



MOBILISING THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY TO DELIVER ON THE EUROPEAN ENERGY GOALS

The European Energy Research Alliance (EERA)
as a Key Player of the SET-Plan

The European Energy Research Alliance (EERA): the research pillar of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan)

EERA is an alliance of leading energy research institutes in Europe. Its key objective is to accelerate the development and market uptake of new energy technologies by coordinating energy research. EERA aligns bottom-up activities of the scientific community, organised in Joint Programmes, with the directions set out by the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), which aims to better align public and private, European and national R&I agendas.

Founded in 2008 by ten organisations, today EERA brings together over 175 research centres and universities from 27 countries.

The Joint Programmes are at the core of EERA's activities. Active in diverse areas, such as wind energy, bioenergy, smart grids, nuclear and energy storage, the Joint Programmes develop research activities based on shared priorities between research centres and universities. Through the Joint Programmes, EERA supports the Member States in their efforts to coordinate their long-term energy research activities by contributing to deliver faster on the European goals. Since 2010, 17 Joint Programmes have been launched.

EERA works in close collaboration with industry and other stakeholders to define and align research and innovation priorities. Collaboration with industry is implemented through joint projects, both within the framework of the EERA Joint Programmes and bilaterally between single institutions and industry.

The role of EERA in the new SET-Plan

The 2015 Communication on the Integrated SET-Plan – which is the first deliverable of the R&I pillar of the Energy Union, the EU overall strategy for secure, competitive and sustainable energy in Europe - has given a new impetus to the role of EERA within the SET-Plan. A new strategy, adopted in April 2016, reflects the expectations of the role of EERA within the new framework. This role foresees a number of inter-related dimensions, in particular:

- Delivering results on the *SET-Plan actions* and disseminate these results;
- Acting as *SET-Plan ambassador* to give visibility to the SET-Plan, its objectives and achievements;
- Providing *advice* on actions to implement the priorities of the SET-Plan and provide input on strategic targets and priorities in different energy fields, and on foresight work;
- *Coordinating the scientific community* in the energy sector with the aim to produce excellent research;
- Supporting the *mobility* of researchers and the implementation of student training programmes, in collaboration with university stakeholders (in particular the European University Association);
- Facilitating the transfer of research results, solutions and knowledge to *industry*.

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