
IEECP

FOR AMBITIOUS AND EVIDENCE-BASED
CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICIES
SINCE 2015



ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

www.ieecp.org

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by Vlasios Oikonomou

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FOREWORD

Dear all,

The last year of the COVID-19 pandemic has alienated our social life but also brought humanity closer to fight a common threat. We became aware that there are **uncertainties that can change our lives and businesses in an instant** – and citizens have set climate change among their top worries, **understanding the direct link between climate change, ecosystems degradations and health risks**.

Even before the **Fit-for-55 package**, the EU had set ambitious energy efficiency targets for 2030, while the current trend (2030 targets) shows a deviation of 4-6% annually and the IEA confirmed in its recent Energy Efficiency 2030 report that the energy efficiency progress is too slow at about 1% (when it should be 3%). The danger is that after the COVID-19 crisis, without any structural changes in energy demand (despite its overall decrease), the forthcoming economic growth will increase the energy intensity and the distance to the 2030 targets could even get higher,

In view of the **Energy Transition debate in the EU**, where the collective effort requires a complete withdrawal from fossil fuels, a minority of Member States presses for the maintenance of natural gas as a transition fuel, and since the European Investment Bank and other financing means (such as the Recovery and Resilience plans) do not finance such **new natural gas grid expansions** (under some preconditions), the question that arises is if it is fair for countries that pay for their real transition from fossil fuels to subsidize others that dive into fossil fuels?

By **accepting some techs under the EU Taxonomy**, we are at risk for new fossil fuel lock-in investments and stranded assets.

Can we safeguard that at least the **Energy efficiency first principle** will be respected at a minimum under these plans before moving to new grid expansions? Wouldn't it be better if the **EU taxonomy** signals the cleaner fuels as a way for natural gas retailers to modernize themselves and assist in the energy transition?

As with every obstacle, there is a way to turn it into an opportunity – during great uncertainty, it becomes ever more important to focus on creating innovative solutions and building an agile community that can easily adapt to change. We do hope that in the coming years, the scientific facts through the **EU-funded projects** (such as the Horizon Europe, Horizon 2020 and LIFE+ programs) will clearly demonstrate that the costs of inaction and maintaining the fossil fuel status now will be much higher for the entire society in the future.

Trying to **alleviate energy poverty** through short term financial measures solely (subsidizing thus indirectly the incumbent fossil fuels) will not resolve any issue, while the same amounts can be used for energy efficiency refurbishment and small scale, environmentally-sound, renewable energy support systems.

Finally, the multiple messages from scientific findings clearly demonstrate that **Member States should learn from each other and align the various strategies they have** (from National Energy and Climate Plans to Long Term Renovation Strategies or Biodiversity conservation plans) bridging thus energy supply and demand projections and targets, including stakeholders' views and citizens' aspirations, in order to achieve a Just and Inclusive energy transition.



VLASIOS OIKONOMOU

Managing Director – Chairman



5 YEARS!

Welcome to the second edition of our annual report.

The Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy (IEECP) is a non-for-profit, independent research foundation working, since 2015, on science-based climate change mitigation, energy efficiency and renewable energy policy, with an international interdisciplinary team of experts generating and disseminating scientific knowledge.

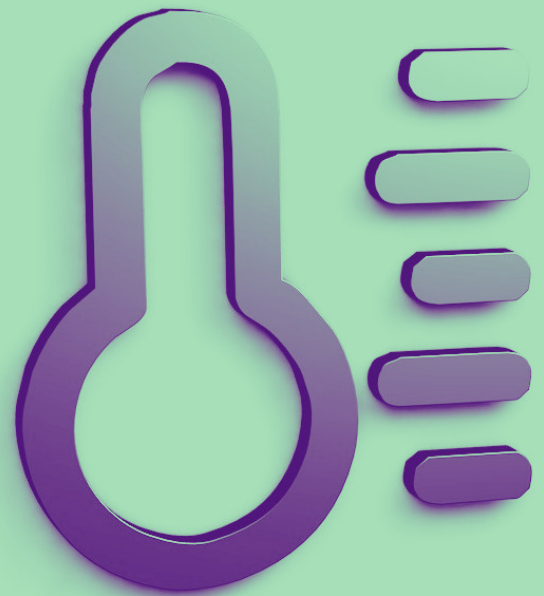
We act as a knowledge-hub sharing pragmatic results as well as innovative ideas on many topics related to the energy transition and a decarbonised future providing policymakers, and all private and public decision-makers, with independent expertise and science-based research to support their work.

IEECP has a rich experience in producing science-based outputs for energy and climate policy and managing EU, climate action and energy projects, engaging stakeholders, drafting policy syntheses and recommendations, evaluating policies, analysing data and statistics as well as developing tools, libraries, capacity building and learning programmes.

IEECP was established in The Netherlands in 2015. Today, IEECP experts are based all over Europe, in Belgium, Croatia, France, Greece, Hungary, The Netherlands, Portugal and Turkey enabling local exchange and having tacit knowledge of these geographical areas.

In 2020, the organisation grew with new team members as well as new projects kicked-off and attributed. A key project was successfully-closed and further changes brought to the Management Board. This annual report dives into these changes and presents the 2020 achievements and policy successes.

[If you missed the 2019 report, you can access it here.](#)



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECTS

EU-funded (Horizon2020 programme and tenders for DG ENER of the European Commission), as well as national public tenders (ADEME ONPE in France).

18

7

NEW H2020 PROJECTS IN 2020

4 coordinated by IEECP.

2 additional ones won will kick off in 2021: REGILIENCE and PROSPECT+.

EVENTS PARTICIPATION AND ORGANISATION

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most of these events were organised online.

>30

>20m€

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE

Our key services

**Policy design,
recommendations,
implementation
and evaluation**

Develop innovative business and financing models

Project management

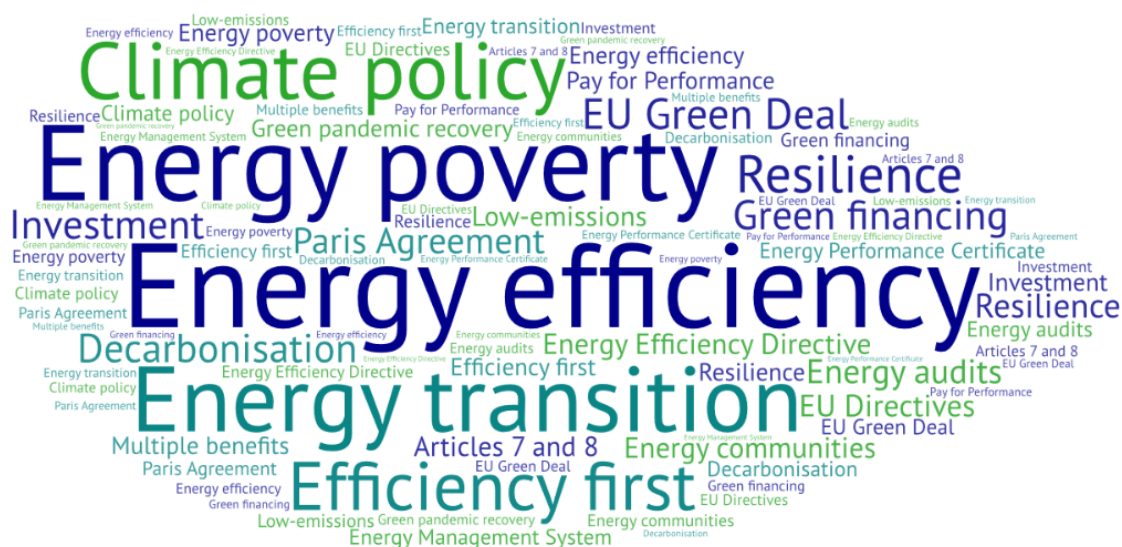
**Driving
knowledge-
exchange and
capacity building**

Stakeholder engagement

Project communication and dissemination

Tools, libraries and learning programmes

Litterature review, data analysis



IEECP has a proven expertise in managing EU-funded climate action and energy transition projects, as **coordinator**:



or **partner**:



Successfully-closed project in 2020:



In addition, IEECP participates in tenders on technical assistance for the European Commission or other national public authorities.



THE TEAM

IEECP Board (in 2020)

Zsolt Lengyel (Marketing Director – Secretary), Vlasios Oikonomou (Managing Director – Chairman) and Vassilis Stavrakas (Financial Director – Treasurer)



IEECP Team



Filippos Anagnostopoulos



Stefan Bouzarovski



Jean-Sébastien Broc



Mia Dragović Matosović



Marine Faber Perrio



Erik Faassen



Jen Heemann



Zoe Mylona



Ivana Rogulj



George Stravodimos



Martijn Rietbergen



Deger Saygin



Kathleen Vaillancourt

SUCCESSSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

In 2020, IEECP kicked-off no less than 7 new H2020-funded projects, 4 of them as coordinator, and a tender for a French authority on energy poverty good practices in Europe.

For 4 of these projects, IEECP developed websites, newsletters and social media.

IEECP added two new projects to its portfolio, to start in 2021: REGILIENCE and PROSPECT+, a follow up to the ending PROSPECT.

MANY IMPORTANT **PUBLICATIONS** AUTHORED (OR CO-AUTHORED) BY IEECP WERE RELEASED, SUCH AS:

- Experience and lessons learned from P4P pilots for energy efficiency (for SENSEI)
- Defining and contextualizing the E1st principle (for enefirst)
- Report on international experiences with efficiency first, from enefirst
- Peer-Powered Cities and Regions: Success Stories from PROSPECT
- Brief of actions and schemes to consider to tackle energy poverty, for Social Watt
- Snapshot of alternative measures and Energy Efficiency Obligations in Europe, article 7 EED for ENSMOV

IEECP SPOKE AT SEVERAL **EVENTS** IN 2020, ON VARIOUS TOPICS INCLUDING:

- Green financing: unlocking the local energy transition (day-long workshop at the WSED)
- Energy transition: new business models to de-risk investments and kick start the EU building renovation wave (partnership event at EUSEW, for SENSEI and Triple A)
- COVID19, economy, environment and health
- Decisive action on energy poverty: solutions from across the EU

AND AT THE COVENANT OF MAYORS INVESTMENT FORUM , THE EASME CONTRACTORS' MEETING, THE ENERGY EVALUATION EUROPE 2020, SUSTAINABLE PLACES, ETC.

SUCCESSSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

ARTICLES AND OPINIONS AUTHORED BY THE IEECP TEAM:

- Time for energy efficiency to be valued as grid resource, by RAP and IEECP, for SENSEI, in eceee
- Opinion: National Energy and Climate Plans can help structure a consistent post-COVID19 sustainable energy future, if updated soon and wisely!, in English and Greek
- IEECP and 13 organisations call for appropriate co-financing rate for LIFE CSA projects on sustainable energy
- Implementing sustainable measures from climate plans through innovative financing schemes: insights of PROSPECT
- In Energy Press in Greek: on efficiency first, natural gas, and the energy transition.

The logo for 'insider' in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.The logo for 'KENT' in a stylized, black, uppercase, sans-serif font.The logo for 'CLIMATE HOME NEWS' featuring a stylized sun icon and the text in white on a dark blue background.The logo for 'eceee' consisting of a grid of the letters 'e' in blue and white.The logo for 'POWER TECHNOLOGY' in a bold, black, uppercase, sans-serif font.The logo for 'Duurzaam Actueel' with 'Duurzaam' in blue and 'Actueel' in green, with a green leaf icon and the tagline 'Het platform voor duurzaamheid!' below.The logo for 'energy press' with a stylized sun icon and the text in blue and grey, with the tagline 'Δημοσιογραφικό ενημερωτικό portal για την ενέργεια' below.The logo for 'ENERJi PORTALI .com' in a bold, black, uppercase, sans-serif font with a yellow underline.



POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

SENSEI and Triple A partner with 5 other H2020 projects to advise EU leaders how to prepare buildings for the energy transition, sharing recommendations to policymakers, based on all projects' findings and objectives, investigating ways to enable the mass adoption of energy efficiency measures and smart technologies supporting the uptake of more renewable energy sources.

SENSEI, enabling energy efficiency to be rewarded as an energy resource and grid service while turning the retrofitted building's value into an investable asset, was also **highlighted in a piece by Murray Birt from DWS**: "Green, healthy buildings as economic stimulus". The paper supports P4P, energy efficiency business models, and energy efficiency competing with supply side options and builds on the EEFIG recommendations for how grants/guarantees for renovating buildings need supportive policies.

Radoš Horaček from the EU Commission Directorate General for Energy, talking on behalf of EASME at the World Sustainable Energy Days 2020, mentioned EU projects standing out - two that IEECP is leading: enefirst & SENSEI.

H2020-funded project **enefirst released examples** from across the globe, of policies, regulatory frameworks, utility programmes or other initiatives **that have implemented the Efficiency First (E1st) principle** in practice, showing policymakers, regulators and energy policy actors that the concept of E1st can be implemented and provide various benefits to the energy transition!

We were glad to read on the European Commission's DG ENER, on 16 June 2020, about the **"Importance of NECPs for post-Covid investments**: one further advantage of the NECP concept is that MS have publicly stated their intended pathway for pursuing the clean energy transition in their country in the coming 10 years and already started to map out potential projects. And so when it comes to planning economic recovery in the wake of the covid-19 crisis, the NECPs are already on the radar for public and private investment at national level. EU Heads of government have agreed the importance of keeping the European Green Deal considerations central to future investment." This coming a few months after IEECP published an opinion that states that "Tools such as the NECPs can help structure a consistent post-COVID19 sustainable energy future, if updated soon and wisely. It is crucial that all levels of government act fast AND in a structured way, enabling to reach long term targets."

IEECP's chairman Zsolt Lengyel co-authored a letter with Preventable Surprises and r3.0, a response to a Bloomberg Green article by Kate Mackenzie on climate scenarios and disclosure, recommending investors to focus on transformation plans to tackle climate emergency and ensure risk management.

What happens when (great) EU projects gather forces? They share insights, organise events and support each other's'. That's what IEECP is aiming for in each project, building up various groups of "sister projects".

WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH PARTNERS

We work closely with EU institutions, international organisations, national, regional and local governments and energy agencies, think-tanks, NGOs, academics and the business world to lead the transition to climate neutrality and to a sustainable energy future for various sectors. We build valued partnerships with renowned organisations from across Europe as we believe collaboration and creating a community helps carrying our ideas and results further, to shape, together, a low-emissions, resilient future. In 2020, IEECP becomes a member of eceee.

Because we think that collective intelligence is a way to find and disseminate better solutions faster.



What you say about us

In 2021, we submitted a survey* to our key stakeholders and partners,. According to you, IEECP is:

Impartial

Interdisciplinary

International

Flexible

Knowledgeable

Expert

Policy-connected

Impactful

Multi-faceted

*Survey conducted with IEECP's partners in February 2021.

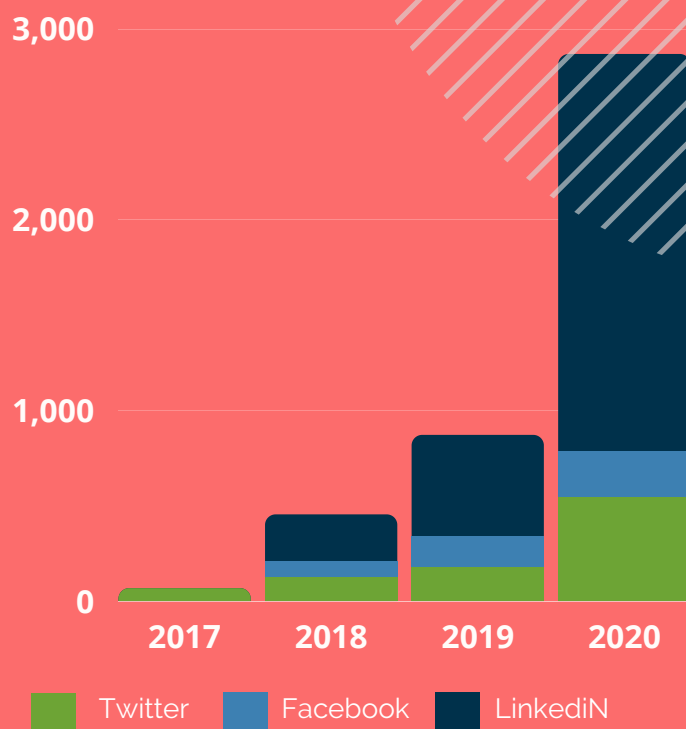
A GROWING DIGITAL COMMUNITY

2020 saw a net increase in IEECP's outreach: feeding our social media with valuable content and engaging partners and followers, with visible results. IEECP's accounts share outputs from the projects we work on, from our partners and highlight key policy results. We welcomed key followers: journalists from Energy Post, Politico, EurActiv, Interreg, EU Commission DGs (Environment, ENER) and agencies, etc.

IEECP's newsletter reached **300 subscribers** at the end of 2020.

IEECP's website has grown to reach over **6000 visitors and nearly 10 000 visits in 2020**, from various countries. The visitors mostly come from Greece, The Netherlands, the US, Belgium, Italy, Germany and France.

The website was revamped in 2020 to provide updated content, more regular news and focus on IEECP's projects findings.



300

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

OVER
6000

WEBSITE
VISITORS

OVER
2000

FOLLOWERS ON
LINKEDIN

5

H2020
PROJECTS

LEAD FOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND
DISSEMINATION

9

LUNCH
SEMINARS/WEBINARS

OVER
25

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES,
PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS AND
MEDIA APPEARANCES

WHAT'S NEXT?

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, evolutions in the energy policy in the EU happened and Member States finalized their plans for the Recovery Package. These plans included a great deal of supporting energy investments and should contribute directly to the fulfilment of the EU Green Deal goals. In the State of the Energy Union report, the EU recognizes that despite the progress of decoupling growth from greenhouse gas emissions, in view of the new climate ambition for reducing emissions by 55% by 2030, more actions at all levels of renewable energy and energy efficiency are required within the Energy Union to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. This is particularly true for energy efficiency, the final energy consumption has fallen by 5.9% (as of 2005) and investments in this field have generated 964,000 jobs.

To this end, the role of EU-funded projects under various programmes is of utmost importance to support the Member States to stay on track or re-align their energy transition pathways.

In the uncertainty gap that the pandemic will leave to the EU energy market, this type of support, which is based on solid data and experience-sharing will facilitate the decision-making processes of Member States in overcoming the structural difficulties of energy efficiency and renewable energy, but also in complying with the new rules and ambitions for the EU Recovery Package funding streams.

IEECP, in its five years of existence, being in the middle of this process through its various H2020 projects with a valued partnership of institutes, energy agencies, ministries, market players and consumers, will continue to assist directly all Member States to achieve these targets.

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