

Paper 2.1

Status of the TCP – report by the ESC

Matters for the ExCo

Are there any aspects of the ESC report that you would like to see escalated to the video conference, to agree on a process for resolution?

Purpose of the paper

1. To provide a summary of key developments in the TCP over the last six months.
2. Further details on the development of the work programme and matters for the ExCo can be found in the individual papers supporting agenda items and the written procedure.

Key developments over the last six months

Work programme - Tasks

3. The TCP's Tasks have made good progress despite the limitations on collaboration imposed by the COVID pandemic. The **Business Models Task** is concluding in April 2021 and has collected its outputs and online tools on the [Fit to Serve Platform](#). The **Behavioural Insights Platform** completed its initial phase with the IEA Secretariat as Task Coordinator, publishing its [first report](#) on behavioural insights for demand-side energy policy, based on 40 case studies. The [first UsersTCP Policy Brief](#) distills lessons from the report. The next phase of the Platform will proceed with a new Task Leader. The National Experts participating in the Task have run a competition to fill the role and have asked the [ExCo to approve their preferred candidate](#) through the written procedure. If approved, the **new Task Leader** will introduce themselves at the ExCo meeting.
4. The Global Observatory (**GO-P2P**) has undertaken three literature reviews and is undertaking another. A policy brief will draw out the key findings. The [Task Force](#), launched with the International Association for Trusted Blockchain Applications, now has 41 members and will analyse P2P pilots, assessing standardization efforts. The initial work of the GO-P2P suggests that this emerging field would benefit from a continuation of the Observatory beyond its initial phase, ending in 2023. The **Social License to Automate** Task has undertaken case study work in six countries and will present their results at the [April User-Centred Energy Systems Academy webinar](#). The Task will conclude in October 2021 and National Experts are considering options for future work through the TCP.
5. The **Hard-to-Reach Energy Users** Task has completed its literature review, which will be published in the coming months, with a [summary](#) planned for academic publication. The Task is inviting UsersTCP members to participate in the Task's case study analysis through in-kind National Expert input or a one-off fee for Task Leader time. The **Gender and Energy** Task has been building its team of National Experts, with the Chalmers University, Sweden team confirmed and participation confirmed in seven countries. A launch event will be held this spring along with a User Academy webinar in May 2021. The idea for a new Task on **Public Engagement** has been developed by the United Kingdom (UK) with input from other countries. The Concept Note was circulated by the UK ahead of the ExCo meeting in March 2021. At the meeting, the ExCo will decide whether to proceed with the Task to the full proposal stage in October 2021.

Work programme – ExCo projects

6. The **Plug and Play joint project** with 4E TCP has kicked off following the selection of the Energy System Catapult to undertake the research. Monica Neukomm (United States) and Ben Walker (UK) are representing the Users TCP on the joint steering group, which will meet for the first time on 20 April 2021. A **joint workshop with 4E TCP will take place on 27 May** at which the first results from the research will be presented.
7. The **Household Attitudes survey** with OECD will proceed in 2021-22 subject to confirmation from sufficient countries. Amongst UsersTCP member countries, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland have already committed with the UK also expected to participate. The TCP's Head of Secretariat (Sam Thomas) is on the Steering Committee and Helene Ahlborg (Chalmers University, Sweden) is representing the TCP on the Scientific Advisory Committee. Over the next six months, the survey will be designed and tested and a tender will be held to select the survey providers. Helene will join the ExCo meeting to discuss the survey on 26 April.
8. The Chair and Head of Secretariat have discussed with the 4E TCP the setting up a cross-TCP forum to discuss issues related to the digitalization of the energy system. A **proposal to co-organise an online workshop in September/October 2021** with the IEA and other TCPs on the topic of digitalization is included in the written procedure. The aim of the workshop would be to explore whether there is interest and value in several TCPs and the IEA working together on issues directly relating to digitalization.

IEA collaboration

9. The IEA has launched a new initiative - [Our Inclusive Energy Future: The Global Commission on People-Centred Clean Energy Transitions](#). The Commission, launched by the Danish Prime Minister offers the potential for our projects to feed into broader IEA work, as well as to trigger new Tasks. The focus of the Commission will be on inclusivity, i.e. the social and economic impacts of energy transitions on individuals and communities, as well as issues of affordability and fairness. UsersTCP Chair (David Shipworth) is representing the TCP on the Commission's Advisory Group.
10. David Shipworth represented the TCP at the IEA's Buildings Coordination Group and at the End-Use Working Party (EUWP) meeting in March. The EUWP meeting was accompanied by a workshop entitled "Over-capacity, diversification or storage: Where are the thresholds that maximise flexibility in RES-based systems?" at which David presented. David and Sam have also discussed with the smart grids TCP (ISGAN) possibilities for future collaboration and we have been approached by the industrial energy TCP (IETS) around collaboration too. The ESC will invite these TCPs to ESC meetings for initial discussions around potential collaborative opportunities. The IEA's **Digital Demand-Driven Electricity Networks Initiative (3DEN)**, funded by Italy, is another possible route to collaboration with the IEA. We hope to engage the IEA Secretariat through this initiative, initially through the workshop proposed in September/October 2021 (see para 8 above).

Personnel

11. Nina Campbell (New Zealand) joined the ExCo as primary delegate in November 2020, replacing Marcos Pelanur, who becomes New Zealand's alternate delegate.
12. Gerdien de Weger (Netherlands) and Tony Fullelove (Australia) joined the ESC in November 2020, following their election at the last ExCo meeting. Gerdien has taken the Vice-Chair Finance role. This has allowed Even Bjørnstad (Norway) to step down from the ESC.

13. Even's contribution to the TCP has been immense during the transition from IEADSM to the Users TCP. He played a critical role in guiding the direction of the TCP and crucially stepped in to provide a temporary home for the TCP's bank account. He devoted time and skill to the setting up of new, more robust financial practices and signing off all the TCP's financial transactions. With new financial management arrangements in place and a new home for the TCP's bank account proposed, he leaves the ESC with the TCP in a much healthier position.
14. Vikki Searancke was confirmed in the role of Secretariat Support to the TCP in December 2020. Vikki impressed during her temporary period in the position and was successful in a tough competition with three other credible candidates.

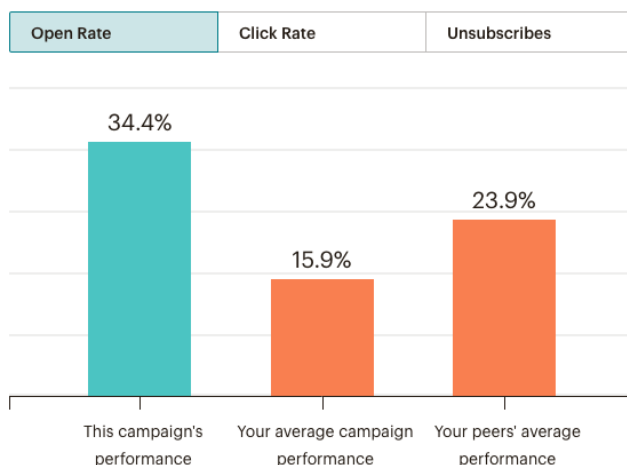
Membership

15. In December 2020, The Government of Austria (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology) took the place of Grazer Energieagentur as the Contracting Party for Austria. This formalized the current arrangements and Austria's ExCo delegates remain the same.
16. Following unsuccessful attempts to persuade India and Spain to reengage as Contracting Parties, the ESC propose to begin the process of formally ending their membership of the TCP. The ExCo approved this course of action in 2019, but subsequently decided to continue attempts to reengage the two countries, following interest at Task level. The ESC ask, through the written procedure, that the ExCo agree to begin the removal process through an official letter to the nominal Contracting Parties, informing them of the decision.
17. The most promising developments with potential new members have been with Denmark (through their interest in the Public Engagement concept and their leadership of the IEA People-Centred Energy Commission), and France and Japan (through their interest in the Behavioural Insights Platform). Membership discussions have continued with Germany and Colombia, but are no closer to being successfully concluded.

Communications

18. Newsletter #3 was sent in November 2020 using the new template created by the graphic designer in line with the TCP's branding guidelines. Newsletter #4 was sent in March 2021 and led with the publication of the 2020 Annual Report.
19. The [2020 Annual Report](#) was designed by the graphic designer to give it a more professional look and was published in March 2021. 2-page Task flyers were created for each Task as a 'glossy' information type publication that the Task Leaders can disseminate to potential members. The content was taken from the Annual Report data.
20. The [first UsersTCP Policy Brief](#) was produced at the beginning of March 2021 by the Behavioural Insights Platform. The mail blast (using Mailchimp) for this publication and other items specifically regarding the BI Platform had the best response statistics of any previous campaigns. It may be worth considering focused campaigns like this in the future rather than ones covering a wide range of topics.

How your email campaign compares



21. Academy webinars were broadcast in November and December 2020, January, February and March 2021. Webinars for April and May are already confirmed and new events are planned for June and, for the first time, July 2021.
22. A UsersTCP LinkedIn account was created to expand the TCP's reach beyond existing members, and better utilise Social Media platforms.

Administration

23. Following research into the options for locations to base the new UsersTCP finance entity, the ESC has proposed the option of an incorporated society based in New Zealand. The ExCo are asked to approve this course of action through the written procedure, which is accompanied by a paper setting out the rationale for the choice and the associated set-up and maintenance costs.
24. The ESC met every two or three weeks over the course of the period since the last ExCo meeting. The list of topics discussed at ESC meetings can be found at Annex 1.

Annex 1: Topics at ESC meetings

Nov 2020

- New Vice-chairs joined ESC. Gerdien takes on VC Finance role.
- Investigate option of new financial entity in Ireland.
- Development of participation concept further (increasing ExCo participation).
- Follow-up from ExCo meeting – new HTR Task concept
- Advertise for Secretariat Support role.

Dec 2020

- Feedback on Ireland new entity option.
- Further discussed Deloitte paper regarding VAT.
- Discussion on concerns received from members re: membership options from ExCo
- Tony to take on role focused on engagement and outreach.
- Set provisional dates for April ExCo (online)
- Annual report – timing and content discussed.
- Canada agreement signed and returned.

- Finance sub-committee agreed to flexibility in the Secretariat budget between HoS and SS without needing ExCo permission as long as overall budget ceiling not breached.
- Chair had role as UK alternate delegate confirmed until March 2022.
- Contractor sub-committee suggested that future annex proposals should include more detail on comms, including social media outreach.
- Secretariat to commence documenting SOP's and contingency plan for the provision of Secretariat services.
- Request input from Task Leaders for the Annual Report.
- ExCo outreach – outcome of SS tender, Plug and Play tender detail, input for Academy presentations and advise of Tony's VC role.

Jan 2021

- Approve to engage NZ lawyer for advice on new entity options in NZ.
- Finalise February webinar panel
- Confirmation of April ExCo dates and provisional October dates (possibly in Canada)
- PPT templates completed. Agreed to develop a Policy Brief template.
- HoS to draft H2020 letter of support for Culture Change for Climate Neutrality (3CN) project, building on SEAI template, but including something around the possibility of collaborative work in future.
- HoS to contact IEECP asking for details on the H2020 consortium partners and testing the possibilities around participants co-funding work with a TCP Task.
- Develop Chairs brief for Annual Report
- Re-draft of first Policy Brief input required.
- TCP LinkedIn account operating
- Discussed development of Communications Strategy paper for next ExCo
- Reviewed letter from NZ lawyer re: new entity set-up. Discussion resulted in further queries for NZ lawyer and accountant/tax specialist.
- Approve first Policy Brief using word processing 'Indesign'
- Annual Report content ongoing
- Bids for Plug and Play project under review by 4E EDNA and UsersTCP
- Suggested that Annexes/Tasks provide contingency plans due to work plan changes resulting from Covid-19. Sam to raise with Task Leaders.

Feb 2021

- New finance entity NZ option – look at issues with opening a bank account and AML verifications for overseas residents.
- Final draft for Policy Brief with graphic designer.
- Approved quote for 2020 Annual Report.
- Plug and Play project tender awarded, kick-off meeting 25th Feb.
- Further discussion on member engagement as part of overall Strategy discussion, options tabled.
- Potential collaboration with IETS TCP raised.
- New member update – Japan interested in BI Platform. Denmark a potential lead.
- UK raised use of Common Funds to use for Public Engagement Task concept – general consensus is this is not appropriate.
- SS to prepare a report for the Finance sub-committee on the NZ incorporated society option to be reviewed before the ExCo so that a recommendation can be made at the meeting.
- Discussed the proposed meeting agenda and made some changes. New version to be circulated.
- Discussed the Strategy paper and next steps and decided to have 2 sessions, one for membership and one for the strategic framework.

Mar 2021

- Finance report with Finance sub-committee ahead of paper to be submitted for ExCo meeting including 2020 financial statement, 2021 budget, new entity report.
- 2020 Annual Report approved and distributed via Newsletter #4, and 2-page Task flyers produced.
- Approved Craig Moylan to undertake minor updates to website (Annexes to Tasks).
- Papers to be produced for next ExCo including alignment template, membership paper, new Task ideas.
- Review of Task status papers for upcoming ExCo.

Apr 2021

- Membership paper for ExCo meeting
- Strategy paper for ExCo meeting