

## EERA JP Smart Grids Workshop "Options and approaches to enhance grid flexibility" PhD Candidate Award Ceremony

**FAST, Aula Maggiore - Piazzale Rodolfo Morandi, 2 - Milano**  
**3 March 2026 | 9.00 – 17.20**

### Concept of the event

As renewable energy sources continue to increase their share in the electricity mix, power systems are becoming more dynamic, variable, and decentralized. The increasing penetration of wind, solar, and other distributed energy resources introduces unprecedented variability and uncertainty in grid operation, underscoring the need for enhanced system flexibility. In this context distribution system operators (DSOs) play a pivotal role in unlocking local flexibility to ensure system reliability and efficiency. Flexibility can emerge from distributed assets such as electric vehicles, heat pumps, and smart appliances, whose coordination requires accurate, real-time understanding of grid conditions. Enhanced sensor deployment, smart meter data, and advanced state estimation tools are key enablers, allowing DSOs to shift from passive operation to proactive system management. To fully realize this potential, regulatory frameworks is pivotal to value flexibility as a genuine alternative to traditional grid reinforcement. Moreover, market designs that define clear and cost-effective flexibility products is essential to engage service providers and deliver benefits locally. This transition will empower DSOs to manage congestion, integrate renewables, and contribute to a resilient, decarbonized power system.

**The morning session of the event** will feature two keynote presentations offering perspectives on strategies and approaches to enhance grid flexibility and how research efforts could be coordinated across Europe to boost achievements while avoiding duplication of efforts. Moreover, contributions from EU and national projects will address technical aspects shaping flexibility deployment. Overall, the morning session will provide key insights on how regulation can drive innovation and about the main results of key projects implementing innovative flexibility solutions highlighting also how smart solutions can be effectively translated into operational reality.

**In the afternoon the EERA JP Smart Grids PhD Candidate Award Ceremony will take place.** During this session outstanding PhD candidates whose innovative research pathways demonstrate exceptional quality, originality, and relevance to the advancement of the field will be rewarded. By honouring their progress and dedication, the award highlights emerging talent within the EERA JP SG community and fosters the exchange of knowledge and ideas that drive the energy transition forward.

### EERA JP on Smart Grids

The **European Energy Research Alliance (EERA)** is an association of European public research centers and universities engaged in low-carbon energy research and is a pivotal actor in the European Union's Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan. EERA pursues the objective of catalysing European energy research for a climate-neutral society by 2050 bringing together over 250 organisations from 31 countries.

The **EERA Joint Programme on Smart Grids (JP SG)** promotes extensive cross-disciplinary collaboration among 31 research organisations from 18 European countries. The JP SG is organized in 5 sub-programmes with the objective of addressing the different critical areas related to the development and deployment of Smart Grids from a medium to long term research perspective.

## Agenda

Time	Session	Moderator/Speakers
08:45 - 09:15	Registration	
09:15 - 09:25	<a href="#">Welcome and introduction</a>	L. Martini (RSE, JP SG Coordinator)
09:25 - 10:15	Keynote speeches	
9.25 - 9.40	<a href="#">EERA: coordinating research across Europe</a>	I. Matejak (EERA, SET Plan Director)
9.40 - 10.05	<a href="#">The MiNDFlex project: New market design and main outcomes from 2 years of experimentation</a>	D. Raggini & H. Salman (Team MiNDFlex - A2A/Unareti)
10.05 - 10.15	Q&A	
10:15 - 10:45	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10:45 - 12:30	<a href="#">Projects and pilots boosting grid flexibility</a> – Moderated by Irina Oleinikova (NTNU)	
10.45 - 11.00	National Project on Evolution of Electricity Grids	M. Valenti (ENEA, SP4 coord.)
11.00 - 11.15	System Flexibility from Built Environments and Industry: Key Findings from ETIP SNET	V. Efthymiou (Phaethon, SP3 coord.)
11.15 - 11.30	National Project on Innovation of Grid Technologies for Flexibility	A. Veroni (RSE)
11.30 - 11.45	Flexibility of greenhouse electricity	K. Maki (VTT, SP2 coord.)
11.45 - 12.00	Projects' experiences from the UK	G. Burt (Univ. Strathclyde)
12.00 - 12.30	Panel discussion	
12:30 - 13:45	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:45 - 14:00	<a href="#">EERA in the context of the revamped SET Plan</a>	I. Matejak (EERA, SET Plan Director)
14:00 - 14:50	<a href="#">EERA JP SG introduction and main activities</a>	
14.00 - 14.10	JP SG presentation	L. Martini (RSE, JP SG Coordinator)
14.10 - 14.50	Sub-Programmes (SP) introduction	JP SG SP coordinators
14.50 - 15.00	<a href="#">EERA JP clean Energy tranSition for Sustainable Society (e3s)</a>	A. Sciuolo (UNITO, JP e3s Coordinator)
15:00 - 17:10	<a href="#">EERA JP SG PhD candidate Award Ceremony</a>	
	Introduction to the PhD candidate Award	L. Martini (RSE, JP SG Coordinator)
	<i>Model-based monitoring and control of agricultural anaerobic digestion plants</i>	S. Hellmann (DBFZ - Germany)
	<i>Secure Virtualized Architecture for IEC 61850 Substations: Critical Message Authentication Based on IEC 62351-6 and TEEs</i>	L. Lázaro Elorriaga (Tecnalia - Spain)
	<i>Grid Topology Optimization for Electrical Energy Hub Operation</i>	G. Bastianel (KU Leuven - Belgium)
	<i>Unlocking flexibility and efficiency potential to enable grid-interactive and decarbonised industrial systems</i>	S. Zizzania (Univ. Napoli - Italy)
	<i>Stochastic Modelling and Control of Granular Power Systems</i>	A. Vaca (UCD - Ireland)
	<i>Asymmetrical Operation of EHV Transmission lines</i>	A. Berdygozhin (Univ. Strathclyde - UK)
	<i>Risk-based Congestion Management Under Non-Gaussian Uncertainty in Hybrid AC/DC Grids</i>	K. Yurtseven (KU Leuven - Belgium)
17:00 - 17:10	PhD candidate Award Ceremony Group photo	
17:10 - 17:20	Closing remarks	L. Martini (RSE, JP SG Coordinator)