

SUMMARY OF THE 31ST IETS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 24-25 NOVEMBER 2020 ONLINE (GOTOMEETING)

Also this ExCo meeting had to be performed as an online event due to the Covid-19 situation. The online meeting was set up by the IETS Secretariat from the premises in Gothenburg, Sweden. The meeting lasted from 14.00 – 18.00 on both days (instead of two full days.)

ExCo members (delegates and/or alternate delegates) from all ten member countries, three sponsors, representatives from the IEA Secretariat and the EUWP, most Annex Managers and the IETS Secretariat staff participated in the meeting. No preceding workshop was held this time to allow more time for Annex discussions.

SUMMARY OF THE EXCO MEETING

The IETS TCP has been granted an extension ("RfE") for the period 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022, provided that the Implementing Agreement will be amended to incorporate the new IEA Framework for the Technology Collaboration Programme. At the ExCo meeting, the new and modified provisions of the agreement were described and clarified by KC Michaels from IEA Legal. The IETS ExCo will take the decision (which has to be unanimous) by written procedure and the changes in, e.g., terminology and ways of working, have to be implemented – in documentation and in practice on February 28, 2022.

Several new activities are about to start: The proposal for a new annex (no XX) on “**Development of Industry Transition Roadmaps**”, with the purpose of sharing national roadmapping experiences and providing an analysis of existing practices, was approved and will have a kick-off early 2021.

The proposal for an annex (no XXI) on “**Decarbonizing industrial systems in a circular economy framework**” had been further developed and will start if/when the ExCo approves by per capsulam decision. The general objectives of Task 1 are

- to develop the annex as a platform for exchange
- to identify and align information, knowledge, definitions, approaches and methodologies
- to broaden awareness and knowledge regarding the system impacts
- to facilitate international meetings to share experiences

Status reports, including proposals for new activities were given from all current Annexes:

Annex XI (Industry-based Biorefineries) has continued working in the new task - ”Decision Support Tools and Ex-Ante Research for Evaluating Bioeconomy Transformation Strategies”.

Some potential new Tasks have been identified:

- Site-level energy analytics for biorefinery integration
- Energy and GHG intensity of biorefinery value chains
- Artificial intelligence for biorefinery transformations
- Circular economy and biomass-oriented industrial symbiosis

This Annex is collaborating with, e.g., various tasks within the IEA Bioenergy TCP and IETS Annex XVII. A workshop – “Strategic Decision-Making for Deep Decarbonization: Powered by Systems Engineering” – is planned for early 2021.

Annex XIV (Energy-efficiency in the Iron and Steel Industry) was put on hold but is now planning for a restart, based on the [IETS Survey of technologies](#) and the [IEA Iron and steel technology roadmap](#). A workshop with IEA Secretariat, Annex Manager and country experts, with the following objectives, will be held:

- To present research and development work in participating countries
- To identify areas of common interest
- To identify possible collaboration activities

Annex XV (Industrial Excess Heat Recovery) is preparing Task 3. Work planned for 2020 is:

- Continuation and deepening of the proposed work from the legal text of Task 3.

- Evaluate and discussion of developed research questions of the established matrix of project contributions of the individual subtasks.
- Detailed research questions in the individual subtasks with each group associated will be elaborated and answered regarding:
 - Methods combination
 - Consequences for future changes
 - Operational aspects
 - Risk assessment
- Issue the invitations to potential participants
- Hold two (identical) webinars late-2020 or early-2021
- Follow-up from the webinars, inviting Country Experts to submit projects to the Tasks they may be interested in
- Hold the first Task meetings, sometime in March 2021

Annex XVI (Energy Efficiency in SMEs) has updated the final report, which was discussed at the ExCo meeting. The report mainly refers to two published articles and a new, more popular version will be submitted to the ExCo in order to be approved and published. The Annex Manger initiated a discussion about whether further emphasis on Open Access publications from Annexes could be a means to disseminate research from the IETS TCP.

Annex XVII (Membrane processes in biorefineries) is working according to plan. During the last six months six papers have been published in peer-reviewed international journals and seven presentations have been held at international conferences. An online Annex workshop is scheduled for 26th January 2021.

Annex XVIII (Digitalization, Artificial Intelligence and Related Technologies for Energy Efficiency and GHG Emissions Reduction in Industry) reported the following activities for starting three new tasks:

- Task 2: Methods and Applications of Digital Twins
- Task 3: Lessons Learned and Created Values by Digitalization
- Task 4: Digitalization

Task 1 – Needs and interests for the application of digitalization for GHG emissions reduction in industry – has been completed and the final report is ready for review.

The following near term activities are planned:

- Develop the webinar materials for each of the three Tasks:
 - Value proposition (Pitch)
 - Methodology
 - Deliverables
 - Examples of projects (use cases)

Annex XIX (Electrification in Industry) has submitted the Final Report from Task1, which has been reviewed by the ExCo and will be approved and published with minor changes soon. The proposal for Task 2 has been approved with the main objective to develop a platform for exchange of information, experiences and lessons in R&D projects in the area of industrial electrification (both direct and indirect electrification.)

Collaboration with other TCPs is important! The IETS ExCo has identified ten TCPs of special interest to cooperate with and Chair, Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat will have a shared responsibility to contact these TCP and discuss areas of mutual interest. Also, a “speed dating” activity among TCPs took place during the EUWP Industry workshop 9-10 December, hosted by the IETS Chair, EUWP Vice Chair for Industry and the EUWP Secretary.

Two sponsors have been approved by the CERT: Lucerne University from Switzerland and VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland.

The contents of two Topic Sheets were approved and will be published:

- “Decision Support Tools and Ex-Ante Research for Evaluating Bioeconomy Transformation Strategies” (based on the proposal for a new Task in Annex XI)
- “A review of energy efficiency policies for manufacturing small and medium-sized enterprises from around the world” (based on a published paper from Annex XVI)

The ECOS 2022 conference in Copenhagen will be hosted by DTU Technical University of Denmark. DTU represents Denmark in the IETS ExCo and possible collaboration with the conference will be discussed.

The next IETS ExCo Meeting will take place late May 2020, probably online. The preceding workshop will focus on national dissemination.