

The aim of the Users TCP Task ‘Social License to Automate 2.0’ (SLA 2.0) is to provide in-depth knowledge and stakeholder-specific recommendations on how to promote user acceptance and the granting of a social license to automate in the context of DSM programs.

The Task builds on the identified research gaps from the previous Users TCP Task ‘Social License to Automate’, in particular regarding the role of user-diversity in flexibility potentials, the contribution potential of energy communities (ECs) to the granting of a social license in order to facilitate upscaling, and the identification of flexibilities via consumption profiles to allow more targeted invitations to participate.

The central objectives of SLA2.0 are:

- 1 To analyse the role of gender and diversity factors in energy consumption flexibility, identification of gender- and diversity-specific individual and collective engagement approaches, and development of a gender- and diversity-sensitive engagement framework for automated demand-side management (DSM).
- 2 To analyse the technical characteristics, opportunities provided by different forms of energy communities, and individual and social context of community energy approaches, and thematic clustering of community energy approaches with a qualitative assessment of contribution potential based on social, technical, and economic factors.
- 3 To identify the consumption profile markers that can indicate existing flexibilities of users to support the identification of target groups via load profiles and definition of data quality criteria to enable the deduction of flexibility potentials based on load profile data
- 4 To expand the social license concept with regard to more inclusive and community-oriented approaches as well as development of stakeholder-specific recommendations on flexibility profile-based engagement approaches and use of community energy projects to reach more diverse user groups and increase adoption and scalability.



Major achievements during 2022/23

Having started in November 2022, the Task began a literature review on the role of gender and diversity factors in flexibility, looking at motivations and preferences for participation in demand-side management programmes, factors impacting household consumption and flexibility, the role of household dynamics, and the impact of different technologies on actively addressing household energy challenges. Through the application of a diversity perspective with a focus on gender, age and class, the team is analysing how different social categories interact with these aspects and best practice examples regarding engagement approaches are being identified. The methodology for analysing national case studies is currently being defined considering core research questions to be pursued and available data in the participating countries.

The Task is developing a methodology to characterise the technical, economic, social and organisational context of energy communities that exist and/or piloted in diverse countries, including Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia. Through clustering, energy community typologies are being developed based on their essential characteristics (e.g., mode of initiations, actors initiating the energy community, financing options and ownership, social and economic values they hold, existing distributed energy resources, governance models). The typologies will provide insights about the community context and will show how they contribute or hamper the granting of a social license to automate. The work will link typologies to issues such as legitimacy, credibility and trust and explore opportunities, key frictions and misalignments in the governance of resources in energy communities.



The Task started collecting data from national and international projects on households' load profiles as well as socio-economic and living situation related information. Based on data availability, a proposed methodology for analysing these datasets is in development and will be further discussed in the context of a workshop. The outcome of this analysis will be an assessment of user flexibility via the identification of consumption profile markers.

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