

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

ANNUAL PLAN 2023

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Energy & Climate Change Working Group is to act as a platform to discuss and share information on energy-related priorities and funding programmes, especially looking at the Green Deal, the Hydrogen Valleys, the revision of the EU Electricity market, energy storage and batteries (with reference to S3 Partnership on batteries), the upcoming reform of the electricity market and Horizon Europe. The priority areas also feature climate change issues (such as climate adaptation), nature-based solutions and natural resources. The WG is set to explore links and synergies with other areas in which energy and climate change play central role and cooperate with other ERRIN Working Groups, namely S3, Transport, SEFS and Smart Cities Working Groups, as well as the ERRIN task forces on climate adaptation and on the New European Bauhaus.

CONTEXT

The key EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2023:

- Hydrogen
- EU Electricity market
- Energy storage and batteries
- European Year of Skills 2023
- EU Green Week / EU Sustainable Week

Funding programmes important for the Working Group:

- Horizon Europe programme, notably the calls under Cluster 5
- Clean Hydrogen / Built4People Partnership / BATT4EU
- EU Mission (Climate Adaptation)

ACTIVITIES

Hydrogen: what is the role for regions in the new EU policy developments & Clean Hydrogen Partnership 2023 calls?

16 February 2023

The Energy and Climate Change Working Group organised an on-site and online event on the topic of Hydrogen, focusing on the role of regions in the new EU policy developments & Clean Hydrogen Partnership 2023 calls. As several meetings have already been organised on hydrogen over the past few years, the objective of this meeting was to focus on policy updates on a few new policy initiatives of relevance for regions, followed by a session on the Clean Hydrogen Partnership call which is currently open.

You can find the presentation of the meeting on this [page](#).

Outputs of the meeting: During this meeting, the European Commission announced the publication of a European roadmap on Hydrogen Valleys, and an associated call for evidence to collect further input from multiple stakeholders. In this frame, ERRIN produced an [input paper](#), building on the work of the S3 Partnership on Hydrogen Valleys, and [collecting ERRIN's members' needs, challenges and solutions](#).

Net Zero Industry Act – Information session

16 June 2023

The European Commission released the Net-Zero Industry Act on 16 March 2023. This proposal was made in the context of the Green Deal Industrial Plan, aiming at enhancing the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero industry and supporting the fast transition to climate neutrality. The Net-Zero Industry Act is part of the actions announced, aiming at simplifying the regulatory framework and improving the investment environment for the Union's manufacturing capacity of technologies that are key to meeting the Union's climate neutrality goals.

Organised with the Innovation and Investment Working Group, this meeting aimed to:

- Inform ERRIN Members of the ongoing development of the Net-Zero Industry Act and the consequences and impact it may entail on regional industry and ecosystems, with a possible focus on the question of upskilling and re-skilling.
- Measure the interest of ERRIN's membership in following this legislative procedure and discuss potential actions to be taken.
- Consider the consequences of this legislation on funding opportunities, especially in a wider research and innovation context

You can find the final agenda and presentation on this [page](#).

Regulatory sandboxes in the field of energy

12 December 2023

The European Commission published a Staff Working document on experimentation tools (especially regulatory sandboxes, but also testbeds and living labs), with a special focus on the energy sector, in line with the RePowerEU Communication.

The Energy and Climate working group will organise a dedicated meeting on this topic, covering regulatory sandboxes, defined as schemes that enable testing innovations in a controlled real-world environment, that may include temporary loosening of applicable rules while safeguarding regulatory objectives such as safety and consumer protection.

Regulatory sandboxes were mentioned in previous activities of the E&C WG in 2023, both on the hydrogen sector and the Net Zero Industry Act. As such, this meeting will constitute an interesting follow-up.

European year of skills

With the European Year of skills in mind, this WG meeting will look at several EU initiatives in the field of skills for energy transition and climate change. The question of skills was addressed in both activities implemented:

- Presentation of the Hydrogen Academy call
- Presentation of the up-skilling and re-skilling dimension of the Net-zero Industry Act

Topics to be monitored further:

- Stakeholders' and citizens' engagement in the energy sector