

ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus

From local trials towards a European knowledge community

First call for transnational smart grids RD&D project proposals opens on 30 January 2015, with a budget of €40 million.

ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus is an initiative of 20 European countries and regions. The aim is to enable the development of appropriate technologies, market designs and business models as well as customer adoption in order to achieve the European Smart Grids vision and goals: an electric power system integrating renewable energies as well as flexible production, consumer technologies and services that can help create an electricity system with a high security of supply and low greenhouse gas emissions at an affordable price.

ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus will have a strengthening impact on the European industrial technology base and on the competitiveness of European technology and service providers as well as engineering companies. It will create new knowledge about the scalability and replicability of smart grids solutions in different energy systems, climate, market, business, technology and cultural environments.

ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus promotes applied research, piloting and demonstration in the field of smart grids, with a focus on validation, scaling-up and replication. Projects shall not only focus on technical aspects, but integrate aspects of *Technology, Marketplace* and *Stakeholders/Adoption* in an interdisciplinary and transsectoral approach. The total available budget for the first call for RD&D projects in 2015 is approx. €40 million.

ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus will contribute to the European Electricity Grids Initiative and to the implementation of the Integrated Roadmap in the framework of the EU Strategic Energy Technology Plan, by enhancing synergies between national smart grids programmes and pilot projects.

ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus will furthermore create a coherent collaboration network. It will build up a Knowledge Community by linking experts from different disciplines and sectors, from already existing national and regional pilot projects, new transnational RD&D projects and the European knowledge base.

Call information and scope

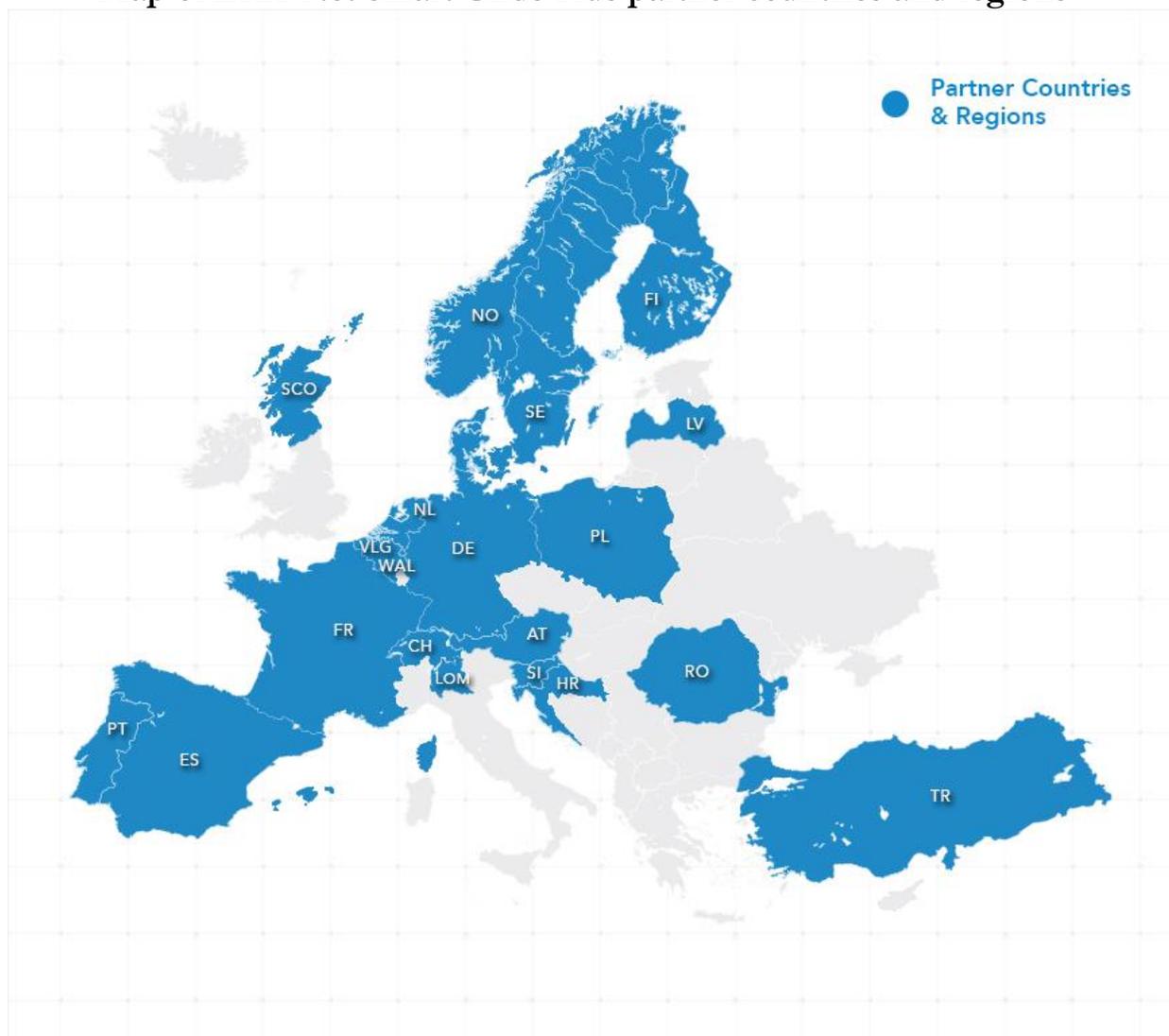
ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus is planning to launch a first joint call for transnational RD&D projects on 30 January 2015.

The scope and ambition are defined on the basis of existing European roadmaps and implementation plans. Based on these, projects should:

- Build on existing demonstration projects, focussing on e.g. validation, scaling-up, transfer and replication, considering the layers of *Technology, Marketplace* and *Stakeholder/Adoption*.

- Contribute to further develop existing pilots and demonstrations towards deployment of smart grids technologies and concepts.
- Contribute to European RD&D agendas, e.g. the EEGI Innovation Roadmap 2013-2022, ENTSO-E R&D Implementation Plan 2015-17, ENTSO-E Research and Development (R&D) Roadmap 2013-2022 and ETP Smart Grids Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) 2035.

Map of ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus partner countries and regions



Project characteristics

The ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus partners have established a set of desirable characteristics for project proposals. The four typical project types are outlined below. It is important to note that these characteristics are non-binding examples of possible approaches to project proposals, and are constructed as guidance to applicants.

1. Further or new development of technologies and concepts.
2. New demonstration project.
3. Comparative validation of technologies and concepts of existing demonstrations.
4. Meta-analysis, cross-cutting issues of existing demonstration projects.

Eligibility

The following eligibility criteria apply for project proposals in the call:

- Project must be transnational by nature, involving at least two (three, if a partner comes from Switzerland) independent entities and at least two different countries of the ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus partners.

Time schedule¹

ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus call open	30 January 2015
Project outline submission deadline	8 April 2015, 14:00 CET
Project start date	1 February 2016 – 1 April 2016

Why apply?

This joint call offers to its participants the opportunity to work together in transnational RDD projects, sharing knowledge and further develop Smart Grids Concepts and technologies while building on already existing demonstration projects. Beyond the funds made available, the participation in projects also provides access to the ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus Knowledge Community, consisting of key actors within smart grids development. Grid Operators will be able to learn from experiences that have been made in other pilot and demonstration projects, complementing their own use-cases, concepts, solutions and create knowledge about best practice solutions by comparative evaluation. Researchers and Industry will get the opportunity to use different test beds to develop methods, models, services and products. New partnerships and cooperation can be established. Moreover all participants can contribute to derive strategic knowledge for smart grids policies in European countries and regions as well as on a European level.

Contact

If you have specific questions on the call process and proposal submission, please get in touch with your **national/regional contact point** available at: <http://eranet-smartgridsplus.eu/>

If you have general questions regarding the ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus initiative please contact:

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¹ Tentative timeline, subject to change without prior notice before the launch of the call.