

Sustainable Energy in the Danube Region

#COSTconnect

10 October 2018

Hotel Hyatt Regency
Milentija Popovica 5 Belgrade, Serbia.

ENERGY RESEARCH IN THE DANUBE REGION

BACKGROUND

With the launch of the macro-regional EU Strategy for the Danube region (EUSDR) in 2011, the need for enhanced cross-border cooperation and coordination in research and innovation was clearly expressed. EUSDR is active in different fields (the so-called Priority Areas) which include Transport, Energy, Environment as well as several horizontal issues. Several possibilities to coordinate research and innovation activities have been exploited within these priority areas. This COST Connect aims to contribute further to these developments which include relevant COST Actions, regional stakeholders and policy-makers.

Based on an evaluation of priorities in the Danube Region and a substantial amount of COST Actions active in the field, this COST Connect will focus on the topic of sustainable energy. The Danube region represents one fifth of Europe's total area, and is home to more than 100 million inhabitants. Energy developments have a major impact on the region, and on Europe as a whole. In this regard, COST is organising this workshop in order to explore new horizons for sustainable energy research and innovation, and to facilitate dialogue and discussion on future research agendas in the field. Discussions will cover topics such as renewable energy, energy infrastructure, bio-energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in buildings

COST has been creating networks of excellence in all scientific fields for more than 45 years, where knowledge is freely shared among all types of specialists using bottom-up principles. Participants are from many disciplines and also include a variety of companies and stakeholders such as both European and international organisations. COST nourishes free and open spaces where people and ideas can grow. This helps to internationalise the scientific community and leads to true breakthroughs in science and technology in Europe and beyond.

COST allows researchers and scholars to create interdisciplinary networks, the so-called 'COST Actions', where they can develop their own ideas. COST Actions are completely bottom-up and implement workshops and conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions and dissemination activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP.

COST organises this highly interactive COST Connect event series to bring together representatives of COST Actions as well as scientific communities, stakeholders and policy makers working on the broader topic of sustainable energy.

The event will help to:

- Support the cooperation of COST Actions with relevant stakeholders in the field of sustainable energy research and innovation in the Danube region;
- Encourage collaborations between relevant stakeholders and trigger alignment of resources to develop research and innovation on sustainable energy;
- Promote synergies between activities funded through other EU programmes;
- Provide networking opportunities for all partners involved;

In this particular case, the potential questions to be answered are built around the identification of future research cooperation and funding opportunities, promotion of COST Actions strategic research roadmaps and the identification of priorities for Horizon Europe. Furthermore, they build on COST experiences, bridging the research and innovation divide in Europe.

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

Invited participants include:

- COST Actions relevant to the topic
- Horizon 2020 projects relevant to the topic
- Policy and Programme Officers of European Commission Directorates-General RTD and JRC, DG REGIO, DG NEAR, DG ENER
- Relevant Members of the European Parliament (ITRE)
- COST Scientific Committee Members and COST Senior Officials
- EUSDR Stakeholders (Priority Area 2: Sustainable Energy)
- EU Energy Stakeholders
- INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme
- Member states representatives working on sustainable energy.
- Representatives from relevant PPPs and P2Ps (e.g. JPIs and EIPs);
- KIC InnoEnergy
- Academic sector stakeholders, NCPs and representatives from the national policy system

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the workshop is based on the concept of the “Pro Action Café”, which is a methodology allowing for creative and inspiring conversations. Participants are invited to share their questions (around projects – seed ideas) and obtain group input (deeper questions – knowledge – experience) from others. A Pro Action Café is an innovative yet simple methodology for hosting conversations about questions, projects, and concerns that matter to the attendees.

In a Pro Action Café, topics are brought forward by participants themselves. There is no set agenda, only overall guiding questions and “setting-the-scene” presentations with the intention of deepening the learning process of everyone.

Short setting-the-scene presentations provide a possibility for COST and stakeholders to bring in key information relevant for the discussion and suggest questions to be discussed. After the introduction and the setting the scene presentations parts, there are three rounds of conversation in café style – each guided by a few generic questions to help to dig into the subject and narrow down the ideas.

DRAFT AGENDA – 10 OCTOBER 2018

<i>Coffee and arrival</i>	08.30 – 09.00
1. Introduction and welcome - Welcome words by the organizers	09.00 – 09.30
2. Setting the scene - Brief input on the current state-of-play	09.30 – 10.45
<i>Coffee break</i>	10.45 – 11.00
3. Welcome round and check-in - All participants briefly introduce themselves	11:00 – 11.40
4. Announcing, discussing and selecting questions - People bring forward their question with the offer to host a discussion table. After all tables have been chosen by someone sharing a question, the other participants are invited to think about which table they want to join first.	11:40 – 12.15
5. Pro-Action Café Round 1: What is the quest behind the question - Every participant is invited to challenge the table host and different facets of the question are explored.	12.15 – 13.00
<i>Lunch</i>	13:00 – 14.15
6. Pro-Action Café Round 2: What is missing - The participants aim to make the picture more complete, redefine and deepen the discussion on the question (e.g. questions not asked yet, perspectives or options not considered yet).	14.15 – 15.00
7. Pro-Action Café Round 3: What is next - What did we learn? What next steps will each of us take? What are possible actions (individually and together in variable geometry)?	15.00 – 15.45
<i>Coffee break</i>	15.45 – 16.00
8. Presentation of results - Wrap up of the results by the hosts of the tables	16.00 – 17.00
9. Next steps and closing of the meeting - Brief input from high-level policy maker in the field (MEP) and COST on the next steps, feedback by all participants	17.00 – 18.00

LOGISTICS

The event will take place in the city centre of Belgrade, in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Milentija Popovica 5, Belgrade (Serbia). On the day before (9 October 2018, 19h30) a networking dinner for all participants will be organised at the same premises.

CONTACTS

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EXAMPLES OF COST ACTIONS IN THE FIELD

- Mining the European Anthroposphere (MINEA)
- Overcoming Barriers to Nanofluids Market Uptake (NANOUP TAKE)
- REthinking Sustainability TOwards a Regenerative Economy

- European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation
- Performance and Reliability of Photovoltaic Systems: Evaluations of Large-Scale Monitoring Data
- Chemistry of Smart Energy Carriers and Technologies (SMARTCATS)
- Marine gas hydrate - an indigenous resource of natural gas for Europe (MIGRATE)
- European network for algal-bioproducts (EUALGAE)
- Innovative applications of regenerated wood cellulose fibres
- Stable Next-Generation Photovoltaics: Unraveling degradation mechanisms of Organic and Perovskite Solar Cells by complementary characterization techniques (StableNextSol)
- Multiscale in modelling and validation for solar photovoltaics (MultiscaleSolar)
- Mathematical Optimization in the Decision Support Systems for Efficient and Robust Energy Networks
- Building Integration of Solar Thermal Systems (BISTS)
- NORM for Building materials (NORM4BUILDING)
- Wind energy technology reconsideration to enhance the concept of smart cities (WINERCOST)
- Renewable energy and landscape quality (RELY)
- European network for shallow geothermal energy applications in buildings and infrastructures (GABI)