



**SOLAR-ERA.NET**  
**ERA-NET on Solar Electricity for the Implementation of the Solar Europe Industry Initiative**

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## **Summary**

SOLAR-ERA.NET is a network that brings together more than 20 RTD and innovation programmes in the field of solar electricity technologies in the European Research Area. The network of national and regional funding organisations has been established in order to increase transnational cooperation between RTD and innovation programmes and to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Solar Europe Industry Initiative (SEII) through dedicated transnational activities (especially transnational calls). SOLAR-ERA.NET is an EU funded FP7 project running from 2012 to 2016. Through the support of the funding organisations, more than 100 MEUR shall be mobilised for transnational RTD and innovation projects.

## **Purpose of the Work**

SOLAR-ERA.NET is a 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.

## **Approach**

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), based on the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan and its related Implementation Plans for PV and CSP.

The network's activities will primarily involve the launching of joint calls for RTD proposals by national and regional RTD, as well as innovation programmes. In order to define and support the best joint activities, strategic information exchange and use of implementation tools will be carried out among the network participants and associates from key stakeholder groups.

As the largest ERA-NET (network in the European Research Area) ever in the solar power field, SOLAR-ERA.NET will involve more than 20 RTD and innovation programmes dealing with PV and CSP. This high level of involvement of most relevant stakeholders will provide excellent outreach and the coordination needed for an efficient and coherent approach in the highly diverse and versatile RTD landscape.

## **Scientific Innovation and Relevance**

By identifying and choosing SEII priority topics for transnational calls carried out by SOLAR-ERA.NET, the network will select and fund industrially relevant transnational RTD and innovation projects in the field of solar electricity technologies. 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.

## **Results and Conclusions**

SOLAR-ERA.NET shall result in a total funding volume by the participating national and regional programmes of approximately 50 MEUR. The project proposals must clearly demonstrate i) potential commercial impact / relevance to industrial and market needs / contribution to the Solar Europe Industry Initiative and added transnational value, ii) scientific and technological excellence and iii) high quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management.

Through these joint calls for RTD and innovation topics in PV and CSP, SOLAR-ERA.NET will contribute to reach the objectives of the SEII; namely boosting the development of the PV and CSP sector beyond "business-as-usual," and of the ERA-NET, while specifically enhancing cooperation between the national / regional programming stakeholders at European level. The first set of SOLAR-ERA.NET transnational calls PV1 and CSP1 is about to be launched in early March 2013 with a public funding budget of 12 MEUR from about 15 funding agencies. Preliminary results on research and industry response in the preproposal phase will be available by the week of the 28<sup>th</sup> EU PVSEC.