



H2020 Work Programme



D7.10 – REPORT ON NETWORKING AND CLUSTERING ACTIVITIES

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Contributing Author(s)	Nick Purshouse (IESRD),
Reviewer(s)	Arianna Amati (RINA –C),
	Mariana Fernández (SIE)
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Executive Summary

This document represents the Deliverable 7.10, 'Report on Networking and Clustering Activities, which in itself sits in Task 7.10 'Network and Clustering Activities.'

The report has demonstrated how the SO WHAT project has reached out and connected with other EU projects, platforms, and networks, in the domain of waste heat and cool energy. The main area of focus was the collaboration with four other EU projects in this area, and the formation of [ALLIANCE₄ECEI](#) (Alliance for energy cooperation in European industries). As well as this, the project has been active in engaging with other EU associations and networks in this area via regular updates on a variety of online platforms that are designed to act as hubs for innovation knowledge transfer for industrial processes, and waste heat and cooling across the EU.

It should be noted however, that COVID-19 has had a large impact on the ability of the project to conduct effective networking. Networking and clustering activities in person were severely limited, due to national or organisational travel restrictions, and until early to mid2022, all Networking and Clustering activities were done online.

It should also be noted that this report uses, and adds to, information already reported as part of [D7.4 Update of Dissemination and Communication Plan](#), and [D7.7 Final version of Dissemination and Communication Plan](#).

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1. Introduction

This document represents the Deliverable 7.10, 'Report on Networking and Clustering Activities, which in itself sits in Task 7.10 'Network and Clustering Activities.' As the task states in the Grant Agreement,

“This task will be dedicated to reaching out and connecting with other EU projects as well as national initiatives, platforms, and networks, in the domain of waste heat and cool energy. This will include both intra-project clustering (i.e. clustering with known projects within the consortium partners domain) and extra-project clustering (i.e. clustering with other projects not involving consortium members). This will be linked with the overall dissemination strategy to ensure that consortium members attend meetings relating to other projects as well as invite other projects to the SO WHAT dissemination events. This will also include upon invitation by [EISMEA](#), to attend common information and dissemination activities to increase synergies between, and the visibility of H2020 supported actions.”

In brief, the report will show how the project has connected with both other relevant EU projects and also relevant EU Associations. It should be noted however, that COVID-19 has had a large impact on the ability of the project to conduct effective networking. Just as the project began to produce outcomes, many physical events and conferences were cancelled, and work at some industrial sites slowed down or even stopped. Networking and clustering activities in person were severely limited, due to national or organisational travel restrictions, and until early to mid-2022, all Networking and Clustering activities were done online.

It should also be noted that this report uses, and adds to, information already reported as part of D7.4 Update of Dissemination and Communication Plan, and D7.7 Final version of Dissemination and Communication Plan.

2. Networking with other EU projects

2.1 First engagements

As SO WHAT began to produce outcomes, engaging with other EU projects in similar areas became more constructive and beneficial. During the second year of the project, more focus was put into this area and interactions were established with four existing projects that were funded under the same call as SO WHAT: [EMB₃Rs](#), [INCUBIS](#), [R-ACES](#) and [S-PARCS](#). Below is a brief summary of each project:

- EMB₃Rs (847121) is investigating the potential of recovering industrial excess heat and cold and designing a platform that explores how energy could be reused as a valuable source for other industrial processes, district heating, and cooling or further purposes.
- INCUBIS (894800) develops a set of tools and support services to help key stakeholders in Industrial Parks and Districts in the development and implementation of Energy Symbiosis projects.
- R-ACES (892429) is supporting industrial clusters and business parks in becoming ecoregions that reduce their CO₂ emissions by at least 10% by creating ecoregions where multiple stakeholders engage in energy cooperation.

A call was held with each of these projects to discuss points for collaboration, with the following ideas to be progressed:

- Discussion for the developers on the specifications of each project's tool
- Technical collaboration on the tools to identify synergies.
- Use of cross project case studies based on their availability.
- The organisation of a joint webinar.
- A workshop to present the characteristics of both tools and gather feedback.

Hosting a joint webinar in November 2020 was agreed as a good first stage for collaboration, with all four projects and SO WHAT presenting on collaboration with industrial parties, and tools to empower waste heat recovery

As well as this all the projects' communication leaders coordinated to do a joint campaign to communicate and disseminate the webinar and any future items of interest.

2.2 Creation of Alliance for Energy Cooperation in European Industries

Following the webinar above, it was decided that the future engagement and activities regarding collaboration should be formalised. It was therefore decided to create the [ALLIANCE₄ECEI](#) (Alliance for energy cooperation in European industries), setting up a common collaboration to maximise impact and improve the quality and the relevance of outputs, and ultimately contributing to boost energy efficiency, waste heat recovery, and energy cooperation in the European industries. The key stated key aims of the Alliance were to:

- Enhance the collaboration to boost energy efficiency in European industries.
- Maximize the impact and improve the quality and the relevance of the outputs generated by each of the projects conforming the alliance.
- Boost industrial symbiosis as well as waste heat and waste cold recovery and reuse.

- Contribute to the 2050 goal of zero net carbon emissions.

The alliance was officially announced in April 2021 by the signing of Letter of Intent among the members. Joint communication activities and the dissemination strategy workload was then also distributed among the members. A [website](#) was developed, new social media channels were promoted ([LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#)), and a [press release](#) was issued.

The Alliance website homepage can be seen in the figure below:



Figure 1 Alliance4ECEI website homepage

Since its creation, regular meetings have been held to explore synergies, seek collaboration in different areas and decide together the participation and dissemination in events.

As well as the original founding members, the organisation was later joined by the [CORALIS](#) and [WE DISTRICT](#) projects as well, thus boosting the cooperation among different projects.

Jointly, the alliance decided to participate as well in the Horizon Results Booster [Module A](#) where a report based on the portfolio of R&I project results was generated, identifying the common strengths of the group and relevant stakeholders to address the dissemination strategy.

Events where SO WHAT has been represented under the ALLIANCE4CEI umbrella include:

NAME OF EVENT	DATE	LINK
S-PARCS Final Event	June 15, 2021	https://sowhatproject.eu/2021/07/08/sparcs-final-event-alliance4ecei/
Sustainable Places 2021	September 30, 2021	https://sowhatproject.eu/2021/10/07/sowhat-at-sustainable-places-2021/
EUSEW extended programme	October 12, 2021	https://sowhatproject.eu/2021/10/13/sowhat-at-eusews-extended-programme/

Alliance4ECEI webinar at Sustainable Energy Days "Digital tools as enablers of more efficient energy consumption in industrial waste heat/cold recovery"	September 15, 2022	https://www.alliance4ecei.eu/2022/08/
SO WHAT Final Event - "Supporting opportunities for waste heat and cold valorisation"	November 17, 2022	https://www.linkedin.com/events/supportingopportunitiesforwaste6998591659558998016/comments/

Figure 2 Events where SO WHAT has been represented under the ALLIANCE4CEI umbrella

3. Networking with other European Associations

In order to engage with as many EU associations in SO WHAT related areas as possible, media outlets (traditional and social) used by these organisations were used. On relevant Association sites and social media, SO WHAT posted regular newsletters and posts regarding the project and invites to attend its events. The following Associations and Media Hubs were included in this outreach:

ASPIRE ₄ PLANET	https://www.aspire2050.eu/
Build Up	http://www.buildup.eu/
Construction 21	www.construction21.org
Cordis	https://cordis.europa.eu/
EASME (current EISMEA)	https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/
Energy Efficiency in Industrial Processes	www.EEIP.org
Electric Energy Online	https://electricenergyonline.com/
Energynomics	https://www.energynomics.ro/
Euroheat	www.euroheat.org
EYDE Cluster	https://www.eydecluster.com/
Institute for Sustainable Process Technology	https://ispt.eu/
Retrofeed	https://retrofeed.eu/

Figure 3 EU Associations SO WHAT has regularly posted on

4. Conclusion

Overall, this report has demonstrated how the SO WHAT project has reached out and connected with other EU projects, platforms, and networks, in the domain of waste heat and cool energy. The main area of focus was the collaboration with four other EU projects in this area, and the formation of ALLIANCE₄ECEI (Alliance for energy cooperation in European industries). As well as this, the project has been active in engaging with other EU associations and networks in this area via regular updates on a variety of online platforms that are designed to act as hubs for innovation knowledge transfer for industrial processes, and waste heat and cooling across the EU.