



European Committee of the Regions

Thematic Seminar - *Innovative Energy Solutions for European Regions and Cities* - in the context of the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) 24 March 2017 in Brussels

Venue: European Committee of the Regions, Room JDE 52

Organisers: European Committee of the Regions and DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission with the support of ERRIN

This Thematic Seminar on energy-related Research and Innovation (R&I) aims to raise awareness and foster exchange of information and best practice between the European Commission and the EU regions as well as among the regions themselves. The participants will be updated on the state-of-play on energy R&I policy developments. The recent developments of the Energy Package of the Union as well as of the Strategic Energy Technology (SET)-Plan and their implications for regions and cities will be presented. Experts in renewable energy, local and regional authorities and EU policy-makers will be brought together to discuss on R&I policy developments and optimising the coordination of different funding programmes and schemes to advance energy R&I on local and regional level. At the same time, the European Commission aims to gather information on the regions' R&I needs and on obstacles which may be hindering them from investing in energy R&I.

The Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) is a concept jointly developed by the European Committee of the Regions and DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission. It is aimed at presenting new R&I solutions, innovative products and best practices in response to societal challenges facing the regions and cities of Europe. In 2017, the KEP will address the themes of Energy and Public Sector Innovation.

Part A

Moderator: Richard Tuffs – ERRIN

- 09:30** – **Welcome and introduction to the KEP Energy strand**
10:00 *Markku Markkula*, CoR President (tbc)
Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, Deputy Director-General, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation (tbc)
Yoomi Renström, Chair of the SEDEC commission of CoR (tbc)

EU Energy R&I policy developments and implications for regions

10:00 – **EU Energy Package: Clean Energy for All Europeans – unlocking Europe's growth potential**
10:30 Winter package: legislation - *Andreea Strachinescu*, Head of Unit, European Commission DG Energy, New energy technologies, innovation and clean coal

Communication: Accelerating Clean Energy Innovation - *Philippe Tulkens*, Deputy Head of Unit European Commission, DG Research and Innovation - Energy Strategy

10:30 - 10:40 Q&A

Initiatives, Platforms and Tools - Part I

10:40 – **Impact of R&I policies illustrated by projects in off-shore wind**
10:50 *Matthijs Soede*, Project Officer, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Unit Renewable energy sources

10:50 – **Impact of R&I policies illustrated by projects in bioenergy**
11:00 *Maria Georgiadou*, Project Officer, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Unit Renewable energy sources

11:00 - 11:10 Q&A

11:10 – *Coffee break*
11:30

11:30 – **Thematic Smart Specialisation Platform for Energy**
11:45 *Inmaculada Perianez Forte*, Scientific Officer, Joint Research Centre, S3 Platform,

11:45 – **Case Study I: Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany**
12:05 *Katrin Budde*, CoR member
Marko Mühlstein, Manager of the Saxony-Anhalt State Energy Agency

12:05 – **Case Study II: Lodz, Poland**
12:25 *Witold Stępień*, CoR member
R&I expert from the region

12:25 –
12:45 **Discussion - Q&A with the audience**

12:45 – **Lunch (+ presentation of prizes on energy)**
14:15

Part B

Moderator: (tbc)

Initiatives, Platforms and Tools - Part II

- 14:15** – **Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU) - Potential for the regions, FCH projects – best practices and initiatives**
14:30 *Mirela Atanasiu, Head of Unit, Operations and Communications of the FCH Joint Undertaking (FCH JU)*

- 14:30** – **HyER - the European Association for Hydrogen and fuel cells and Electro-mobility in European Regions – opportunities for regions**
14:45 *Jon Jordan, HyER (tbc)*

- 14:45** – **Horizon 2020 prizes for energy innovation**
15:00 *Karina Fircaviciute, Policy Officer, European Commission DG Research and Innovation - Energy strategy*

- 15:00** – **Case Study III: Sligo, Ireland**
15:20 *Jerry Lundy, CoR member
R&I expert from the region*

- 15.20** – **Case Study IV:**
15:40 *CoR member
R&I expert from the region*

- 15.40 - 16.00** **Discussion, Q&A**

- 16:00-16:30** **Conclusion: Key messages for more effective uptake of the energy R&I developments on the ground - Q&A with the audience**
Moderators Richard Tuffs, ERRIN, and (tbc)

Interpretation will be provided in English, German and Polish