GRANT AGREEMENT N. 101075747

DELIVERABLE 1.7

IAB Feedback and Reviews Report

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Partner Responsible	FiR.mt
Person Responsible	Brian Azzopardi[1], Austeja Mockeviciute-Azzopardi[1], Marina Prutianov[1]
Author(s)	Austeja Mockeviciute Azzopardi[1]
Reviewed by	Brian Azzopardi[1], Petar Krstevski[2], Igor Kuzle[3], Araceli Hernández[4], Martin Calasan[5], Lidija Korunović[6], Matthaios Pantelli[7], Aneta Petrovska-Rusomaroski[8], Myrto Skouruparti[9], Lucia Paloma[10], Jovica Milanovic[11], Jane Houldsworth[12]
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0.1	FiR.mt	08-03-2024	The initial structure of the report
0.2	FiR.mt	18-03-2024	First Draft
1.0	FiR.mt	31-03-2024	Final Review and submission
2.0	FiR.mt	06-05-2024	Added section 1.3 and related update for IAB Meeting in Skopje, North Macedonia

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Contents

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Executive summary

This deliverable presents a review and feedback received from TRANSIT project International Advisory Board members in the three in-person meetings – during the Kick-off meeting in Malta in M2, IAB meeting in Serbia in M8 and IAB meeting in North Macedonia M19. The IAB members' feedback provides the TRANSIT consortium with an external vision, opinion and guidance on the different activities of the project and allows for establishing a state of play of the Renewable Energy industries and their re-skilling up-to-date. The IAB consequently is implicated all along with the project and has an important supporting role within the project.

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1. Introduction

TRANSIT aims to provide sustainable training and reskilling programmes for current and future generations on a multidisciplinary approach to renewable energy and fuel technologies, identifying global and local challenges to realise the large deployment ambitions, covering the European level and all different stakeholders' levels. Specifically, through support measures and activities, TRANSIT dedicates its resources and educational materials to target groups of policymakers, regulators, innovators, industry, trade associations, universities and local communities, covering the various sectorial strategies under the European Green Deal. Therefore, the TRANSIT framework establishes (i) success stories and practices that are catalogued, retained and promoted in terms of circularity and sustainable aspects, (ii) develops a hands-on training approach to revamp industry-academic curricula, and (iii) establishes a web-enabled platform for the innovative and interactive multidisciplinary programme from educational campaigns to hands-on courses. Validation of TRANSIT resources, tools, and materials, including challenges, competitions and awards, is passing through rigorous quality assurance that ensures that each material also considers gender balance, societal impact, and employment competencies. TRANSIT developed framework ensures post-project life is addressed through scalability and replicability, including the programme's deployment in partner countries through appropriate stakeholders and open access practices.

The project, therefore, has set up a high-level European expert group addressing the social-cultural aspects, behaviours and beliefs, skills, gender disparities and employment competencies to realise the considerable Renewable Energy deployment ambition. The International Advisory Board (IAB) includes ten top experts covering the European level and all different stakeholder levels, including policymakers, regulators, innovators, industry, trade associations, universities and local communities. The IAB is mobilised for the project's duration and meets on a regular basis. The consortium is benefit from the transfer of knowledge and subsequently is able to gather further expertise and specifically share it in support of the training and education on Renewable Energy sustainability, its value chain and circularity approaches among other matters. The members of the IAB provide the TRANSIT consortium with an external vision, opinion and feedback on the different activities of the project and allow establishing a state of play of the Renewable Energy industries and their re-skilling up-to-date. The IAB consequently is implicated all along with the project and have an important supporting role within the project. WP1, Task 1.2 Managing project meetings, involves report of the International Advisory Board Meeting which initially was scheduled M6 and the agenda for the meeting scheduled M24 including the Boards reviews and suggested improvements. The actual IAB meetings took place in M2, M8 and M19.

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2. International Advisory Board meetings report

This section provides an overview of the three IAB members meetings which took place in M2 in Malta, M8 in Nis, Serbia (ANNEX 1) and M19 in Skopje (ANNEX 2), North Macedonia.

2.1 Participation in MEDPOWER 2022 Conference and Kick – off meeting

The project has started with a participation in the MEDPOWER 2022 Conference, Figure 1, where special session was dedicated to the TRANSIT project and some of the speakers were IAB members, three IAB members of six presenters.

TRANSIT Special Panel PROGRAMME

14:00 - 14:05	Welcome Address	**Chair of the TRANSIT Special Panel Programme** Prof. Araceli Hernandez Bayo *Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain*
14:05 - 14:25	Launch of TRANSIT Project	**Project Overview** Dr Inġ. Brian Azzopardi *The Foundation for Innovation and Research – Malta (Coordinator)* **Address by the TRANSIT Project EU Officer** Ms Manuela Conconi
14:25 - 15:10	Panel Topic Presentations	**Capacity building through energy management training. Manufacturing Innovations Valley in Lithuania** Mr Simonas Mockevicius *Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, Lithuania* **EA-SAS Cloud Virtual Power Plant as a Tool for Cost-Optimization** *Dr Vytautas Siozinys* *Energy Advice, Lithuania* **RES4CITY – Specialised human capital to boost renewables energy for cities** Mr Fabiano Pallonetto *National University of Ireland Maynooth* *Coordinator RES4CITY* **Serbian experiences and challenges in circular economy and use of renewable energy** Mr Zoran Markovic *Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Serbia*
15:10 - 15:30	Open Discussion	**Today's challenges for massive deployment of renewables**

Figure 1: MEDPOWER2022 TRANSIT Special Session with IAB members participation

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The main axes of the provided topics during the special session including the discussions were the Capacity building through training, circular economy and use of renewable energy enhancement and energy cost optimization.

All three IAB members participated in the Kick -off meeting following the conference and provided the direction for project activities to enhance the renewable energy deployment and training. Most significant advices were to make training understandable for most of people who are new in the renewable energy field, to include upskilling material for those who are already working in the field, to organise female oriented training to encourage the gender balance and attract more females to the renewable energy sector. The IAB members have agreed to disseminate project activities, especially training through their networks and take proactive role in the project development. The participation of the IAB members in the Kick-off meeting has provided the solid background for the whole consortium regarding aims, works, activities and methodologies to be followed during the three year project course.

2.2 IAB Meeting in Nis, Serbia

The second IAB meeting was held in Nis, Serbia and attracted 5 IAB members to the event, Figure 2. Blanca Gomez, representing the Confederation of Installers in Spain has suggested to have outstanding and innovative awards, as there is already quite a number of possible awards initiatives happening.

Simonas Mockevicius from Lithuanian Industrialists Confederation and Zoran Markovic from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Serbia agreed that they will be very happy to disseminate the training material to their institution members. It should be understandable for various training users (not only experts in the field).

Figure 2: Second IAB meeting in Nis, Serbia together with Consortium Partners

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All IAB Members have helped to define TRANSIT project's main interest about the skills to feed into the survey about the knowledge gaps in current industry, academia and the wide society, related to renewable energy:

- skills and knowledge that are already well developed;
- the issues that are difficult to deal and requires specific training (what could be provided in TRANSIT training)
- what is the women situation in renewable energy related jobs (what percentage of women are employed, what are their knowledge in the field and skills level compared to men, what are their needs)
- what are the barriers to participate actively in energy transition
- propose activities, tools and materials which could help to attract more women to energy sector.

For instance, the installers have very good knowledge of the current techniques and technologies used in air conditioning installations (heating, air conditioning, ventilation), plumbing, electricity, fire protection. In these environments there is a very complete legal regulation on training content and professional certification. In recent years, with the legislative drive from the EU for decarbonization, prohibiting the use of polluting fluorinated gases, PFAs, and fossil fuels, manufacturers have been forced to develop new technologies and new, less polluting gases to replace existing ones. The legislative speed exceeds many times the research and development capacity of manufacturers and the capacity of training centres and professionals to update their knowledge in new technologies.

The issues that are difficult to deal with and requires specific training (what we could provide in our training which will be developed):

i. There are not enough professionals for all the work that will be needed (rehabilitation of thousands of buildings) and those that exist do not have time to dedicate to training due to excessive work.
ii. Manufacturers can give courses in an agile way but focused on their own technologies. A global and impartial and expert vision of ALL the new technologies to be applied in the facilities without any commercial interest is necessary. Those who have more resources for this are the manufacturers who always have a commercial interest and organizations without commercial interest do not have sufficient financial resources to develop all these technical documents. A fully impartial EU-subsidized technological institute with trained personnel that would still be a source of technical information for all professionals would be highly sought for.
iii. Specific training is required for flammable refrigerants substitutes for other highly polluting gases, artificial intelligence applied to facilities, process automation and digital twins in facilities, waste management.

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iv. Women involvement to the renewable energy sector. Very few women work as installers or renewable energy engineers. Approximately 5% start training courses but most of them usually drop out after year 2 of studies. Their knowledge in the field and skills level compared to men is the same. They are meticulous in their work and very responsible. Most of the women who work in the installation sector do so as engineers or work in the administration and finance departments of companies or are the CEOs of family installation companies. It is a very masculine sector because traditionally the work of an installer is identified with dirt (grease, gases, liquids). A lot of work has to be done to change the mentality and image using social networks about the work of an installer today. Precisely on Friday the 26th at the AREA general assembly, the winner of the Women in Refrigeration contest was decided. The video that will be published soon on networks shows a clean, technological, modern work, which hopefully is going to be appealing and will make an impact leading to the change.

2.3 IAB Meeting in Skopje, North Macedonia

The third IAB meeting was held on 17 April 2024 in Skopje, North Macedonia. Seven IAB Members, representing Southeast Europe, Malta, Spain, North Macedonia, and the UK, participated, Figure 3.

Figure 3: Third IAB meeting in Skopje, North Macedonia together with Consortium Partners

During the meeting, priority was given to gathering different points of view of various stakeholders acting as IAB on what the energy transition for them is and how we can address the need of upskilling and reskilling.

The energy transition represents a broad shift toward sustainable energy practices, with a focus that extends beyond simply increasing the use of renewable energy sources. It encompasses low-carbon technologies, hydrogen production, and carbon capture and storage. A more comprehensive

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approach is necessary, considering various solutions and broader perspectives beyond solely renewable sources. The European Union aims for 100% net-zero emissions, yet questions remain about the feasibility of achieving these goals, particularly in less developed regions both inside and outside the EU.

Cost reductions in photovoltaics (PV) have occurred, and further regulatory support could be beneficial. Public awareness about energy consumption—especially what happens "behind the meter"—is low. Engaging consumers actively in energy processes and encouraging investments in renewable technologies, such as rooftop PVs, are critical steps. We must bridge knowledge gaps in new-generation technologies and societal needs.

Legislative challenges have been highlighted for the Balkans. While discussions about upskilling and reskilling are prevalent, the exact nature of future jobs remains unclear, compounded by insufficient investment in renewables. Stakeholder engagement must not only focus on enabling renewable technologies but should also address broader industry needs.

Initiatives within Karpos municipality, have been discussed such as investing in renewable energy, retrofitting buildings with energy-efficient solutions, and supporting heating system transitions. These efforts are partly hindered by incomplete legislation, which needs resolution for the municipality to advance its energy transition efforts.

There has been pointed out the distribution and resilience challenges of renewable energy, emphasising the necessity for diverse energy sources and broader educational efforts to include non-engineers in energy discussions.

EVN has highlighted that energy transition is subject to political will and regulatory support, which can facilitate or hinder progress. She cites Karpos municipality as an example of proactive local governance in energy efficiency and transition initiatives, even in the absence of overarching laws.

In discussing STEM education, a significant concern is the declining interest among the youth, particularly in engineering. Cultural perceptions play a large role; for instance, in the Balkans, engineering is seen as a stable and lucrative career. Efforts to improve STEM education often falter due to early academic struggles in subjects like math. Changing perceptions about engineering—away from outdated stereotypes and towards more inclusive and engaging representations—can help attract more young people to the field.

This project contributes to addressing the societal challenge of declining interest in science and engineering careers. It emphasizes starting with young children, making science appealing and relevant, and ensuring diverse representations in STEM fields to challenge stereotypes and broaden participation.

The summary of suggestions received from IAB include:

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i. Reach out to children.
ii. Engage influencers in campaigns.
iii. Engage the best children in the classroom to talk about STEM studies.
iv. Ambassadors.
v. Help the consumers to understand the bill. Include some information in the electricity bill.
vi. Engage and reach out to more women.
vii. Organise educational campaigns to raise awareness of renewable energy to wide public.

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3. IAB Members' Feedback and Review

Feedback from IAB members on work done in the mid-way through the project lifetime the survey has been created and circulated among the IAB members using Likert scale per Task. The IAB Feedback and review questionnaire contains 13 main questions describing each Work package and task, including links to deliverables, training material and other created content. The overall feedback is positive with the following additional comments for each task. Below are specific improvements, recommendations and observations recorded.

WP3 Community Engagement, Challenges, Knowledge Gaps

Task 3.1 Engaging stakeholders community (Rated 4.4/5)

Better distribution of participants across countries would give a more balanced participation. This way, some countries are significantly more represented than the others.

This task has done an excellent job in assembling a diverse and sizable cohort of stakeholders, spanning various sectors and countries, to engage a big cohort of stakeholders. Having said this, a further diffusion in the whole energy and sustainability value chains (from education to final users) through more intense advertisement in institutions and social media can provide an even better outcome to this project.

Monitoring continuous engagement.

The recommendation for successful stakeholder engagement highlights the project's effectiveness in assembling a diverse group. However, the recommendation for a better country-wise distribution of participants and enhanced advertisement strategies suggests a need for broader and more inclusive outreach efforts.

Task 3.2 Cataloguing available platforms and tools for sustainability and educational aspects of Renewable Energy & Task 3.3 Mapping relevant externalities, circularity & sustainability aspects in knowledge gaps on Renewable Energy (Rated 4.6/5)

Excellent report, really well outlined gaps and measures to address them.

To further enhance this already well-developed task, it is suggested to include more diverse perspectives and stakeholders in the development of questionnaires and surveys, in order to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the educational landscape surrounding renewable energy. Additionally, a robust mechanism for ongoing evaluation and feedback from educators and learners is key for refining teaching approaches and tools to better address identified knowledge gaps.

Ensuring diversity of stakeholders.

The recognition of the comprehensive report on sustainability and renewable energy education underlines the task's success in identifying educational gaps. The suggestions to

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include more diverse perspectives and establish mechanisms for ongoing feedback indicate a desire for a more holistic and adaptive approach to addressing educational needs.

T3.4 Road map for enhanced adoption of renewable and other low carbon technologies (Rated 4.8/5)

The report represents a good high level guidance for curriculum and faculty development, investments in infrastructure and partnerships, and advocacy and policy engagement. It would be advisable to support the guidance with references in all sections, since some did not have references included.

This task was conducted excellently. The gaps and focus areas identified appear exhaustive and sufficiently elaborated.

Details on pedagogical methods to be used (backed up by theories), and on supervision styles in interdisciplinary research

The task's high rating and appreciation for providing guidance in various areas suggest strong performance. Recommendations for more detailed pedagogical approaches and supervision styles highlight an opportunity to deepen the educational impact through methodological rigor and diversity.

WP4 Societal Impact Enhancement, Performance and Scalability

T4.1 Monitoring and evaluating the societal impact enhancement of the TRANSIT support activities (Rated 4.2/5)

I filled the questionnaire that was recently shared. It had 66 questions and it took me about half an hour to fill it! I strongly recommend to make more focused surveys that will have far less questions and take less time. It would be good to note how many questions there are and how long they would take on the first page of the questionnaire.

This task can be improved incorporating a greater number of stakeholders to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of societal impacts. Additionally, a clear prioritization of key metrics may lead to a refinement of surveys clarity and relevance. Data analysis and conclusions will we evaluated when available.

Feedback on the survey's length and focus suggests a need for more streamlined and targeted data collection methods to enhance efficiency and response rates, pointing towards the importance of clarity and prioritization in evaluating societal impacts.

Task 4.2 Considering and monitoring gender balance in the setting up and delivering the structured programme (Rated 4.4/5)

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This will be a great opportunity for TRANSIT to lead by example. I recommend a special focus on school children, as their engagement is crucial for the future, more gender balanced, workforce in renewable technologies.

This important task has been structured well. Its outcomes will be assessed at the end of the project. It is however suggested that gender balance will be implemented in evaluating committee and competitions within TRANSIT framework (for example in task 4.4).

While surveys provide highly useful data, using them often with the same audience might be counterproductive.

The focus on gender balance and the suggestion to extend this to school children and evaluation committees within the TRANSIT framework underscore the project's potential leadership role in promoting inclusivity in renewable technologies.

Task 4.4: Challenges, competitions & awards that lead by example (Rated 4.2/5)

It is important to make sure there is diversity (geographical, gender, level of education, affiliation sector) in nominees for the awards.

The suggestion is to widen the audience of current challenges (university students and children) to teenagers due to their mental plasticity and innate enthusiasm which allows them to readily embrace and investigate innovative solutions. It is suggested to include also a competition on environmental awareness and/or renewable energy project targeted to students attending secondary schools.

Well updated website, might be useful to monitor engagement with identified metrics.

The call for diversity in challenges and awards and the suggestion to target a wider audience, including teenagers, reflect an acknowledgment of the importance of engaging young minds early in environmental and renewable energy initiatives.

WP5 Hands-On Education and Training for Industry Academia Reskilling

Task 5.1 Deploying academia in industry internships (Rated 4.6/5)

The engagement with industry is of key importance and it is suggested that the number of academic partners adhering to this task should increase.

The emphasis on increasing industry engagement and academic partnership underscores the critical role of collaboration in enhancing education and training effectiveness.

Task 5.2: Developing training curricula and course content (Rated 4.2/5)

This is an excellent initiative, and I hope the industrial stakeholders will provide enough feedback to facilitate design of these training materials. This could be an excellent example for wider industries wishing to invest into upskilling and engagement of their staff.

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To further improve this task is suggested to broaden stakeholder involvement and to engage diverse industry professionals, academics, and government representatives to ensure better curricula development. A further emphasize on interdisciplinary content, integrated case studies and hands-on activities can foster a holistic understanding of sustainability topics. It should also be stressed the importance of digital technologies and competences.

The call for broader stakeholder involvement and a focus on interdisciplinary content suggests a need for a more inclusive and comprehensive curricular development process, highlighting the value of hands-on and case study-based learning.

Task 5.3: Delivering human capital development in innovative new technologies through education and training *(Rated 4.8/5)*

I think it will be crucial to make these programmes scalable and replicable for the future, with clearly defined motivation and performance indicators.

To further improve this task, it is suggested to expand stakeholder engagement beyond the internship experiences and industry workshops to also include collaboration with academic institutions and governmental bodies. This can lead to incorporate insights from diverse perspectives, ensuring a comprehensive human capital development. It is appreciated that these training programs address accessibility and gender balance issues.

Recommendations for expanding stakeholder engagement and incorporating diverse perspectives into training programs emphasize the importance of inclusivity and comprehensive development in human capital strategies.

Task 5.4: Run multimodal multi-country industry-led academic education and training programme (Rated 4.6/5)

I think it will be crucial to make these programmes scalable and replicable for the future, with clearly defined motivation and performance indicators.

The suggestion in this case is not to underestimate the difference in local context when academic institutions from different countries are involved. A more detailed assessment will be provided on the completion on this task.

The suggestion in this case is not to underestimate the difference in local context when academic institutions from different countries are involved. A more detailed assessment will be provided on the completion on this task.

The suggestion for scalability and adaptability indicates a strategic focus on long-term impact and flexibility.

WP6 Multi-Disciplinary Programme on Teaching Sustainability of Renewable Energy

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Task 6.1: Development of an innovative, interactive, multi-disciplinary approach to teaching and engaging with sustainability of renewable technologies (Rated 4.4/5)

Rather than reinventing the wheel, this should be a recommendation of best practices and their applicability considering the learning environment (geographical, learning motivation, learners' educational background).

Further details should be provided in order to provide comments on how to improve this task.

Giving a view wider than only on renewable energy but on the required mix for the future.

Task 6.2: Establishing an interactive web platform and developing educational material (Rated 4.2/5)

Make sure accessibility practices are met (making the website appealing to different generations and proficiency levels, make at least some functionalities available for people with colour blindness or hearing difficulties).

The online platform has been well designed but the material and resources uploaded is still limited and should be enriched.

Tasks 6.1 & 6.2: The advice to build on existing best practices and ensure accessibility highlights a pragmatic approach to educational content development and delivery, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and learner engagement.

Task 6.3: Initiation, feedback and revision of the multidisciplinary training programme (Rated 4.2/5)

It is suggested a more interactive online activity, with engaging contents. These campaigns should include blog posts, videos and infographics. The contents should also be more visually appealing. It is suggested also to better targeting the audience (possibly younger generations) and extend it to other popular social media (such as Instagram and TikTok).

Suggestions for more interactive and visually appealing content, along with the expansion of outreach to popular social media platforms, indicate a strategic emphasis on engaging a younger, broader audience through modern, relevant channels.

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4. Conclusion

The IAB Members active engagement into project and their feedback is valuable tool to progress in the right pathway of the project implementation. Their feedback is considered by all partners, especially task leaders and addressed where appropriate.

Overall, the IAB's feedback suggests a strong appreciation for the TRANSIT project's achievements in engaging diverse stakeholders, identifying educational gaps, and fostering inclusivity. The recommendations for broader outreach, more targeted and efficient data collection, inclusive stakeholder engagement, scalability, and adaptability of training programs, and engaging educational content delivery underscore the board's vision for enhancing the project's impact and sustainability in the renewable energy sector.

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ANNEX 1: IAB Meeting Invite to Nis, Serbia

TRANSIT

INTERNATIOAN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER INVITATION

You are cordially invited to participate in the TRANSIT project Advisory Board Members and project partners meeting which will be held in conjunction with TRANSIT training and International Scientific Conference on Information, Communication and Energy Systems and Technologies https://icestconf.org/ in University of Niš, Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Aleksandra Medvedeva 14, Niš, Serbia on 29 June to 1 July 2023.

Your expertise, experience and inputs are very important, valuable and sought for a development of sustainable training and reskilling programmes on a multidisciplinary approach in renewable energy and fuel technologies.

PROGRAMME

June 29	
11:30	ICEST 2023 Opening ceremony
13:00	Cocktail
14:30 - 15:00	Introduction speech by Nebojsa Doncov – Vice dean of University of Nis, Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Serbia Brian Azzopardi, The Foundation for Innovation and Research – Malta, Malta
15:00 – 16:30	EMT modelling and simulation of grid-forming converter control. Hands-on demonstration in DIgSILENT PowerFactory Matej Krpan, University of Zagreb, Croatia
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 – 18:30	Introduction to Real-Time Simulations with Typhoon HIL: voltage source converters modelling and real-time machine-learning applications Jose Miguel Riquelme - Dominguez, Technical University of Madrid, Spain
18:30 – 18:45	Summary and Questions Lidija Korunović, University of Niš, Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Serbia
June 30	
08:30 - 10:15	TRANSIT partners and IAB members meeting #1 Chaired by Brian Azzopardi, The Foundation for Innovation and Research – Malta, Malta
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:00	Towards Resilient Carbon-Neutral Power Systems: Challenges, Needs and Opportunities, Jovica Milanovic, The University of Manchester, United Kingdom

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11:00 – 11:45	The European Green Deal for clean energy transition: Design and Integration of Renewable Energy Sources Dragan Vuckovic, University of Nis, Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Serbia
11:45 – 12:00	Summary and Questions Lidija Korunović, University of Niš, Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Serbia
12:00 – 12:30	Coffee break
12:30 – 14:30	Energy Systems and Efficiency session – with invitation paper of Jovica Milanovic, The University of Manchester, United Kingdom
14:30 – 15:00	Lunch break
16:00 – 19:00	Sightseeing tour
20:00	Conference gala dinner
July 01	
09:00 - 10:30	Regional integration of electricity balancing markets Petar Krstevski, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:15	Compliance tests for power plants with the technical requirements for its connection to distribution system Lidija Korunovic, University of Nis, Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Serbia
12:15 – 13:45	TRANSIT partners and IAB members meeting #2 Chaired by Brian Azzopardi, The Foundation for Innovation and Research – Malta, Malta
13:45 – 14:00	Closing Session

TRANSIT PROJECT PROGRESS

TRANSIT has carried out survey to investigate teaching and training curricula, knowledge and awareness levels related to renewable technologies by approaching a range of stakeholders: industry, trade associations, universities, schools and local communities in the partner countries. We interviewed policymakers and regulators. Now the survey data is analysed and processed to:

- identify knowledge gaps in general,
- measure to what extent the recommendations and EU policies related to energy and climate are addressed.
- identify most suitable educational framework, resources and materials for specific target groups to enable transition.

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- define framework for gender balance to increase the participation of women in the workforce.
- publish the article about the findings.

Academics from partner organisations are preparing for two-week internships in industry to allow academia to acquire hands-on experience of the real industrial challenges in renewable energy, receive valuable input from the industry on their needs and expectations while in return provide support to the industry through discussions and consultancies on corporate responsibility aspects.

Gained internship experiences, the expertise of the IAB members and of the partners will be considered to develop competence models for professionals in the industry.

Developing online multidisciplinary educational material on the sustainability of renewable technologies on TRANSIT web platform which will be used to:

- describe the project and its goals, the consortium and contact info (About, Contact).
- inform about project activities, progress and results/publications (News, Publications).
- publish interactive, educational articles on renewable & sustainable technologies and showcase different aspects of sustainability in a visual way (Library).
- deliver online courses using Open edX platform (Courses).

Work is in process to review societal impact means (with emphasis on EC expectations) to:

- create a framework for quantifying and assessing it.
- draft instruments for measuring societal impact (questionnaires, surveys, focus groups).
- review existing best practices from other projects related to gender balance and create a database.
- connect with other stakeholders, e.g., IRENA.

The training curricula and course content portfolio has been defined for further verifications.

TRANSIT has participated in:

- MEDPOWER2022 Conference with a dedicated TRANSIT Special Session on "Reskilling and Upskilling for Renewables Deployment" where three members of IAB presented their Panel Topic presentations.
- presented a technical session "Transition to a sustainable future through training and education (TRANSIT)" at the Engineering the Future Conference 2023 in The University of Manchester.
- will be panellist in a panel discussion "Energy Transition Career Opportunities: The Skills You Need for the Green Economy" in EUSEW 2023 Policy Conference together with The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) and other 3 projects funded under the same call.

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- will lead the tutorial session at IEEE PowerTech 2023 Conference on 25th June in Belgrade
- will hold a special session "Leading innovations and technological solutions for a sustainable future – TRANSIT project" in IEE PowerTech 2023 conference in Belgrade, date TBC.

TRAVEL SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Your physical participation in the event and contribution is of the highest importance as it has been outlined in our IAB Members agreement as a commitment to attend two IAB meetings throughout the whole project lifetime - in month 6 (which turned into month 8) and in month 24 (September 2024). We have allocated budget to support your travel to be with us from 29 June till 1 July, 2023 afternoon in Nis, Serbia. We will refund your:

- Flight ticket of economy class of up to €500 (on presentation of flight ticket invoice issued to you and boarding passes for a flight on 29th June - 1st July, 2023)
- Travel expenses from airport to the accommodation and back (on presentation of tickets and/or receipts)
- Other reasonable means of transport to reach Nis if you are travelling by land (on presentation of tickets)
- Accommodation costs of max €100 per night for 3 nights (on presentation of the invoice issued to you)

Reimbursement will be made after the event.

Travel and Health Insurance is highly recommended however cannot be funded by us.

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ANNEX 2: IAB Meeting Invite to Skopje, North Macedonia

TRANSIT

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER INVITATION

You are cordially invited to participate in the TRANSIT project Advisory Board Members and Project Partners meeting, which will be held in conjunction with TRANSIT training in Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and EVN Macedonia on 17th April 2024. Venue: EVN Macedonia Headquarters, ul. Lazar Lichenoski br. 11, 1000 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia.

Your expertise, experience and inputs are very important, valuable and sought for the development of sustainable training and reskilling programmes on a multidisciplinary approach in renewable energy and fuel technologies.

PROGRAMME

17 April 2024	
09:30 - 10:15	TRANSIT partners and IAB members introductions Chaired by Brian Azzopardi, The Foundation for Innovation and Research – Malta, Malta
10:15 – 11:30	IAB members views on the upskilling and reskilling pathway towards Renewable Energy Focus Group / Discussion
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:30	Renewable Energy Deployment, Engagement with the project's stakeholder networks (WP2 and WP3) Challenges related to understanding & adoption of renewable technologies, energy efficiency, and circularity principles (WP3)
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Gender-balance issues (WP3 and WP4) The societal impact of the TRANSIT activities (WP4) Internships of academics in industries (WP5) Training curricula and course content (WP5)
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:00	Multimodal multi-country industry-led academic education and training programme (WP5 and WP6) Educational and training materials for industry, university & wider community (WP6) Interactive web platform and educational campaigns (WP6)
19:00	Dinner

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TRAVEL SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Your physical participation in the event and contribution is of the highest importance as it has been outlined in our IAB Members agreement as a commitment to attend IAB meetings throughout the whole project lifetime. We have allocated budget to support your travel to be with us on 17th April in Skopje, North Macedonia. We will refund your:

- Flight ticket of economy class of up to €500 (on presentation of flight ticket invoice issued to you and boarding passes for a flight on 16 – 18 April 2024
- Travel expenses from airport to the accommodation and back (on presentation of tickets and/or receipts)
- Other reasonable means of transport to reach Skopje if you are travelling by land (on presentation of tickets)
- Accommodation, meals, which are not part of the programme, and local transport are funded on up to €120 per night rate for 2 nights (on presentation of the invoices/ receipts issued to you).

Reimbursement will be made after the event.

There is a possibility for extended participation in the training prior and/or after the meeting. 16th April is dedicated to training of academics and researchers, 18th to training of companies and academics and 19th for companies and wider community. Should you wish to have a slot to present at the training, you are very welcome to do so. Please, let us know.

Travel and Health Insurance is mandatory; however, it cannot be funded by us.

SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATION

NAME	CATEGORY	LINK
HOLIDAY INN SKOPJE	5 - stars	https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/skopje/skpmp/hoteldetail (special price under contract with EVN Macedonia will apply)
SKOPJE MARRIOTT HOTEL	5 - stars	https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/skpmc-skopje-marriott-hotel/overview/
HOTEL PARK	5 - stars	https://parkhotel.mk/

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Hotel Next Door Park	4 - stars	https://nextdoorpark.mk/
HOTEL TIM'S	4 - stars	https://tims.com.mk/
Ibis Skopje City Center	4 - stars	https://all.accor.com/hotel/9672/index.en.shtml

TRANSPORTATION

From the Skopje International Airport (SKP) to Skopje city:

Skopje International Airport taxi: https://skp.airports.com.mk/en-EN/passenger-guide/to-from-the-airport/page/taxi

Taxi Services in Skopje:

Taxi Apps: BeeRide, Cammeo
Global Taxi: + 389 2 15180
Nase Taxi: +389 2 15152

Currency in North Macedonia:

Macedonian Denar (MKD) 1 EUR = 61.5 MKD
The exchange rate of EUR can vary from 61.3 – 61.8 MKD

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