EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Session 6 – Customers, Regulation, DSO Business and Risk Management

SUMMARY

The ambition of Session 6 for Geneva was to put focus on the following 4 areas represented throughout the Session 6 split into blocks both for the main session, round-table and poster tours;

- Policy regulation, integrated energy systems and the DSO role
- DSO business risk management
- Customer interaction, energy sharing, e-mobility and flexibility
- Digitalization, AI, business processes and cyber-security

Main sessions, round-tables (Session 6 has no RIF) and the poster tours were well visited with the primary highlights in 4 very good and over-crowded round-tables on the second day of the conference.

MAIN SESSION 6 - BLOCK 1

Policy regulation, integrated energy systems and the DSO role

Presented 6 papers comes from a mix of regulators, DSOs and research institutes. Specifically worth mentioning is the best young academic papers from Joonas Kari that represents the Finnish regulator. Attendance was good and questions was coming from both the audience directly and via the app.

MAIN SESSION 6 - BLOCK 2

DSO business risk management

Presented 6 papers with the focus on modelling network usage, hosting capacity, network development, climate impact and how to drive innovation. Again the attendance was good and all papers got more questions that time allowed for covering.

MAIN SESSION 6 - BLOCK 3

Customer interaction, energy sharing, e-mobility and flexibility

Presented 6 papers on personas, aggregating distributed batteries, EV, smart water heaters, usage of heat pumps and customer tools for PV and EV chargers. We are now getting close to the conference end so the attendance dropped slightly, but still 60-70 persons actively attended the session and asked questions to the authors.

MAIN SESSION 6 - BLOCK 4

Digitalization, AI, business processes and cyber-security

This was the last Session 6 block for the conference, but still active audience was there to listen and ask questions. The block covered 6 papers connected to smart meters, reference systems, cyber-security, open data, intelligent processes and digitalization of the DSO business.

ROUND TABLE

RT8 – Best practices on how regulatory aspects can accelerate the energy transition

This was an over-crowed round-table with 3 regulators and 2 DSOs presenting how regulation can provide the right incentives for investment, grid modernization and unlock distributed energy resources. The round-table got significantly more questions than could be managed within the timeframe of the round-table.

ROUND TABLE

RT10 – DSO key challenges and roadmaps

Roadmaps are developed in different contexts; EU wide, national and company specific. The round-table presented 4 roadmaps with different context and discussed both the overall need for roadmaps and also how to execute on the roadmaps. The round-table also tried an approach to make the panel ask questions for the audience to contribute to, however the topics got too narrow, which needs to be considered in coming round-tables taking the same approach. Again a well visited round-table with active dialogue with the audience.

ROUND TABLE

RT12 – Electromobility and DSOs: overview of international experiences and how to address the remaining challenges

This was a truly international round-table with panellists from many parts of the world. Discussions were active and we can both conclude that developments are constantly being made as well as there are remaining and new challenges. The round-table was very well attended and some in the audience were standing,

ROUND TABLE

RT13 – Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the DSO business

A very well attended round-table with several participants standing for the whole round-table. The panellists came from manufacturer, academia and DSOs sharing their experience and thoughts on how AI can support the DSO business. This is a very hot topic and the amount of questions received was way more than could be managed given the allocated time.

POSTER TOURS

Session conducted 8 poster tours (2 in parallel in each of the 4 blocks) throughout the first day of the conference. Participants were around 30 per tour and it was clear that the tours are an excellent introduction to further and deeper discussions between participants and authors.

CONCLUSIONS

The comments received during the conference indicate that the most popular parts of Session 6 in the conference are connected to the round-tables and poster tours. The main session was well visited, however the last day of the conference slightly affect the number of participants.

Also the topics of Session 6 trigger a lot of questions, much more than can be managed during the main sessions, round-tables and poster tours resulting a lot of off-the-schedule and bilateral discussions.