



HORIZON
STE

Implementation of the Initiative for Global
Leadership in Solar Thermal Electricity

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 4

9th June 2021, Brussels

State of Play

After a year of pandemic, HORIZON-STE is on track to meet its milestones. Although all physical meetings and events were not possible, the project managed to conduct meetings and interviews online. In this newsletter issue, we would like to share with you our latest progress over the last six months, as well as key findings of our activities that may be of your interest.

Work Package 1: “Implementation Plan (IP) initial and yearly status update”

The second yearly update of current framework conditions and market conditions has been carried and several important elements were found to have a potential strong impact on the development of the STE market in the EU. However, this deliverable D1.6 is confidential, therefore we only highlighted some key findings below.

At national level, several national initiatives opened doors for STE to play a role, be it for electricity generation or wider applications, such as hydrogen production (e.g., in Germany, Portugal & Spain). This could support a further development of the concentrated solar thermal technologies and be a way to introduce the technology further in the energy mix.

At European level, a major legislative revision, called “Fit for 55% package” is planned by the European Commission and should be presented on 14 July 2021. It includes a revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II), which should consider new European targets in terms of greenhouse gas emission reductions, and potentially a higher share of renewables in the final EU energy mix. In addition, the start of the Horizon Europe programme, the upcoming Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism and the recovery packages could also open new opportunities for STE projects to apply for funding.

Finally, a [joint study from the World Bank and IRENA](#) published in January 2021 brought powerful arguments for financing new STE projects, under the recovery package or other programmes.



Work Pack 2: “Re-launching STE Industry in Europe”

Further progress has been made in WP2 in the first half of 2021. The milestone M.2.3. has been achieved on 30 November 2020, with five Country Reports drafted: Turkey, Portugal, Denmark, Belgium, and Germany.

Further work has been carried out in Germany. Meetings were held with prominent German actors, allowing HORIZON-STE partners to discuss with the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), as well as with Siemens Energy. In addition, contacts were established with several Spanish regions, including Extremadura, Andalucía, and Castilla La Mancha. The inputs received confirmed the interest of regions in the concentrated solar thermal technologies, not only in terms of energy policy, but also for the economic and social benefits they can bring to those regions.

Since Portugal features as a country excellent solar resources and a real interest in STE, HORIZON-STE decided to commission a study on the potential of Concentrating Solar Power in Portugal until 2030. The methodology relies on Inductive Projection Planning and points at an optimal range for each energy source. It reflects thus the ratio between “additional costs” and additional benefits regarding the future investments towards the decarbonisation of the Portuguese power system. Beyond the will to support the Portuguese NECP and the country’s policy strategies, this study also shows that Portugal could soon rank among the European leaders in terms of CSP installed capacity. Based on available data endorsed by major Portuguese stakeholders (APREN, REN, Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, ...), this report not only confirms the validity of the Portuguese NECP towards introducing CSP generation, but also suggests an optimal range of CSP between 1.2 and 2 GW of installed capacity until 2030 – instead of the currently planned 0.3 GW.

As next steps, an official presentation of the Portuguese study will be organised with Portuguese stakeholders, before being used as a support for the future national event. Regarding other countries, contacts will be initiated with Greece, and later with France and Italy, to move further in the completion of the remaining Country Reports.

Work Package 4: Communication and Events

A dissemination session has been hosted on the 23rd April 2021 in the occasion of the project’s General Assembly from 11:00 to 13:00 CET. To update the SET-Plan CSP IWG and European Commission on the progress of the project, chairperson of the IWG and the Project Officer from the European Commission were invited to join the General Assembly. The event was well attended by the CSP industry and R&I companies and national representatives.

Presentations are available here:

Key results from country visits – by ESTELA

- [Iberian perspective \(Spain and Portugal\) and Central European perspective \(Germany, Belgium\)](#)





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National funding opportunities:

- [For Germany](#) – by DLR
- [For Spain](#) – by CIEMAT
- [For Turkey](#) – by METU

Previous Newsletters

For previous newsletter, please check them out [here](#) or visit our website:
<http://www.horizon-ste.eu/media-outreach/>



The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 838514.

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