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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the events organised in the context of SUPEERA in the period ranging from January 2021 to December 2021.

Almost all events organised in 2021 were held virtually, according to restrictions remaining in place throughout most of the year. Nonetheless, these virtual events were successful in setting the project on a good trajectory to reach its goals in terms of indicators. Missing are the workshops organised in the so-called EU-13 countries and the physical Knowledge generated workshops organised in the context of Work Package 2 (WP2), which were substituted by two webinars titled “Bringing research and industry closer - accelerating innovation & uptake by industry”.

The main highlights are represented by the success of the two policy webinars, organised in the framework of Work Package 3, focusing on the translation of EU policies for researchers in the energy community. The webinars managed in gathering industry representatives, lawmakers and members of the research community, creating an interesting arena for discussions and raising relevant points for future efforts in the field. The two substitutive webinars for WP2, introducing selected technological pathways also gathered a large audience, notwithstanding the more precise scope in terms of technologies discussed. The inclusion of speakers from both research and industry fostered interesting debates and mobilised the attention of all participants, but fundamental were also the interventions from EC officials on EU policies and strategies.

In addition, the focus on the EU-13 countries was not set aside. SUPEERA organised in June 2021 a webinar specifically targeting National Contact Points (NCPs), aiming to brainstorm and discuss the low participation levels in EU-funded schemes in the countries.

The scenario for 2022 looks more promising for in-person events, as this will allow the project's partners to reach more closely the targeted audiences. Still, it is indisputable that the switch to online events has been received positively and has allowed SUPEERA to reach broader audiences. The positive numbers in terms of participation reflect all partners' high level of efforts in bringing research, industry, and policymaking a step forward in their relationship.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

BTG	Biomass Technology Group
CET	Clean Energy Transition
CIEMAT	Center for Energy, Environmental and Technological Research
DG ENER	Directorate-General for Energy
EC	European Commission
EERA	European Energy Research Alliance
EMIRI	Energy Materials Industrial Research Initiative
ENEA	Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile
ETIP(s)	European Technology and Innovation Platform(s)
EU	European Union
ICAIR	Industrial Research Council for Artificial Intelligence
IFE	Institute for Energy Technology
IPVF	Institut Photovoltaïque d'Île-de-France
IWG(s)	Implementation Working Group(s)
JP(s)	Joint Programme(s)
JPC	Joint Programme Coordinator
KIT	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
NCP(s)	National Contact Point(s)
NECPs	National energy and climate plans
PV	Photovoltaics
R&I	Research and Innovation
SET Plan	Strategy Energy Technology Plan
SUPEERA	Support to the coordination of national research and innovation programmes in areas of activities of the European Energy Research Alliance
VTT	Technical Research Centre of Finland
WP	Work Programme

## I SUPEERA POLICY WEBINARS

### 1.1 A European Green Deal fit for the Digital Age: What's in for Clean Energy Research

**Participants:** 60 Participants

**Date and time:** Friday, 28 May 2021, 10:00 – 11:30 CET

**Videoconference Platform:** Zoom

**Organiser:** EERA

**Work package & respective task:** WP3 "Impact assessment pursuant to the Clean Energy Transition policy framework", Task 3.2 "Translating new EU policies into concrete actions for the EERA and SET Plan community"

#### **Speakers:**

- European Parliament – **Claudia Gamon MEP**, *Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*
- European Commission – **Vincent Berrutto**, *Head of Unit Innovation, Research, Digitalisation, Competitiveness - DG ENER*
- EERA – **Rafael Mayo-Garcia**, *Senior Researcher at CIEMAT and Coordinator of the transversal Joint Programme Digitalisation for Energy*
- Industrial Research Council for Artificial Intelligence (ICAIR) – **Olena Kushakovska**, *Member*

#### **Aim & Outcomes:**

This webinar aimed to highlight the R&I, policy, and business priorities regarding the Clean Energy Transition in Europe in their complex relations with the unfolding digital landscape and how they contribute to developing innovative solutions to address these challenges. The discussion featured high-level speakers from the EU institutions, leading European research organisations and industry. They raised a series of interesting points on, among other topics, the resilience linked to R&I investments, the role of citizens in the clean energy transition, and the potential impact of Artificial Intelligence in energy applications

#### **Post-Webinar Materials:**

- [Recording](#)
- [Presentations](#)

## 1.2 Energy Sufficiency and Efficiency in the Fit for 55 Context: Challenges & Opportunities for Clean Energy Research

**Participants:** 101 Participants

**Date and time:** Thursday, 16 December 2021, 10:00 – 11:30 CET

**Videoconference Platform:** Zoom

**Organiser:** EERA

**Work package & respective task:** WP3 "Impact assessment pursuant to the Clean Energy Transition policy framework", Task 3.2 "Translating new EU policies into concrete actions for the EERA and SET Plan community"

### Speakers:

- European Commission – **Radoš Horáček**, *Team Leader – Energy Efficiency Policy Implementation and Analysis, DG ENER*
- Permanent Representation of Italy to the European Union – **Wolfgang D'Innocenzo**, *Energy Attaché*
- EERA – **Yvonne Van Delft**, *Coordinator of the Joint Programme Energy Efficiency in Industrial Processes*
- GreenLab Skive – **Jakob Hebsgaard Mogensen**, *Head of Business Development and interim Research Director*

### Aim & Outcomes:

The webinar "Energy Sufficiency and Efficiency in the Fit for 55 Context: Challenges & Opportunities for Clean Energy Research" successfully showed the potential of coordinating efforts in advancing talks and knowledge-sharing in the field. With more than 100 participants, the diversity of the profiles assisting enriched the discussion and created a favourable environment for cross-cutting interaction.

The event was opened by Mr Radoš Horáček, representing the Directorate General for Energy in the European Commission. He presented the main features of the latest legislative proposals on energy efficiency, showing the Commission's plan to achieve a 9% reduction in energy consumption by 2030. Although the Member States should take up the goal, the current ambitions do not seem to coincide with the measures indicated in the countries' National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs).

The point of view of a Member State was brought forward by the second speaker, Mr Wolfgang D'Innocenzo, from the Permanent Representation of Italy to the European Union. He underlined the challenges in proposing EU standards for energy efficiency, as each Member State has specific conditions that might hamper or favour different approaches.

The fundamental nature of continuous research efforts was the focal point of Ms Yvonne van Delft's intervention, representing the EERA Joint Programme on Energy Efficiency in Industrial Processes. The expert brought fundamental data to the conversation, showing that industry

reached its peak in terms of energy efficiency throughout the 1990s until 2007. When comparing the 2007-2021 period, the pace of improvement has been slow-moving or non-existent in specific sectors. To invert this trend, and according to Ms Van Delft, industry needs to implement new production systems. In this respect, energy research in decarbonisation will be crucial, as green objectives will require increasing energy demand linked to hydrogen production and CO2 capture systems. Therefore, in the view of the expert, it is necessary to see such conditions taken into consideration by EU policies, starting from the currently proposed 'Fit for 55' legislation package.

The discussion was concluded by Mr Jakob Hebsgaard Mogensen, who brought the successful experience of Green Lab Skive to the audience's attention. A public-private initiative, GreenLab is a one-of-a-kind business park focused on producing in an environmentally friendly way. More than this, it represents an integrated system of renewable energy sources and industrial production, firmly imprinted on circular economy practices and green planning.

The four pitches showed a high level of intertwining, with speakers addressing the same topics from different points of view and interacting both with each other and the audience. The conversation led to the emergence of challenging questions and possible points of action for energy efficiency and the clean energy transition. The webinar clearly showcased how joining forces can positively impact all sectors, favouring the emergence of an innovation ecosystem that will enable the energy efficiency and sufficiency efforts needed to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

**Post-Webinar Materials:**

- [Recording](#)
- [Presentations](#)

## II BRINGING RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY CLOSER: ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND UPTAKE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

### 2.1 2nd SUPEERA webinar: Bringing research and industry closer: accelerating innovation and uptake of new technologies

**Participants:** 83 Participants

**Date and time:** Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 10:00 – 11:45 CET

**Videoconference Platform:** Zoom

**Organiser:** EERA

**Work package & respective task:** WP2 "Accelerating innovation and uptake by industry", Task 2.3 "Dialogue for transnational collaboration with industry in support of the NECPs"

#### Speakers:

- EERA
  - *Ivan Matejak, Project Manager*
  - *Monica de Juan, Project Manager*
  - *Stefano Passerini, JP Coordinator (KIT, DE)*
  - *Andrea Monti, JP Coordinator (University of Bologna, IT)*
- European Commission – *Alessia Clocchiatti, DG ENER*
- BTG – *René Venendaal*
- CIEMAT – *Raquel Iglesias Esteban*
- ETIP Batteries – *Alessandro Romanello*
- IFE/University of Oslo – *Alexey Kopusov*
- VTT – *Maria Oksa*

#### Aim & Outcomes:

This webinar specifically focused on pathways related to Energy Storage and Bioenergy. The Bioenergy panel started by underscoring that, with about 60% of renewables being produced by biomass, bioenergy represents the largest renewable energy source worldwide. According to the experts involved, bioenergy deployment is crucial to reach the EU's energy and climate targets. In the Energy Storage panel, experts discussed the best practices that stemmed from the Joint Programme on Energy Storage and the experience of the Batteries Europe project, showing concrete examples of how research and industry have cooperated with positive results in the field.

#### Post-Webinar Materials:

- [Recording](#)

- [Presentations](#)

## 2.2 Solar Power and Energy Systems Integration in the NECPs: 3rd SUPEERA webinar on accelerating innovation and uptake of new technologies

**Participants:** 90 Participants

**Date and time:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021, 10:00 – 11:45 CET

**Videoconference Platform:** Zoom

**Organiser:** EERA

**Work package & respective task:** WP2 "Accelerating innovation and uptake by industry", Task 2.3 "Dialogue for transnational collaboration with industry in support of the NECPs"

### Speakers:

- EERA
  - **Ivan Matejak**, Project Manager
  - **Monica de Juan**, Project Manager
  - **Laurens de Vries**, JP Coordinator (TU Delft, NL)
  - **Franco Roca**, JP member (ENEA, IT)
  - **Ricardo Sanchez**, JP member (CIEMAT, ES)
- European Commission – **Eric Fee**, DG ENER
- ETIP SNET – **Maria Laura Trifiletti** (Zabala, BE)
- ETIP PV – **Roch Drozdowski-Strehl** (IPVF, FR)
- VTT
  - **Maria Oksa**
  - **Suvisanna Correia**

### Aim & Outcomes:

The event was focused explicitly on pathways on Solar Power and Energy System Integration. The Solar Power panel outlined some examples of national initiatives that aim at fostering collaboration between the PV R&I sector and the industry, with specific showcases from Italy and Spain. Recognised main barriers hindering the cooperation between research and industry in the solar energy field include a lack of trust of companies, different work paces, and a lack of commercial power plant projects. Implementing sectorial flagship initiatives could help the industry benefit from more significant incentives.

The Energy System Integration panel included presentations of projects and initiatives, like ETIP SNET, and their experience bridging the gap between research and industry by outlining identified obstacles and mitigation measures.

#### Post-Webinar Materials:

- [Recording](#)
- [Presentations](#)

### III EU-13 FOCUSED EVENTS

#### 3.1 SUPEERA Webinar for EU13: Strengthening participation in EU Clean Energy Transition

**Participants:** 21 Participants

**Date and time:** Tuesday, 1 June 2021, 14:00 – 15:30 CET

**Videoconference Platform:** Zoom

**Organiser:** EERA

**Work package & respective task:** WP1 "Facilitating the execution of the SET Plan", Task 1.4 Widening. Recommendations for mobilisation of National Public Research resources in EU13".

#### Speakers:

- EERA
  - *Adel El Gammal, Secretary General*
  - *Ivan Matejak, Project Manager*
  - *Monica de Juan, Project Manager*
- SINTEF
  - *Berta Matas Güell, Senior Researcher*

#### Aim & Outcomes

The second webinar organised in the context of WP1 took place on 1 June 2021. It was explicitly addressed to EU13 National Contact Points (NCPs) to brainstorm and examine the reasons for the lower participation in EU-funded schemes of these countries.

NCPs were invited to showcase the reasons accounting for the lower participation as well as to share best practices and relevant experiences.

In the second half of the webinar, EERA provided an update on the SET Plan, the CET and the related main funding opportunities.

## IV EVENTS-RELATED KPIS

In total, the four events organised in 2021 gathered 355 participants. The indicator represents remarkable progress towards the objective of 500 participants over the entire course of the project. In particular, 2022 should see a higher number of events organised given the foreseen reopening of international travel for events. However, despite the limitations imposed by the two years of Covid-19 related restrictions that have forced the switch to online events, participation level in the SUPEERA events has proved not to be an issue.

The results achieved on this indicator set SUPEERA on the right track to achieve the goals indicated in the project's proposal and the Communication and Dissemination Strategy and Implementation Plan.

## V PARTICIPATION IN THIRD-PARTY EVENTS

SUPEERA is active in networking with other projects and stakeholder groups as part of its activities. In particular, it forms an integral part of EERA's activities as its identified beneficiary. In this context, the SUPEERA project is presented as a central topic of discussion at the EERA Annual Strategy Meeting. The activities performed and results obtained throughout the year were showcased to the Executive Committee of the Alliance and the EERA members. SUPEERA was also an item on the agenda of two of EERA's Joint Programme Coordinators (JPC) Meetings, namely at JPC Meeting #27 (3 June 2021) and JPC Meeting #28 (28 September 2021).

SUPEERA was presented at events organised in the framework of other EU projects. Representatives from the project's consortium co-organised a SUPEERA workshop in collaboration with the PANTERA project, "Boosting the R&I activity on Smart Grid Technologies", organised in Croatia on 10 September 2021. The former was not the only occasion for collaboration with other initiatives. SUPEERA was presented at the EERA JP Wind & SETWind Annual Event 2021, held on 20 September 2021, and at the workshop "EU Clean Energy Transition: Perspectives and Challenges for Energy Storage" organised by the EERA Joint Programme on Energy Storage on 24 November 2021, in the context of the launch of the StoRIES project.