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CAN Europe submission to Public Consultation on TYNDP 2024 Scope of Studies and Stakeholder engagement plan

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With over 180 member organisations from 38 European countries, representing over 1.500 NGOs and more than 47 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.

1. Which part(s) of the TYNDP do you most often refer to?

Scenarios

Information on system needs

Information on infrastructure projects (transmission and/or storage)

CBA results*

* CBA = Cost-benefit analysis

How do you make use of the selected products? (Required)

To gain a general perspective on current, predominant European understanding and strategic thinking, as a business-as-usual trajectory.

To gain an understanding of current thinking on investment priorities by TSOs, on a continent-wide level. Considering the relationship of these knowledge products, in the view of a transition towards a more decentralised energy system of the future, in which the role of prosumers, peer-to-peer electricity and supportive energy approaches, are anticipated to become far more pronounced.

To reflect how presented the scenarios and their narratives, quantitatively and qualitatively, analytically and normatively are able to speak to a changing world, the scale of transition, as frameworks, which inform actual choices. It should be ensured that the used instruments, proposed methodologies and tools align with the actual ambition levels of the EU's climate and energy targets, Fit for 55 and REPowerEU targets as well as the necessity to reach the +1.5 C target. It is also necessary to consider how resilient the planning and scenario approaches are, to support a transition, in a world of surprises and crises.

To reflect how the role of a more two-directional, participatory, flexible energy system of the future, inclusive of citizens/prosumers, is presented and modelled in related analyses, informing associated studies, their framings, and priorities.

2. Please rank the following time horizons in the order of importance in identifying future system needs (1: most important; 3: least important)

2030 Rank 2

2040 Rank 1

2050 Rank 3

3. Please rank the following time horizons by order of importance to perform the cost-benefit analysis of projects (1: most important; 3: least important)

2030 Rank 2

2040 Rank 1

2050 Rank 3

4. How would you evaluate the proposed TYNDP 2024 stakeholder engagement plan? What are the most important elements? (Required)

As a principle, stakeholder engagement should be considered as an integral, co-creative element part of the TYNDP process. For this, a deliberative approach, with enough time reserved for open dialogue is encouraged.

As a practical implication, the timing of stakeholder engagements should be considered, and ensure that stakeholder inputs can have a meaningful influence on the key steps of the process.

Continue to ensure that regular updates are provided openly to all stakeholders, in an anticipatory and timely manner, which will ease and facilitate meaningful stakeholder engagements.

1. Provide any other suggestions or areas of improvement

In guiding TYNDP related discussions, the participants and stakeholders can be actively reminded of the long-term vision of meeting Paris Agreement targets for climate neutrality, as well as ecological, social, and economic criteria, even in times of crises.

At suggested webinars and/or workshops, to take place at key steps of the TYNDP process, in practice, facilitation is encouraged to be organised in a way that leaves room to open up questions, comments, criticism, and new, innovative ideas. This can be achieved by allocating enough time for small group discussions, and even shaping related agenda. Especially in an era of hybrid- and/or web-based consultations, this may emphasize the

necessity of even more skillful facilitation, with supportive technological set-ups, and more detailed attention to the technical interfaces.

Overall, the moments of stakeholder engagement may be less about one-way informing or consulting, but more opportunities to learn about new issues as well as to build capacity for stakeholders – to engage in a meaningful and deliberative way. This can be encouraged alongside the formation of Scenarios ETAG. In stakeholder exchanges, with enough time allocated for discussions, participants can be encouraged to exchange opinions genuinely and frankly, e.g. in different types of smaller groups at ease, and with ease-of-use, light collaborative tools, and then reporting back to a wider audience.

5. What changes would be important to reflect in the next TYNDP editions? Explain (Required)

Generally, as a bird's eye view, although some aspects of TYNDP importantly focus much on the cross-national dimension, alongside, it will be important to consider how to proactively anticipate a changing energy landscape, its far more localised modes and levels of energy provision, and related transactions. These are cross-sectoral developments, would inform related analytical lenses.

As an observation, in terms of framing, some of the approaches related to the TYNDP are quite project-based and project-focused. Therefore, alongside scenario work, we encourage the further use of different types of dynamic tools and ways to engage in the TYNDP process.

Three remarks can be raised, as they may inform the TYNDP processes (beyond the scenario work, which in any case is not in the scope of this consultation):

1. As a broader framing, an anticipatory and wider methodology could consider how to contrast the level of infrastructural expansions against a far more efficient, flexible, decentralised power system where, for instance, a maximal amount of EVs as batteries, demand-side response, full flexibility options are made use of. Drilling down to such a granular level may require a further analytical push, also for new kinds of modelling approaches. Such aspects would inform the use of a methodology, and inform the evidence-basis for plans on system needs.
2. As a knowledge-generation approach, the consideration of weak signals of change, could be emphasised in TYNDP work (as well as to be taken to its scenario development). The identification and interpretation of weak signals is a methodological recommendation by the foresight community (see Kuusi and Hiltunen 2006; Hiltunen 2010; Rossel 2012; Lesca and Lesca 2014), and their

importance also addresses the topic of mapping and opening up energy futures. Already, TYNDP 2022 analytically advanced to a more nuanced direction, as alongside a National Trends Scenario, a Global Ambition and Distributed Energy Scenario were provided.

In actual terms, it may be important to consider well in advance the kinds of weak signals that already seem to be shaping the energy landscape, and hence, would also inform the role and position of TSOs (as well as other actors), pointing to infrastructural as well as institutional changes. Such signals - some of which already can be claimed to be trends - may, for instance, entail electricity market reform / energy market design, new energy-sharing designs as well as peer-to-peer development, as well as the entry of new actors to collaborate in the sector. This would mean active consideration of how the role and position of TSOs can be co-shaped, as key enablers, whose actions can enable a far more flexible and sustainable energy system of tomorrow.

3. Thirdly, as a study about System Needs, digitalisation is mentioned only twice in the entire 54-page document. Digitally-managed flexibilities within the grid may help avoid overestimating the need of physical assets. It would seem important to incorporate and integrate a deeper consideration of digitalisation, as an energy sector megatrend, into further Systems Needs assessments.

6. General comments - Please use this field to share with us any other idea or comment

A more peer to peer, innovative, citizen- and consumer/prosumer-centred energy system, and its supported institutional, policy, market and infrastructural solutions (CAN Europe 2023), can also be a more efficient and cost-effective future energy system, equally, partly alleviating pressures and legitimacy issues that may stem from certain large-scale infrastructural developments. Advancing such concepts and practices, already at our disposal, also hints at a need at European-wide capacity-building efforts.

As one knowledge-product, in the PAC 2.0 project – “Paris Agreement Compatible Scenarios for Energy Infrastructure” – CAN Europe is developing a future energy scenario for Europe, which is compatible with the Paris Agreement, to explore a world where we reach carbon neutrality by 2040, where renewable energy fuels industry, and where clean electricity is provided to citizens, businesses and different sectors, 24/7, in a reliable and secure manner (See below).

Overall, progressively advancing the necessary system design, to enhance the uptake of intermittent, variable renewable electricity across Europe, serving and coordinated across local, national and regional levels, are assumed as a priority also for the future, with a view to the energy transition, where each actor can leverage each other’s capabilities, to play a part in this transformation.

Further reading

CAN Europe (2023) Energy system of tomorrow. Reconsidering the European Electricity Market for a Flexible, Resilient, People-centred and Efficient System with 100% Renewables. Climate Action Network Europe. Available at: <https://caneurope.org/energy-system-of-tomorrow-reconsidering-the-european-electricity-market-for-a-flexible-resilient-people-centred-and-efficient-system-with-100-renewables/>

PAC Project. Paris Agreement Compatible Scenarios for Infrastructure project. Available at: <https://pac-scenarios.eu/>

Academic references

Hiltunen, E. (2010). Weak Signals in Organizational Futures Learning, Doctoral dissertation, Helsinki: Aalto University School of Economics, <http://epub.lib.aalto.fi/fi/diss/?cmd=show&dissid=400>

Ilmola, L & Kuusi, O. (2006). Filters of weak signals hinder foresight: Monitoring weak signals efficiently in corporate decision-making. *Futures* 38: 8, 908-924. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2005.12.019>

Lesca, Humbert & Lesca, Nicolas (2014). Strategic Decisions and Weak Signals: Anticipation for Decision-Making: Anticipation for Decision-Making, John Wiley & Sons Inc.

Rossel, P. (2012) Early detection, warnings, weak signals and seeds of change: A turbulent domain of futures studies. *Futures*, 44, pp. 229-239. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2011.10.005>