

NEW ERA ACTIONS FOR THE ERA POLICY AGENDA 2025-2027
TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

This template follows up on the debate in the ERA Forum on 25 May, in which Forum representatives agreed on a coordinated approach towards the definition of new actions for the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027. It builds on a gap analysis exercise in which the ERA Forum assessed, which parts of the [Pact for Research and Innovation](#) are already covered by the [Policy Agenda 2022-2024](#) and where there should be additions.

Action title: <i>(Please use as a maximum two lines.)</i>	Action 11.2: Implementing the revamped the SET Plan
Description of the action <i>(Please explain the proposed action in a simple, clear and communicable narrative).</i>	<p>The Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan was launched in 2007 as a first step to establish an energy technology policy for Europe. It provides a common vision, goals, and coordination for accelerating the development and deployment of efficient and cost-competitive low-carbon energy technologies.</p> <p>The SET Plan has played a central role in implementing the Research, Innovation & Competitiveness dimension of the Energy Union, and in guiding national research efforts in the National Energy and Climate Plans. It has helped federate national efforts into industrial alliances and Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs). Recently, it has also enabled its participating countries to pool more than EUR 500 million to jointly support - with an EU topping up of 210 MEUR - a wave of clean energy transition projects.</p> <p>However, since the last SET Plan update in 2015, the EU energy agenda has changed considerably, requiring a review of the objectives, governance, scope, and activities of the SET Plan. The work in the SET Plan itself has extended to go beyond pure technology development, looking also on cross cutting issues like circularity and sustainability, education and skills for new technologies, citizens' needs and behaviour.</p> <p>In this context, the Commission, after thorough consultations with all the involved stakeholders, has adopted the Communication on the revision of the SET Plan on 20 October 2023. Thus, the implementation of the revamped SET Plan will continue in the new ERA Policy Agenda. The Communication will bring a better alignment of the SET Plan with the new policy context (Green Deal, REPowerEU, NZIA and ERA), it will create a more agile and impactful governance and will include a cross-cutting approach that is currently missing (on skills, R&I for societal needs, access to the market, circularity, and digitalisation.). The EU Solar Energy Strategy set out among its actions the preparation of a joint strategic solar energy R&I agenda with the Member States. The strategic solar energy R&I agenda will be developed within the new SET Plan and is meant to leverage the work of the SET Plan IWGs on photovoltaics (IWG PV) and the IWG on concentrated solar power (IWG CSP).</p>

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<p>Actors</p> <p><i>(Please explain who would take part in the action and who would benefit from it).</i></p>	<p>The implementation of this action will be done by all Member States jointly with the EC and the Associated Countries. Other stakeholders, such as the Implementation Working Groups (IWGs), the European Energy Research Area (EERA) and the European Technology and Innovation Platforms (ETIPs) are also important actors in the implementation.</p>
<p>Expected impact</p> <p><i>(Please describe the expected impact of the action (including outside the scientific community), paying attention to the fact that it needs to focus on <u>concrete results</u> and <u>reachable deliverables</u>).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonisation of the original SET Plan strategic objectives with the European Green Deal, REPowerEU Plan and the Green Deal Industrial Plan – notably, the Net-Zero Industry Act through new identified directions. • While the updated SET Plan will continue to be essential for delivering on the fifth dimension of the Energy Union – that is, Research, Innovation and Competitiveness – it will also be firmly anchored within the European Research Area (ERA) framework. It is proposed that to increase the legitimacy of the SET Plan Steering Group, it will be upgraded to the status of expert group, as a subgroup under the European Research Area. • Delivery on new priorities on cross-cutting issues, including sustainability by design, skills development, research and innovation tailored to societal needs, digitalisation, and market accessibility through a task force approach to issue tools to integrate cross cutting challenges into all the SET Plan work. • Expansion of the current technology scope to encompass all strategic renewable energy technologies. • Establishment of a dedicated workstream on hydrogen to implement the 'ERA pilot on Green Hydrogen'. • Forged cooperation between the European Technology and Innovation Platforms and the European industrial alliances • Updated roadmap for progress that will continue to be monitored through the SET Plan information system (SETIS). • The Clean Energy Transition Partnership will continue to support the implementation of the SET Plan activities and will be instrumental to underpin its extended scope.
<p>Why do we need this action?</p> <p><i>(Please indicate the need for this action in view of implementing the <u>Pact for R&I and achieving the ERA objectives</u> and explain why its <u>objective cannot be reached through existing programmes/ activities</u>. What is the action's <u>added value</u> at national and European level as well as for stakeholders? How does it <u>make a change</u> and how is <u>co-creation</u> ensured?)</i></p>	<p>With the revision of the SET Plan, we are now moving to a new implementation phase. It is very important that the SET Plan continues to be strongly integrated in the ERA Policy Agenda. In the Communication, it was proposed, and the ERA Forum agreed, to set-up an ERA Forum sub-group to formalize the SET Plan Steering Group.</p>

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Additional information <i>(For example, timing and milestones, which already could be envisaged, can be indicated.)</i>	Q1 2024: Establishment of the ERA Forum subgroup Q2 2024: Launch of the tender in support of the SET Plan Q2 2024: Launch of the task forces on cross-cutting issues New contact person: Mathieu FROMENTIN
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