



Communiqué, October 2013

21 full proposals with total project volume of over 40 million euros submitted in the first set of transnational SOLAR-ERA.NET calls in the field of solar power generation

The first set of transnational SOLAR-ERA.NET calls PV1 and CSP1 found very good interest in the solar power industry sector and research community. Some 60 preproposals were submitted out of which 27 were recommended for the second stage, i.e. for submitting a full proposal. 21 full proposals with a total project volume of more than 40 million euros were submitted by the deadline set (9 October 2013).

114 potential project partners can be counted from 15 different countries and regions. Figure 1 shows the number of coordinators and partners in the full proposals submitted by country / region participating in the SOLAR-ERA.NET call.

The majority (64%) of the organisations involved in the full proposals submitted belong to the categories of small and medium sized enterprises and large enterprises; research organizations have a share of 35%. Figure 2 shows the share of different types of organizations among the partners being involved in the preproposals submitted

Out of the 21 full proposals submitted, 17 were for PV topics and 4 for CSP topics. Figure 3 shows the number of preproposals submitted per call topic.

15 countries and regions participate with their RTD and innovation programmes in these calls. The total public funding budget for both calls is 12 million euros, covering topics in photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP). Innovative project proposals are sought on transnational level between different European countries strengthening the competitive position of the European solar power industry.

The participating SOLAR-ERA.NET funding organisations will now (make) evaluate the full proposals submitted and their suitability for national funding. First successful proposals with positive funding decisions are supposed to start end of 2013 / early 2014.

SOLAR-ERA.NET is already preparing the second set of transnational SOLAR-ERA.NET calls in the field of solar power generation. This joint call is expected to be launched in January 2014. This joint call is also open for new countries and regions with their research and innovation programmes.

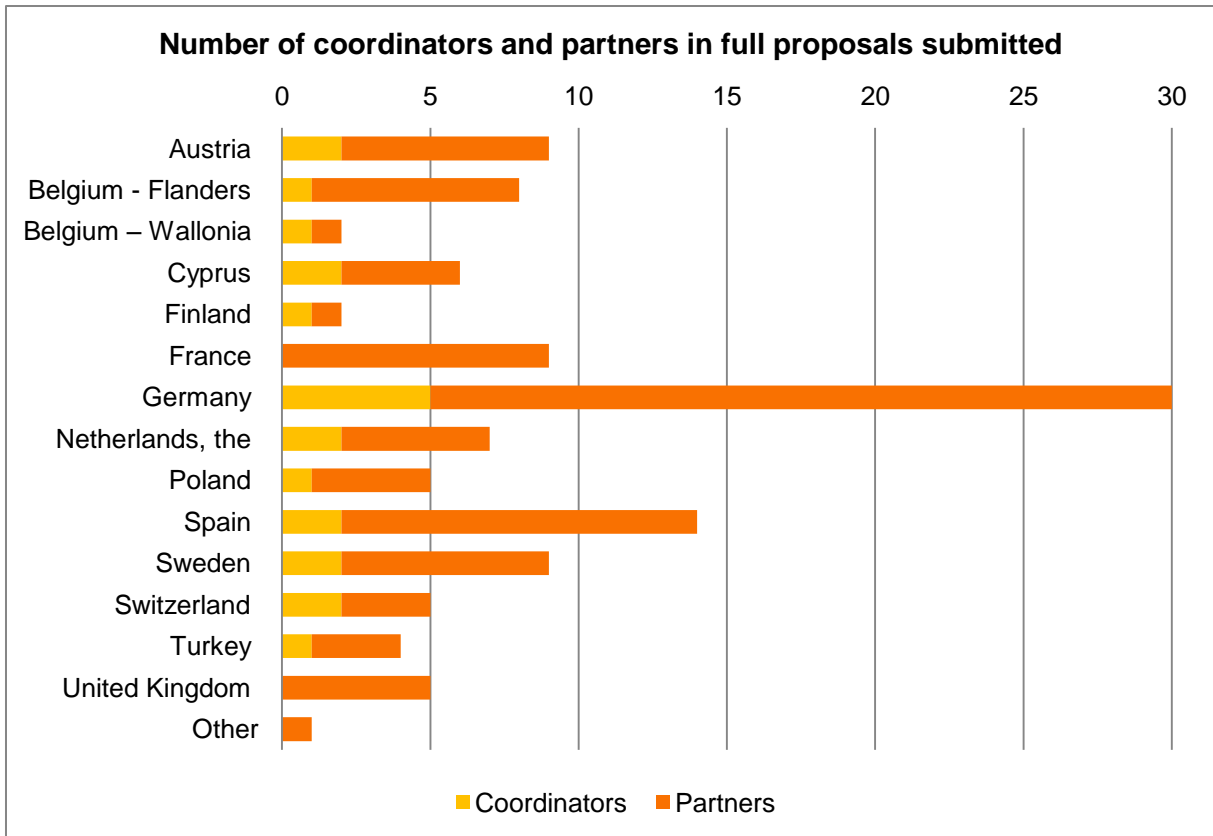


Figure 1: Number of coordinators and partners in the full proposals submitted by country / region participating in the SOLAR-ERA.NET call

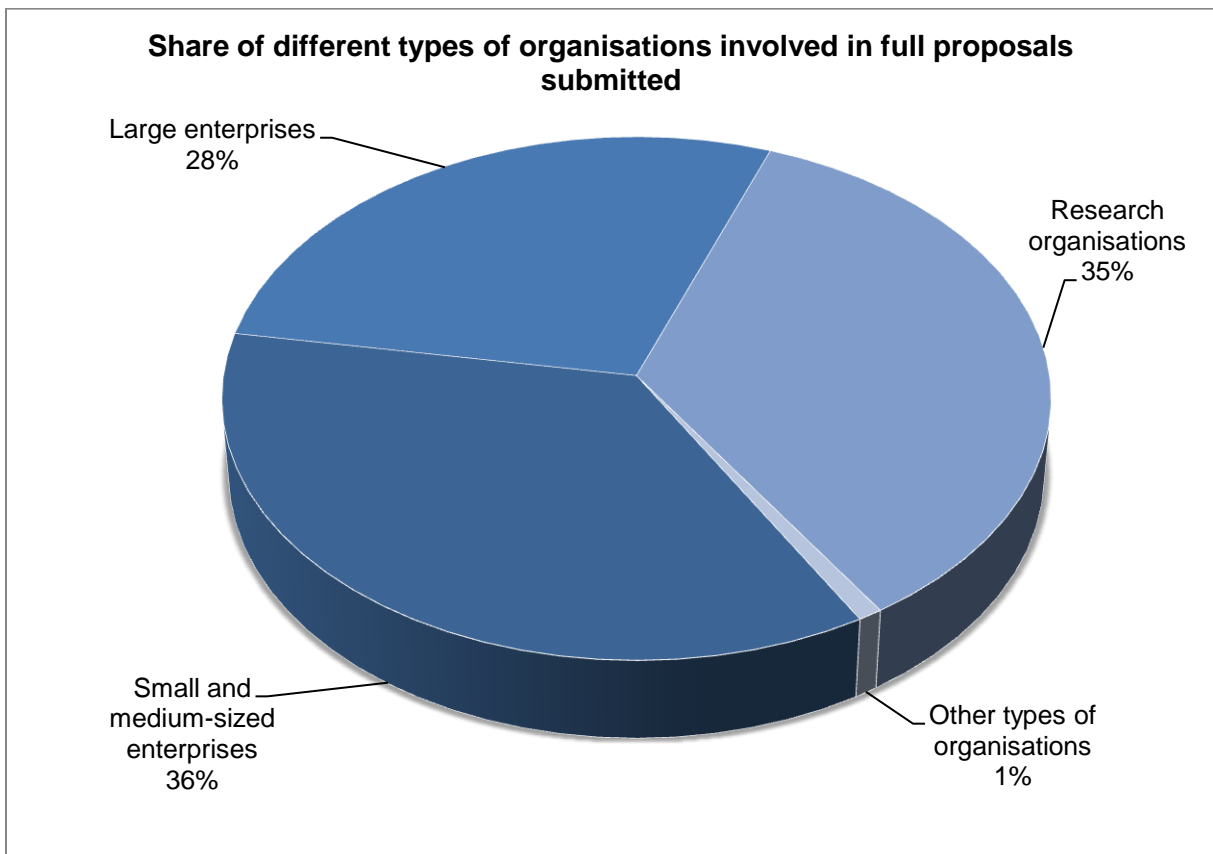


Figure 2: Share of different types of organizations among the partners involved in the full proposals submitted

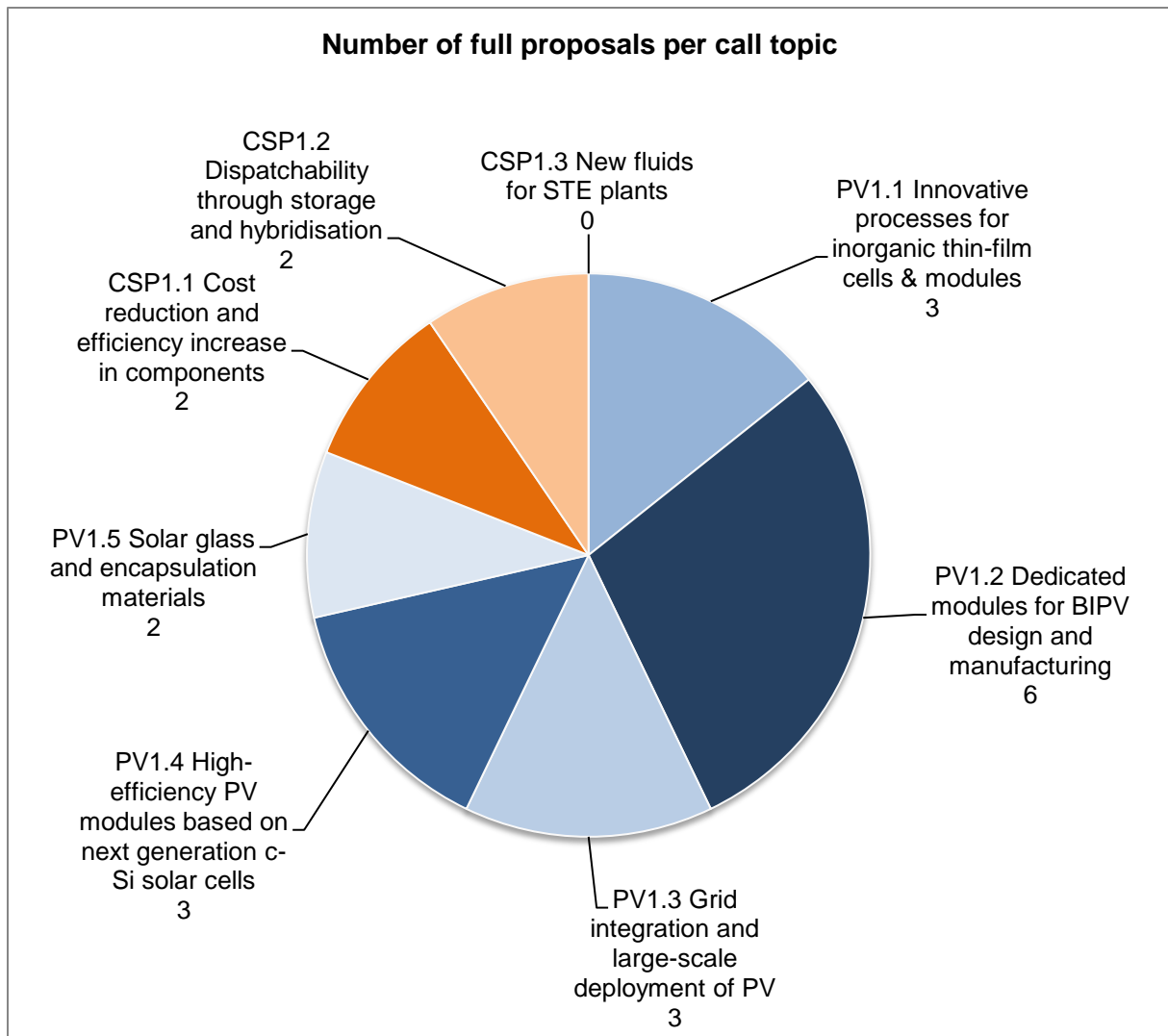


Figure 3: Number of full proposals submitted per call topic

What is SOLAR-ERA.NET?

SOLAR-ERA.NET is a FP7 funded European network of national and regional funding organisations and RTD and innovation programmes in the field of solar electricity generation, i.e. photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP) / solar thermal electricity (STE).

SOLAR-ERA.NET shall contribute to reaching the objectives of the Solar Europe Industry Initiative (SEII) by carrying out the coordination and support actions for the implementation of the SEII between national and regional RTD and innovation programmes.

The SEII is embedded in the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) which aims to increase, coordinate and focus EU support on key low-carbon energy technologies in order to achieve Europe's 2020 energy objectives in the future. The SEII is a joint initiative of the industry sector, EC and member states. The objective of the SEII is to boost the development of the PV and CSP sector beyond "business-as-usual" in the areas of Research and Development, Demonstration and Deployment. For the concerned solar electricity technologies Implementation Plans have been developed setting out priorities for RTD in Europe.

The goal of SOLAR-ERA.NET is to undertake joint strategic planning, programming and activities for RTD and innovation in the area of solar electricity generation. Joint activities, namely joint calls, are defined for key topics and priorities in accordance with the Solar Europe Industry Initiative (SEII). These transnational calls are part of these activities. Further countries and regions can participate in transnational calls with their research and innovation programmes.

More information on the call and network: www.solar-era.net / info (at) solar-era.net