

# Deliverable 2.4

REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE EIGHT R&I  
ACTIVITIES AND THE REALISATION OF THE  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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# REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE EIGHT R&I ACTIVITIES AND THE REALISATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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**Project's name: IMPACTS9.** IMPACTS9 is a Horizon 2020 project (Coordinated and Support Action) funded by the European Commission for 3 years (from 1 May 2019 until 30 April 2022). Its purpose is to accelerate the progress realised within the CCUS SET-Plan and to support delivery of the R&I activities in the CCUS Implementation Plan.

<https://www.ccus-setplan.eu/>

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## Table of contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Introduction.....  | 3  |
| The SET-Plan .....   | 3  |
| The CCUS SET-Plan.....   | 3  |
| The European Green Deal .....  | 3  |
| Report on progress on delivery of the eight R&I activities and the realisation of the Implementation Plan... | 5  |
| Achievements .....   | 6  |
| 1. Assessing and updating the 10 original CCUS Implementation Plan targets .....                             | 6  |
| 2. Increased engagement and coordination with other CCUS platforms and projects .....                        | 6  |
| 3. Exploiting in full the outcomes and the work itself.....  | 7  |
| 4. Engagement activities and building awareness .....  | 7  |
| 5. Contributing to policy/funding frameworks for CCUS development and deployment.....                        | 8  |
| 6. Progress of the eight activities .....  | 8  |
| Conclusions.....   | 13 |



### CONTACT DETAILS

## Introduction

### The SET-Plan

The [European Strategic Energy Technology Plan \(SET-Plan\)](#) aims to accelerate the deployment of low-carbon technologies, improve new technologies and bring down costs by coordinating national research efforts. The SET-Plan brings together EU countries, the European Commission, industries, and research institutions. The SET-Plan defined ten priority areas, covering a wide range of sectors including CCUS, wind, solar, geothermal, renewable heating and cooling, biofuels, etc. The Implementation Working Group 9 (CCUS SET-Plan) has been established to help the progress of Research and Innovation (R&I) activities required to achieve the 2020 targets for CCS and CCU agreed by the European Commission, SET-Plan countries, and industry.

### The CCUS SET-Plan

The [CCUS SET-Plan](#) is composed of 11 SET-Plan countries (Czechia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, The Netherlands, Turkey, Spain, Sweden and the UK), industrial stakeholders, non-governmental organisations, and research institutions. The work is chaired by the Netherlands, Norway, and the Zero Emissions Platform.

Reaching climate neutrality by 2050 will require major efforts from all economic sectors and European society. Higher climate goals mean that all low-carbon technologies under the European Commission's SET-Plan will be crucial in contributing to the transition to a climate neutral economy by 2050 and to accelerate knowledge development as well as technology transfer and up-take. CCS and CCU will play an important role in the delivery of climate neutrality by 2050, enabling a cost-efficient trajectory towards a low-carbon economy with EU's climate objectives.

### The European Green Deal

As part of the [European Green Deal](#) workplan, the European Commission has announced new initiatives – such as the [European Climate Law](#), the [Hydrogen strategy](#), the [Industrial strategy](#) – and intends to revise existing pieces of legislation, such as the [EU ETS directive](#) and [TEN-E regulation](#). All these initiatives are key to ensure that more CCS and CCU projects are deployed in Europe, overcoming current barriers and securing more announcements such as the Longship project and funding awarded through the Connecting Europe Facility for Energy (CEF) programme to European CCS and CCU projects (Porthos, Athos, Antwerp CO<sub>2</sub>, Acorn Sapling, Ervia).

The European Green Deal, Europe's new growth strategy, set the legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, formally adopted in the European Climate Law. All economic sectors and member states will need to make strong efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This means that all low-carbon technologies with a scientifically proven role in achieving climate change mitigation should be developed and deployed. In this context, carbon capture technologies have been highlighted as necessary in



#### CONTACT DETAILS

# REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE EIGHT R&I ACTIVITIES AND THE REALISATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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order for Europe to reach climate-neutrality in all credible Integrated Assessment Models and scenarios (including the 1.5 degrees IPCC report and the European Commission Clean Planet for all, long-term strategy).

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## Report on progress on delivery of the eight R&I activities and the realisation of the Implementation Plan

An assessment will need to be undertaken on how effective the action has been towards supporting delivery of the R&I activities. Reviewing progress will help to identify actions that are required to realise the Implementation Plan.

The eight R&I activities:

1. Delivery of a whole chain CCS project operating in the power sector
2. Delivery of regional CCS and CCU clusters, including feasibility for a European hydrogen infrastructure
3. EU Projects of Common Interest for CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure
4. Establish a European CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Atlas
5. Unlocking European Storage capacity
6. Developing next-generation CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies
7. CCU Action
8. Understanding and communicating the role of CCS and CCU in meeting European and national energy and climate change goals



### CONTACT DETAILS

## Achievements

### 1. Assessing and updating the 10 original CCUS Implementation Plan targets

The new political landscape that followed the announcement of the European Green Deal and the European climate neutrality target by 2050, initiated the process to assess the 10 Implementation Plan targets for CCUS. [The assessment – where the whole European CCUS community participated with input and comments – resulted in the need to update 9 of the 10 targets.](#)

While the areas where the targets have been formulated remain relevant in the 2030 context, it became clear that climate neutrality by 2050 and an increased EU target of 50-55% GHG emissions reduction by 2030 called for immediate and substantial action to scale up CCS and CCU technologies within this decade and lay the foundations of CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure across the EU, requiring major efforts from all economic sectors and European society.

Based on this thorough assessment, [updated CCUS SET-Plan Implementation Plan targets by 2030 were defined](#) – also here engaging the whole European CCUS community for comments and input.

Engaging the European CCUS community and discussing with policymakers on both EU and national level was a great way of increasing visibility for CCUS technologies and the work of the CCUS SET-Plan. This could also be seen in the increased engagement from stakeholders in the Plenary meetings and the work itself.

### 2. Increased engagement and coordination with other CCUS platforms and projects

During the project timeline, stakeholder cooperation on CCS and CCU has increased considerably, including industrial and energy sector stakeholders, policymakers on EU level and especially from European Governments, as well as from the financial community.

The CCUS SET-Plan work – coordinated with the [Zero Emissions Platform](#) (ETIP ZEP) – to update and share information on European CCS and CCU projects – today more than 100 projects of which more than half are planning to become operational before 2030 (given the right policy frameworks and funding programmes). During the project's three year timeline, coordination with other IWGs, ETIPs, and other initiatives have also increased strongly. Many activities have been coordinated with the CCUS ETIP ZEP in order to maximise the reach to a multitude of different stakeholder both regarding input and dissemination of results: apart from CCUS projects, also on Energy system integration, input on R&I priorities and the Horizon Europe work programmes and partnerships, etc. Important to mention here is also the coordination with the specific Government Group that is organised by ETIP ZEP. Through this cooperation more than 20 European Governments are regularly engaged in meetings with these two platforms on the development and deployment of CCUS.

The CCUS SET-Plan has also, together with ETIP ZEP, prepared [specific guidelines for applicants of the next Coordination and Support Action \(CSA\) project within the CCUS sector](#) – describing a pathway towards the next three year grant period.



#### CONTACT DETAILS

# REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE EIGHT R&I ACTIVITIES AND THE REALISATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

There has been a strong cooperation also with the [CCUS Project Network](#), where an agreement was struck early regarding the two programmes' roles and responsibilities in this cooperation. There has also been active cooperation with several of the other IWG's, e.g. Energy Efficiency in Industry, deep geothermal energy, energy systems.

Also the global cooperation should be mentioned here, including information exchange, meetings and webinars, with the [Clean Energy Ministerial's CCUS action](#), [Mission Innovation](#), [Global CCS Institute](#), and CCUS stakeholder organisations from other continents.

### 3. Exploiting in full the outcomes and the work itself

The emergence and visibility of CCS and CCU technologies, and what is needed to progress and accelerate research and innovation (R&I) as well as deployment, has increased strongly over the past three-year period. This is highlighted clearly in Deliverables 3.1 to 3.8 – showcasing the eight R&I Activities – and in Deliverables 4.1-4.3 – showcasing funding, enablers and hurdles focused on the framework for deployment of the technologies.

Based on the updated CCUS 2030 targets and given the many policy initiatives on EU and country level as well as COP26 being organised in Europe, the CCUS SET-Plan also prepared a [CCUS Roadmap 2030](#). This roadmap identifies and stresses the actions that need to be taken by European and national policymakers and other stakeholders for large-scale development and deployment of CCS and CCU in the 2020s, building on the CCUS SET-Plan work and providing an overview of the status of the technologies today.

The ongoing CCUS SET-Plan work, the outcomes, results, and the European CCUS project development, have been actively communicated and discussed in many communication activities. These include webinars, workshops, conferences held with broader CCUS, energy and climate stakeholder groups, as well as meetings with policymakers on both EU and country levels as detailed in the next section.

### 4. Engagement activities and building awareness

Results from the CCUS SET-Plan work has been distributed broadly and used in many meetings with policymakers and other stakeholders on both EU and country level, as well as on the global level. The number of participants to the Plenary meetings has increased strongly during the project timeline and members of the project and the wider CCUS SET-Plan work has used the project's results in many conferences, webinars, and workshops.

Members of the project and the wider CCUS SET-Plan work have set up meetings with key policymakers on EU and country level. This has also been accelerated through the close cooperation with ETIP ZEP. Government representatives have constituted a significant share of attendees during the IWG9 Plenaries and enjoyed the opportunity of sharing best practices and coordinating R&I action within the CCUS SET-Plan Strategic Coordination Group.



#### CONTACT DETAILS

# REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE EIGHT R&I ACTIVITIES AND THE REALISATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Webinars, conferences, and workshops were also held – enhancing the visibility of CCUS among industry stakeholders, researchers, environmental organisations, and other members of the ever-growing community. An active presence in social media and on the web, as well as the continued delivery of newsletters across the Consortium members’ networks have only reinforced these outreach efforts.

## 5. Contributing to policy/funding frameworks for CCUS development and deployment

There are several existing European funding synergies that are coordinated in support of CCS and CCU, playing a key role in upscaling these technologies and representing an important first step in enabling these technologies’ potential to reduce as well as remove CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The CCUS SET-Plan has strongly contributed to further developing these funding frameworks for CCS and CCU development and deployment. Coordinated and coherent funding instruments and programmes on EU and Member State level are crucial for Europe to reach its climate targets. To help achieve its climate goals, the EU is trying to integrate climate action across the entire EU budget ([EU budget 2021-2027](#)), and there are several international and interregional partnerships cutting across both of these levels. The CCUS SET-Plan report ‘Opportunities for joint programming of R&I funding for CCUS’ outlines the main funding options available in Europe today.

The CCUS SET-Plan has actively given input on clear priorities for needed R&I for the European Commission in the Horizon Europe work programmes. The CCUS SET-Plan has also been instrumental in the preparation of the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP) Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). In the upcoming Horizon Europe work programme for 2023-24, there are three expected main calls relevant for CCS and CCU, on CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure, CO<sub>2</sub> utilisation and Carbon Dioxide Removal.

The CCUS SET-Plan has also contributed to policy frameworks, highlighting the need for and [the technologies’ role in the European Energy System integration](#), the reports on enablers and hurdles and recommendations, [the study on the role of CCS and CCU in European and global modelling scenarios](#), etc.

All this was also collected in the [CCUS Roadmap for 2030](#), where the aim was to give as clear as possible information to policymakers at EU and member state levels as well as projects, companies, and the finance community on what needs to be done in the 2020s for Europe to be on the right track to become climate-neutral by 2050, including:

- The role of CCS and CCU for a just and cost-efficient climate transition.
- The needed policy frameworks, business models, R&D&I, enablers, barriers to tackle, etc.
- A clear action plan for policymakers.

## 6. Progress of the eight activities

The progress made on delivery of the eight R&I activities and the realisation of the Implementation Plan has been explicitly described in the eight deliverables 3.1-3.8. Below is a brief overview per activity:

- **R&I Activity 1: Delivery of a whole chain CCS project operating in the power sector**



### CONTACT DETAILS

# REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE EIGHT R&I ACTIVITIES AND THE REALISATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The European approach to CCS is no longer whole chain projects but Europe-wide open access CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure, connecting clustered and stand-alone CO<sub>2</sub> capture projects in industrial and energy applications.

There is an increased interest for CCS in energy, in combination with biomass (Bio-CCS/BECCS) and waste-to-energy, and as an enabler and energy system balancing to support the integration of the strongly increasing amounts of renewable electricity. The CCUS SET-Plan target on a whole chain CCS project operating in the power sector has thus been updated to include the delivery of 10 commercial-scale CCS projects for clean, flexible power and heat generation (including waste-to-energy plants), complementary to increased renewable energy generation in the energy mix.

The need for early deployment of commercial-scale CCS projects is a key priority for Europe to reach climate neutrality by 2050. Today the number of European CCS projects has increased strongly, and we count over 50 market-ready projects ready to be deployed, as is shown in this [Zero Emissions Platform project map](#).

- **R&I Activity 2: Delivery of regional CCS and CCU clusters, including feasibility for a European hydrogen infrastructure**

The development of CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure to connect industrial ‘clusters’ with other CO<sub>2</sub> capture sites and finally to permanent CO<sub>2</sub> storage or utilisation sites and across international borders, is key to progress CCS and CCU in Europe. Such CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure can serve as the backbone for industrial decarbonisation, delivering carbon dioxide removals (remove CO<sub>2</sub> already in the atmosphere) and enabling the delivery of early, large quantities of clean hydrogen from reformed natural gas with CCS. The production of low-carbon hydrogen will rely heavily on the availability of cross-border CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure and need to be planned and deployed in parallel.

There is positive development to note in the growing number of CCS hubs and clusters which are planned around Europe. Norway, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands are at the forefront of the development; however, good progress can be noted also around other areas, mostly associated with projects that are seeking funding under the EU ETS Innovation Fund or benefit from the status of Projects of Common Interest.

It is important that cooperation across borders and with third-countries continues and is fully taken into account when developing legislation around CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure and CCS in Europe. R&I activities, both on technical matters and non-technical priorities, will be needed to support the progress on CCS in industrial hubs and clusters. In addition, funding opportunities should be made available and be coherent with the goal of climate neutrality.

- **R&I Activity 3: EU Projects of Common Interest for CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure**



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# REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE EIGHT R&I ACTIVITIES AND THE REALISATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The development of cross-border CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure projects that have been approved as Projects of Common Interest (PCI) is a real success story. These projects are crucial for the EU achieve its climate policy objectives and will pave the way forward for a European approach to CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage. The European Commission's latest lists of PCIs include more than several CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure projects for both investments and studies:

- Active cross-border CO<sub>2</sub> projects on the 4<sup>th</sup> PCI list: [CO<sub>2</sub>-Sapling Project](#), [CO<sub>2</sub> TransPorts](#), [Northern Lights](#), [Aramis](#).
- Active cross-border CO<sub>2</sub> projects on the 5<sup>th</sup> PCI list: [CO<sub>2</sub> TransPorts](#), [Northern Lights](#), [Dartagnan](#), [Poland—EU CCS Interconnector](#).

The TEN-E regulation has been revised, now also including CO<sub>2</sub> storage as part of cross-border CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure that can apply for PCI status and become eligible for funding through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The revision has also brought in provisions on support for projects connecting the EU with third countries, Projects of Mutual Interest (PMIs), that can also seek support through CEF.

## • R&I Activity 4: Establish a European CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Atlas

The IWG9 prioritised the establishment of a European Storage Atlas as a flagship activity to “assist project developers and relevant permitting authorities to prioritise the most prospective areas for both onshore and offshore CO<sub>2</sub> storage and will enable the design and development of transport infrastructure to be optimised.” The IWG developed a paper which set out some principles, summarising the potential objectives of the Atlas and proposes the uses and functionality that could be achieved. We have also described the governance and operating principles that might allow the Atlas to be implemented in order to meeting Target 5 of the CCS and CCU Implementation Plan: An up-to-date and detailed inventory of the most suitable and cost-effective geological storage capacity (based on agreed methodology), identified and accepted by various national authorities in Europe.

## • R&I Activity 5: Unlocking European Storage capacity

This revised target requires at least 15 CO<sub>2</sub> storage sites by 2030 in preparation or operating in different settings and recognises the need to urgently appraise the geological sites to meet increasing CO<sub>2</sub> capture rates from a range of applications across Europe. A number of priority actions have been identified:

- Support ‘pre-commercial’ storage appraisal.
- Determine where and how much storage appraisal is needed.
- Collaborate on storage appraisal to increase speed and reduce risks and costs.
- Oil companies should assess storage potential of their assets and fields.
- Test Injections should be undertaken in priority formations.
- Long-term and post-closure storage risks and liabilities should be addressed.



## CONTACT DETAILS

# REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE EIGHT R&I ACTIVITIES AND THE REALISATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- **R&I Activity 6: Developing next-generation CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies**

The activities of the SET-Plan allowed to identify a set of important guidelines for the development of the next-generation capture technologies. Achieving high capture rates, enabling carbon dioxide removal (CDR) schemes, and limiting emissions are some of the key issues pinpointed. The development of next-generation CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies will require a range of validation steps, from pilot testing up to commercial scale. The availability of accumulated experience from development and maturing of existing capture technologies can prove very helpful to advance CCUS deployment in Europe.

There is a large number of existing or forthcoming projects aiming at developing new capture technologies. A few technologies have already been demonstrated, a few more will be demonstrated in the short-term. Several low TRL technologies in development require robust funding mechanisms. This is fundamental to fulfil the need to ramp up the number of technologies demonstrated, with a strong focus on Bio-CCS, hydrogen, and industrial clusters. The technological development is essential to reduce the cost and energy requirements of CCUS and make it more attractive as an emissions reduction pathway.

- **R&I Activity 7: CCU Action**

The 7<sup>th</sup> R&I Activity of the CCUS SET-Plan concentrated on the development of CCU with two dedicated targets. It is safe to say that that the target on pilot installations has been exceeded. Funding at EU and national level and industrial collaborations have permitted to bring various CCU technologies (including capture) to the stage of pilot validation and beyond. Given the multitude of CCU technologies, considerable progress in novel and efficient capture systems, robust catalytic processes, mobile and modular systems for capture and conversion to different products, better knowledge of the quality of CO<sub>2</sub> streams, have been showcased by a number of [CCU projects](#).

The revised targets are more ambitious to align with EU climate goals and reflect:

- the on-going technological development of CCU pathways, to ensure that the relevant technologies can be demonstrated at relevant environments before investment in commercial operation (production volume at commercial scale would be specific to the type of product), and
- the importance of factors not only related to the technological dimension for commercialization of CCU technologies. Achieving these ambitious targets would require a concentrated effort in R&D development, policy support and funding.



#### CONTACT DETAILS

# REPORT ON PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE EIGHT R&I ACTIVITIES AND THE REALISATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Deliverable 3.7, *Recommendations on the steps required to deliver R&I Activity: CCU Action*, provides an analysis of the current situation and of the ways to go forward into realizing the goals of the CCUS SET-Plan on CCU.

- **R&I Activity 8: Understanding and communicating the role of CCS and CCU in meeting European and national energy and climate change goals**

Demonstrating the value of CCS and CCU technologies has been at the core for the CCUS SET-Plan, where many communication activities, events, and meetings with policymakers and other stakeholders have been organised. Information about the CCUS-SET-Plan and its work has been widely communicated and accessible also for the general public. As of 2022, almost all European countries have included CCS in their long-term strategies, in projects, or in funding programmes. Thus, it is crucial to preserve the strong momentum we see today, promoting sound R&I action for these technologies and highlighting win-win scenarios for decarbonisation that are within our reach today.

To better understand the role of CCS and CCU in meeting European and national energy and climate change goals, an external [study on the role of CCS and CCU in European and global modelling scenarios](#) was commissioned to provide evidence on the role that these technologies are expected to play in delivering a net zero Europe. The results were very clear, indicating that:

- CCS is essential for Europe to reach net zero,
- Europe needs a large-scale CCS industry to meet future targets,
- 230-430 MtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr needs to be captured by CCS in 2030 and approx. 1GtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr by 2050, and that
- bioenergy with CCS (BECCS) plays a key role in the modelled scenarios for Europe.

The output of the analysis is used to provide input to the work of the European Commission on the Green New Deal agenda as well as the national energy and climate plans being developed by Member States.



#### CONTACT DETAILS

## Conclusions

It is clear that coordination and support actions are crucial for the development and deployment of CCS and CCU in Europe. The SET-Plan work is indispensable – bringing together industry, academia, civil society, and policy makers at EU and National level. The work over the past three years has been successful, and it is crucial to continue the good work.

The development of CCS and CCU technologies is currently at a very critical stage. Following an ambitious series of climate policy announcements in July 2021, European policymakers are moving from declarations to design and implementation. The continued support for CCUS R&I will be crucial to drive down operational costs, while increasing investments by strengthening the business case of the climate transition.

The first CCUS Forum, organised by the European Commission in October 2021, marks an important step for the development and deployment of CCS and CCU, and the CCUS SET-Plan has laid out a clear direction for this decade in the CCUS 2030 Roadmap, outlining the steps required to unlock the climate mitigation potential of these technologies.

Most of these include Norway, as an increasingly important partner in the development and deployment of wind, hydrogen, and, importantly, CCS. The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, the UK, and more, count among these countries that have seized this geopolitical crisis as an opportunity to move forward in delivering decarbonisation. The EU must ensure that R&I efforts follow this momentum closely to sustain a positive momentum.

The European Commission has indicated the revamping of the SET-Plan, and the CCUS SET-Plan has already taken actions to assess the work and align targets and activities with the European Green Deal and the European Climate Law. The CCUS SET-Plan has also together with ETIP ZEP prepared [specific guidelines for applicants of the next Coordination and Support Action \(CSA\) project within the CCUS sector](#) – describing a pathway towards the next three year grant period.

Overall, the CCUS SET-Plan's action towards supporting delivery of the R&I activities has been very effective. These activities have set Europe on a good track and will prove instrumental in the efficient delivery of the Implementation Plan. It is thus recommended to continue coordination and support action on CCUS, to redouble ambitions when it comes to design and delivery, whilst maintaining an active focus on achieving climate neutrality before 2050 as mandated by the European Climate Law.



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