

Press release

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AUSTRIA IS KEY DRIVER OF EU INITIATIVE FOR A EUROPEAN ENERGY DATA SPACE

AIT coordinates new EU initiative to create an efficient data space as the basis for the European energy market of the future.

On February 1, 2023, the kick-off of the new large-scale European project EDDIE took place in the Senate Hall of the University of Vienna. The kick-off was attended by **Florian Tursky**, State Secretary for Digitalization at the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF), **Wilfried Gansterer** Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science at the University of Vienna, **Helmut Leopold**, Head of Center for Digital Safety & Security at AIT as well as Chairman Gaia-X Hub Austria, **Anton Schögl**, Austria's Energy and former Head of Austria's E-Economy in Brussels, as well as members of the international project consortium, representatives of various EU member states and leading European experts from the energy sector. EDDIE aims to create a data space to enable the effective management of energy management tasks in multi-stakeholder markets. By creating a single European interface for the exchange of energy data, it aims to promote competition, quality and functionality of energy data-based services in Europe. This will not only lead to increased energy efficiency and reduced energy use, but also make a significant contribution to CO2 reduction and energy autonomy in Europe.

Pioneering project for common European energy data space

The EDDIE project is a collaboration between several EU member states and is coordinated by the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology. Austrian project partners are the initiative EDA-Energy Data Exchange, University of Vienna, FH Upper Austria and EntArc.eu (further project partners from Europe at <https://eddie.energy/>). The aim of the project is to provide smart energy-related data services with cost-effective and easy access to European energy data in the future. For this purpose, a uniform European interface for the exchange of energy data is to be realized, which can be used by everyone from service companies to end customers. This will give European customers greater flexibility and a wider choice of offers. This will promote competition, quality and functionality of energy data-based services. The project will run for three years and has a budget of 10 million euros, with 8 million funded by the European Commission through the Horizon Europe framework program. Austrian partners are involved with more than 4 million of this, thus impressively demonstrating the innovations of the domestic e-economy.

Anton Schögl, Oesterreichs Energie: "The decentralized energy data exchange organized by Oesterreichs Energie started with an initiative of the Austrian distribution system operators to implement efficient and digital supplier switching in 2012. Through the proactive, forward-looking management and passionate work of numerous utility representatives, a national energy data room for electricity and gas has developed over the years. From billing and meter data exchange to the efficient coverage of energy communities for Austrian end customers, service providers and companies, this offers an excellent basis for intelligent solutions to realize the energy transition and

business models based on it. The Austrian model for energy data exchange has long been regarded as a role model and beacon by many European experts. Digitization in itself is an indispensable pillar of the European energy transition. Representatives of our distribution network operators have therefore long been in great demand in European committees and in advising other member states. The trust placed in the EDDIE project by the Commission is therefore no coincidence, but a clear expression of recognition of the many years of professional work by Austrian energy companies."

The idea for EDDIE arose directly from the work of leading experts across Europe. The cornerstone was the work on legislation to gradually establish interoperability of energy solutions across EU member states. The project enables simple, digital solutions that scale across member states, rather than simply acting as national island solutions. In addition to the benefits directly created by EDDIE, the initiators **Oliver Hödl** (AIT, University of Vienna) and **Georg Hartner** (AIT, EntArc.eu) expect to gain important practical insights on the way forward to a democratized, digitalized and clean energy system by interweaving legislative work with the implementation of the technical reference solution. With the funding, the European Commission is laying a foundation for a wide range of data-driven solutions for the sector - from active customer and energy community integration to industrial wholesale applications. From the diversity of the various EU member states in the organization of the energy sector, the use of digital capabilities will create a common strength and thus an important contribution to the establishment of a functioning common European Data Space for energy.

Florian Tursky, State Secretary for Digitization: "In our modern and interconnected world, data is the new oil and influences work, the economy and our thinking. Around 80% of European data is stored abroad, which is a challenge that Europe has to face. The EDDIE project standardizes data in the energy sector, leading to more efficient energy use, new business opportunities and positive environmental impact. It provides a foundation for the digitization of the energy sector and represents an important step in the right direction."

EDDIE represents an important step forward for the EU in its efforts to increase the integration of sustainable energy sources and improve the overall efficiency of the European energy market. To this end, it aims to provide energy companies, research organizations and policymakers with easier access to and analysis of energy data through the creation of a unified data exchange platform.

Creation of a European data ecosystem.

Against the background of the creation of a transparent and trustworthy European data ecosystem within the European Gaia-X initiative, EDDIE represents one of the first major implementation projects for the realization of a real use case for the European energy sector. In this context, Gaia-X Hub Austria is an important link to embed and consider the interests of Austria as a business location and is proud that Austria has been awarded the coordination of this lighthouse project.

Helmut Leopold, Head of Center for Digital Safety & Security at AIT as well as Chairman Gaia-X Hub Austria: "Only through such initiatives for the design of effective modern data spaces, which build on broad multi-stakeholder cooperation, we can achieve important contributions to a

sustainable data sovereignty of the EU and thereby position Austria as an important shaper of global digitalization."

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