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About S2S4E

The project seeks to improve renewable energy variability management by developing a tool that, for the first time, integrates sub-seasonal to seasonal climate predictions with renewable energy production and electricity demand. Our long-term goal is to make the European energy sector more resilient to climate variability and extreme weather events.

Large-scale deployment of renewable energy is key to comply with the emission reduction targets of the 2015 Paris Agreement. However, despite being cost competitive in many settings, renewable energy diffusion remains limited, largely due to seasonal variability. Forecasting the expected power output and demand beyond the following few days remains poor, creating a major barrier to renewable energy integration in electricity networks.

To help solve this problem, S2S4E is developing an innovative service to improve renewable energy variability management. The project outcome will be new research methods for exploring the frontiers of weather conditions for future weeks and months, and a decision support tool for the renewables industry.

More information: www.s2s4e.eu

Summary

In December 2019, the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 took place in Madrid, Spain, under the presidency of the Government of Chile. This provided the opportunity for S2S4E to organise the Southern Europe event planned under Subtask T7.4.3 of the Description of Action. The session took place in the dialogue space organised by the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO) in the green zone, a conference area open to all visitors, which was set up in parallel to the blue zone of COP25, which was only accessible for accredited people at COP25. The roundtable organised by S2S4E was entitled “Climate innovation for the energy transition”. In addition, S2S4E representatives were also speakers at three different sessions organised by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) at the COP25 blue zone.

This report provides detailed information about these events and also includes information on other planned events organised by the S2S4E project.

Keywords

Event, roundtable, stakeholder engagement, policymakers, COP25, UNFCCC

1 Introduction

The objective of this deliverable is to report the organisation of an event in southern/central Europe in the frame of the S2S4E project.

On Friday, 1 November 2019, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) accepted the proposal from the Government of Chile to hold the 2019 UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid. The conference took place in Madrid (IFEMA - Feria de Madrid) from the 2nd to the 13th of December 2019 under the Presidency of the Government of Chile, with logistical support from the Government of Spain through the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO).

The conference venue was divided into two zones: the blue and the green zone. The blue zone was only accessible for accredited COP25 participants, while the green zone was open to all visitors.

S2S4E's participation was divided into four activities, including one activity hosted by S2S4E in the green zone and open to everyone, and three activities held in the blue zone in collaboration with WMO for accredited participants of COP25.

CICERO was the leader of the deliverable according to the Description of Action of the project, however since this event took place in Southern Europe, there was an internal agreement in WP7 and BSC took the lead of the organisation of the event and the preparation of the deliverable reporting it.

2 Events at COP25

2.1 S2S4E roundtable (green zone)

In the morning of the 11th of December 2019, S2S4E hosted the session “Climate innovation for the energy transition” in the green zone of the conference. The session involved a dialogue space organised by MITECO that was open to both COP25 participants, and anyone from the wider public who had requested access.

The session was moderated by Ilaria Vigo, an environmental economist from the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC) and member of the S2S4E team. The roundtable was formed by:

- ▶ Dr Asun Lera St. Clair, one of the 15 selected members of the Horizon Europe Mission Board for Adaptation to Climate Change, including Societal Transformation.
- ▶ Dr Francisco Doblas Reyes, coordinating lead author of IPCC AR6 (Chapter 10, linking global to regional climate change).

- Dr Isadora Jiménez, part of the coordination team of S2S4E and head of the communication and knowledge transfer team at the BSC.

The one-hour session began with an opening speech by Pere Navarro, who was the Mayor of the city of Terrassa (Barcelona county, Spain) between 2002 and 2012, and is currently special delegate of the Spanish state and president of the executive committee of the Barcelona Zona Franca Consortium. The Zona Franca is a logistics and industrial area, and a driver for innovation in the metropolitan area of Barcelona. Pere Navarro's speech was centred on industrial innovation with final remarks to activities related to renewable energy management in the whole Zona Franca industrial area.

After some initial conversations, the S2S4E project was presented as an example of innovation to support the transition to renewable energy, and the S2S4E documentary "[Resilience](#)" was premiered during the session.

Next, a moderated dialogue with the three panellists followed, with a discussion on how climate forecasting can make science actionable. The discussion also focused on the innovative aspects of creating new tools and services in close collaboration with energy stakeholders to bridge the gap between practitioners and climate scientists. The panel discussion ended with a Q&A session with the audience.

The session was attended by around 50 people. In order to foster the interactivity of the session and facilitate remote participation, an online Q&A app was set up (Sli.do), and the session was streamed live by MITECO on YouTube. The recording of the session is available at <https://youtu.be/b1yBj9lqaEg>, and has had 121 views since its publication.



Figure 1: Speakers at the S2S4E roundtable

2.2 UNITAR interactive classroom (blue zone)

In the afternoon of the 11th of December 2019, Ilaria Vigo, who is highly involved in the value and impact assessment of the S2S4E Decision Support Tool, was invited to hold an interactive

classroom about “Climate Services for Energy Transition” at the IPCC-WMO Pavilion in the blue zone. The interactive classroom was organised by UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research). The participants were introduced to the concept of climate services and how these can better inform decisionmaking. Ilaria Vigo emphasised the role of stakeholders in the co-development of these services. Her presentation was based on lessons learned as part of her work in the S2S4E project, and with the Decision Support Tool. Further information can be found on the UNCC:Learn platform (<https://www.unccllearn.org/climate-classroom-cop25-climate-services-energy-transition>). The class was restricted to a maximum of 25 participants to allow a close interaction with the lecturer. A total of 10 attendees took part of the class.

2.3 Invited talk about climate services in Spain (blue zone)

In the morning of the 12th of December 2019, the IPCC-WMO Pavilion hosted a one-hour session on “Climate Services for Energy Transition: successful stories from Germany and Spain”. The session was moderated by Roberta Boscolo (WMO) and the speakers were Tobias Fuchs (DWD) and Ilaria Vigo (BSC). Tobias Fuchs discussed the value of meteorological services for the German energy sector, while Ilaria Vigo talked about climate services in Spain and beyond, giving several examples from the S2S4E project based on the case studies prepared in WP4. The session was attended by around 20 people.



Figure 2: Ilaria Vigo discussing climate services in Spain

2.4 Invited talk about hydropower (blue zone)

In the afternoon of the 11th of December 2019, the IPCC-WMO Pavilion hosted a one-hour session led by WMO and the International Hydropower Association (IHA). Dr Ilias Pechlivanidis from the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), who is also involved in the S2S4E project, was one of the speakers in this session, and gave a talk entitled "Hydro-climate services for the hydropower sector. Towards a success story!". The session was attended by around 25 people.

2.5 Promotion of S2S4E's participation at COP25

In order to promote the events and raise public awareness of the S2S4E project and its participation at COP25, a related [article](#)¹ was published on the project website, and social media was used to spread the message.

We started promoting the S2S4E events at COP25 on Twitter on 10 December 2019, the day before the first events, and we posted a total of 10 tweets about the events from the S2S4E Twitter account. The most seen tweet about S2S4E's participation at COP25 has reached more than 1,500 people (see the tweet and its impressions in Figure 3).



Figure 3: The most seen tweet from the S2S4E Twitter account about S2S4E's participation at COP25.

¹ Link to article on the S2S4E website: https://s2s4e.eu/newsroom/news/s2s4e_cop25

Five posts were also published about the COP25 participation on the S2S4E Facebook account, where the most seen post was published on 10 December and reached 33 people to date. Moreover, we posted a total of six posts about the S2S4E participation at COP25 on the S2S4E LinkedIn page, which at the time had only around 50 followers. The most popular of these posts has been seen by 46 people to the date of submission of this report.



Figure 4: The most seen post on the S2S4E LinkedIn page about the project's participation at COP25.

The participation of S2S4E at COP25 contributed to increasing the visibility of the project on social media. In December 2019, after COP25 took place, the number of followers of the S2S4E Twitter account rose by 46 to 466 (+8%), while the number of followers of the S2S4E Facebook and LinkedIn accounts increased by 1 to 104 (+1%), and by 8 to 56 (+17%), respectively.

2.6 Results of S2S4E participation at COP25

For S2S4E, COP25 presented a good opportunity to engage with stakeholders interested in issues related to the climate and the energy transition. As a matter of fact, it was also here that the EU first presented the European Green Deal, a roadmap for making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The plan targets all sectors of the economy, including energy. For energy, the European Green Deal sets the ambitious target of decarbonising the energy system

by basing it largely on renewables. During the conference, on the 10th of December, the EU Energy day event was held at the EU pavilion, and showcased how the EU contributes to accelerate the energy transition. While S2S4E was not part of any of the EU Energy day sessions, the event was a good networking opportunity for the S2S4E team members present at COP25..

The interaction with WMO in the weeks prior to and during the conference provided an opportunity for further stakeholder engagement. A direct benefit of this engagement was the invitation to give a talk on behalf of WMO and S2S4E at the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) annual meeting for the Energy platforms (policy dialogue platforms) in January 2020.

UfM is an intergovernmental institution bringing together 43 countries to promote dialogue and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Every year, UfM holds a meeting that gathers all Euro-Mediterranean countries, as well as key stakeholders, including financial institutions, regional organisations, industrial enterprises and energy experts.

The participation at this event is not within the scope of this report since it was not an event organised by S2S4E, however, given its relevance for the project as an opportunity to engage with relevant stakeholders at policy level, we have provided additional information about this event in the Annex.

3 Additional events planned for spring 2020

Innovate4climate conference:

The S2S4E project applied to host a workshop at the Innovate4climate conference (<https://www.innovate4climate.com/>) that was going to take place in Barcelona on the 26th-28th of May 2020. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe, the event was officially cancelled on the 16th of March, and all the delegates that had requested a workshop were encouraged to instead request the workshop for the next edition in 2021.

Currently, the organizing committee is exploring options to provide virtual online programmes, such as blogs and discussions, throughout the year. To start, they are developing a blog series aligned with the four pillars of the conference (finance, policy, markets and technology), and they have invited workshop delegates to submit a piece covering their area of expertise or the topic of the workshop.

S2S4E will consider the option of carrying out an on-line workshop related to the topic suggested for Innovate4climate, although no decision has been made on this possibility to date.

European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW 2020):

As with last year, the S2S4E project aims to be present at the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW 2020). This year, the project has applied for the innovation awards, although the application has already been rejected. In addition, we have applied for two activities at the

Networking Village: a stand at the Energy Fair and an Energy Lab pitch by Nnergix, one of the SMEs that are part of the project consortium. The organisation has already informed on the postponement of the evaluation of the Networking Village activities due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Although it has already been agreed which members of WP7 of the S2S4E project will be present at EUSEW if our application is successful, there is a risk that these activities may also be affected by the COVID-19 outbreak if the current measures to stop the spread of the virus are extended, including restrictions regarding the organisation of large events.

4 Final remarks

As a result of the engagement with WMO during COP25, there were onsite conversations and a teleconference one month later to discuss collaboration plans for hosting a session at the upcoming 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in 2020.

During the last General Assembly meeting in Paris in November 2019, all S2S4E partners agreed in the plenary session that it was better to organise the final stakeholder event attached to an event that already attracts larger and specialised audiences rather than competing with the global agenda. The opportunity of having a session at COP26 surpasses the benefits of a self-organised event and has more chances of reaching broader audiences, not only within Europe.

COP26 is expected to take place from 9-19 November 2020 in Glasgow, UK. It is still too early to have a confirmation of the agenda and the type of event, but the consortium will liaise with WMO, the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) to co-host a session that serves as the final stakeholder event planned in the project. The final stakeholder event will be reported in D7.10, which is due in November 2020.

5 Annex

5.1 UfM Energy platforms – Background information

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)'s policy dimension is structured around regional dialogue platforms involving not only representatives from governmental institutions and experts, but also regional and international organisations, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and financial institutions.

This close interaction between national experts and stakeholders is a fundamental tool to exchange on the ministerial mandates, better understand the needs, share experiences, identify best practices and promote concrete projects of cooperation.

The UfM coordinates the following policy dialogue platforms that are relevant for the S2S4E project:

- ▶ The UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform ([UfM REM Platform](#)) aims at the progressive integration of energy systems and energy markets in the UfM region and, in particular, at the enhancement of electricity exchanges and interconnections, in order to achieve a secure, affordable and sustainable electricity supply for the benefit of citizens and economies in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- ▶ The UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform ([UfM REEE Platform](#)) aims at promoting the progressive deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, in order to foster socio-economic development and a sustainable energy transition, contributing to ensuring that all citizens and businesses in the region have access to secure, affordable and reliable modern energy services. It also works to support mitigation and adaptation to climate change in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The UfM Energy Platforms are the only existing dialogue fora gathering all Euro-Mediterranean countries, as well as key stakeholders, including financial institutions, regional organisations, industrial enterprises, energy experts. The UfM Energy Platforms hold annual meetings devoted to the enhancement of synergies in the fields of renewable energies and energy efficiency, integration of electricity markets, and gas in the Mediterranean region. Each platform develops its activities following specific Work Programmes that include workshops, reports and studies, experience and knowledge-sharing, among other activities.

5.2 UfM Energy Platforms Annual meeting

This year's UfM Energy Platforms Annual meeting took on the 29th and 30th of January 2020, in Barcelona (Spain). The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the third UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy, and define the inputs and contributions expected by the representatives of all the Euro-Mediterranean countries and the energy stakeholders present in the meeting.

The discussion was centred on energy, but during the first day of the meeting there was a strong focus on climate and environmental aspects. There was a slot in the agenda to review

the synergies between energy and climate where the preliminary assessment report by MedECC (The Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change) was presented, a slot for presenting the main COP25 outcomes and an invited talk to provide an overview of climate services for energy.

WMO and the Global Framework for Climate Services was initially invited to give this talk. Since they could not attend the meeting, WMO requested whether an member of the S2S4E team from the BSC could give the talk on behalf of the WMO.

Ilaria Vigo, an environmental economist at the BSC and part of the S2S4E team, presented the topic at this meeting. Her talk included a broad overview of climate services and climate services tailored to the energy sector, and a presentation of large climate service initiatives carried out by the WMO. In her presentation, she also gave an introduction to the S2S4E project and used the DST as an example of an operational climate service.

In addition to increasing the visibility of the S2S4E project, the participation of S2S4E at this two-day meeting provided a networking opportunity that allowed the two project representatives present to engage in conversations with energy stakeholders such as Med-TSO (the Mediterranean Association of Transmission System Operators), MEDREG (Mediterranean Energy Regulators), IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) and representatives of the Ministry of Energy of several countries. The full list of participating institutions can be found in the next section.



Figure 5: Discussions during the UfM Energy Platforms Annual meeting

5.3 Participating institutions

Country representatives:

Algeria – Ministry of Energy

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

France – Ministry for an ecological and solidary transition

Germany – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Israel – Ministry of Energy

Jordan – Ministry of Energy and Mineral resources

Lebanon – Ministry of Energy & Water

Malta – Energy and Water Agency/Ministry for Energy and Water management

Spain – Ministry of Ecological Transition

Tunisia – Agencie Nationale pour la Maitrise de l'Energie (ANME)

Turkey – Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

Energy stakeholders:

ADEME – Environment and Energy Management Agency

ADENE – Portuguese Energy Agency

ARERA - Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy

BSC – Barcelona Supercomputing Center

CMI - Center for Mediterranean Integration

IDAE - Institute for Diversification and Energy Saving, Spain

IRENA – International Renewable Energy Agency

Med-TSO - Mediterranean Transmission System Operators

MEDENER – Mediterranean Association of National Agencies for Energy Management

MEDREG – Mediterranean Energy Regulators

Naturgy (Energy company)

OME – Mediterranean Observatory of Energy

PAM - Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

RCREEE – Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

RES4Africa Foundation – Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa Foundation

