

13 November 2019, Brussels

PRESS RELEASE

Flexigrid:

Interoperable solutions for implementing flexibility services in the distribution grid.

In order to reach the Paris Agreement objectives and achieve a more sustainable energy system, the EU is aiming at increasing up to at least 32% the share of renewables in energy consumption. At this purpose FLEXIGRID project will develop a set of solutions to address, under a cost-efficient basis, the challenges for reliability, stability and security of supply that the electricity grid is expected to face as a result of the increasing share of variable renewables in the energy system.

Last 30th and 31st October, Zaragoza (Spain) hosted the kick off meeting of FLEXIGRID, an innovation action project funded by EU's Horizon 2020, which brings together a consortium of 16 partners, led by CIRCE, representing the whole energy value chain. Two RTOs (CIRCE and LINKS) and two universities (UNICAN and UNIZG-FER) will work together with five technology providers, counting three large companies (ATOS, OP&A and ZIV) and two SMEs (HYPERTECH and SELTA) to develop innovative solutions and deploy them in four demo sites, represented by three DSOs (VIESGO, HEP-ODS, EDYNA) and two large companies (VERD, IOSA). Finally, two associations (CAP and CEDEC) will ensure the exploitation and dissemination of the project results within the European energy community. FLEXIGRID will last 48 months and has allocated a total budget of 8.54 Million Euros.

The project aims at putting into practice new tools to allow the distribution grid to operate in a secure and stable manner when a large share of variable renewable electricity sources is connected to low and medium voltage grids. Concretely, through the development of innovative hardware and software solutions, partners will seek:

- to **improve the power system flexibility** by enhancing the grid hosting capacity of renewables
- to **increase the observability, controllability and automation** of the network systems for the improvement of both the **security** and **resilience** of the grid
- to **mitigate short-term and long-term congestions** in the distributed grid from an economically efficient point of view
- and to **ensure the interoperability and compatibility** of the developed solutions with different platforms used by European DSOs.

These solutions will be implemented in eight use cases which will be demonstrated in four demo-sites: a rural and peri-urban network in the Spanish grid, a hotel in the Greek Island of Thassos; an urban grid in the city of Zagreb accounting congested areas and an isolated valley in the South-Tyrol region of Italy with more than 50% of hydroelectric energy. Moreover, the project will help identifying and analysing, through a constant monitoring of the legislation, the obstacles to innovation under the current local and European regulatory framework. Last but not least, FLEXIGRID partners wish to raise awareness among citizens and other relevant stakeholders on the transition towards a low carbon economy, considering them as active players within the energy system.

The ultimate goal of the FLEXIGRID project is to develop new innovative, scalable and cost-efficient solutions to contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions and to the 2030 EU climate objectives.