- The **facilitation of knowledge exchange activities and sharing best practices** between EU-13 stakeholders and key EERA members with the ambition of establishing long-lasting interactions.

The PANTERA project and the EIRIE platform

PAN European Technology Energy Research Approach (PANTERA) is an EU H2020 project aimed at setting up a European forum composed of R&I stakeholders active in the fields of smart grids, storage and local energy systems, including policy makers, industrial stakeholders, standardisation bodies and experts in both research and academia, representing the EU energy system (<https://pantera-platform.eu/>). The long-term objective of PANTERA is to strengthen EU clean energy R&I activities with special focus on the countries that appear to be less involved (including Bulgaria).

To reach these goals, PANTERA launched an interactive multi-functional collaborative platform EIRIE that stands for European Interconnection for Research Innovation & Entrepreneurship (<https://ses.jrc.ec.europa.eu/eirie/en>). EIRIE vision is to become a reference operational point to unify European activity, incentivise further investments in smart grids and support access to exploitable results that can spark further cooperation and bridge the existing gaps.

Alignment and collaborative work are essential to create the pan-European modus operandi envisioned within PANTERA. The feedback and continuing support of relevant national and international stakeholders, EU platforms and initiatives, national and international projects, will enable EIRIE to fulfil its goals.



Agenda

Time (EEST)	Topic	Speaker
09:00	Registration and coffee	
09:30	Welcome address	prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Kolev , Dean of the Electrical Engineering Faculty of TU-Sofia
09:40	Mobilization of EU-13 national public research resources in the Clean Energy Transition: challenges and opportunities SUPEERA findings: engagement of Bulgaria in H2020 or R&I	Ivan Matejak , SUPEERA coordinator, EERA
10:00	Sofia University's research activities and collaboration with the business in support of the energy transition EU funding for energy efficiency projects - the experience of SEA SOFENA Research team in the area of "Electric Power Systems" at the Technical university of Varna PANTERA process	Mariya Trifonova , Assistant Professor Department of Industrial Economics and Management Lily Stammler , Senior Energy Security expert, SOFENA Dimitar Georgiev , Assistant Professor, Department Electric Power engineering, Technical University of Varna Rad Stanev , TU-Sofia / Dr Venizelos Efthymiou , PANTERA coordinator, FOSS Research Centre of University of Cyprus
11:00	Panel discussion and Q&A	Moderator: Ivan Matejak
11:30	Coffee break	
12:00	R&I opportunities for collaboration and funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizon Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clean Energy Transition Partnership ○ Widening Calls Norway/EEA Grants	Spyridon Pantelis , Project Manager, EERA Petter Støa , Vice President Research, SINTEF Energi AS
12:25	The EIRIE Platform	Tasos Tsitsanis , Suite5 / Dr Kyriaki Psara, FOSS / Rad Stanev , TU-Sofia
13:10	Open discussion and Q&A	
13:40	Lunch break	

Background information for Bulgaria

Bulgaria

Based on Bulgaria's [final National Energy and Climate Plan](#) (NECP), and on the investment and reform priorities identified for Bulgaria in the European Semester, the EU suggests that more emphasis is given to the following climate and energy-related investment and reform measures:

- Measures supporting a coal phase-out strategy with a clear timeframe commitment and ensuring a just transition of coal and lignite-reliant areas, accompanied by a clear strategy for promoting renewable energy; measures to reform the energy market;
- Measures promoting investments in buildings renovation, focusing as a matter of priority on worst-performing residential buildings;
- Measures improving sustainable transport infrastructure and boosting sustainable mobility.

The Research & Innovation component in the execution of these measures is essential, and in this regard the SUPEERA project aims to support the research institutions in their efforts in reaching 2030 & 2050 climate goals.