EDDIE PROJECT PARTICIPATED AT THE IEEE PowerTech BELGRADE 2023 CONFERENCE

28th July 2023, EDDIE Consortium

The EDDIE Project participated at the IEEE PowerTech Belgrade 2023 conference organized and co-sponsored by IEEE, PES and School of Electrical Engineering Belgrade – University of Belgrade, and was held in Belgrade, Serbia between the 25th to 29th of June 2023. During the timely panel session entitled 'Young Professionals Panel Session on Future Power System Workforce' of the event, Mr. Panos Kotsampopoulos of NTUA talked about "Emerging skill needs for the digital energy transition".

PowerTech stands as the principal conference hosted by the IEEE Power and Energy Society (PES) in Europe. It serves as a valuable platform where researchers and engineering professionals engaged in various aspects of electrical power engineering can come together to connect, communicate ideas, and present the outcomes of their scientific endeavours. The focal point of the upcoming IEEE PowerTech 2023 conference revolved around the theme of "Leading innovations for resilient and carbon-neutral power systems," warmly inviting both industry and academia to foster their partnership and spearhead transformative innovations in the field of energy.

Mr. Kotsampopoulos presentation related to emerging skill needs for the digital energy transition included the EDDIE survey to industry & education/training providers for the identification of skills gaps concerning the digitalisation of the energy sector, among other activities. In this Panel Session, a wide range of skills and competences were discussed, including technical expertise and knowledge (e.g., design/ modelling/ programming skills) required for many jobs in the power sector, during the digitalisation of the energy process. Therefore, the main results and findings of the EDDIE project with a focus on skill gaps identification for the digitalization of the energy sector have been presented while underlining the importance of transversal skills in the digital transformation.

Moreover, with regards to the skill gaps identification for the digitalization of the energy sector, it has been mentioned that the key areas that has skills gaps are related to data management and analysis, big data, cybersecurity and programming and development competences. The need for a new educational approach that may combine lectures with simulation, e-learning, laboratories is, therefore, required.
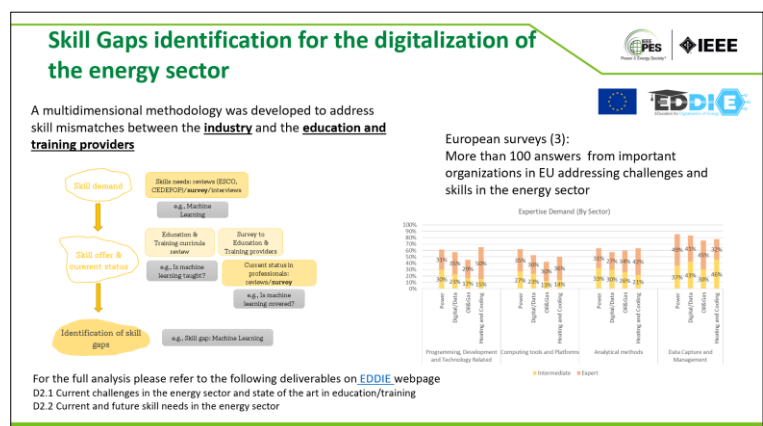
The main conclusions were that education needs to improve to ensure students get the right skills and knowledge required by industry. A systematic way of anticipating skill needs is important during the process as well.