



Interoperable solutions for implementing holistic **FLEXi**bility
services in the distribution **GRID**

RRI progress report – Month 24

Deliverable 2.6

WP2

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Approvals

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ABBREVIATIONS

PC: Project Coordinator
CA: Consortium Agreement
CC: Communication Committee
DoA: Description of Action
EC: European Commission
GA: General Assembly
IPR: Intellectual Property Right
KPI: Key Performance Indicator
M: Month
PH: Project Handbook
R&D: Research and Development
RRI: Responsible Research and Innovation
SC: Steering Committee
TP: Technical Partner
WP: Work Package
SME: Small and Medium Enterprise
DMP: Data Management Plan
H2020: Horizon 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document reports the effort put into responsible research and innovation (RRI) by partners involved in FLEXIGRID project during the second year of the project, as well as the plans for the next 12-month period. It is a follow-up to the deliverable *D2.5 RRI progress report – Month 12* which covers the first year of the project.

The report is divided into sections related to specific cross-cutting issues promoted by the European Commission (EC). Specifically, the report tackles the gender equality, open access and public engagement elements of RRI. The gender structure of the project team at different levels is reported in Table 2. The open access is promoted by ensuring public access to the project's public deliverables and scientific publications. All open access publications are uploaded to Zenodo repository and listed in Table 3. To address the public engagement element, during the second year of the project two events that incorporated RRI were held, both online due to COVID-19 related restrictions.

The plans for the future include continuation of uploading materials to Zenodo repository to ensure open access to the project's results and organisation of RRI events by project partners. The rough outline of the event schedule is given in Table 6. The future public engagement events will be held online unless the COVID-19 confinement measures in hosting countries allow the in-person events.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The FLEXIGRID project

The main goal of FLEXIGRID is to allow the distribution grid to operate in a secure and stable manner when a large share of variable generation electricity sources is connected to low and medium voltage grids. In order to fulfil this goal FLEXIGRID project introduced a three-level approach aiming at flexibility, reliability, and economic efficiency through the development of innovative hardware and software solutions.

These solutions will be demonstrated in four demo-sites across Europe, i.e. Croatia, Greece, Spain, and Italy, ensuring their interoperability through its integration into an open source platform able to harmonize the data flow between FLEXIGRID solutions and the real grid.

1.2 The objective and scope

This deliverable is the second of four periodic reports on responsible research and innovation (RRI) in FLEXIGRID project. This report is the result of activities in task 2.4 of work package 2, which aims at monitoring *integration of the Responsible Research and Innovation approach in FLEXIGRID*. RRI integration in the project is a continuous effort of all partners in the consortium and RRI permeates in some degree through all the project tasks. However, this deliverable is directly connected to task 2.2 *Definition of stakeholders' common requirements towards a smart citizen-centred energy system*, as well as the project dissemination tasks of the work package 9. Decision was made to integrate RRI into the dissemination activities of the work package 9 and use them not only to spread the information about the project but also to gather feedback from the participants.

The deliverable presents a report on the second year of the project as well as the plans for the remainder of the project's duration. In the first section the topic of RRI is introduced, its implications on FLEXIGRID project are described and a report on the RRI integration during the second year of the project is presented. The second section is focused on the plans for the future of RRI within FLEXIGRID, noting the risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2 RRI DURING THE SECOND YEAR OF FLEXIGRID PROJECT

The RRI is a novel approach towards research and innovation promoted by the European Commission (EC) to ensure that the projects it funds are ingrained in society and local communities. The EC provided six thematic elements, i.e. policy agendas, to focus on, as shown in Figure 1. These thematic elements are gender issues, ethics, open access, public engagement, science education and governance. In FLEXIGRID, the main focus is placed on open access, public engagement and gender components of RRI. We did not plan to explicitly include the rest of the thematic elements in the task activities, but they are incorporated implicitly through the activities of this and other work packages in the project. For example, ethical points of originality and innovation in research are encouraged in the aspect of scientific publications. This, in connection with the open access principle, ensures the replicability of the developed models and results of the project.

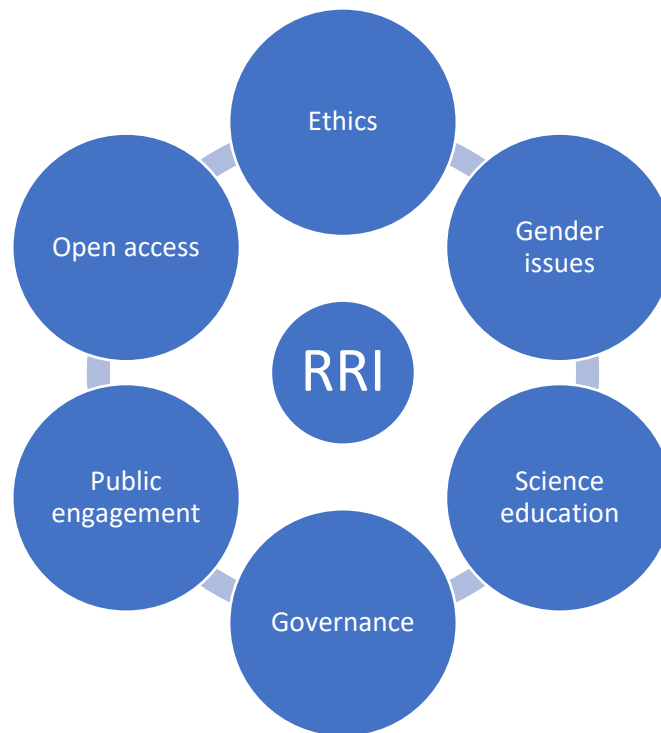


Figure 1 The six thematic elements of RRI

During the first months of the project, a plan for integrating the RRI into the project was prepared. The plan for task 2.4 comprised two types of activities. First type is to focus on integration of open access in the project, while the second one focuses on organising various promotional and educational activities. The former group was named *Open access* and the latter *Public outreach*. *Gender equality* is a specific cross-cutting issue because it affects the project from the beginning.

Table 1 shows the actions of Task 2.4 Integration of the Responsible Research and Innovation approach in FLEXIGRID completed by the month 24 of the project, this deliverable being the last action on the list.

Table 1 Completed actions in task 2.4 of FLEXIGRID project

ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Setting the scope and budget for events	CIRCE, UNIZG-FER	M3
Defining the events (locations, duration, budget, etc.)	All	M6
Preparation and scheduling of events	CIRCE, UNIZG-FER	M11
RRI progress report 1	UNIZG-FER	M12
First round of RRI events	UNIZG-FER	M20
RRI progress report 2	UNIZG-FER	M24

2.1 Gender equality

As stated in the project proposal, FLEXIGRID partners are committed to foster gender equality and are aware of the Gender Equality in Horizon 2020 guidelines. In this regard, the project tasks and responsibilities are divided among both genders in a balanced and non-discriminatory way.

Table 2 describes the gender structure at different levels within the consortium members during the second year of the project, while Figure 2 shows the same in percentages. Female to male ratio decreased in the second year, with 27% female and 73% male members compared to 30:70 ratio of the first year. Share of women holding managerial positions remains the same as in the first year, 31%. The non-research managerial positions continue to be the ones with the highest share of women (45%) with a 5% increase compared to the previous year.

Table 2 Gender structure at different levels during second year of the project

Partner	Female researchers			Male researchers			Female other than researchers			Male other than researchers			TOTAL
	Junior	Senior	Manager	Junior	Senior	Manager	Junior	Senior	Manager	Junior	Senior	Manager	
CIRCE	0	1	3	2	14	3	1	5	1	1	1	3	35
VIESGO	0	3	1	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	13
VERD	0	1	0	2	5	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	12
HEP-ODS	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	11	0	0	15
EDYNA	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
OP&A	0	3	0	1	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
ZIV	0	3	1	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
SELTA	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	7
ATOS	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
IOSA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	5
HYPERTECH	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
UNICAN	0	2	0	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	9
UNIZG-FER	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
LINKS	0	0	0	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
CAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	4
TOTAL	1	15	6	15	55	13	6	11	3	13	9	7	154

The full implementation of the eight FLEXIGRID use cases is aimed at covering the need of the whole population, regardless of sex, gender or age. Therefore, the project's outputs do not

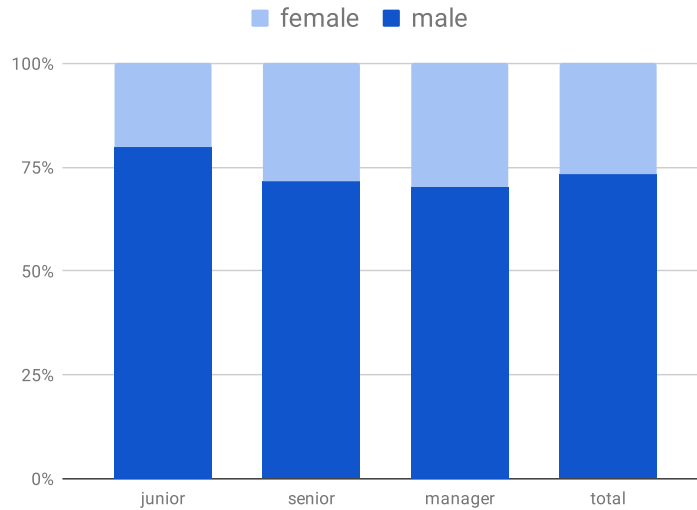


Figure 2 Gender structure of the consortium

directly affect women or men and there is no gender dimension in the technical tasks to be carried out. Thus, the activities that will be developed in the project do not require sex or gender analysis.

2.2 Open access

In FLEXIGRID we promote open access publishing and aim to make as many of our deliverables and other outputs available to a wide audience. For this reason, besides publishing the outputs on the project’s website, we have decided to set up a Zenodo¹ community for FLEXIGRID project, where we can upload the public deliverables, research outputs and open-access data. This will enable easier tracking and reporting on the project’s open-access outputs. The repository can be reached through the following link: <https://zenodo.org/communities/flexigrid/>

Besides the FLEXIGRID community, the uploads are submitted to the European Commission Funded Research (OpenAIRE), a Zenodo community that hosts research from projects fully or partially funded by the European Commission under Framework Programme 7 or Horizon 2020.

Table 3 holds the list of the documents uploaded to Zenodo repository during the second year of the project.

Table 3 List of documents uploaded to Zenodo repository

DOCUMENT	WHO	WHEN
Determination of Transformer Oil Contamination from the OLTC Gases in the Power Transformers of a Distribution System Operator	UNICAN	M15
A Methodology for the Calculation of Typical Gas Concentration Values and Sampling Intervals in the Power Transformers of a Distribution System Operator	UNICAN	M14

¹ Zenodo is a repository hosted by CERN where all research outputs can be uploaded and become citable. The documents uploaded to Zenodo can be organised into curated communities, such as European Commission Funded Research (OpenAIRE), a community for uploads funded by the EC through FP7 or H2020 programmes (*About RRI - RRI Tools*).

A comparative between IEEE and EN in the transformer derating when supplying nonsinusoidal load current. A practical case.	UNICAN	M9
An analysis of optimal power flow-based formulations regarding DSO-TSO flexibility provision	UNIZG-FER	M22
Visual Materials and Identity Set – M18	CIRCE	M18
FLEXIGRID’s Visual Materials and Identity Set	CIRCE	M6
Project Website	CIRCE	M4
Dissemination and communication plan – M18	CIRCE	M18
Dissemination and communication plan	CIRCE	M6
Business Model Development	CAPENERGIES	M14
RRI progress report - Month 12	UNIZG-FER	M12
FLEXIGRID KPIs Panel	CIRCE	M9
Stakeholders' common requirements report	UNIZG-FER	M9
Demo-Sites description and boundary conditions report	UNICAN	M9
FLEXIGRID Presentation	CIRCE	M12
FLEXIGRID 1st Poster	CIRCE	M12

2.3 Public engagement

To engage the public in the decision-making process of FLEXIGRID project, a series of RRI events is planned in M19, M31 and M43. The goal of these events is to be in line with RRI guidelines by including a wide variety of stakeholders and addressing as many policy agendas as possible. The events planned for the second year took place in M18 and M20 and are described below.

The events are planned in conjunction with work package 9, with an aim to transform the one-way communication that is the dissemination of the project into a two-way communication so to not only share the information about FLEXIGRID project, but also to collect useful feedback from the public.

The decision was made to integrate public outreach activities into the dissemination events of work package 9 and to include them in the agenda of each Steering Committee meeting. The events will consist of presentation of the project and a workshop during which the stakeholders’ feedback will be collected. Responsible for organisation of each event will be the partners from the country where the event will be hosted. Due to COVID-19 confinement measures the events are planned in the online form. During the second year of the project two events were organised.

The organisers will gather a group of stakeholders to participate in the event, prepare a presentation and a workshop and fill a report after the event. To prepare the workshop tools collected through RRI Tools project such as the ActionCatalogue (*ActionCatalogue - methods, 2015*) will be used.

2.3.1 Planning of the events

Three main components of the events are the participants, the topic and the workshop format. First, the topic and the participants are selected and based on the topic and the participants, the workshop format is chosen to ensure maximum applicability of its results.

The process of participant selection is done by the partner hosting the event. These events will be aimed at getting feedback from all stakeholders that recognise the value of the project

results. The partners are encouraged to use this event to collect useful inputs from the public on a task of the FLEXIGRID project they are responsible for. The selected group of stakeholders should be relevant for the current phase of the project and the tasks for which the partners hosting the event are responsible. The relevant stakeholders shall be selected from one or more of the following categories:

- Consumers (residential, commercial or industrial separately)
- Associations (professional and citizens', as well as energy co-ops)
- Equipment producers and vendors
- Research institutions
- Energy sector representatives
- Public bodies (market operators, regulatory bodies, funding agencies, etc.)
- Local authorities and policy makers

These are the categories used in the Stakeholder Mapping document for T2.2. The consortium will strive to cover all stakeholder groups during the course of the project.

The topic of the event is chosen in the same way as the participants. Event hosts shall decide the topic based on their organisation's role in FLEXIGRID project, aiming to collect as much useful feedback from the participants as possible.

The last step is preparation of the events. After the first decisions are made, the format of the workshop shall be decided. Optimal format will be decided by considering the participants and the topic, as well as the organisers and the venue. RRI events organised within FLEXIGRID will comprise the following three activities, spanning up to two hours in total:

- Survey
- Presentation
- Workshop

2.3.1.1 Survey

First, a survey is conducted to determine the participants' knowledge and opinions about the topic. The surveys will be short and ask only basic questions, taking up to 5 minutes of time. The results will be used to describe the group in the report and will make the results and conclusions reached at different events comparable. It will also be possible to use this survey to collect the stakeholders' feedback on specific topic prior to the event.

At the end of every event, a quality survey will be conducted through which the participants' satisfaction with the event will be assessed. The results of this survey will also be included in the report.

2.3.1.2 Presentations

After the survey is collected, the organisers will hold presentations to introduce the topic of the event. Besides preparing the participants for the workshop, the presentations will disseminate information about the project and fill the participants' knowledge gaps. The organiser of the event will prepare the presentation, considering the participants' knowledge about the topic. The presentations will not take up more than 5-7 minutes each.

2.3.1.3 Workshop

The main activity in the event will be a workshop. The workshop will take up to one hour. The main purpose of the workshop is to implement RRI into the event by collecting the stakeholders'

feedback and reaching out to the public. Structure of the workshop will be chosen depending on the group of participants, using tools collected through the RRI Tools project such as the ActionCatalogue.

2.3.1.4 Reporting

After the event, the organisers will prepare a report in which they will present the key results and conclusions of the survey and the workshop. The report will be submitted in a form of a spreadsheet and will be included in the RRI progress reports.

2.3.2 Events held in the second year

During the second year of the project two stakeholder events were held. The list of the event is given in Table 4. Dominant thematic element of RRI in both events was public engagement. The reports on the events can be found in APPENDIX A. Report on FLEXIGIRD's stakeholder engagement activities

Table 4 List of stakeholder events

ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Stakeholder online event	CIRCE	M18
Online panel discussion in Croatia	UNIZG-FER	M20

2.3.2.1 Stakeholder online event

The Stakeholder online event was organised by CIRCE as a part of the project's Steering Committee meeting with an aim of disseminating the project to the stakeholders. The event reached 12 stakeholders from industry, research institutes, energy sector, equipment producers and vendors and associations. The event was held online in the form of a virtual 3D event to maximise participants' engagement and draw the attention to the presenters.

Stakeholders who attended the event reported satisfaction with the results. The event has shown the benefits of disseminating the project to reach more stakeholders and make them aware of the functioning and advantages of this project and our work.



Figure 3 Screenshot of the Stakeholder online event

2.3.2.2 Online panel discussion in Croatia

The online panel discussion was organised in Croatia by UNIZG-FER and HEP-ODS in order to gather useful insights for Croatian demo-site. The title of the event was "How and why should

we contribute to creating a flexible distribution system?” The idea behind the event was to collect feedback from the consumers who might consider getting involved in flexibility services to the distribution grid operators. The Croatian demo-site’s UC5 deals with active consumers so this topic was considered by the organisers the best way to determine the applicability and usefulness of the FLEXIGRID results among the stakeholders.



Figure 4 Screenshot of the online panel discussion

The event was held in a form of online panel discussion with a moderator and three panellists. The event reached 42 stakeholders from various stakeholder groups. The panellists were chosen as representatives of three main stakeholder groups involved in distribution-level flexibility services:

- Service user, a DSO: HEP-ODS
- Service enabler, an aggregator: HEP Trade
- Service provider, a customer: DS Smith Belišće Croatia d.o.o.

The moderator led an active discussion among the panellist as well as taking the feedback from the audience. Each of the panellists presented their perspective regarding the development of flexibility services for distribution grid in Croatia. The general consensus was that there is an urgent need for higher involvement of end-users in managing their energy resources by increasing the number of consumers with access to smart grid solutions. The full set of questions asked by the moderator can be found in APPENDIX B. List of questions for participants in the Online panel discussion.

An opening survey was held among the participants to get the general overview of their attitudes toward offering their facilities for flexibility service provision. The survey consisted of two multiple-choice questions. 74% of the 35 participants who answered the first question “What would motivate you to offer your devices for outside control?” indicated lower electricity bills as the main motivation, followed by creation of positive public image for the company due to environmental awareness with 43% and financial incentives with 40%. The second question “What would demotivate you from offering your devices for outside control?” was answered by 23 participants. It has shown that main concerns are degradation of comfort (57%) and disruption of technological processes (43%), while the poor communication with service organisers features in about a third of the answers. The results are shown in Figures below.

What would motivate you to offer your devices for outside control?

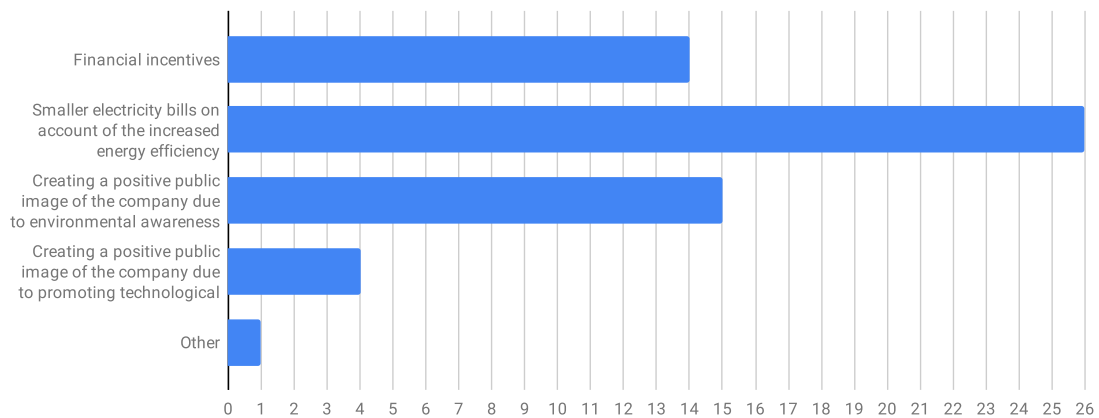


Figure 5 First question of the opening survey

What would demotivate you from offering your devices for outside control?

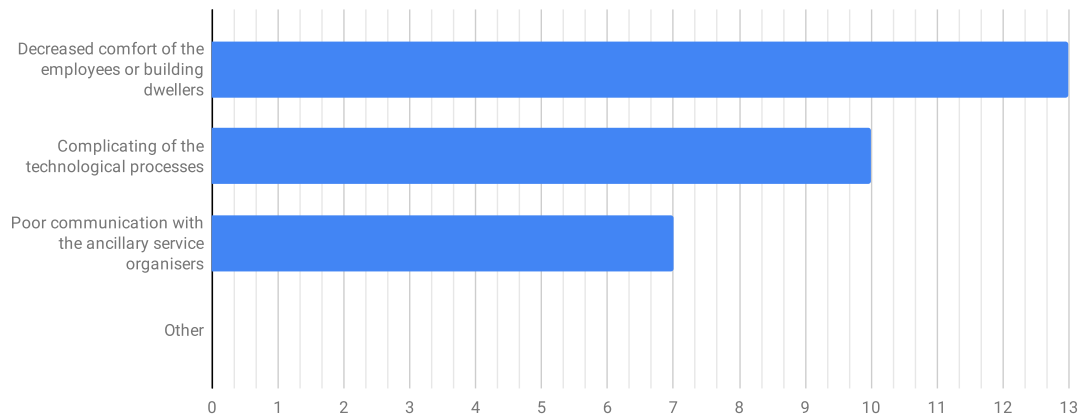


Figure 6 Second question of the opening survey

The survey results are in line with the conclusions reached during the live event. The consumers are willing to provide flexibility services to the grid but not to the point of disrupting the industrial processes in the plants. The panellist and the audience agreed that large changes are not necessary within facilities to provide flexibility services. The flexibility service providers tend to employ their existing flexible processes, such as using industrial behind-the-meter power production facilities to provide electricity for the industrial processes when the system operator requests that they stop withdrawing the energy from the grid.

Existing market rules and regulatory framework were indicated as the largest barriers to the development of flexibility services. However, the participants in the discussion agree that the legal framework in Croatia are developing in the right direction. The new developments in the area of flexibility markets were also pointed out as a positive factor. Regulatory framework is especially limiting for the distribution system operator who as a regulated entity has a lot to consider when forming flexibility service requests.

Many attendees also agreed that a stimulating financial incentive system is a prerequisite for their involvement in the flexibility service provision activities. This should be considered by the

system operators and by the flexibility service enablers such as aggregators when creating the flexibility service programmes.

The final questionnaire was held among the participants to determine the usefulness of the workshop. The participants answered one question: “How would you rate the applicability of this panel discussion to your future work?” Results, presented in Figure 7 show that a great majority of participants (94%) found at least some presented information useful.

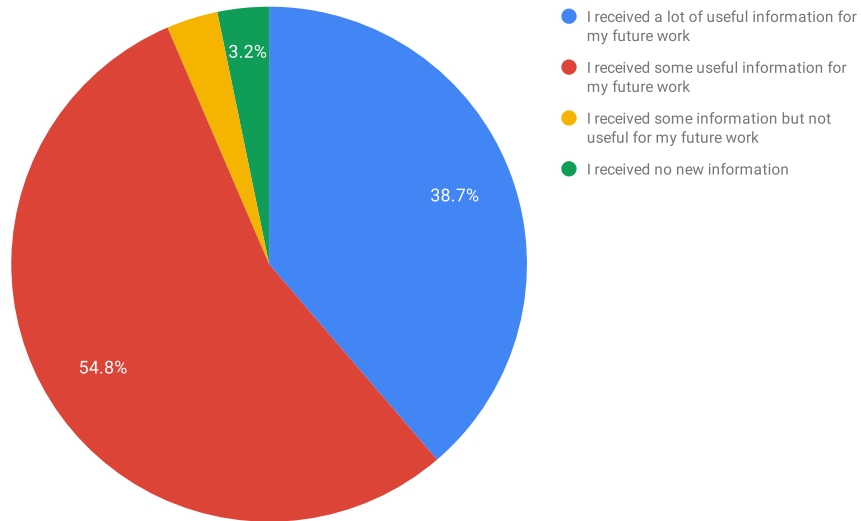


Figure 7 How would you rate the applicability of this panel discussion to your future work?

3 PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

After all the planning activities are finished during the first year of the project, it remains to organise the events and report on the results. The events listed in Table 6 will be structured as presented in the previous chapter. Table 5 shows actions in task 2.4 *Integration of the Responsible Research and Innovation approach in FLEXIGRID* planned for the rest of duration of the project.

Table 5 Planned actions in task 2.4 of FLEXIGRID project

ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Second round of RRI events	TBD	M31
RRI progress report 3	UNIZG-FER	M36
Third round of RRI events	TBD	M43
RRI progress report 4	UNIZG-FER	M48

3.1 The risk of COVID-19

The risk of COVID-19 pandemic continuing into the year 2022 is not negligible. For this reason, if the in-person events are still impossible to hold, the next round of events will be held online.

3.2 Open access

During the following year we will continue promoting open access-publishing and uploading the project's outputs to the Zenodo repository. We will also specify which of the project's outputs will be open access and what data will be shared with the scientific community through Zenodo. This will be reported in the deliverable D1.3 *Data Management plan*.

3.3 Public engagement

Planning of a round of RRI events is under way to be held in each demo-site country. The list of the events is given in Table 6.

The first of the planned events will be held in Spain at the end of October 2021. The event will be in the format of a panel discussion among the project partners based in Spain, with a diverse set of stakeholder attendees. It will take place in a high-capacity room with the number of attendees limited according to the Spanish government requirements. The remainder of the events will be planned during the next year and the venue will depend on the confinement measures in the hosting country.

Table 6 List of planned RRI events

ACTION	WHO	WHEN
RRI event in Spain	UNICAN, VIESGO	M25
RRI event in Greece	VERD	By M31
RRI event in Italy	EDYNA	By M31

4 REFERENCES

About RRI - RRI Tools (no date). Available at: <https://www.rri-tools.eu/about-rri> (Accessed: 2 September 2020).

ActionCatalogue - methods (no date). Available at: <http://actioncatalogue.eu/search> (Accessed: 3 September 2020).

5 APPENDIX A. Report on FLEXIGIRD's stakeholder engagement activities

Hosting partner	Stakeholder engagement activity	Date	Involved partners	Dominant RRI element	Language	Format of the event	Main conclusions	Local authorities	Industry	Research Institutes	General Public	Policy Makers	Energy sector	Equipment producers and vendors	Customers	Associations	Other	Total of stakeholders reached	
CIRCE	Stakeholder online event	26/03/2021	All partners	public engagement	English	An innovative 3D event was hold to discuss the project through a platform that allowed you to interact with the space and people around you as if it were a face-to-face event	Stakeholders who attended the event were very happy with the result. We need to continue disseminating the project to reach more stakeholders and make them aware of the functioning and advantages of this project and our work.	0	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	2	12	
UNIZG-FER	Online panel discussion	26/05/2021	HEP-ODS	public engagement	Croatian	Panel discussion (virtual) in MS Teams platform	<p>The panellists agreed on the urgent need for higher involvement of end-users in managing their energy resources by increasing the number of consumers with access to smart grid solutions.</p> <p>The results of these polls indicated which factors could encourage the stakeholders to make their equipment available to someone; there was a consensus regarding the need to reduce electrical energy expenses by improving energy efficiency, while many attendees also agreed that companies should offer money incentives as well as work on creating a positive public image by having greater ecological awareness.</p>	0	3	8	0	0	13	4	14	0	0	0	42

6 APPENDIX B. List of questions for participants in the Online panel discussion

QUESTION	FOR WHOM
1. How would you explain the concept of flexibility and ancillary services to colleagues/acquaintances who do not work in the energy sector?	All panellists
1. What activities, apart from the FLEXIGRID project, does HEP ODS carry out in order to enable flexibility providers to participate in the market on the one hand and to be a user/buyer of flexibility services on the other hand? 2. How do you see the cooperation of HEP ODS with the future aggregator? If we define the horizon for this to 2022, how would you assess the readiness of HEP ODS (or Elektra Zagreb) to define and contract ancillary services with end users/aggregators?	HEP-ODS
1. Can you to give us a point view of the HEP Group on the development of flexibility services in Croatia? What services do you anticipate being offered to end users in the near future, what obstacles need to be removed and what is the role of the HEP Group (especially HEP Trade) in this process? 2. A prerequisite for the participation of "small" end users of the network in the provision of flexibility services is aggregation. How do you see the role of aggregators in the future power system?	HEP Trade
1. Your firm is one of the first providers of flexibility services in Croatia, outside of the HEP Group. How did you decide on that, what motivated you and what are your experiences so far? 2. What changes did you have to implement to become a flexibility service provider? Do you expect that these changes/interventions will become more complex the more services you can provide in the offer/market? Have you or would you consider becoming part of an aggregator portfolio and if so - what do you expect from such an entity?	Belišće
1. Which of the changes that our panellists mentioned do you think you would easily implement in your existences/facilities and would you be ready for it (if so within what period)? Have you or would you consider becoming a part of an aggregator portfolio and if so - what do you expect from such an entity? 2. If/when you decide to provide flexibility services by your facilities - what do you think will be the biggest obstacles and what are the tips/suggestions for their removal?	Audience