

Venue: Brussels

Date: 18.05.2017 15:00-16:45

Focus Group: Bridging the gap between policy questions and models

Introduction:

At this session we will discuss the relationship between energy transition modellers and policy-makers. Policy-makers need the support of modellers to understand the effectiveness and efficiency of certain policy measures. They also need to understand the consistency of the various policy measures (to be) implemented (in order to prevent or minimize, for example, policy interference). And they need to compare alternative policy options. In essence, the dialogue between both groups centres around the questions of “How to articulate a policy question such that the potential of energy transition modelling is optimally exploited?”, on the one hand, and of “Which modelling functionality is required for a given policy question?”, on the other hand. It is this dialogue that we wish to discuss in more detail.

We believe that improving this dialogue can help accelerating the SET Plan’s implementation, avoid costly inefficiencies, and create synergies that otherwise may not have materialised. Participants to this session will discuss any possible gaps between modellers and policy-makers, and ways to overcome these gaps.

Objective of the focus group:

- Discuss any gap between modellers and policy-makers, and its implications.
- Discuss ways to overcome these gaps, and to learn from each other.

Key questions for discussion:

- How can modellers demonstrate that a given, well-articulated policy question can be comprehensively and satisfactorily addressed by a proposed model? Is model benchmarking a way forward?
- How should modellers include policy-makers in this model-scoping process?
- How should policy-makers challenge modellers / model-developers?
- How to communicate modelling results to policy-makers: re-iterate all limiting assumptions?
- How can we set up ways for modellers and policy-makers to structurally learn from each other?

Schedule:

- 13:00-13:30 Introduction and problem statement
- 13:30-14:10 Break-out groups / roundtable discussion
- 14:10-14:30 Plenary feedback per table
- 14:30-14:45 Wrap Up

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