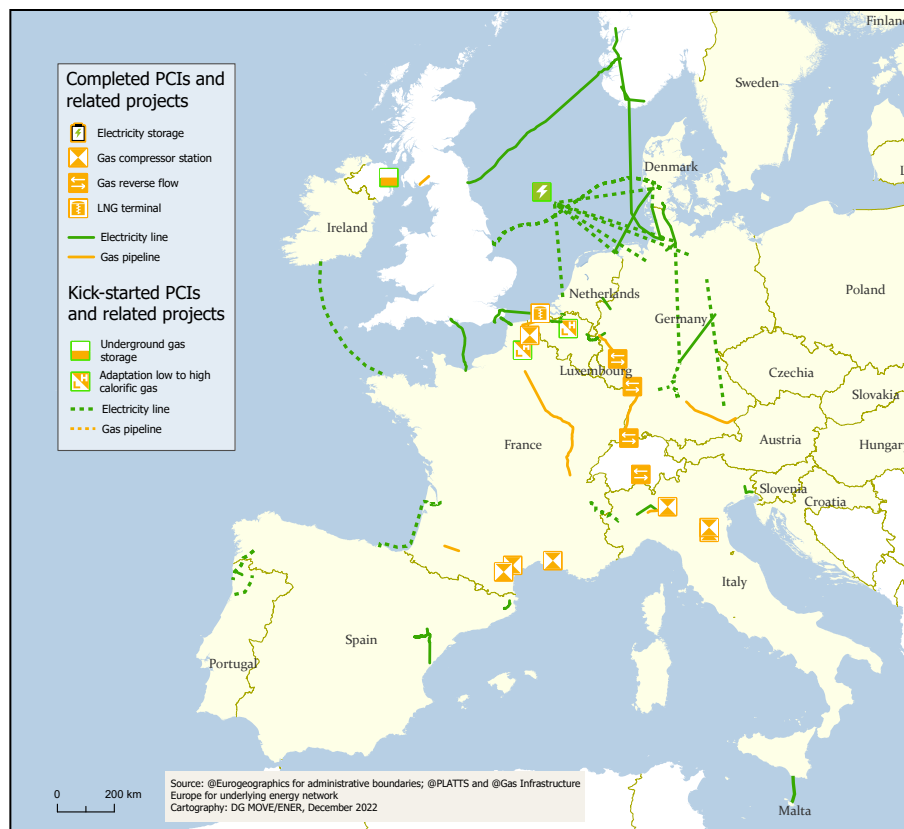


Projects of Common Interest in energy infrastructure in the **Western Europe and North Seas**

DECEMBER 2022



Despite significant improvements, a number of areas in Western Europe still present infrastructure gaps. With limited interconnection capacity, **the Iberian Peninsula, Malta and Ireland remain to a certain extent energy islands**, which adversely impact their ability to fully participate in the internal energy market.

The full integration of the Iberian Peninsula as well as Ireland and Malta into the internal energy market is a key priority for the EU.

Achievements and way forward in the South Western Europe:

- The electricity interconnection capacity between France and Spain was doubled thanks to the commissioning of the **Santa-Llogaia-Baixas** electricity line in 2015 (EEPR grant of 255 million EUR) . The completion in June 2017 of the **transformer in Arkale**, Spain enabled its full utilisation. These made it possible for Spain to help France and show solidarity during the winter of 2017.
- The **Biscay Bay electricity interconnection between France and Spain** (CEF grant for studies and works of 587 million EUR), now in a decisive step of its development, will double the interconnection capacity between France and Spain to 5000 MW when completed by 2027, therefore making a very significant contribution to the full integration of the whole Iberian Peninsula into the internal electricity market.
- Two electricity interconnectors between the **Pamplona** area in Spain and **Cantegrit** in France, and between **Marsillon** in France and the **Aragón** region in Spain, planned by 2030, aim at further increasing the electricity interconnection capacity between Spain and France.
- The interconnection project between Spain and Portugal (**Ponte Lima – Vila Nova Famalicão - Recarei and Beariz - Fontefría**) commissioned by 2024 will increase the current interconnection capacity level to 3.2 GW.
- The sub-sea cable connection **between Italy and Malta** (EEPR grant of 20 million EUR) became operational in 2015, putting an end to the isolation of the Maltese grid from the rest of Europe.

Achievements and way forward in the North Seas region:

- **The Celtic interconnector** (CEF Grant of 538 million EUR) between Ireland and France, expected to be completed in 2027, will be the first electricity link between Ireland and the continent providing security of electricity supply in Ireland and supporting the development of renewable energy in both Ireland and France.
- **The North Sea Wind Power Hub** (CEF grant for studies of 14 million EUR), connecting major offshore wind parks to the electricity systems of Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany, will help develop hybrid offshore wind capacity and related offshore and onshore infrastructure, contributing to meet the objectives set out in the EU strategy on offshore renewable energy.

Achievements in gas infrastructure

- The **inauguration of the Val de Saône project** (EEPR grant of 152 million EUR) **and reinforcements of the French gas network** improved the fluidity of gas transmission between the North and the South of Europe to increase security of supply at European level.
- The construction of the first **industrial-scale deodorisation plant in Europe** (CEF grant for studies and works of 9 million EUR) enables the import of gas from France via Switzerland into Germany. In addition, reverse flow functionality allows the import of gas from Italy via Switzerland into Germany.

Way forward

- The EU will assess the potential and support the development of a new corridor for clean hydrogen to link the Iberian Peninsula with Central Europe in the future.

The total amount of funding under the **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)** for the North Seas and South-Western Europe: **1.34 billion EUR**

The total amount of funding under the **European Energy Programme for Recovery (EEPR): 1.2 billion EUR**