Membership Impact for Research & Innovation Entities

Key Achievements in the Past 12 Months

Research and innovation potential remains untapped unless funding, standards, and market rules allow new technologies to be demonstrated, financed and deployed.

1. Ensuring access to funding and financing opportunities

- **Early visibility of Horizon Europe calls:** Through its TF Funding, Energy Storage Europe positioned members to prepare for upcoming Horizon Europe calls by providing advance information.
- **Dedicated EU heat funding for thermal storage:** Energy Storage Europe contributed to the design and scope of the Innovation Fund Heat-Only Auction (IF25, December 2025); a second €1 billion round is confirmed for the following year.
- **Consortium building:** Energy Storage Europe brought together energy storage providers and major industrial associations in dedicated match-making events, e.g. to build project pipelines ahead of the IF25 deadline (December 2025).
- **Training on EU funding:** members-only workshops on funding and financing opportunities from the European Innovation Council Accelerator, European Investment Bank, Horizon Europe and the Innovation Fund, with institutional speakers.
- **Letter of Support:** Members' projects were strengthened by Energy Storage Europe's letter of support sent to selection committees for EU funding projects.

→ *Members gain early visibility of EU funding mechanisms and direct access to partners for projects.*

2. More funding for energy storage

- **Strengthening the Multiannual Financial Framework:** Energy Storage Europe is working to ensure that the new European Union budget allocates ample resources to cleantech funding, in the context of a full restructuring of the EU R&I financial instruments.
- **EIB support for long-duration storage:** the Clean Energy Investment Strategy requires the EIB Group to step up venture debt and equity operations for LDES, including exploring dedicated investment funds. In addition, a "PPA Bank" is foreseen to be launched, providing counter guarantees.

→ *Members benefit from improved access to EU funding – whether for R&I, scale-up or deployment.*

3. Faster route from lab to market

- **Faster permitting for demonstrators and first projects:** public administrations would be required to permit energy storage projects within a maximum of two years under the latest EU proposal (EU Grids Package, December 2025).
- **Storage-specific grid connection guidance:** for the first time in EU legislation, connection would move from first-come, first-served towards priority-based connection that reflects storage's system value.

- **State aid better tailored to (long-duration) energy storage:** dedicated provisions in the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework, including more time to complete construction when receiving aid.

→ Shorter, more predictable permitting and connection timelines, and state aid rules tailored to storage would remove key barriers between research results and commercial deployment.

4. A stronger market case for new technologies

- **200 GW storage deployment target by 2030 in AccelerateEU (April 2026):** a politically endorsed demand signal against which to plan research and development.
- **New revenue streams:** Energy Storage Europe pushed for access to emerging system services and published "Ensuring System Stability: The Role of Energy Storage in Providing Inertia" (February 2026), which established the technical and commercial basis for remunerating inertia.
- **Fairer grid fees and taxation:** Energy Storage Europe influenced the European Union proposals on grid fees and taxation, which prohibit double grid fees, aim to reduce taxation and are expected to trigger legislative reviews in multiple Member States.

→ A clearer market case for new storage technologies helps research move from demonstration to commercial deployment.

5. Knowledge, data and networks

- **Market intelligence through EMMES:** the European Market Monitor for Energy Storage, updated twice yearly, tracks 3,000+ storage projects across 27 countries, with specific mapping of long-duration technologies.
- **Committees and Task Forces:** members take part in shaping Energy Storage Europe's positions on EU storage policy.
- **Visibility and networking:** opportunities to meet policymakers, industry leaders and investors, including at the Energy Storage Europe Conference.

→ Evidence on market size, technology mix and the deployment gap supports funding proposals, and a Europe-wide network opens doors to industry partners for pilots and co-development.

6. Relevant publications

- **Policy Options to Anticipate Europe's LDES Deployment** — January 2026. A coalition of eight organisations. Cited in Commission preparatory work.
- **Ensuring System Stability: The Role of Energy Storage in Providing Inertia** — February 2026. Established the technical and commercial basis for remunerating inertia.
- **Improving Permitting Procedures** — December 2025. Directly informed the EU Grids Package two-year deadline.
- **Grid Fees and Network Tariffs** — June 2025. Documented double grid fee treatment and is expected to trigger national reviews.
- **Guidelines on Safety Best Practices for Battery Energy Storage Systems** — April 2025. Industry standard for outdoor utility-scale BESS.
- **EMMES** — May 2026. Tracks 3,000+ storage projects across 27 countries.