PROJECT PERIODIC REPORT

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Project acronym: SETBRU

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Funding Scheme: Coordination and Support Actions (Supporting)

Date of latest version of Annex I against which the assessment will be made:

Periodic report: 1st

Period covered: from 01/07/2010 to 31/12/2010

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[1] Usually the contact person of the coordinator as specified in Art. 8.1. of the Grant Agreement .

[2] The home page of the website should contain the generic European flag and the FP7 logo which are available in electronic format at the Europa website (logo of the European flag: http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/emblem/index_en.htm logo of the 7th FP: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=logos). The area of activity of the project should also be mentioned.

Publishable summary

Project context

Europe needs to move to a low-carbon economy to fight against climate change, to ensure its energy security and future industrial competitiveness, and to contribute to growth and jobs. The SET-Plan is the European response to these challenges: it is the technology pillar of the EU's energy and climate change policy.

To take stock of where we are in these priority technologies, the European Commission and the EU presidencies are organising SET-Plan summits since 2008. These summits are organised to raise awareness about the SET-Plan issues amongst all stakeholders in the European energy technology, energy and climate policy field, ranging from industry and research stakeholders to customers, representatives of the European institutions, the financial community and international partners.

The first SET-Plan conference in Paris in October 2008 gave the momentum to start the discussion on the European Industrial Initiatives (EIIs) and to launch the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA). One year later at the Stockholm conference, Technology Roadmaps for each EII were discussed to map the way forward for their future launch and at the Madrid conference in June 2010, the Wind, Solar, Carbon Capture and Storage and Electricity Grids EIIs were officially launched.

In this respect the fourth European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) conference organised, on 15-16 November 2010, under the Belgian presidency was fully in line with the past SET-Plan events. The conference officially launched the two next European Industrial Initiatives for Bioenergy and Nuclear energy and another three Joint Programmes of the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) on Bioenergy, Materials for nuclear and CCS were launched. In addition the conference was the kick-off of the international dimension of the SET-Plan. This international dimension of the SET-Plan is essential as Europe needs to build a comprehensive but realistic 'European' international cooperation strategy for energy technologies, based on common and mutual interest and taking account of the different needs of different world regions.

Objectives

The aim of the SET-plan conference was twofold:

1. Communicate on the progress of all SET-Plan action lines to a broad range of stakeholders including the research community, the industry, policy makers, the financial community and international partners. This includes the state of play of the EIIs launched at the Spanish SET-Plan conference, the state of the art of the Smart Cities initiative, the state of play of the EERA Joint Programmes and FCH JTI and the launch of the EIIs on Bioenergy and Nuclear.
2. Kick off the international dimension of the SET-Plan with focus on best practices and based on existing and recently established forms of cooperation, as a follow up of the EU Energy Council conclusions on the SET-Plan Investment Communication of 12 March 2010.

Main results

The SET-Plan 2010 conference was organised by the Flemish government, Department of Economy, Science and Innovation (EWI) in close collaboration with both DG RTD and DG ENER. The event was the fourth conference since the first SET-Plan Communication in 2007. The Belgian conference was held five months after the Spanish SET-Plan conference.

The announcement of the SET-Plan conference was widely spread among all relevant stakeholders. To ensure a well balanced conference audience, invitations were sent to a mailinglist consisting of a list of participants of the previous SET-Plan conferences, a list of European key stakeholders in the energy and energy research field (Steering Group, Sherpa Group, FP7 Programme Committee Energy, EIIs and EERA) provided by the European Commission and a list of Belgian key stakeholders in energy and energy research.

The main objective of the conference was to communicate on the progress of the implementation of the SET-Plan three years after the launch of the first European SET-Plan communication "Towards a low carbon future". More than 500 participants from industry, research institutes and academia, the financial community and from the policy field attended the conference to discuss the state of play of the SET-Plan. Coffee breaks, lunch and an informal walking dinner at the end of the first day of the conference ensured the necessary networking opportunities for all participants.

The highlight of the first day was the launch of the two next European Industrial Initiatives (EIIs) for Bioenergy and for Nuclear. In addition an overview was given of the substantial progress made by the EIIs launched in June 2010 : notably the Wind, Solar, Electricity Grid and CCS EIIs. The Joint Undertaking Fuel Cells and Hydrogen gave a state of play of their Joint Technology Initiative. The set up of the Industrial Initiative on Smart Cities, being a demand side driven initiative rather than a technology driven initiative was discussed. The European Energy Research Alliance, founded in 2008, launched the next three Joint Research Programmes on Bioenergy, Materials for nuclear and CCS. The European University Association launched the European Platform of Universities engaged in Energy Research (EPEU).

The second day of the conference focused on the need to develop a coherent European approach for international Science and Technology cooperation in the SET-Plan. A productive discussion was held following presentations on existing frameworks on international cooperation, international organisations active in energy technology and on best practices at community level, member states, research centre or industry level in order to identify relevant elements for the SET-Plan.

The conference stressed the sense of urgency to start with the concrete implementation of joint actions and projects in the SET-plan via a stronger cooperation and coordination of the science, technology and innovation efforts of all member states and regions in Europe and the need to develop an international S&T cooperation dimension as an integral part of the SET-Plan.

Performance indicators for the conference were:

- Number of attendees
- EU member states representation
- Representation of key stakeholders : European research, industry, government, financial community
- Presence of high level speakers from third countries
- Number of visitors to the conference website
- Press coverage

Targets:

Target 1: A minimum of 350 participants to the conference

- **Result:** The conference reached around 500 participants from 29 different countries. (Cfr. Annex 1)

Target 2: Good representation of all EU member states

- **Result:** The conference welcomed representatives from 3 associated states and 22 of the 27 EU member states. (Cfr. Annex 1)

Target 3: A good balance of industry, research, financial community and governmental representatives

- **Result:** The conference audience was well balanced and consisted of representatives from the industry, research institutions, financial community and national and regional governments. (Cfr. Annex 1)

A website dedicated to the conference provides all relevant information and is an important communication tool for both participants and interested stakeholders. Presentations held on the conference were posted on the conference website within two days after the conference: http://www.setplan2010.be/