# Smart Energy Carriers for Smart Energy Technologies: Potential for EU-EaP Co-operation

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## Setting the scene ...

- Common goals/barriers shared by EU EaP countries in energy policy
- Safe, secure and environmentally-friendly energy supply
- Sustainable combustion of conventional and alternative (renewable) fuels

• Challenge: Fuel flexibility of energy conversion technologies, minimization of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and adjustment of distributed energy production.

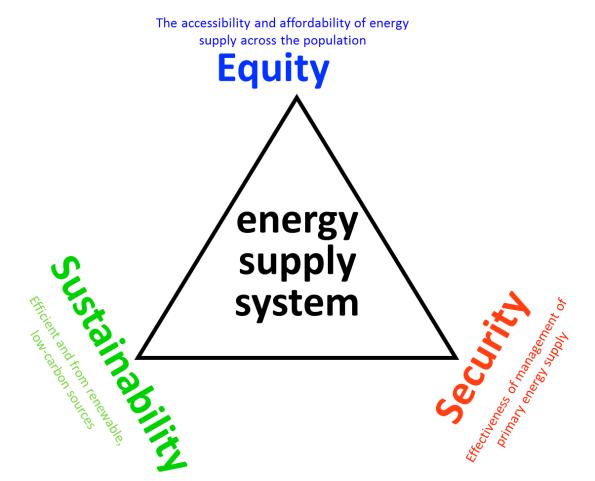
• Approach: Technological development through Research and Innovation







# **The Energy Trilemma**



• A new energy production and distribution system based on smart grid concepts and utilizing Smart Energy Carriers (SEC).

• SECs are conventional and novel energetic molecules from conventional or alternative (re)sources selected on the basis of their best-available production and/or utilization technologies.

• SECs are strong candidates as possible solutions for energy storage, transfer and transformation form renewable (local) sources (wind, solar, biomass, waste).



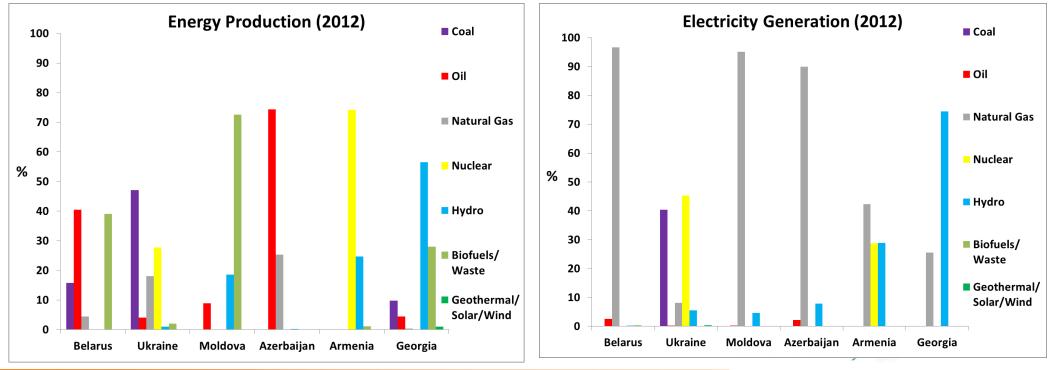




## The EaP Energy Map

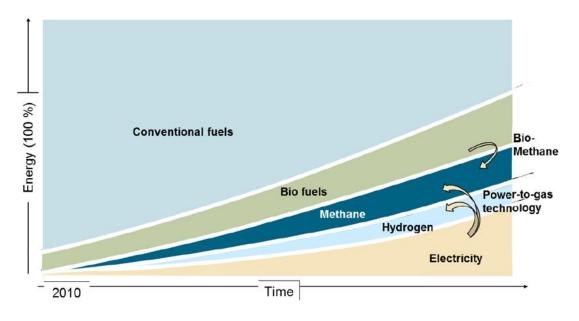


- With the exception of Azerbaijan, all EaP countries are to a certain extent dependent on the import of external energy sources (gas and oil).
- The share of renewables in both total primary energy sources and electricity production is extremely high in Georgia due to hydropower, while it is moderate in the other EaP countries.
- The share of agricultural sector is high in most EaP countries.



# **Smart Energy Options for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

- Alternative, decarbonized fuels for 60% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2050.
- Higher process efficiency leading to clean environment and resource protection.



#### Challenges

- Parallel optimization of **energy carrier production** pathways and **power/propulsion technology**.
- High quality **residual-derived biofuels** and **power-to-fuel** options.
- Advanced combustion systems optimized for harmonized fuel qualities.
- Harmonized Europe-wide infrastructures.

Energy Roadmap 2050, COM(2011) 885

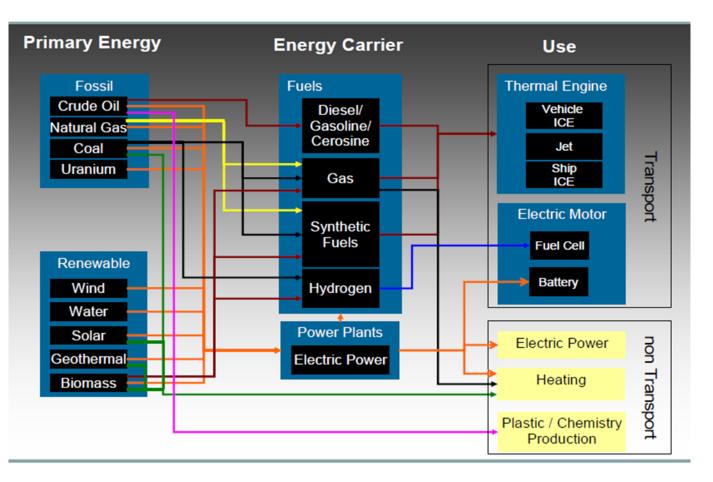
European Roadmap, Future Light-duty Powertrain Technologies and Fuels, ERTRAC 2011







# **Smart Fuels for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**



### **CO<sub>2</sub> Mitigation/Utilization**

- Power-to-fuel
- Solar fuels

#### **Residual-derived biofuels**

•Gaseous (bio-) fuels: CNG, LNG, (Biogas, Biomethane)

- On the edge of sustainability: Methanol & DME
- Biofuels (First-, second- and third-generation biofuels)
- Synthetic liquid fuels: xTL
- Waste-to-fuel









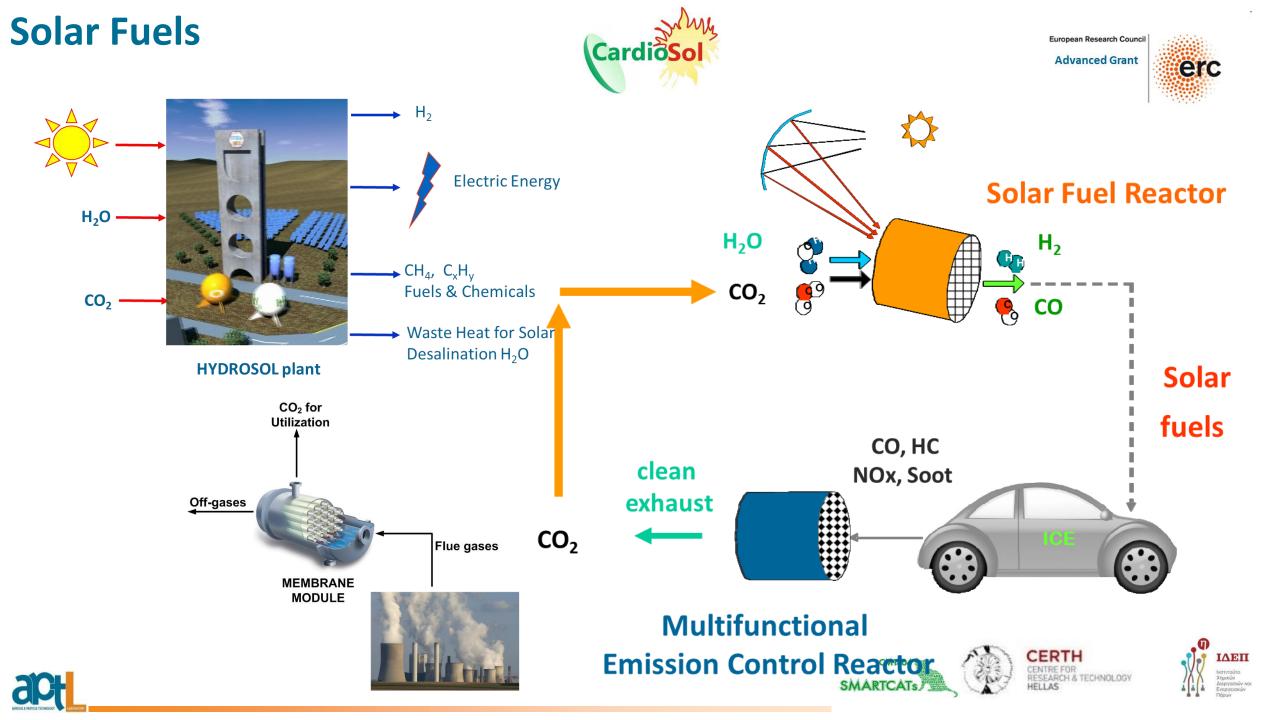
# **Smart Fuels for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

	Advanced Biofuels					<b>Conventional biofuels</b>
	Basic & applied R&D		Demonstration		Early commercial	Commercial
Bioethanol			Cellulosic ethanol			Ethanol from sugar and starch crops
Diesel-type biofuels	Biodiesel from microalgae, Sugar-based hydrocarbons		BTL diesel		HVO	Biodiesel (transesterification)
Other fuels and additives	Novel fuels (e.g. furanics)		Biobutanol, DME, Pyrolysis-based fuels		Methanol	
Biomethane			Bio-synthetic gas			Biogas (anaerobic digestion)
Hydrogen	Novel routes	Gasification with reforming		Biogas reforming		



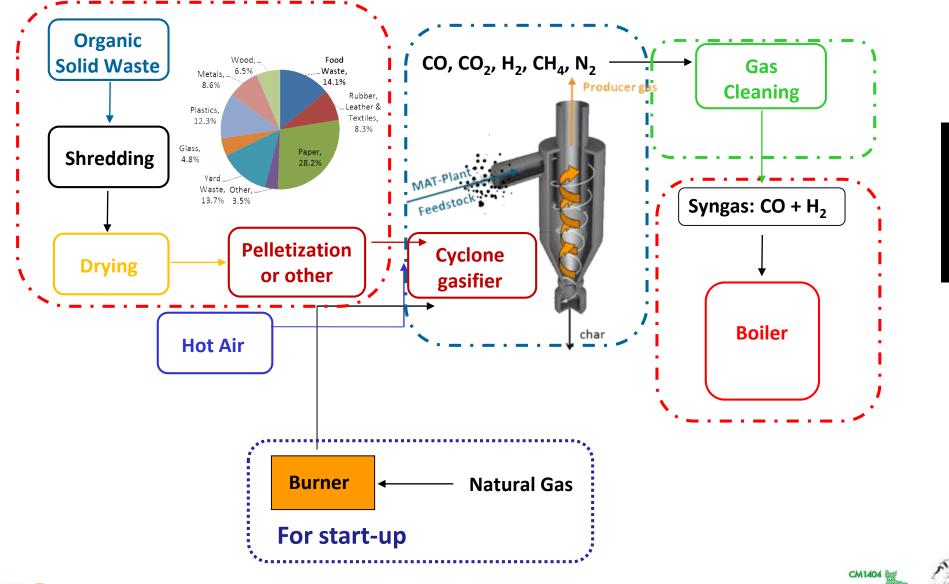


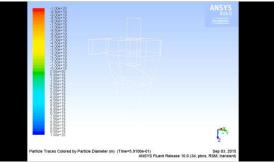




### Waste-to-Fuels

90









**SMARTCATs** 





# Solid Biofuels: Infrastructure – The uP-running H2020 Project

Motivation

- Agricultural wood prunings currently left on the field, burned in open fires or shredded for mulching
- EU28 potential: 28 Mt/y, capacity to put an extra 10% to the European solid biofuel market
- Social impacts in line with rural development strategy
- Continuation of FP7 EuroPruning project focusing mostly on technical aspects of prunings' logistics

Project team

- Coupling of 1 technical + 1 agrarian partner in four countries with high pruning potential: Spain, Italy, Greece, Ukraine
- Agrarian partners in 3 outreach countries: France, Portugal, Croatia

Project aims

- Overcoming unwillingness / scepticism / ignorance of farmers by demonstrating potential and real cases of utilization
- Supporting the start-up of new sustainable chains at local and regional scales
- Building capacities of agrarian associations to provide consultancy to farmers for future projects
- Engaging key stakeholders (final consumers, technology owners, machinery builders) and authorities



Project data

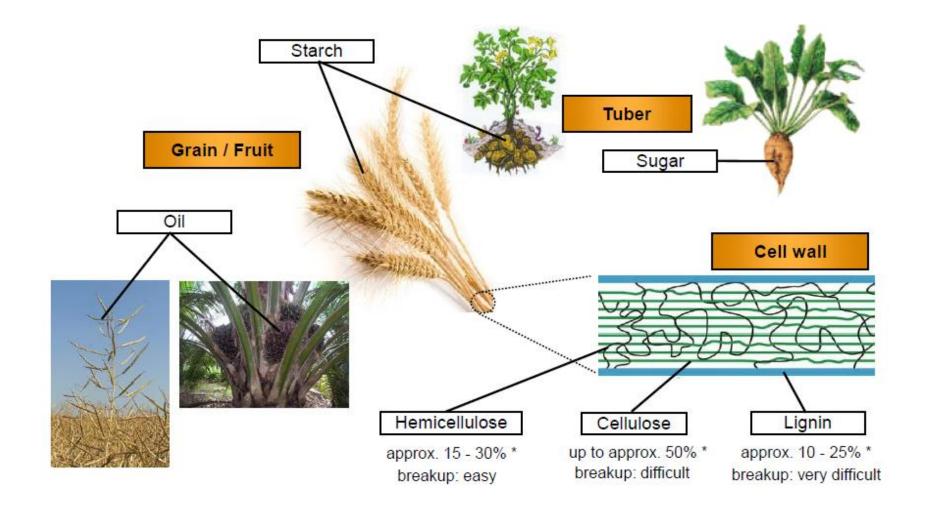
- Project Coordinator: CIRCE (Spain)
- Duration: January 2015 June 2019
- Budget: 1,992,916 €
- Funded by the Horizon2020 Programme







## Liquid Fuels: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Biofuels



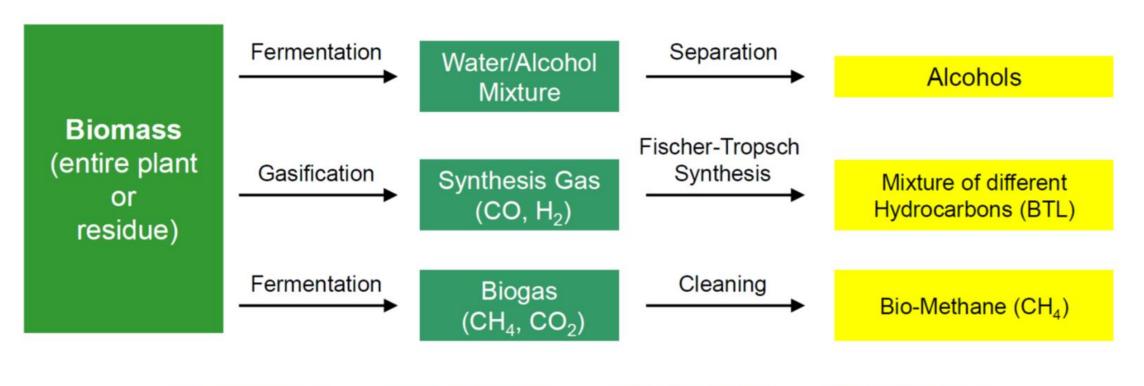
FEV (2012)







# Liquid Fuels: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Biofuels





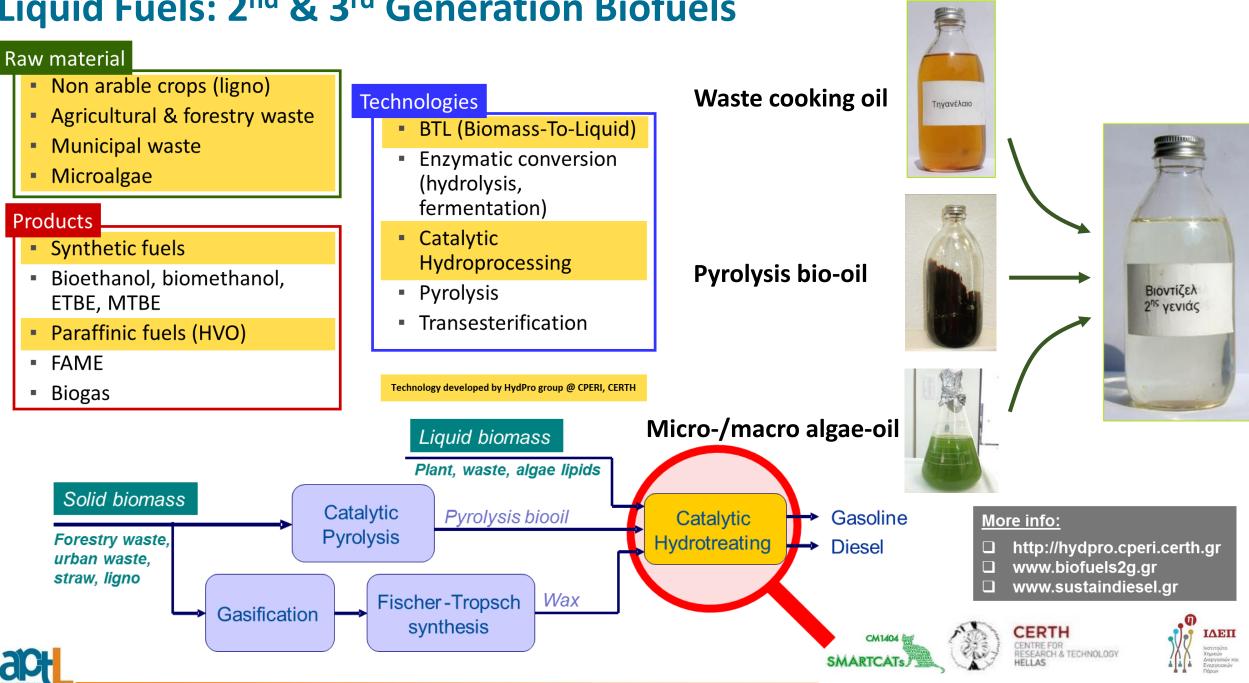








# Liquid Fuels: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Biofuels





Founded in Brussels in 1971 by Ministerial Conference of 19 European states, COST is the first and widest European intergovernmental framework for transnational Cooperation in Science and Technology

For more than 40 years COST has supported networking of research activities across all its 36 Member countries and beyond

COST is open to all disciplines and all novel and ground-breaking S&T ideas, and to all categories of partners where mutual benefit is real

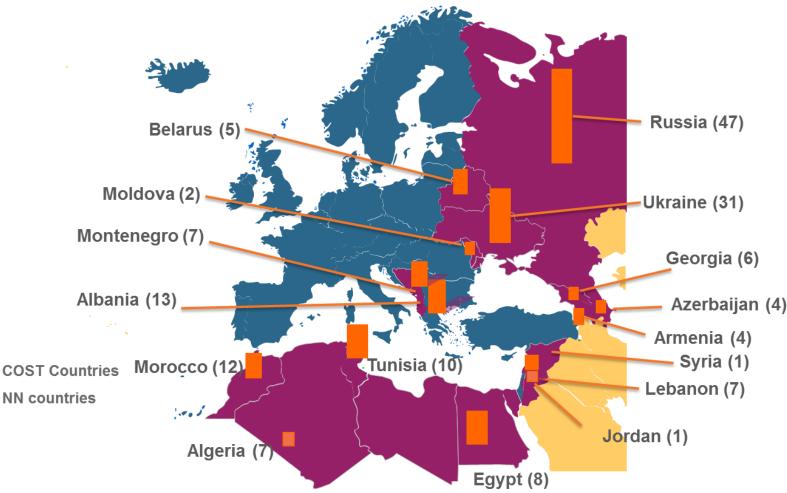








# **Near-Neighbour Countries (NNC)**



• COST allows the participation of researchers, engineers and scholars from European and non-European countries, other than Members or Cooperating State of COST, in COST Actions and other activities with the aim to foster the dialogue and cooperation with key actors in the European and global science and technology scene on the base of ascertained mutual benefit (incl. all EaP countries).

Researchers affiliated to institutions from NNC
(4) can participate in any activities of a COST Action (incl. STSM).

• Training schools may be allowed in NNC on a case by case basis if relevant to the topic of the Action and proved that there is an added value to the COST Action.









# CHEMISTRY OF SMART ENERGY CARRIERS AND TECHNOLOGIES: A EUROPEAN COST NETWORK



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## The SMARTCATs COST Action



#### Smart Energy Carriers (SECs)

novel AND conventional energetic molecules

increasing in number and typology



alternative or conventional (re)sources



increasing in number and typology

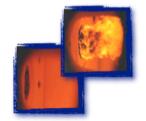
#### SECs features:

exploiting many and diverse sources

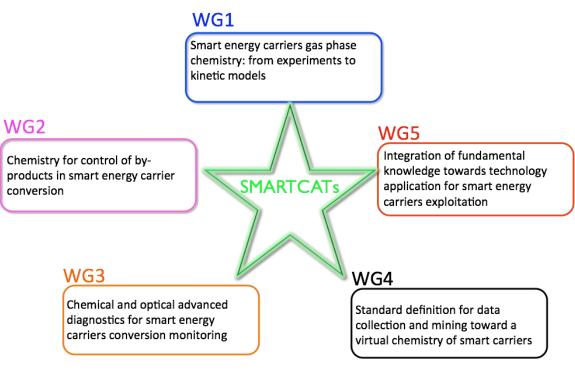
providing the most suitable energy mix for the end-use technology energetically and CO<sub>2</sub> efficient on the basis of used technologies

advanced processes and technologies





The SMARTCATs COST Action aims to set-up a Europe-wide network of leading academic and research institutions and key industries to promote the use of smart energy carriers on a large scale in order to increase fuel flexibility and carbon efficiency of energy production and to support distributed energy generation strategies.















#### **NETWORKING TOOLS**

#### Workshops, meetings, conferences

Meetings are organised in any COST country participating in the network. They can be of different types, such as Management Committee meetings, Working Group Meetings, Workshops and Conferences. They are open to the whole scientific community and provide visibility opportunities for the COST Action. COST contributes to the travel and subsistence costs of participating scientists, and to the organisation costs of the meeting (1<sup>st</sup> SMARTCATs General Meeting, Thessaloniki, Greece, 8/2015, Workshop on Smart Energy Carriers for Power, Industry and Engines, Thessaloniki, Greece, 8/2015, 2<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting, Lisbon Portugal, 9/2016, Workshop on Smart Energy Carriers in SMEs, 2016)

#### • Training schools

Training Schools provide intensive training in emerging research topics within the laboratories and organisations involved in the COST Action. Participants are mainly, but not exclusively, young researchers involved in COST Actions. (**Training school on uncertainty analysis of SECs kinetic mechanisms, Budapest, Hungary, 6/2015**).

#### Short Terms Scientific Missions

Short-term scientific missions (STSM) are exchange visits between researchers involved in a COST Action, allowing scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another COST country. They are aimed at fostering collaboration, sharing new techniques and infrastructure that may not be available in other participants' institutions or laboratories. STSM are intended especially for young researchers.

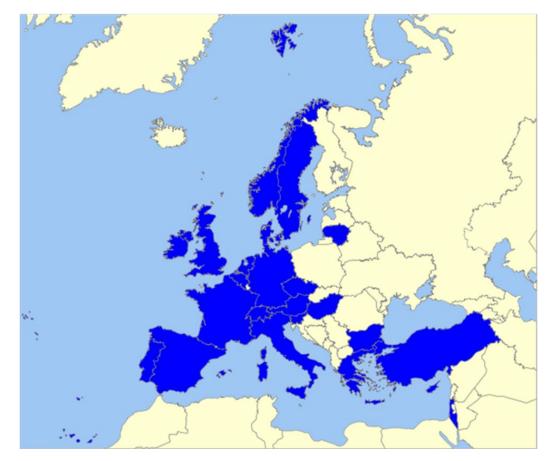






# The SMARTCATs COST Action













## Energy Targets in H2020 WP 2016-17 Programme

HORIZ ON 2020

• Energy Efficiency: High efficiency conversion devices represent elements of a higher efficiency portfolio

• **Renewable Energy**: Traditional RES (solar, wind, hydro) but also biogenous fuels (biogas, bio-syngas, bio-fuels) and new synthetic vectors (H<sub>2</sub>, synthetic natural gas, etc)

• Carbon capture, storage and utilization: Mitigation of  $CO_2$  emissions (related to efficient energy conversion devices and improved adoption of RES fuels) and  $CO_2$  recovery and utilization

• Smart grids: Large topic, in which several technologies are included (energy storage, ICT intelligence of the grid, etc), among which the concept of distributed CHP plants has an important role.





## Conclusions

- Address challenges and needs common in the EU-EaP nexus.
- Highly efficient low-carbon, fuel-flexible energy production technologies coupled with short- and medium-term emission containment adjusted to distributed energy production.
- Explore synergies/cooperation in Research and Innovation projects for technological development.
- Exploit EU financial /networking tools (Horizon 2020).





