



POWERING EUROPE IN A
SUSTAINABLE WAY

HYDROPOWER EUROPE Online Workshop

Answering technical, environmental and social
challenges for hydropower as a catalyst for the
clean energy transition in Europe

12-13 October 2020



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ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Thanks to its long lifetime, its storage capacity and the flexibility it can introduce in the energy system, **hydropower can be a catalyst for the clean energy transition and a pillar of the European Green Deal**. However, in order to fulfil its potential, hydropower needs to face a unique set of policy, environmental, societal, technological and market challenges. The hydropower benefits have been forgotten by the civil society and the sector needs to become more innovative and find novel approaches to future development in accordance with environmental and social demand.

The HYDROPOWER EUROPE (HPE) project is built on the ambition to achieve a **Research and Innovation Agenda** (RIA) and a **Strategic Industry Roadmap** (SIR) for the hydropower sector, based on the synthesis of technical fora and transparent public debates through a forum that gathers all relevant stakeholders of the hydropower sector. Through a detailed **consultation process** (expert workshops, online consultations, regional workshops), HYDROPOWER EUROPE already collected views and inputs from a wide range of stakeholders.

The **HYDROPOWER EUROPE online workshop** is the last crucial step of the consultation process and aims to bring together EU policy-makers, hydropower industry and civil society organisations to discuss key points and preliminary conclusions of the draft HPE documents. This workshop will thus allow participants to share different opinions on policy and regulatory issues, technical challenges, as well as environmental and social issues in order to provide concerted recommendations on hydropower policy framework, investment priorities, or urgent environmental and social measures that should be put in place to mitigate the hydropower impact and to fully contribute to the European Green Deal.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 12 October 2020

9:15 – 12:00

Session 1&2: Policy and Technical issues

Opening remarks

9:15 – 9:25

Introduction to HYDROPOWER EUROPE and aims of the Session 1&2

Anton Schleiss, Honorary President, International Commission on Large Dams and HYDROPOWER EUROPE Project Coordinator

Session 1 – Policy and Regulatory issues

This session will tackle policy and regulatory issues, how can hydropower offer a lot to the EU targets and energy system transformation, how can it enable the integration of volatile renewables and provide system stability. It will also identify which policies and mechanisms the hydropower sector currently needs, for example to tap the promising part of its remaining and hidden potential/comply with environmental issues/be supported by the EU market, etc. Finally, it will aim to identify hydropower targets for 2030 and 2050.

Presentations could, for example, focus on:

9:25 – 9:55

- Opportunities for the hydropower sector under the EU Energy Union (potential to achieve Green Deal's targets, adaptation to climate change, key role to increase the flexibility of the energy grid (esp. storage solutions), etc.
- Funding schemes for hydropower: best practices to improve EU schemes' efficiency, insights on current funding and opportunities in the view of Horizon Europe (e.g. new EIB funding criteria, funding for cross-border projects (CEF).
- Market structure and regulation issues (e.g. simplification and reappraisal of licensing processes, supportive mechanisms, etc)
- Impact of Water Framework Directive (WFD) on hydropower development (key issues to be discussed in 2020: revision of exemptions to build hydropower plants; Weser judgement, hydromorphology)

9:25 – 9:35

Presentation 1

9:35 – 9:45

Presentation 2

9:45 – 9:55

Presentation 3

9:55 – 10:10

Discussion time

10:10 – 10:20 **Coffee break**

Session 2 – Technical challenges and R&I priorities

This session will tackle the main technical hydropower topics which will have been identified as main R&I priorities by consultees answering the 2nd wider online consultation of HPE (e.g.: innovative turbines' design, refurbishment of power plants, optimisation of Operation and Maintenance Costs, digitalisation issues, new monitoring systems, innovative optimisation and upgrading of hydro infrastructures, sedimentation management, multi-purpose schemes, etc).

10:20 – 10:50

Presentations could, for example, be divided as follows:

- Innovative technologies and components (turbines, equipment, digitalisation, etc)
- Performance and resilience of infrastructures (refurbishment, new materials, increase of efficiency, etc)
- New concepts and applications (e.g. hybrid power plants, PSP at existing infrastructures)

10:20 – 10:30 **Presentation 1**

10:30 – 10:40 **Presentation 2**

10:40 – 10:50 **Presentation 3**

10:50 – 11:05 **Discussion time**

11:05 – 11:10 **Short break**

Parallel groups

11:10 – 11:40

Parallel groups will be created automatically based on the registrations of the participants in order to discuss policy and regulatory issues. Each group will be chaired by a member from the HPE Team and introduced by one short presentation from an expert on a specific topic. Participants from the industry, civil society and policy-makers will be represented in each group in order to enable discussions as dynamic as possible.

The output of the discussion should be precise recommendations on the hydropower policy framework or about the main areas where investment is needed to support the hydropower sector (depending on the group).

Conclusions from the parallel groups

11:40 – 11:55

The chair of the group will present the conclusions from the group discussion during 5 minutes presenting the main recommendations that emerged from the group. After these presentations, a 5 minutes-discussion will enable participants to discuss the results and agree on final outcomes.

11:55 – 12:00 **Closing remarks**

Tuesday, 13 October 2020

9:15 – 12:00

Session 3&4: Environmental and social issues

Opening remarks

9:15 – 9:20

Introduction of the aims of the Session 3&4

Anton Schleiss, Honorary President, International Commission on Large Dams and HYDROPOWER EUROPE Project Coordinator

Session 3 - Environmental issues

This session will discuss the different environmental impacts of hydropower, the environmental-friendly solutions to mitigate these impacts, but also the advantages and answers that hydropower can bring to the new challenges emerging from global warming.

9:20 – 9:50

Presentations could, for example, focus on:

- Different impacts of hydropower plants / residual flow and hydro-peaking on hydro morphological changes, biodiversity, habitats, rivers, ecosystems, etc.
- Water flow and sediment management
- Environmental-compatible solutions, eco-labelling schemes (e.g. French eco-label Ecological Green Electricity developed with the support of WWF France), life cycle analysis and CO2 emissions of renewable energies, benefits of reservoirs.
- Climate resilience and mitigating global warming's effects.

9:20 – 9:30

Presentation 1

9:30 – 9:40

Presentation 2

9:40 – 9:50

Presentation 3

9:50 – 10:05

Discussion time

10:05 – 10:15

Coffee Break

Session 4 - Social issues

10:15 – 10:45

This session will discuss the main social issues linked to hydropower including social acceptance, conflicts of interests in certain areas and in multipurpose projects, and solutions to solve these issues such as consultation, involvement of local communities, understanding and recognising wider project benefits, etc.

Presentations could, for example, focus on:

- Conflicts with fishing lobbies or other civil society's organisations in certain regions
- Social acceptance of hydropower by local communities
- Best practices to bridge the gap between the parties by creating win-win situation for all stakeholders with multi-purpose projects
- Wider project benefits.

10:15 – 10:25 **Presentation 1**

10:25 – 10:35 **Presentation 2**

10:35 – 10:45 **Presentation 3**

10:45 – 11:00 **Discussion time**

11:00 – 11:05 **Short break**

Parallel groups

11:05 – 11:35

Parallel groups will be created automatically based on the registrations of the participants in order to discuss environmental and social issues. Each group will be chaired by a member from the HPE Team and introduced by one short presentation from an expert on a specific topic. Participants from the industry, civil society and policy-makers will be represented in each group in order to enable discussions as dynamic as possible.

The output of the discussion should be precise recommendations on the most urgent environmental and social actions to be undertaken to increase hydropower sustainability and social acceptance (depending on the group).

Conclusions from the parallel groups

11:35 – 11:50

The chair of the group will present the conclusions from the group discussion during 5 minutes presenting the main recommendations that emerged from the group. After these presentations, a 5 minutes-discussion will enable participants to discuss the results and agree on final outcomes.

11:50 – 12:00 **Closing remarks**