

Press release

smartEn report reveals limited demand-side flexibility growth in 30 European countries

Brussels, 20 March 2024: Yesterday, [smartEn – Smart Energy Europe](#) publicly [launched](#) the 2023 Market Monitor for Demand-Side Flexibility (DSF) report, in collaboration with [LCP Delta](#). This flagship publication offers a comprehensive, high-level summary of 30 European countries and the participation of demand-side flexibility in different markets, benchmarking their progress in enabling DSF.

For this year's edition, smartEn expanded the focus of the Market Monitor to include explicit demand response participation in wholesale markets, revealing the limited participation of DSF across Europe. Against the backdrop of a politically transitional year, this report serves as a crucial assessment of the obstacles that hinder the leveraging of demand-side flexibility's full potential.

Throughout the EU, stakeholders consistently report that access to markets for Decentralised Energy Resources (DERs) is being thwarted by multiple regulatory barriers, preventing them from valorising consumers' flexibility.

Commenting on the outcome of the report, **Michael Villa**, smartEn Executive Director stated: *“Despite the introduction of new EU rules in 2023 and the forthcoming Network Code on Demand Response, both of which aim to establish harmonised European approaches to activate flexibility from all consumers, the report reflects a stagnant situation. While more and more decentralised energy resources are being deployed, their flexible use is still lagging in many European countries. This is not due to low market interest, but by barriers on the ‘rules of the game’.”*

Jon Ferris, Head of Flexibility and Storage at LCP Delta added: *“The aspirations set out in the 2019 legislation have not kept pace with the growing capacity of renewable generation, or the emergence of the flexibility inherent in low carbon consumer technologies. The 2023 Electricity Market Design requires further integration of flexibility in the energy system, and its implementation by member states cannot take as long as the Clean Energy Package.”*

With the rapid deployment of electric vehicles, the need for DSF to ensure grid stability becomes increasingly urgent. In light of these findings, expedited implementation measures and a targeted approach to address existing barriers on both the national and the EU level are needed. Identifying and dismantling these obstacles through the network code for demand response is paramount to unlocking the full potential of DSF and ensuring a resilient energy future for Europe.

The full report is [available for download](#) on the smartEn website.

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About smartEn - Smart Energy Europe

smartEn is the European business association integrating the consumer-driven solutions of the clean energy transition. We create opportunities for every company, building and car to support an increasingly renewable energy system. Our membership consists of the following companies:

