How the SET Plan and SETIS advance Europe’s Energy Union

The Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) and its Strategic Energy Technologies Information System (SETIS) play a vital role in coordinating and successfully implementing the European Commission’s Energy Union Research and Innovation (R&I) strategy.

Europe is committed to building an Energy Union with a forward-looking climate policy on a strategic framework with five closely interrelated and mutually reinforcing dimensions: (1) energy security, solidarity and trust; (2) a fully integrated European energy market; (3) energy efficiency contributing to moderation of demand; (4) a decarbonised economy; (5) research, innovation and competitiveness.

The Energy Union is designed to achieve a cost-effective and fundamental transformation of Europe’s energy system. It will encourage wiser energy use, while fighting climate change, while also providing a spur for new jobs and clean economic growth. It will facilitate the free flow of energy across borders, while moving to sustainable, secure and competitive ways of producing and delivering affordable energy to EU consumers.

New technologies and renewed infrastructure will cut household bills and lead to a sustainable, low-carbon and environmentally friendly integrated energy market for EU consumers.
countries. This will put Europe at the forefront of the clean energy revolution and the fight against climate change.

The role of the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan

The SET Plan is the key factor in implementing the fifth dimension noted above i.e. research, innovation and competitiveness. The SET Plan accelerates the deployment of low-carbon technologies while reducing costs. This will increase the competitiveness of the European economy and deliver affordable and sustainable clean energy to consumers.

The SET Plan was established in 2007 to better coordinate national and European research and innovation efforts by promoting cooperation among EU countries, industries and research institutions, and within the EU organisation itself. It supports impactful technologies that will help transform Europe’s energy system while it also stimulates joint activities especially between countries participating in the SET Plan.

In September 2015, the European Commission released a new strategy for the SET Plan with 10 actions structured in line with the Energy Union R&I priorities. The new approach builds on two main elements: a more integrated approach that goes beyond the concept of ‘technology silos’, and a strengthened partnership among the SET Plan community consisting of the European Commission, the SET Plan countries and the industry and research stakeholders.

In 2016, the SET Plan community agreed on ambitious targets in line with its 10 R&I actions. This wide ranging participatory process involves national governments, industry and research actors comprising of some 16,700 entities under 154 umbrella organisations.

The important progress achieved so far was captured in the Integrated SET Plan process report 2016 edition entitled «Transforming the European Energy System through INNOVATION». Also in 2016, the SET Plan activities were further boosted by the Communication Accelerating Clean Energy Innovation (ACEI), which provides an enabling framework towards a faster market uptake of R&I output.

Now in 2017 we reach a milestone in the SET Plan’s life - its 10th birthday. Today our focus is on the development of implementation plans for achieving the agreed SET Plan targets as well as the actions defined by the ACEI Communication. The selected activities listed in the implementation plans will be put into action at regional, national and/or European level by the relevant actors supported by the SET Plan community.

The role of the Strategic Energy Technologies Information System (SETIS)

The SET Plan is underpinned by an effective monitoring and reporting scheme. The information system for the SET Plan, the Strategic Energy Technologies Information System (SETIS), performs this role by:

- Providing support for the effective strategic planning and implementation of the SET Plan
- Monitoring SET Plan’s actions and activities
- Assessing SET Plan’s impact on policy and European competitiveness
- Monitoring research and innovation activities, investments and technological progress in Europe
- Making recommendations for actions to increase the effectiveness of the Europe’s research and innovation strategy