



WP5

Societal acceptance and regulatory framework

The energy policy has changed from being largely a national issue to increasingly becoming a part of a larger European context addressing amongst other things the climate challenge, where Norwegian hydropower has a key role. Work package 5 addresses the social and regulatory challenges related to the flexible services a hydro balance scenario poses in terms of management of the hydropower system, by enabling a more dynamic understanding of the actual interactions between the national regulatory framework and policy and the economic conditions, regional and local policy context as well as local specificities. Work package 4 will:

- Determine the regulatory and policy barriers and drivers
- Assess how increased use of balancing services are perceived among stakeholders at the national, regional and local level
- Identify the main non-technical challenges which have to be addressed when designing a roadmap for energy balancing from Norwegian hydropower

Task 5.1 – What are the regulatory and policy barriers and drivers related to increased use of balancing services?

Identify barriers and possibilities in the current regulatory and policy framework hindering or, on the contrary fostering, increased use of balancing services through analysing the current regulation for hydropower in light of how it is challenged by the European energy and environmental policy. In practice, this means analysing policy documents, juridical framework, the concession process, and regulations regarding mitigating and compensating measures from a governance perspective. The governance challenges identified in the document analysis will be further investigated by performing interviews with policy makers at the national level.

Task 5.2 – How are increased uses of balancing services perceived among stakeholders at the national, regional and local level?

Consequences of the development of hydropower for providing balancing services in terms of social acceptance at the local, regional and national level will be addressed by performing interviews with key stakeholders representing economic, social and environmental interests. Focus group interviews will be performed at the local level in two different communities located in areas with large hydropower installations in Southern Norway. The methodology of this task will be designed in close dialog with University Exeter.

Task 5.3 – What are the main non-technical challenges that have to be addressed in order to design a sustainable roadmap for balancing services?

Focusing on improvements in the regulatory regime, business models (WP3) and the concerns brought forth by stakeholders from the local to the national level, the main non-technical challenges will be evaluated. By bringing together results from Task 5.1 and Task 5.2 this task will provide input to the revision of the roadmap in work package 1.