

PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Background Paper by the TSG2 Sub-Group on Energy Networks

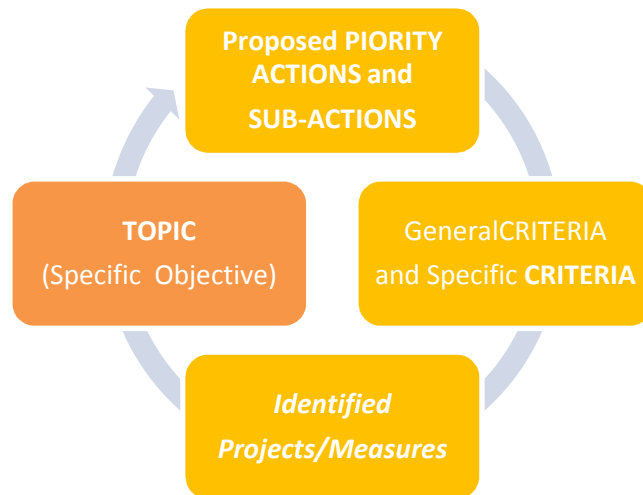
Introductory remarks

On the basis of the preliminary discussions held during the first two TSG2 meetings and their conclusions (Trieste, 20-21 April 2015 and Belgrade, 6-7 July 2015), during the TSG2 meeting held in Rome on 14-15 December 2015, the Energy Networks Sub-Group agreed to define a short list of Priority Actions and Priority Sub-Actions on cross-cutting issues on which to focus the common activity during an initial period. This would be an effective way to concentrate the effort, and promptly produce results.

Thus, two Priority Actions and their respective Sub-Actions are defined in the framework of the Specific Objective for the Topic of Cross-Cutting Issues as stated in the EUSAIR Action Plan of 17 June 2014 as “To improve the governance and build an efficient institutional and administrative capacity while promoting participation and partnership”.

This Specific Objective appears to reflect issues which are represented in the EUSAIR Action Plan of 17 June 2014 to include building institutional and administrative capacity, developing communication and awareness, promoting, innovative approaches for research. A special importance has the involvement and participation of the business community, particularly small and medium size enterprises of the Region might share experiences and gain benefits from the implementation of measures (and projects) and their spin-offs as measures (and projects) become a reality.

For each of the two Priority Actions which are proposed for the Topic of Cross-Cutting Issues a number of Priority Sub-Actions has been identified as shown by the table which follows. Selecting this list of Actions and Sub-Actions does not mean that other (indicative) Actions and Sub-Actions included in the EUSAIR Action Plan are less relevant, neither that TSG2 Member Countries cannot make further proposals. These further (proposed) Actions and Sub-Actions could be evaluated and eventually included during forthcoming TSG2 meetings, preferably as soon as the first deliverables for the proposed Priority Actions and Sub-Actions would be available. It is assumed that the proposed Priority Actions and Sub-Actions would help identifying measures (and projects), their actors and means for financing. Ideally, along this process measures (and projects) will be first labelled, then endorsed and launched for implementation in the interest of the Region.



It should be noted that each Priority Sub-Action can include a host of measures (and projects). As a consequence, some ranking (or ordering) is advisable. When identifying measures (and projects) the six General Criteria described in the Introduction to the EUSAIR Action Plan should be taken into account namely: 1. Address identified priorities, meeting well substantiated needs and be widely supported; 2. Their scope of impact should be transnational if not macroregional; 3. They should be realistic and credible; 4. They should build on existing initiatives and have reached a fair degree of maturity; 5. They should pay attention to the cross-cutting aspects; 6. They should be coherent and mutually supportive (compatible with other pillars). Specific Criteria should be defined as they might apply to all projects (and measures) encompassed by the three Priority Actions, or to groups of measures (and projects) encompassed by a specific Priority Action.

The concept of “master plans” and “policy frameworks” for the Region with regard to each one of the proposed Priority Actions could be discussed during forthcoming TSG2 Meetings. In particular the TSG2 may focus on the identification of measures (and projects) and their assessment and ranking according to Specific Criteria and to the availability of means for financing before measures (and projects) are endorsed and labelled to promote their implementation.

Time horizons such as the year 2020 and beyond could be envisioned for the implementation their spin-offs.

In principle, the Priority Actions and their Sub-Actions as identified by the TSG2 Energy Networks Sub-Group might apply to the TSG2 Transport Sub-Group as well (or viceversa) though there is a link between priority Actions and Sub-Actions concerning the Topic of Energy Networks and the Cross-Cutting Issues. A decision is advisable in this respect.

Topic	Priority Actions	Priority Sub-Actions
Cross-Cutting Issues <i>(Specific objective: To improve the governance and build an efficient institutional and administrative capacity while promoting participa- tion and partnerships)</i>	Simplification of border-crossing procedures among Member Countries and non-UE Member Countries, while removing of barriers to investments by the definition of agreements and common rules	1. Coordinate and align permits, technical standards and regulation (by the year 2020)
		2. Adopting rules and legal frameworks to protect cross-border investments (by the year 2020) 3. Adoption of relevant EU Directives and policy frameworks (by the year 2020)
	Development of joint lifelong learning, training tools and industrial partnerships	1. Joined capacity building for implementing a common (energy) market
		2. Development of small and medium-size enterprise partnerships across the Region while promoting private-public dialogue and collaboration on innovative technologies