European Commission

Projects of Common Interest (PCIs)

Modernising Europe's grids for more secure, sustainable and affordable energy

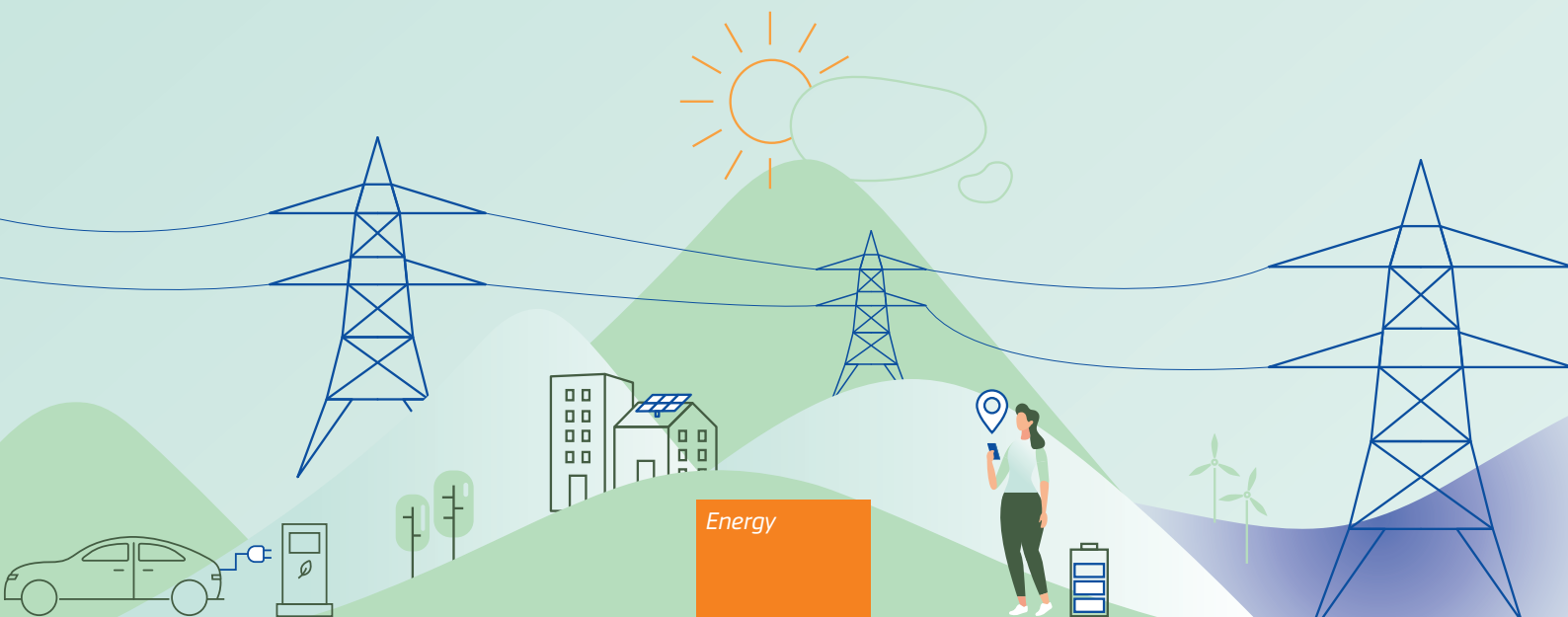
Our households use just over a quarter of the EU's total energy consumption, making their access to a secure, sustainable and affordable energy supply a crucial need.

Thanks to targeted energy infrastructure policy, regions in Europe are no longer isolated and EU countries enjoy better interconnections with their neighbours. However, challenges and threats posed by climate change have increased, accelerating the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable energy production and enjoy the opportunities of localised production of renewable sources. This requires the modernisation of energy infrastructure to allow sustainable energy sources to flow freely between countries and regions to where they are most needed. Consumers benefit by enjoying a greater choice in energy providers, and less frequent power shortages and outages.

Europe's energy grid needs to be smartened and modernised to accommodate the latest advances in technology, and to reflect our future energy consumption in a climate-neutral economy.

What are Projects of Common Interest (PCIs)?

Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) are major infrastructure projects that modernise and link energy networks and systems across Europe. Each PCI helps at least two countries work together to develop state-of-the-art energy grids that are better interconnected by land or sea with new infrastructure such as overhead lines, underground and undersea cables.



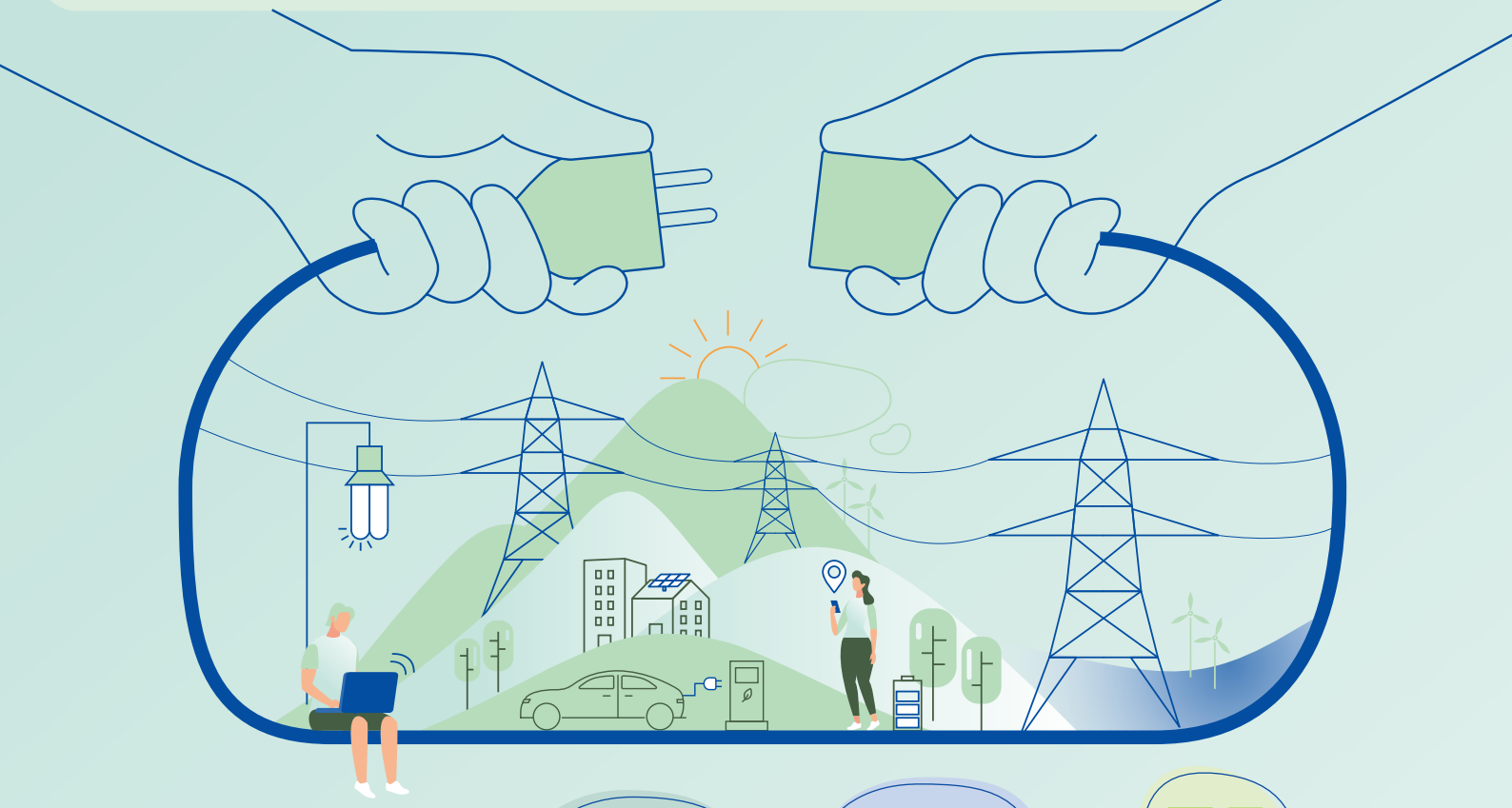
What are the benefits?

PCIs build bridges between countries and regions, and distribute energy more efficiently and fairly. This is especially important for isolated and remote countries and regions that are cut off from European energy markets. Consumers are playing a greater role in their energy consumption. A modernised grid with smart energy solutions responds to such sophisticated demands for goods and services.

By connecting the energy grids in two or more countries or regions, new players enter the market, resulting in increased competition and ensuring price convergence to the benefit of consumers. Interconnected networks provide citizens with more affordable electricity and more options in choosing suppliers. By linking several systems together, energy becomes more reliable, sustainable and affordable.

Europe is facing several climate and environmental challenges. It needs to adapt its energy grid to depend more on electricity produced from renewable sources and prepare its infrastructure for a climate-neutral energy system. PCIs are key to transitioning to a secure, clean and cost-efficient energy future. Creating a connected, modern energy grid will help Europe on the path to becoming the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050, which is at the heart of the Commission's **European Green Deal**.

Europeans are more environmentally conscious than ever before. The EU ensures that all PCIs minimise the overall impact on ecosystems.



PCIs in numbers

40+
PCIs completed (2013-2020)

4.7€ billion
allocated to 195 PCIs since 2013

75
PCIs to be implemented by 2022

How do PCIs benefit regions and local communities?

Celtic Interconnector
(France and Ireland)

First-ever electricity interconnection between the two countries

Ireland's only direct energy connection to continental Europe

- exchange 700 MW of electricity (equivalent to supplying power to about 450 000 homes)
- improve security of supply for electricity users
- reduce electricity costs
- facilitate transition to low-carbon energy future
- provide direct fibre-optic communications link between the two countries

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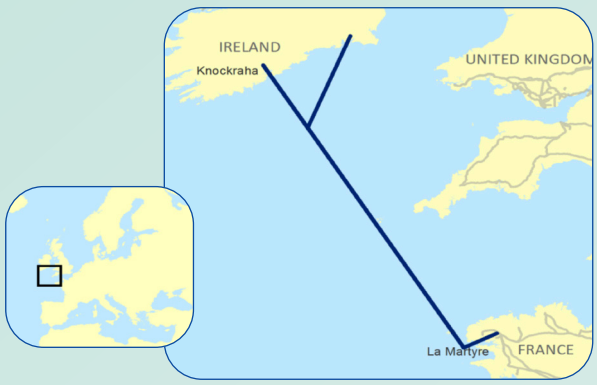

COBRAcable
(Denmark and the Netherlands)

Offshore link connects the two countries, stretching about 350 km with a capacity of 700 MW

- enable integration of more renewable energy
- ensure energy security by increasing energy exchanges between the two countries
- provide back-up for other connections in case of failure

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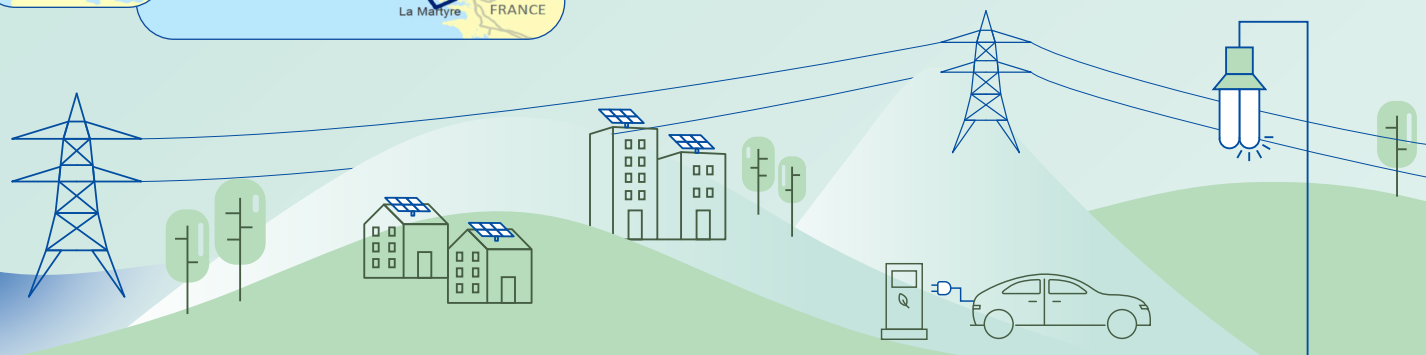

German North-South Connection

(Germany)

- increase capacity at Germany's northern and southern borders
- allow for greater integration of renewable energy, and make energy supply from these sources more stable
- avoid spill-overs into the grid of neighbouring countries

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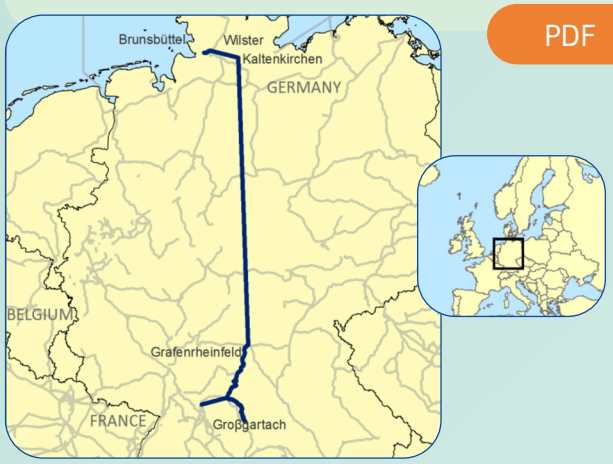

Baltic Synchronisation

(Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia)

- increase the security of supply for Baltic consumers
- allow for simultaneous operation of the Baltic States' electricity network with the continental European network

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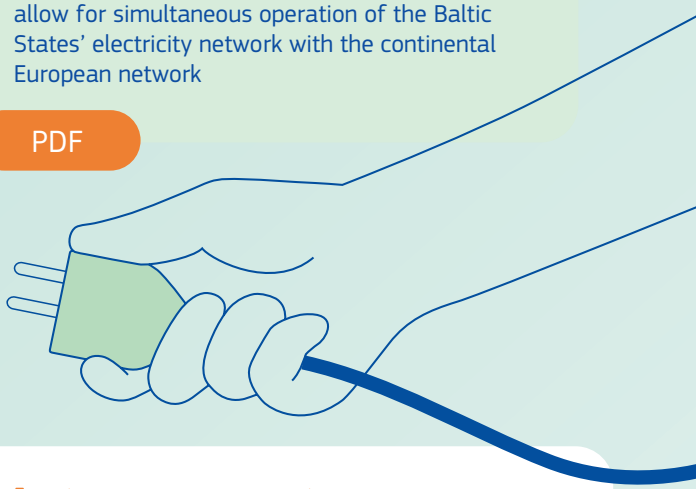

Estonia-Latvia Third Electricity Interconnector

(Estonia and Latvia)

211 km-long transmission line

- alleviate congestion at the border between Estonia and Latvia
- ensure effectiveness of the operation of both systems
- increase competitiveness of electricity markets in the Baltic region
- boost use of renewable energy sources in Baltic coastal areas

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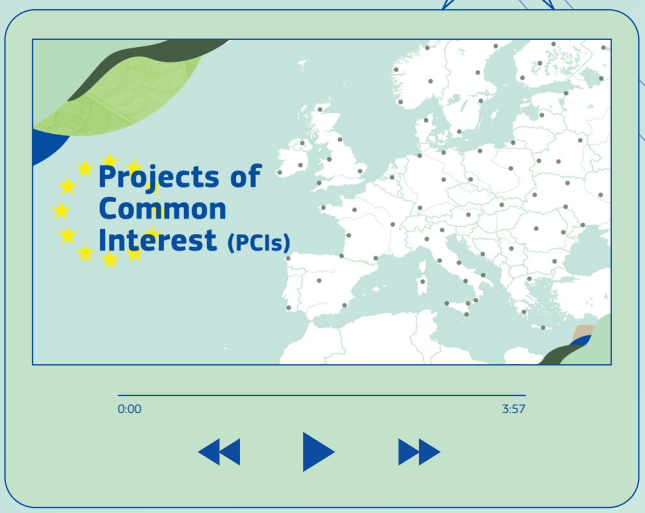
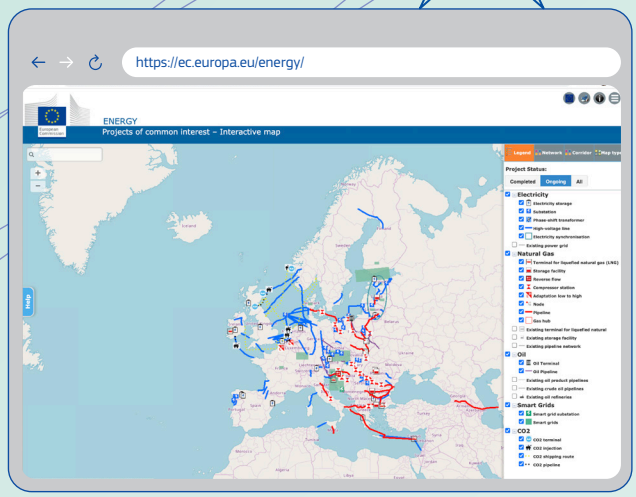
Want to know more?



Play video

Find a PCI in your country



Find a PCI

Energy4Europe **#WorkingTogether** **#PCIs**