

16 December 2020

Subject: Invitation to Participate in International Knowledge Exchange Project on Regulatory Sandboxes for Smart Grids

International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN) is a Technology Collaboration Programme (TCP) for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids within the International Energy Agency (IEA). It is also an initiative of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM). ISGAN was formally established at the 2nd CEM meeting in Abu Dhabi, in 2011.

Bringing together 25 countries and the European Commission, ISGAN creates a strategic platform to support high-level government attention and action for the accelerated development and deployment of smarter, cleaner electricity grids around the world.

Building on the successful [ISGAN Knowledge Transfer Project \(KTP\) in 2019](#), involving more than 20 countries, and subsequent work on regulatory sandboxes in collaboration with [ETIP-SNET](#)¹ we invite you to participate in a follow-up project to capture recent developments and to support countries in their development of such regulatory instruments, which are key to enable upscaling and deployment of smart grid and energy system innovation. In this project representatives from four² ISGAN annexes join forces.

Project objective

The objective of the project is to facilitate a structured and learning-focused knowledge exchange on sandbox programs and similar measures of regulatory experimenting in different countries.

¹ European Technology & Innovation Platform – Smart Networks for Energy Transition

² Annex 2 (Case Studies), Annex 4 (Policy Insights, Annex 7 (Transitions) and Annex 8 (ISGAN Academy)

Regulatory Experimenting and particularly Regulatory Sandboxes has become a hot topic over the last years, not only in the field of energy but also in other areas, such as finance, transport, health etc. It has reached the highest political attention, as shown by the recent European Council communication on [“Regulatory Sandboxes and Experimentation Clauses as tools for an innovation-friendly, future-proof and resilient regulatory framework”](#).

Implementing such strategic goals leads to the question of how to best design regulatory sandbox programs with appropriate measures of regulatory experimenting. One key element already identified in the first ISGAN Regulatory Sandboxes project is the use of multi-level learning processes. Learning can take place at multiple levels of policy making (legislative processes, regulatory innovation, research and innovation processes). It also needs to take place at different stages in the implementation, ranging from the advisory and clarification phase, during the experiment phase, and finally ex-post reflections on what worked and what did not work.

All this has high potential to develop better solutions and legal frameworks for the energy transition as well as support functions of regulatory bodies.

The aim of ISGAN Regulatory Sandboxes 2.0 is to facilitate learning about what works and what can be improved in the design, implementation, and reflection of regulatory sandboxes.

Although focusing on sandboxes, we will also consider forms of regulatory experimenting such as pilot-regulation, with a view to accelerate adoption of innovative regulatory instruments.

The knowledge exchange on Sandboxes 2.0 is designed to facilitate dialogue amongst national policy makers in ministries and agencies in charge of climate & energy policy, innovation policy; regulatory bodies; R&D funding agencies; law makers; researchers and innovators. Furthermore, stakeholders from the international level such as Clean Energy Ministerial, Mission Innovation,

International associations of energy regulators, IEA and European Commission are invited to participate.

Anticipated results

Apart from the value created by country participation in the knowledge exchange itself, the project will also result in:

- Updated Case Book (or other type of ISGAN publication) on Regulatory Sandboxes³
- Policy Brief on Regulatory Sandboxes for the 12th Clean Energy Ministerial meeting (spring 2021)
- ISGAN Academy Open Dissemination Webinar to share key findings

Overview of knowledge sharing process

Two-level participation

To accommodate participation both from countries with a high level of commitment and interest in the topic (i.e. those with existing sandbox experience or with concrete plans to introduce such instruments) and those with a more general interest, we offer a two-level participation (see detailed description below);

- 1) “Deep-dive” interactive knowledge exchange and
- 2) “Light” participation.

Enabling involvement by key stakeholders at national level

In addition, we have designed a process to maximise participation from key stakeholders from the interested countries (see detailed process description below). This involves national workshops or meetings taking place in between international workshops in order to both capture important national interests and considerations and to build momentum around the issue, as well as to

³ Link to Case Book from the sandboxes project in 2019:

<https://www.iea-isgan.org/casebook-on-innovative-regulatory-approaches-with-focus-on-experimental-sandboxes/>

improve the knowledge flow between the international and national levels. These national workshops will be arranged independently by country representatives (in their own fashion) involved in the international knowledge exchange. Support and workshop design templates will be provided by the [ISGAN KTP team](#).

Two options for participation: “Deep-dive” vs. “Light”

“Deep-dive” interactive knowledge exchange

For countries that have a keen interest in the topic of regulatory sandboxes and either have concrete experience of setting up and running such programmes or are considering options to do so we offer a knowledge sharing process (see details in Annex 1) in several inter-linked steps, including:

- Introductory webinar on regulatory sandboxes
- Three international workshops arranged by ISGAN
- Three national workshops/meetings with key national stakeholders arranged between the international workshops. Please note that it is the responsibility of the national representative in the ISGAN project to convene and organise the national workshops/meetings, however the ISGAN KTP Team will provide support (workshop models and advice).
- If relevant; contribution with a case (or similar information) to the ISGAN publication on Regulatory Sandboxes
- Input to the Policy Brief to the 12th Clean Energy Ministerial Meeting
- Participation in ISGAN Academy Webinar to disseminate project findings

With a view to maximise the benefits of the knowledge sharing process and enable actionable learning results, we recommend that each country participates with 2-4 representatives in the international workshops. Ideally these persons have complementary competences and/or different roles with regard to regulatory sandboxes (e.g. Ministry, Funding agency, Regulator).

“Light” participation

For countries that are further away from planning or implementation of Regulatory Sandboxes instruments and/or do not have the required time to commit to the deep-dive interactive knowledge exchange option we offer a lighter version including:

- Introductory webinar on regulatory sandboxes
- If relevant; contribution with a case (or similar information) to the ISGAN publication on Regulatory Sandboxes
- Participation in ISGAN Academy Webinar to disseminate project findings

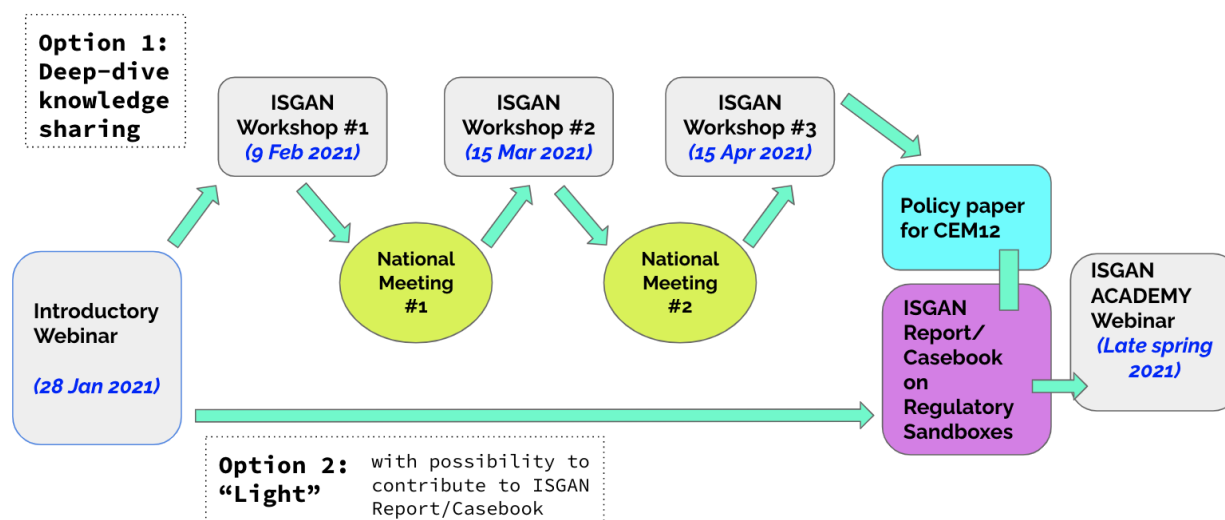
Time plan and Registration

Please find the project time plan and detailed process description in Annex 1. Please register for participation at the latest by **15 January 2021**, using this [LINK](#). Note that you may register for either of the options (see above) already now, but you may also decide option after the Introductory Webinar (28 January 2021).

The ISGAN Regulatory Sandboxes Team

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Annex 1: Process description



A. 28 January 2021, 13.00 - 15.00 (CET)

Introductory webinar for both Option A (Deep-dive knowledge exchange) and Option B (Light) :

- Scene setting (common understanding of basic concepts)
- Insights from recent work (incl. ISGAN/ETIP-SNET collaboration)
- Examples from last ISGAN Casebook
- Explaining the focus topic for the project
- Explaining the knowledge sharing process and the two options for participation

B. Before 4 February 2021

Participants register to participate in either of the two options, "Deep-dive" or "Light" if not already done.

C. 9 February 2021 13.00 - 16.00 (CET)

Deep-dive Workshop 1 (international level):

- Recap of the first Sandboxes project (2019) and recent developments.
- Identify and explore questions and challenges in depth.

D. Before 15 March 2021

Deep-dive Workshop 2 (national level)

Arranged independently by each country team involved at national level, with support (workshop models and advice) from the ISGAN KTP Team

- Discuss the results of ISGAN Workshop 1 (“What does this mean for us in our country?”)
- Add insights from national stakeholders
- Identify questions for other countries in preparation for the next ISGAN Workshop
- Identify missing topics relevant for the country

E. 15 March 2021 13.00 - 16.00 (CET)

Deep-dive Workshop 3 (international level)

- Questions and answers between countries; sharing experiences and lessons learned – successes as well as challenges and failures.
- Idea generation for possible solutions to unsolved challenges

F. Before 15 April 2021: Deep-dive Workshop 4 (national level)

Arranged independently by each country team involved at national level, with support (workshop template and advice) from the ISGAN KTP Team

- Discuss the results of ISGAN Workshop 3 - “What does this mean for us in our country?”, “What is relevant for us in our Sandbox development?”
- Add insights from national stakeholders.

G. 15 April 2021, 13.00 - 16.00 (CET)

Deep-dive Workshop 5 (ISGAN level)

- Synthesizing the learning
- Opportunity for follow-up questions

H. (Date TBC)

Policy messages to CEM12 (the 12th Clean Energy Ministerial meeting)

- Prepared by ISGAN Sandboxes Team on the basis of insights from the project

I. (Date TBC)

ISGAN Casebook on Regulatory Sandboxes

- All countries (both Deep-dive and Light option participants) are invited to contribute with cases.

J. (Date TBC)

ISGAN Academy Webinar – dissemination of results

- In addition to Deep-dive and Light option participants, the Webinar will be open to a wider audience as well.

(K. Optional: national workshop to discuss next steps)