

EU Action Plan for Grids

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#EnergyUnion



As the backbone of our energy system, **electricity grids are critical for the clean energy transition**. Europe has **the most interconnected and resilient electricity grid in the world** bringing electricity to consumers every minute, hour and day of the year. However, for the EU to bring renewable electricity to its consumers and empower them to produce it, **electricity grids need to develop further and faster. In the next seven years, we should double our cross-border transmission infrastructure**.

An accelerated energy transition requires a shift towards a **decentralised, digitalised, integrated and flexible system**, with the expansion and upgrade of both the transmission and distribution grids. Investing in grids today will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs for consumers: **cross-border energy infrastructure projects can decrease generation costs by €9 billion annually until 2040**.



93 GW of cross-border transmission capacity currently in Europe

An additional **23 GW** being incorporated by 2025, a **further 64 GW is needed by 2030**



Rapid implementation of the **85 electricity transmission, storage and smart grid cross-border projects** included in the 2023 PCI list is key



40% of Europe's distribution grids are over 40 years old

Connection requests at distribution level increased on average by **19%** in a single year in 2021



In this decade alone, **€584 billion in investments** are necessary for the electricity grids, with a substantial part needed in distribution grids

A grids action plan to address the missing links of the clean energy transition



Accelerating the implementation of **Projects of Common Interest** through political steering, reinforced monitoring and more project proposals



Improving the **long-term planning of grids** to accommodate **more renewables** and **electrified demand** in the energy system



Introducing **regulatory incentives** through anticipatory investments and offshore cross-border cost sharing



Incentivising a **better usage of the grids** with enhanced transparency and improved network tariffs for more smart grids network efficiency and innovative technologies



Improving **access to finance** by increasing visibility on EU funding programmes for smart grids and modernisation of distribution grids



Stimulating **faster permitting** for grids deployment by providing technical support for authorities and guidance on **better engaging stakeholders and communities**



Improving **grid supply chains** by harmonising industry manufacturing requirements

