ICT for Energy Webinar

Date and Time: 18th September 2017 at 12:30

Venue: Room L1, first floor of ITU Montbrillant building

Aim:

The aim of the webinar was to promote discussion of the ICTs for ENERGY report which is in its final draft stage. This report was initiated at the Expert Group Meeting on Collaborating to Power the Smart Grids for Digital Growth, presented at the Regional Development Forum and opened for comments.

The Report aims to trigger further discussions on how ICT can effectively influence energy through the supply chain and vice versa. It is, in effect a call for action to all Stakeholders in ICT and energy sectors to reflect on the interactions and synergies, at business, policy, regulatory, infrastructure and technical levels, between the two sectors to explore new avenues of collaboration and optimize existing ones to their full potential.

Attendees:

Rene Arnold	ITU Expert - Head of Markets and Perspectives at WIK-Consult GmbH, **Germany**
Tomas Hruza	Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, **Czech Republic**
Lars Andersson	Solutions Architect Utilities, Ericsson, **Switzerland**
György Varjú	Budapest University of Technology and Economics, **Hungary**
Blanca González	Secretaría de Estado para la Sociedad de la Información y la Agenda Digital, **Spain**
Ingo Willimowski	Solutions Architect, Vodafone, **Germany**
Dirk-Olivier Von Der Emden	Senior Councillor, Office fédéral de la communication (OFCOM), **Switzerland**
Fabio Bigi	Ministry of Economic Development, Communications Department, **Italy**
Nancy Sundberg	Senior Programme Officer, RME, **ITU**
Hani Eskandar	ICT Applications Coordinator, **ITU**
Jaroslaw Ponder	Head of ITU Office for Europe, **ITU**
Phoebe Whitlock	Junior Research Analyst, ITU Office for Europe [rapporteur], **ITU**
Rosheen Awotar-Mauree	Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe, **ITU**
Jules Broutet	Remote participant moderator, **ITU**

Introduction

The introduction was given by Jaroslaw Ponder, the Head of the ITU Office for Europe, who stipulated what the context of ICT for Energy within the Europe Region was. He then handed over to Hani Eskandar, ICT Applications Coordinator.

Hani Eskandar

Hani Eskandar set out what the aim of the ICT for Energy report were, that is to draw awareness of the issues and to understand how changes can be made which will make a difference in developing and developed countries in different ways. He gave the example of developing countries being deprived of electricity and in turn adopting prepaid approaches to reduce the cost of debt collection fees. He also drew attention to the fact that convergence is happening with electric cars which allow consumers to become producers of Energy and feed their excess energy back to the main grid. He concluded by saying that the paper, authored by Dr Rene Arnold, outlines the changes needed in collaboration to take it forward and help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7).

The Presentation – given by Dr Rene Arnold, Head of Markets and Perspectives at WIK-Consult GmbH

1. SDG7 is set out as the main aim and also linked to other SDGs (2, 6, 8, 12, 13 and 15) and it is further explained how achieving SDG7 could benefit society further.
2. The energy value chain sets out how the Role of ICT can help achieve SDG7. Furthermore, ICT can help identify revenue losses which can be as much as 30-40%.
3. ENERGISE – A Horizon 2020 project was funded by the European Commission and was the targest study on cooperation between telecommunications and energy providers in the EU so far. The key outcome was the desicion making toolkit. The key learning from the project was that there are 2 major barriers to collboration and 5 types of cooperation.
4. The main barriers to collaboration are unclear regulatory frameworks and lack of trust and mutual understanding. These can be tackled by setting five clear targets for cooperation.
5. The fve types of cooperation are network operation, smart meter roll-out, infrastructure sharing, joint deployment and new products and services (these are all described in further detail on p.12-13 of the paper).

Comments on the Presentation

Nancy Sundberg, Senior Programme Officer (RME), said that based on the feedback from stakeholders, there is a need for greater trust and clearer regulatory frameworks to foster collaboration between both sectors. Regulators have a role to play to balance the needs of each sector and strengthen collaboration. A new policy approach would allow collaborative approaches to cross sectoral issues for this to become the norm. She also stated that the next GSR, would provide a good opportunity for energy stakeholders to come and talk with telecommunications stakeholders notably as part of the collaborative regulation approach or G5 regulation concept.

Questions and Answers

Lars Andersson, Solutions Architect Utilities from Ericsson, said that as more cooperative regulation and joint models are mentioned as cost cutting, could this become a kind of horizontal regulation? Hani Eskandar responded that there are specific areas where countries can start making progress and there is no need to wait for a complete and comprehensive strategy e.g. finding current and quick solutions to increase access to Energy and the acceptance of legal pre-payment methods such as pre-paid cards. There are further potential opportunities for collaboration in developing countries such as adopting regulatory framework conditions, embracing best practice applications and taking preventative steps where business is being taken away by third party players.

Dirk-Olivier Von Der Emden, Senior Councillor from OFCOM Switzerland, said that there must be a demonstrated need or deficiency of the market (e.g. the market is distorted not achieving its goals) before you start to regulate. There needs to be convergence and cooperation to identify aspects where actors in the market are not achieving goals that economy left to itself would not achieve e.g. smart meter pricing.

A draft version of ICT for Energy Paper is available on the ITU webpage for more comments and questions.