



Elia's Academic Board meets for the third time to strengthen collaboration for Belgium's future

BRUSSELS | Elia hosted the third annual meeting of its Academic Board last week. Bringing together academic leaders from various Belgian universities and Elia's energy experts, the event aimed to foster collaboration, provide transparency on topics related to Elia, and address key challenges linked to the energy transition in Belgium. Since its launch in October 2022, the Board has been driven by a two-fold vision: firstly, fostering collaboration between Elia and different universities and working on innovative projects with academia; and secondly, facilitating discussions about topics linked to the energy transition. This year, university representatives shared their views and research on critical topics that concern the evolution of our energy system: AI, cybersecurity, flexibility, grid planning, and operations. The discussions also discussed the Blueprint study recently published by Elia.

Ensuring transparency and generating synergies through the Academic Board

This year, Elia's Academic Board met to explore several major topics. Elia's experts and Academic Board members participated in lively discussions during this third edition, which enabled them to identify some key areas for collaboration. Several themes relevant to the country's energy transition were addressed:

- Firstly, **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity**. This session highlighted the importance of attracting more AI researchers to new issues and challenges in power systems, particularly those related to grid operation.. More information on the large number of new connected devices in relation to cyber risks and the related data is needed on this subject.
- Secondly, **Grid Planning and Flexibility**. Presentations largely focused on the integration of renewable energy sources through the necessary long-term network planning. There was also discussion about the importance of system flexibility as Belgium anticipates a significant increase in renewable energy by 2030.
- Thirdly, **System Blueprint Study**. A recap of Elia's System Blueprint Study (covering scenarios from 2035 to 2050) provided academic experts with insights into how different energy strategies might shape Belgium's infrastructure needs.
- Finally, **Collaboration in Research and Innovation**. Opportunities for collaboration between Elia and universities were emphasised, particularly regarding projects that could be jointly developed under Belgium's Energy Transition Fund.



As the Elia Academic Board continues to evolve, it aims to be a beacon of innovation, collaboration, and impact in the energy sector, contributing to the energy transition and benefiting Belgian society.

" This forum, which was created to address future strategic challenges, will now focus on projects that will be developed by Elia and its academic partners and by universities amongst themselves. The challenges we are facing are important and the role academia will play in addressing these is essential."

Frédéric Dunon, CEO of Elia Transmission Belgium

Following the success of this third Elia Academic Board meeting, collaborative efforts will continue to grow, with the next projects, for example, focusing on HVDC technologies, wind energy integration, and enhancing system flexibility to support Belgium's 2050 energy goals.

About Elia Group

One of Europe's top five TSOs

Elia Group is a key player in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. Through our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and the north and east of Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,349 km of high-voltage connections, meaning that we are one of Europe's top 5 transmission system operators. With a reliability level of 99.99%, we provide society with a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition, helping to establish a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

We are making the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and incorporating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy into our grid, we are promoting both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of society. We also continuously optimise our operational systems and develop new market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus further facilitating the energy transition.

In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We are responding to the rapid increase in renewable energy by constantly adapting our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. In carrying out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication channels between all relevant parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to different players across the sector in order to build the energy system of the future.

International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, Elia Group provides consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International. In recent years, the Group has launched new non-regulated activities such as re.alto - the first European marketplace for the exchange of energy data via standardised energy APIs - and WindGrid, a subsidiary which will continue to expand the Group's overseas activities, contributing to the development of offshore electricity grids in Europe and beyond.

The legal entity Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

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