

ZEP Projects Network

The Zero Emissions Platform (ZEP) introduces a new Network – the Projects Network – operating in parallel to the ZEP Networks on Policy & Economics and Technology. This new Network creates a forum where CCS and CCU project developers exchange information, discuss enablers and hurdles, good practices, and de-risking planned and ongoing projects across Europe, and engage with European, regional, national and local policymakers.

There is an urgent need to support these projects and there is currently no EU/EEA-wide platform that specifically gathers and allows for information sharing between the many projects being developed in Europe. With this Network, ZEP establishes an important tool to efficiently support projects and at the same time actively support the European Commission and governments on necessary policy/regulation, funding and actions linked to public perception.

Objectives

The new Network aims to strengthen the CCS and CCU industries in the value chain and promote its large-scale deployment throughout Europe, by:

- **De-risking projects** – highlight insights on practices, business models, framework conditions, policy and infrastructure enabling CCS/CCU deployment, considering varying institutional contexts and geographies. Both financial and technical de-risking issues will be addressed, looking at supply and demand of CO₂.
- **Accelerating projects** – reduce project development time throughout the industry by enabling in-depth exchanges on proper applications of project management, policy and needs requirements as well as best practices on stakeholder management.
- **Enabling cost-effective realisation of projects** – improve cost-effectiveness of CCS/CCU deployment by promoting practices enabling economies of scale and conducive contractual structures.

Making timely and significant contributions to the EU's CO₂ emissions reduction goals and to the elaboration of its relevant European and national policy packages such as the Net-Zero Industry Act and Industrial Carbon Management Strategy.

Approach

The Projects Network aims to reach its objectives by:

Enabling real project-to-project knowledge sharing (considering competition law and confidentiality) on good practices and experiences. The project-centred approach will enable discussions to tackle topics that CCS and CCU project developers face at different stages of the development and deployment of the projects. This will vary from knowledge of the EU-ETS and the CO₂ storage Directive, permitting and licensing issues to PCI/funding processes, technical/operational topics and public perception issues. Sessions will be organised to enable participants to discuss and gain in-depth insights on specific issues faced by industry.

Addressing on-the-ground enablers and barriers encountered during the projects. The Network will provide CCS and CCU project developers and parties in the CCS value chain a

dedicated forum to address on-the-ground issues. These issues relate to project management, governance and leadership, financing and commercial topics. The aim is to share lessons learned among projects developers active in the CCS and CCU value chain.

Recommending to the EC and European governments necessary policy/regulation, funding, and business model actions. The goal of these discussions is to provide actionable recommendations to European, national and local policymakers, with the aim to enable a more favourable regulatory environment and accelerate the deployment of CCS and CCU projects across Europe. The ZEP Government Group is supportive of this new Network and highlights that the outcome from the Network meetings will be of great interest to European governments. ZEP Government Group meetings will be coordinated to enable members to take stock of the conclusions from the Network meetings.

Organisation

Chairing: The Network will have three co-chairs, supported by the ZEP Secretariat:

- a permanent co-chair: Stijn Santen from EBN
- a representative from the European Commission will be invited to co-chair
- a rotating co-chair representing the project hosting the subsequent Network meeting

Location & frequency: Meetings will be organised every four to six months in cooperation with and held at a project site. Projects will be selected to ensure geographical balance across Europe.

Participants: The Network will have open membership, with a focus on project developers. Representatives from the European Commission, from national, regional and local governments and authorities that are linked to the specific geographic area of the project will be invited. Members of the research community will also be invited, focusing on the further needs for R&I resulting from projects and scaling-up.

Structure: Network meetings will take place over two days, structured around closed sessions. The closed sessions will enable in-depth and unfiltered discussions between project developers on operational, technical, governance, commercial and financial issues faced by industry and specifically ongoing and planned projects. These sessions will be by invitation only and function under Chatham House rules. The meetings will also include:

- *A high-level political session:* allowing the host project and European, national and local authorities to explore the vision, context and resulting experience of the project, as well as its applicability for other projects across Europe.
- *Open sessions:* open to all parties interested in operational, technical, governance, commercial and financial issues on CCS and CCU development faced by industry.
- *Networking Sessions:* meeting and exchanging information and experience with peers through networking sessions which will take place throughout the event.

Deliverables: The conclusions and recommendations of each network event will be compiled. Hereby, the specific policy related findings and recommendations will be presented to the ZEP government group whereas the project development findings and recommendations will be communicated to the project developers.