November 2020 – Version for public consultation

Ten-Year Network Development Plan 2020

2020 PCI Process Brief

Power System Needs 2030 **North South Interconnection West**

Where would investing in infrastructure until 2030 deliver the most benefits to Europeans?

The present document presents a selected set of results of ENTSO-E's System needs study for the NSI West PCI corridor and shows where and to what extent investing would contribute to market integration, improved security of supply and increased sustainability.

This document presents 3 hypothetical states of the electricity transmission network in the year 2030, in the National Trends scenario based on National Energy and Climate Plans[1]:

- **No investment after 2020:** a hypothetical year 2030 where Europe stopped all grid development after mid-2020.
- **SEW-based needs 2030:** a hypothetical year 2030 where the needs for capacity increases after 2025 identified by ENTSO-E's System Needs study have been addressed (Figure 1). These needs represent the combination of cross-border capacity increases that minimises overall system cost. Only part of these needs are addressed by projects of the TYNDP 2020 portfolio[2].
- **Portfolio 2030:** a hypothetical year 2030 where all projects of the TYNDP 2020 portfolio that are foreseen to commission until 2030 have been built (Figure 2).

For full details on the pan-European system needs identified in 2030 and 2040

tyndp.entsoe.eu/system-needs

For a detailed analysis of the situation in specific countries, refer to the Country Needs Factsheets

click here or scan the qr-code

1 Northern Ireland is included in UK values in all figures.

2 Ireland and Northern Ireland form one wholesale electricity market area known as the Single Electricity Market (SEM). Therefore, the needs identified between the island of Ireland and Great Britain could be satisfied by capacity increases in either Ireland or Northern Ireland

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Key messages of the NSI West PCI Corridor:

1. Large increase in renewable generation across the NSI West Corridor to meet European decarbonization goals, dominated by solar generation in the South and wind onshore and offshore generation in the North, trigger infrastructure needs to make the grid fit for the integration of renewable generation and preserve high security of supply standards. Fast changes in variable generation output will drive a need for flexibility across the region that will be provided by various sources (interconnections, storage, fast peak generators, etc.)

2. There is a need for further market integration in the NSI West Corridor, with a special focus on the isolation of the Iberian Peninsula and Italy. Spain and Italy do not yet fulfill the 10 % objective set for 2020, and cross-border development will be needed to meet the 2030 objective of 15 %.

3. A main barrier to power exchanges in the region is relative to the integration of the Italian Peninsula, which implies the need to further develop the transmission capacity at the North-Italian boundary in order to exploit new renewable generation, mainly located in the North of Germany and France, in the South of Italy and in Switzerland. In addition, interconnecting the main islands (Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica) with the mainland is of major relevance for security of supply and market integration within the NSI West Corridor.

4. To achieve EU climate goals, integration of system grids of EU and third countries plays an important role. Investments in transmission infrastructure between EU countries and North Africa are effective means to promote the energy transition, integration of renewables, security of supply, as well as regional and local socio-economic welfare and economic cooperation.

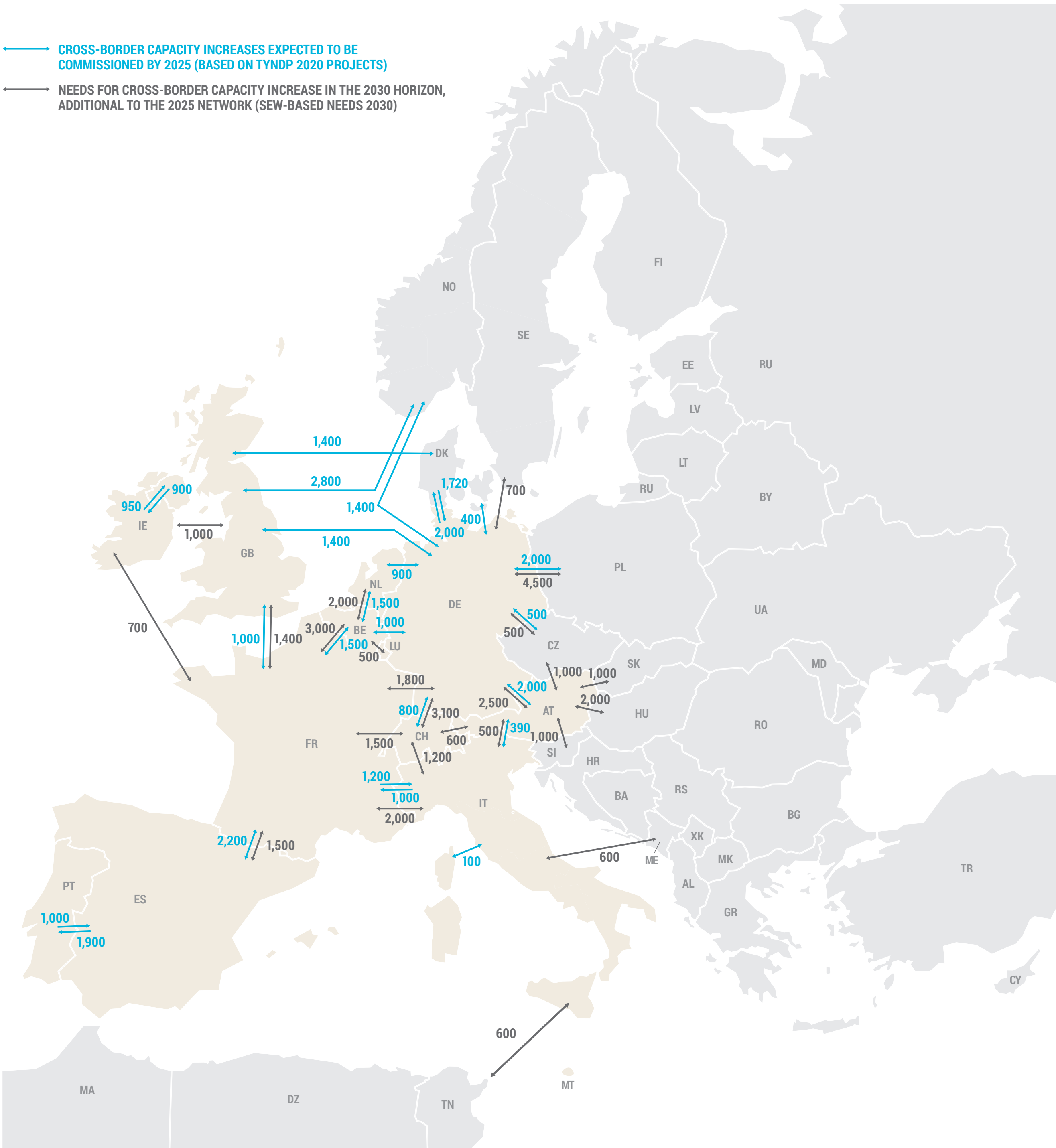


Figure 1 – Needs identified in ENTSO-E's System Needs study for the 2030 horizon. The study investigated the combination of potential increases in cross-border network capacity that minimizes the total system costs. These capacity increases are additional to the 2025 network (composed of projects under construction or in advanced stage and expected to be in service in 2025).

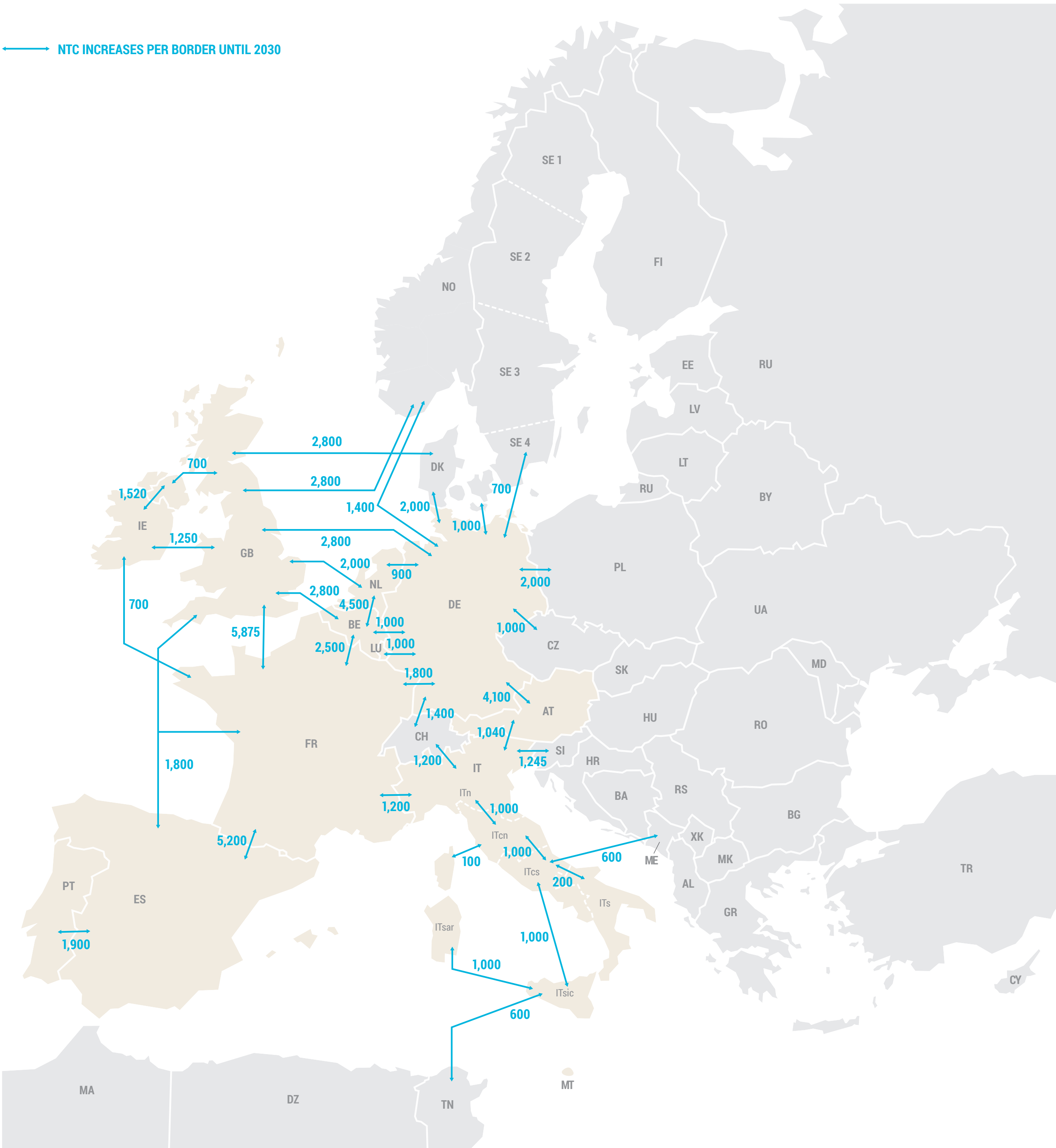


Figure 2 – Sum of NTC increases of projects proposed in the TYNDP 2020 and for which project promoters expect a commissioning date in 2030 or earlier (including projects expected to be in service in 2025). Where the NTC increase is not the same in both directions, only the highest value is included in the map. Some borders have projects competing with each other to address the same need.

Market Integration

Increasing capacity for cross-border electricity flows supports market integration, with price convergence increasing between bidding zones. Increased cross-border exchanges and distributed generation will also create stresses for national grids and trigger needs for internal reinforcements.

Convergence in marginal costs of electricity

By connecting more consumers with more producers, grid development allows a better use of the cheapest generation. As a result, European countries can exchange electricity to replace expensive generation with cheaper one and prices all over Europe tend to converge. On the opposite, limiting exchange capacity alters market integration and would result in splits between regional market prices. Fragmented markets therefore lead to artificially high marginal costs in some countries, with direct impact on consumers' electricity bills. According to the methodology proposed by the Interconnection Target Expert Group, need for additional interconnections should be investigated on all borders with a spread above 2 €/MWh.

Increased cross-border transmission capacity in the SEW-based needs and Portfolio 2030 cases tends to reduce the differences in marginal costs in between neighboring bidding zones. This is visible in Figure 3, where the spread in marginal cost is significantly reduced compared to the situation where Europe would stop all investments.

Europe increases its socio-economic welfare by **4.8 billion** euro/year in the SEW based needs case, and by **3.6 billion** euro/year in the Portfolio 2030 case, compared to the "No investment after 2020" case.

In marine areas, the reduction in price difference is less reduced in the SEW-based needs case, because identified needs included few offshore links due to the methodology employed. The reduction in spread is higher in the Portfolio 2030 case because of the many offshore links proposed in the TYNDP 2020, with over 15 offshore interconnectors (some of them in competition with each other) proposed in the North Sea, Channel and Irish Sea and foreseen to commissioning between 2020 and 2030.

Difference in marginal cost of electricity between neighbouring bidding zones, in €/MWh

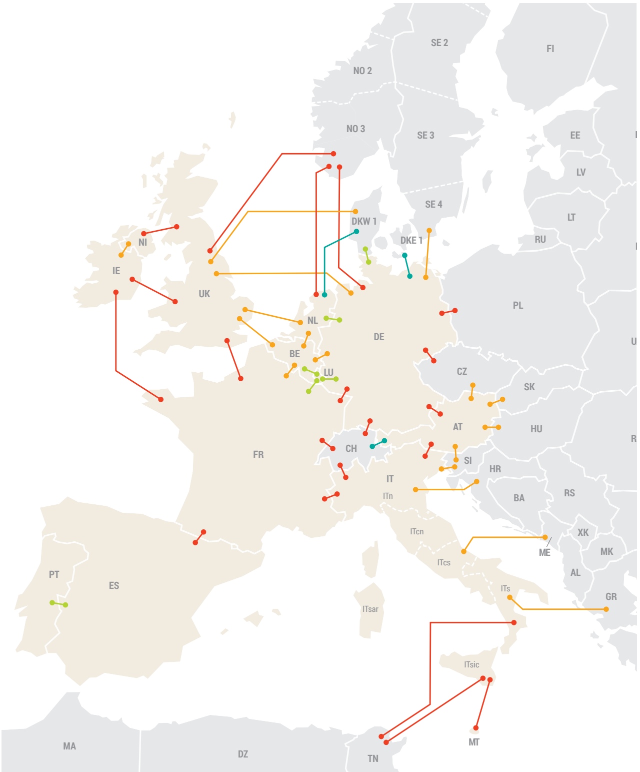


Figure 3a – No investment after 2020

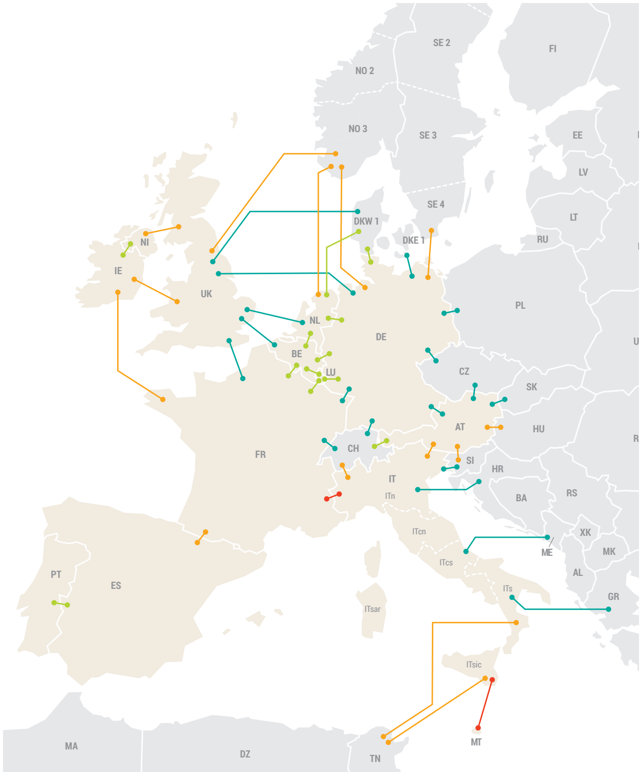


Figure 3b – SEW-based needs 2030

< 2.00 €/MWh
2.00–5.00 €/MWh
5.00–10.00 €/MWh
> 10.00 €/MWh

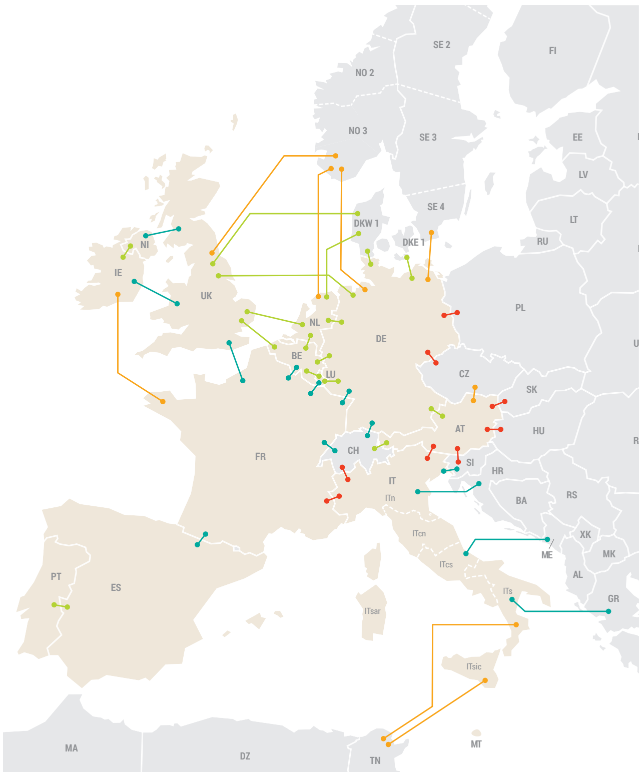


Figure 3c – Portfolio 2030

Increasing cross-border transmission capacity leads to a convergence of marginal costs, with countries with high marginal costs tending to see these costs decrease and countries with low marginal costs tending to see an increase (Figure 4).

The net annual balance shows that, for most countries, reinforcing the cross-border grid will reinforce the existing tendency to import or export (Figure 5). For Germany, the switch from importer to exporter is due to the possibility to export additional RES in 2030.

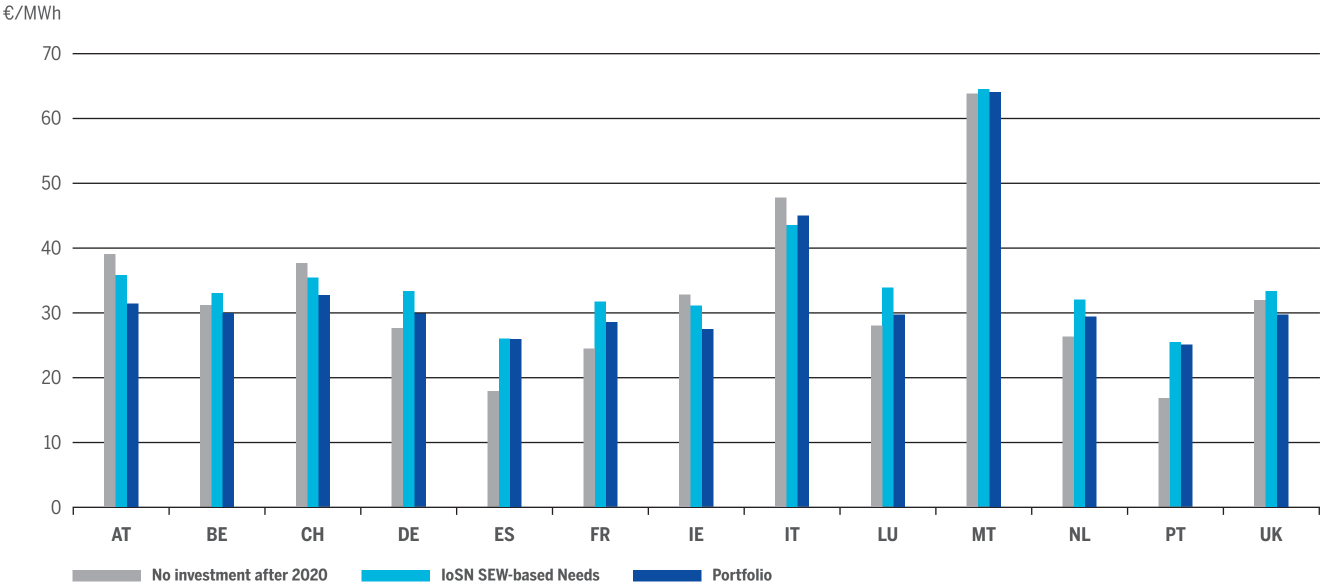


Figure 4 – Average marginal cost per country, in euro/MWh

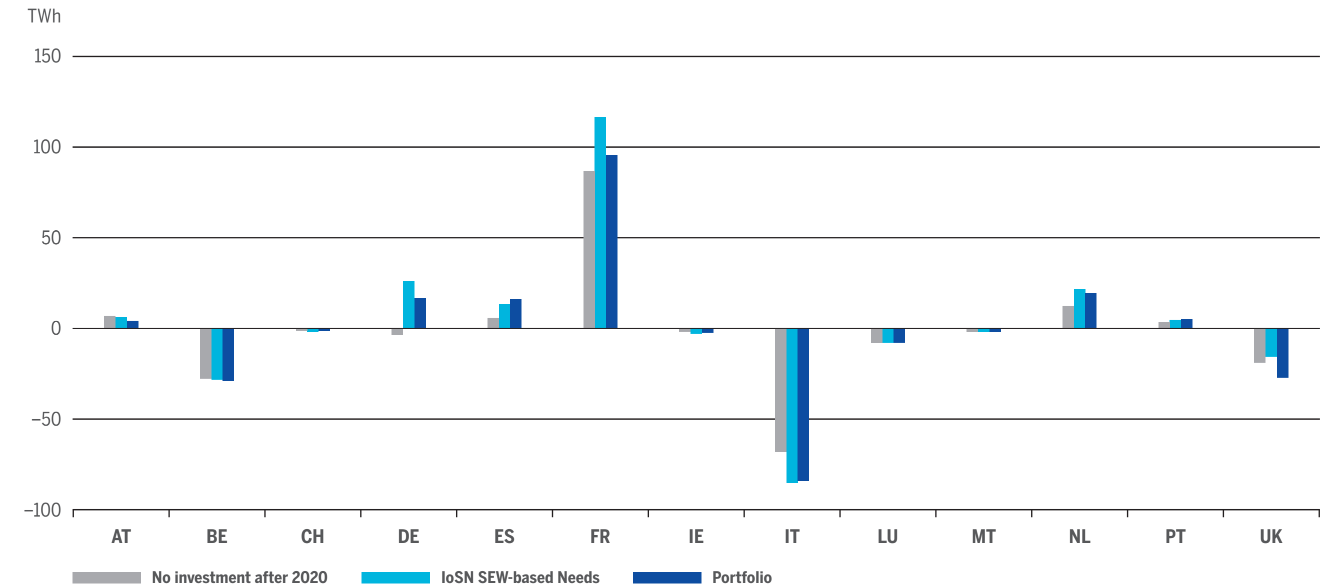


Figure 5 – Net annual balance in TWh

Reduced congestion on borders

Constraint duration refers to the percentage of hours per year where the cross-border flow of energy reaches 100 % of the commercial capacity on the border, meaning it is congested. Reinforcing cross-border capacities reduces congestion and allow countries to exchange more energy, in total in the NSI West Corridor an additional 58 TWh/year would be exchanged in 2030 (in SEW-based needs), relative to the situation where Europe would not invest in the grid after 2020.

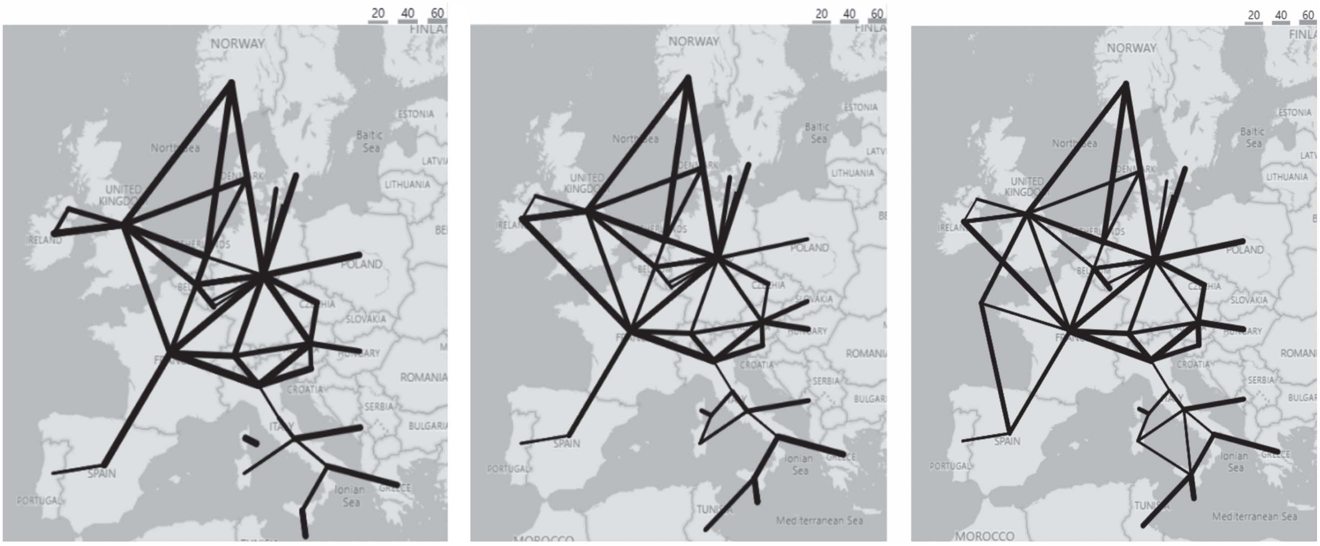


Figure 6 – Percentage of hours per year where the flow of electricity reaches 100 % of the Net Transfer Capacity on the border (constraint duration), in No investment after 2020 (left), SEW-based needs (middle) and Portfolio 2030 (right)

For exact values of constraint duration

tyndp.entsoe.eu/system-needs

Unlocking 2030 barriers

ENTSO-E has identified in the European power system a set of main boundaries (Figure 7).

Figure 8 represents the overall diminution of wholesale market volume (gains in socio-economic welfare) when the total transmission capacity across the boundary increases from the current situation (first point of the curve). Steep curves indicate high needs for further integration of the markets across the boundaries.

One of the main challenges in the region is the integration of peninsulas in the region: the Italian peninsula (northern boundary, borders with the Balkans and Tunisia), together with the mitigation of internal bottlenecks among the six different Italian price zones, and the integration of Corsica; and the historically known boundary between the Iberian Peninsula and France.

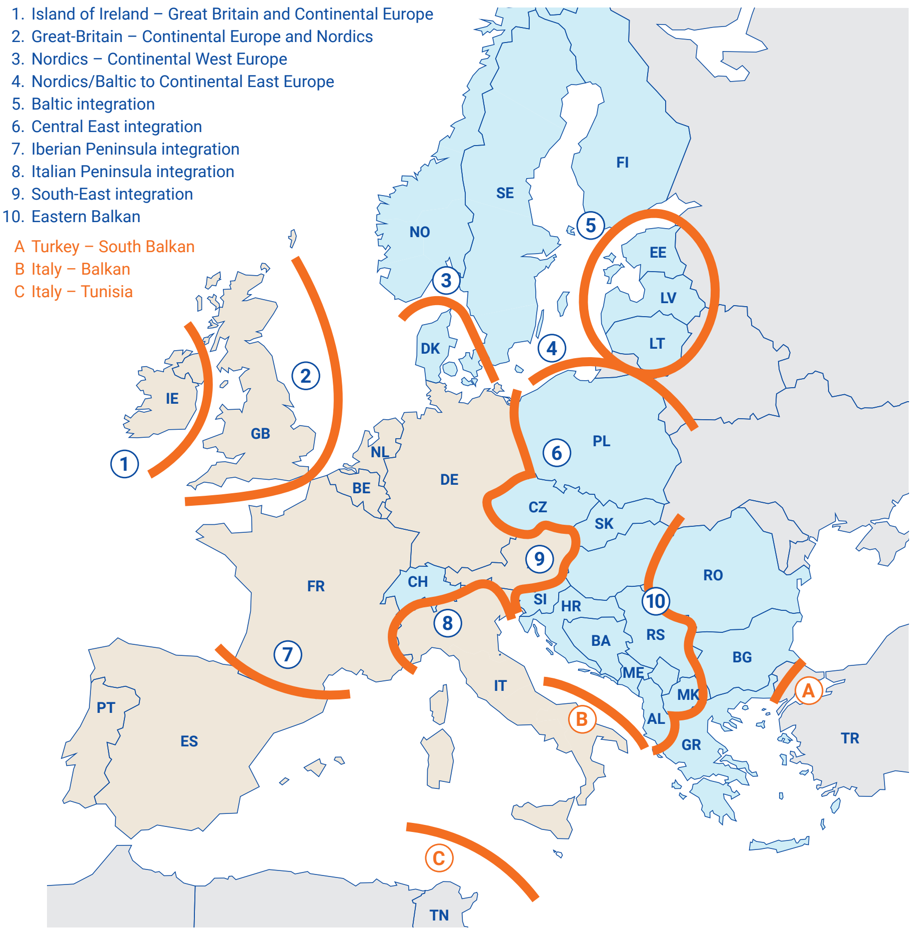
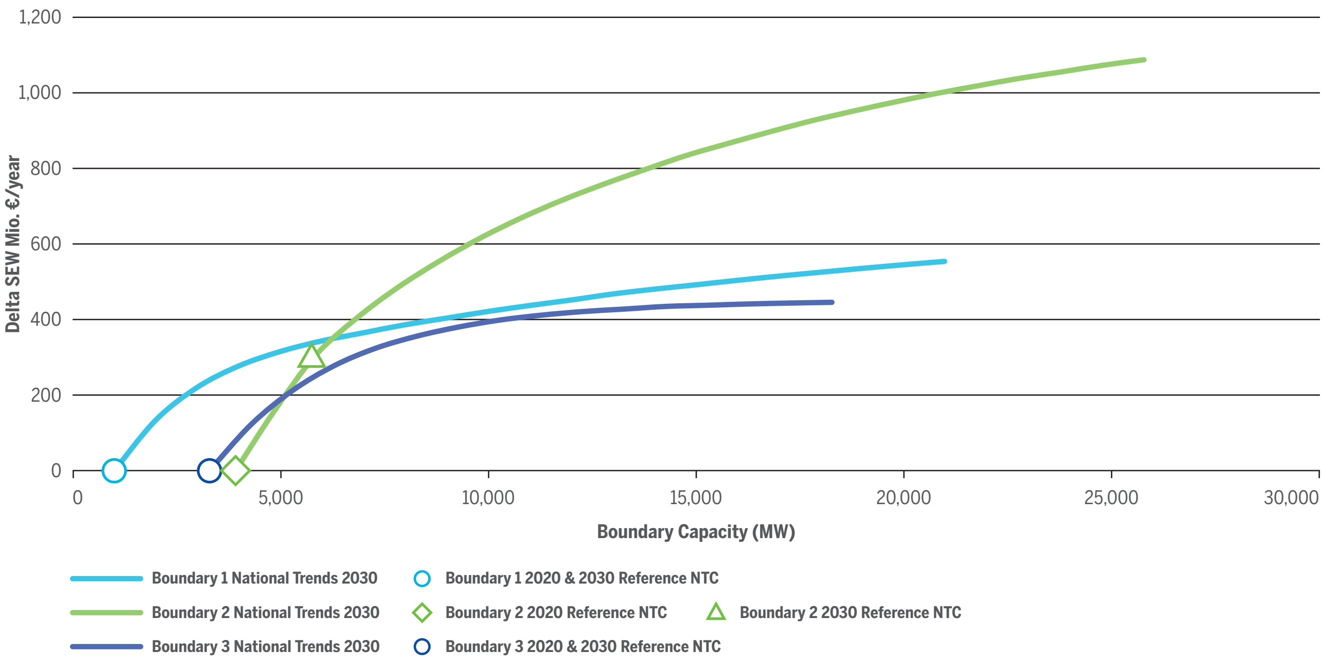


Figure 7 – TYNDP 2020 10 main boundaries



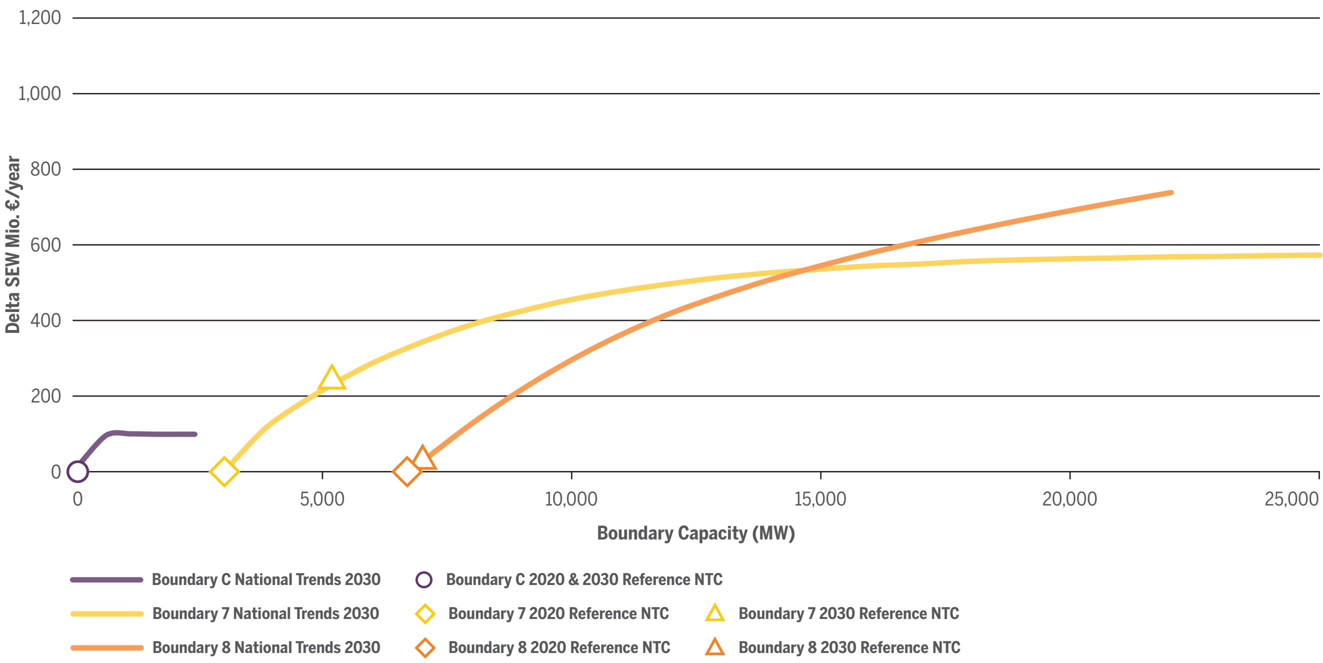


Figure 8 – Increase in socio-economic welfare (SEW) when the transmission capacity increases from the current situation, on main boundaries located in the NSI West PCI Corridor, in the NT2030 scenario

Sustainability

Investing in electricity transmission infrastructure will be key to enable Europe to achieve the Green Deal. By allowing electricity from RES to be exported across borders, addressing system needs allows Europe to save 47 TWh of curtailed energy and avoid over 41 Mtons of CO_2 emissions each year until 2030 (compared to a future where Europe would stop investing in the grid after 2020).

A drop in curtailed energy

Increasing the exchange capacity in Europe helps the integration of renewable energy by offering more opportunities to RES power plants to be used. By taking advantage of the different energy mix over Europe and the different RES peaking period between countries, the different level of capacity increases considered in the SEW-based needs and the TYNDP portfolio allow a significant decrease of the curtailed energy.

To ease comparison between countries, curtailed energy is presented both in absolute value (in TWh per year) (Figure 9) and as a share of RES generation (Figure 10).

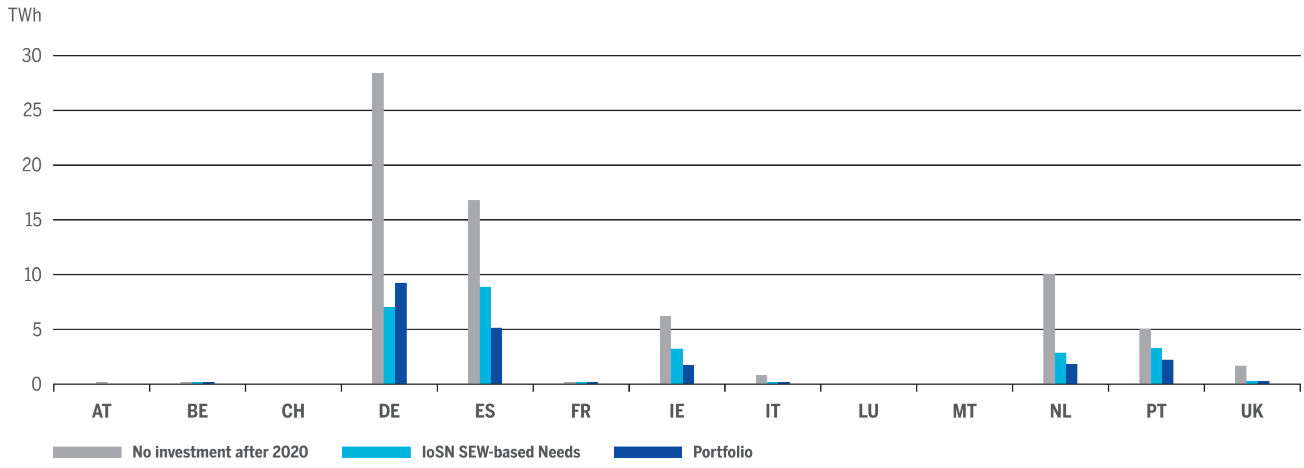


Figure 9 – Curtailed energy per country in TWh

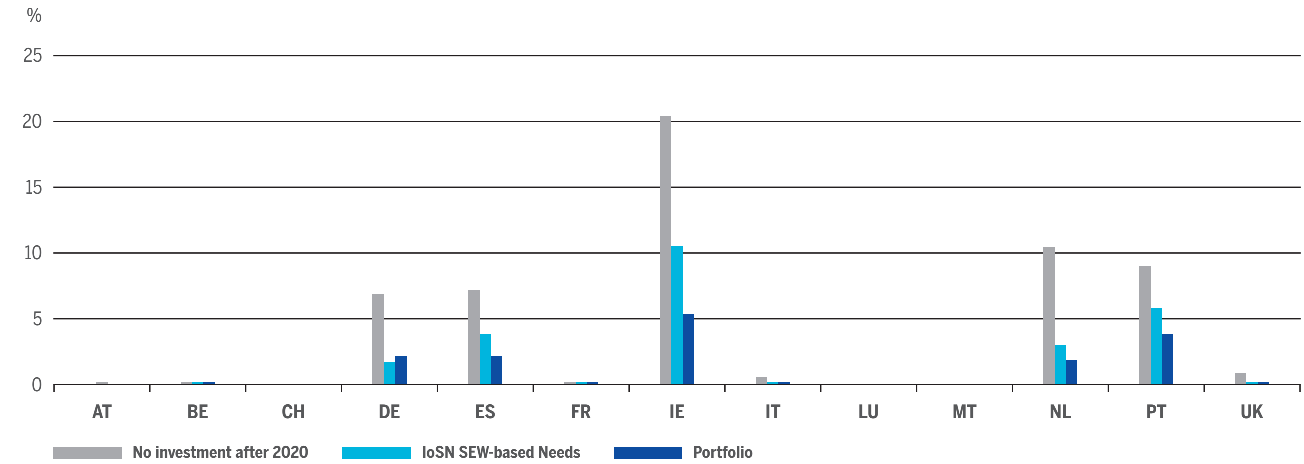


Figure 10 – Curtailed energy per country as a share of RES generation

In addition to RES, some thermal power plants emit very low CO_2 volume while generating electricity. This is the case of nuclear and biofuel power plants. New exchange capacities can increase the use of these generation when they are not used at full load. Indeed, these generation capacities have in general a low marginal cost and can replace other more expensive and CO_2 emitting thermal power plants in other countries. Figure 11 and 12 show the remaining energy available from nuclear and biofuel power plants in different grid configurations.

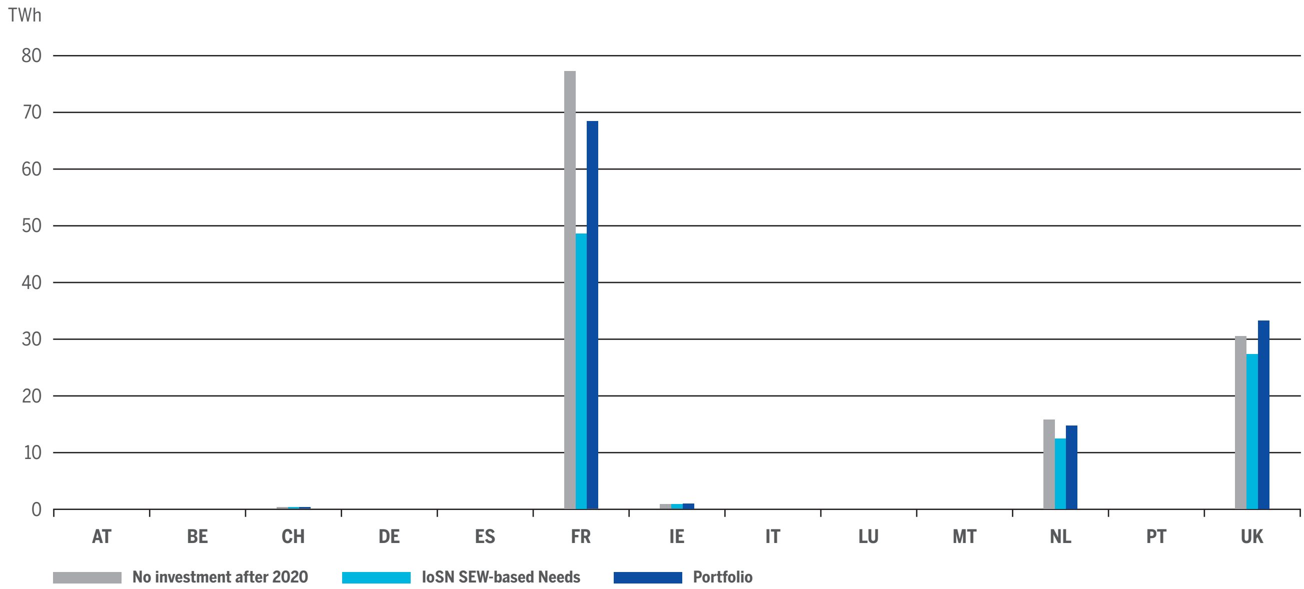


Figure 11 – CO_2 free dispatchable available energy from nuclear and green gas generation, in TWh

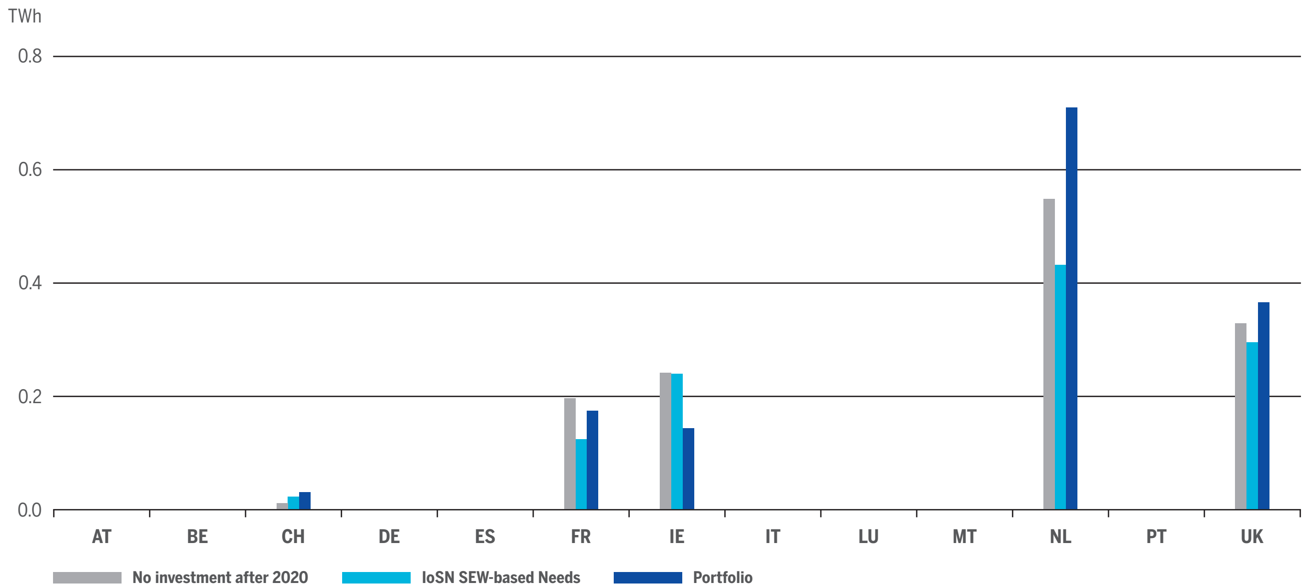


Figure 12 - CO_2-free dispatchable available energy from nuclear and green gas generation as a share of the total CO_2-free dispatchable generation

Reduced CO_2 emissions

By allowing a better integration of non-CO_2 emitting generation, increased cross-border network capacity leads to a reduction of CO_2 emissions, of 41 Mton per year in 2030 in the SEW-based needs case compared to the case without grid expansion after mid-2020. This highlights the important role of the network in the path toward carbon neutrality.

The methodology used to identify the SEW-based needs take CO_2 emissions into account in socio-economic welfare only partially, via the ETS CO_2 price which producers have to pay when they emit CO_2. However, the ETS CO_2 prices of 28 EUR/ton of CO_2 in 2030 is not sufficient to properly decrease CO_2 emissions to an extent consistent with EU climate ambitions. This explains the relatively reduced impact of the SEW-based Needs.

CO_2 emissions per country are strongly affected by the assumptions made in the scenarios, view the Country factsheets for more details.

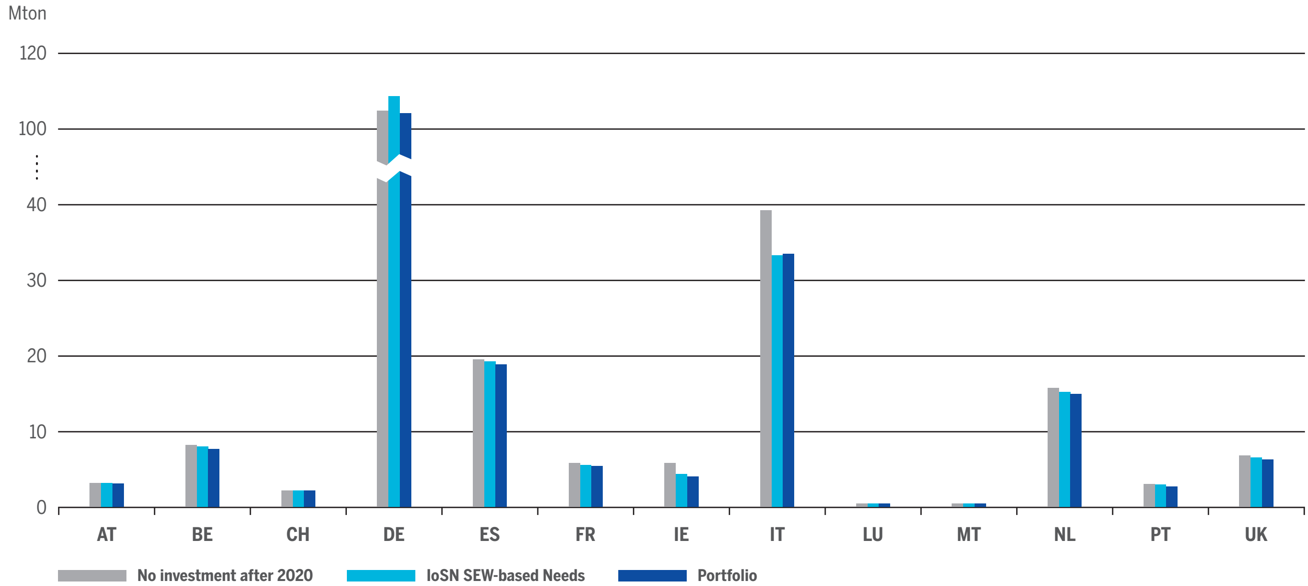


Figure 13 – CO_2 emissions in Mton/year

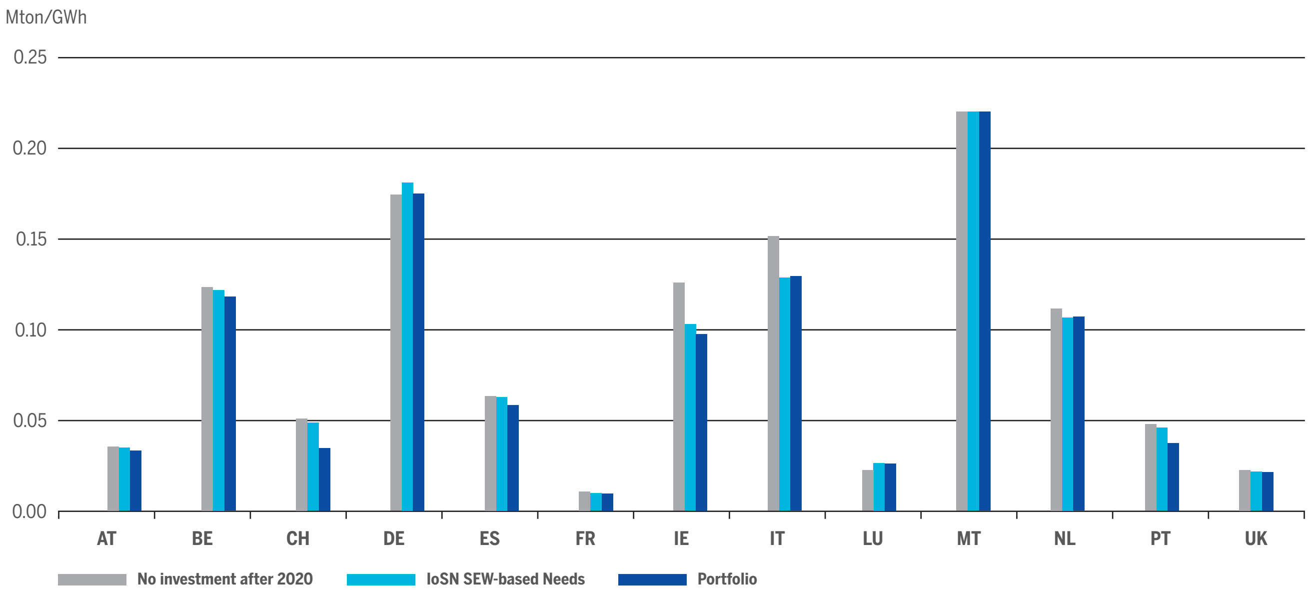


Figure 14 – Ratio of CO_2 emissions in Mton over total generation in GWh

Further interconnections may be needed in some countries to support RES development

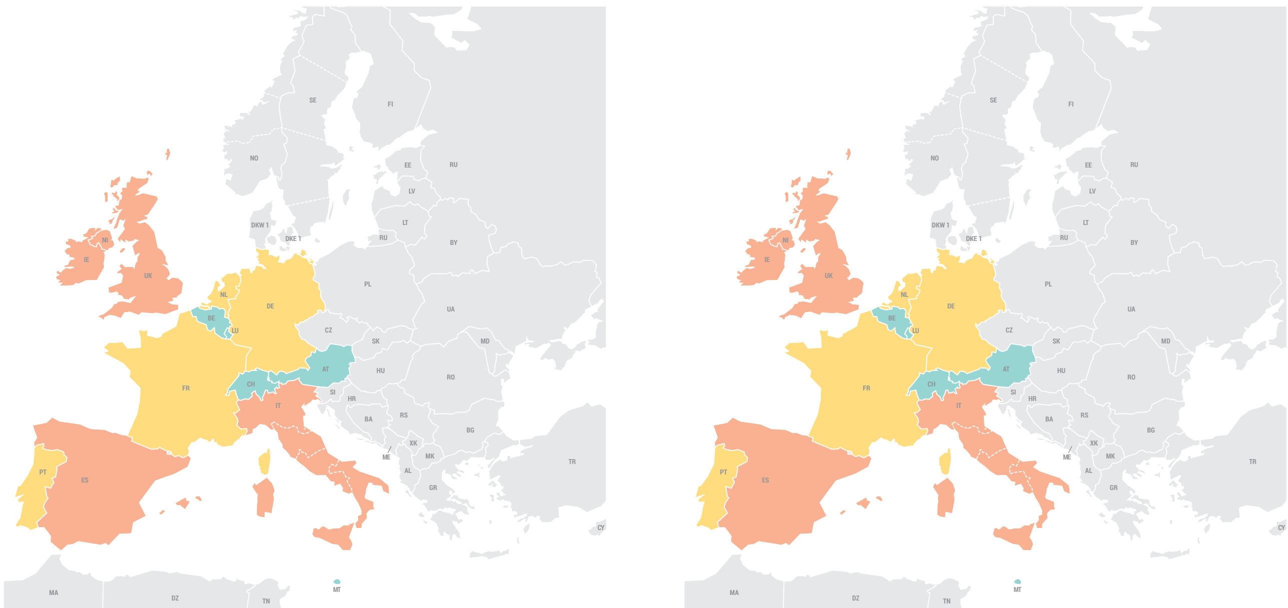
This indicator, part of the Interconnection Target Expert Group (ITEG)'s proposed indicators to assess interconnectivity, aims to reflect the electricity supply and the export potential of each country.

The indicator is expressed through a ratio between the nominal transmission capacity of the interconnection lines (thermal capacity) and the installed RES generation. A low ratio means that the RES installed generation in a country is high compared to the thermal capacity of the interconnection lines.

For countries in green the ratio is above 60 %, for countries in yellow it is between 30 % and 60 % while for countries in red it is below 30 %. The recommendations from the ITEG is that a ratio below 30 %, such as for the UK, Ireland, Spain and Italy indicates an urgent need to investigate options for additional interconnectors.

Figure 15 shows this indicator in the case where Europe would stop all investment in the grid after 2020 (top) and with the expected grid in 2025 (bottom).

The ITEG's proposed methodology considers 3 indicators: the spread in marginal cost between neighboring zones > 2 € (Figure 3), the ratio of the nominal transmission capacity to the installed RES generation <30 % (Figure 15) and the ratio of the nominal transmission capacity to the peak load <30 % (Figure 20). As a condition sine qua non, each new interconnector must be subject to a socioeconomic and environmental cost-benefit analysis and implemented only if the potential benefits outweigh the costs.



Needs investigation and to be reported in infrastructure forum — Needs investigation — No need in investigation

Figure 15 – Ratio of the nominal transmission capacity (thermal capacity) to the installed RES generation in 2030, with the 2020 grid (left) and with the 2025 grid (right)

Security of Supply

The future power system will integrate growing shares of renewable energy sources at all voltage levels, more power electronics either in generation or HVDC connections, a very variable mix of generation as well as large and highly variable power flows. This combination of trends translates into technical challenges including frequency, voltage and congestion management control which, if they are not addressed, may threaten security of supply at European level. Solutions lie partially in new infrastructure.

Increasing share of variable renewable generation

Comparing the installed variable RES generation to the installed conventional thermal generation, in 2025 and in 2030, shows the expected evolution of generation portfolios towards higher share of variable RES (wind, solar) generation. The ratio increases in almost all countries, and the faster its evolution, the harder it is for the power system to adapt.

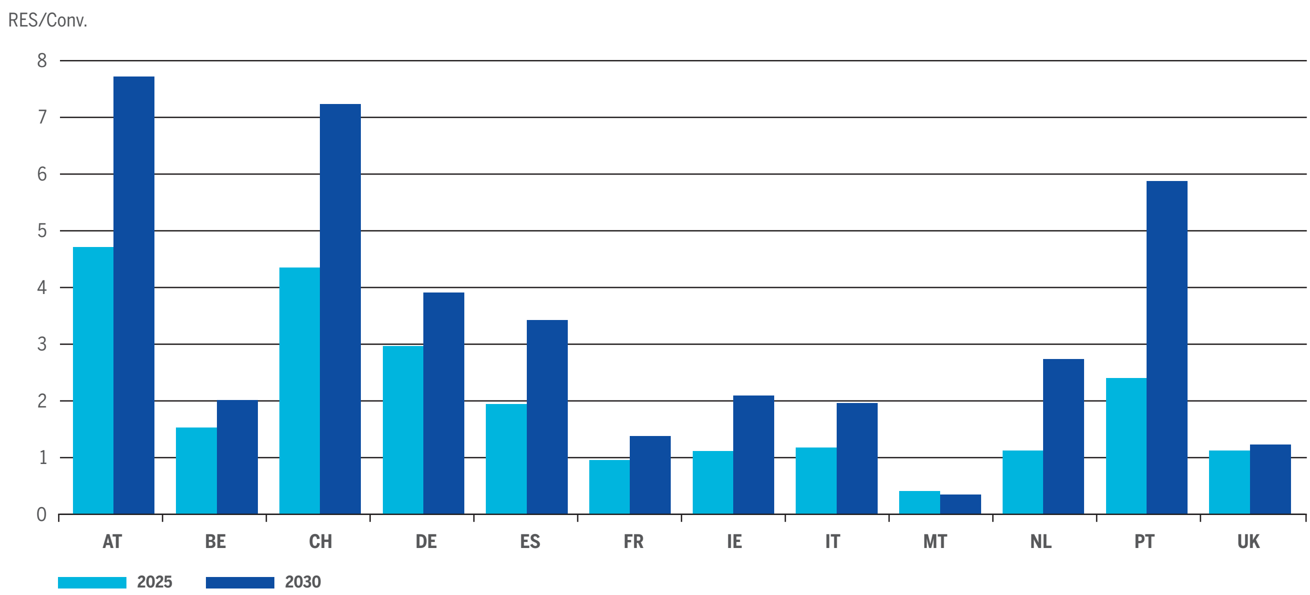


Figure 16 – Ratio of the installed RES generation capacity to the installed conventional generation capacity. Luxemburg does not appear in the figure because it has close to zero conventional generation, which renders this indicator meaningless.

Maintaining balance between generation and demand becomes increasingly challenging

The Loss of Load Expectation (LOLE) is the expected number of hours in which the hourly load exceeds the available generating capacity and available imports. This leads to hours wherein the supply cannot be met and load will have to be curtailed.

A non-zero value of LOLE indicates only a resource inadequacy in the market. It does not indicate a risk of blackout or load shedding, because ENTSO-E only observed the day-ahead situation, while TSOs have various tools to resolve situations of scarcity within the day. Zones without circle have LOLE values of less than 0.5 h.

MAF 2019 results do not indicate significant adequacy issues in most countries. As was the case in previous MAF editions, islands are vulnerable to loss of load.

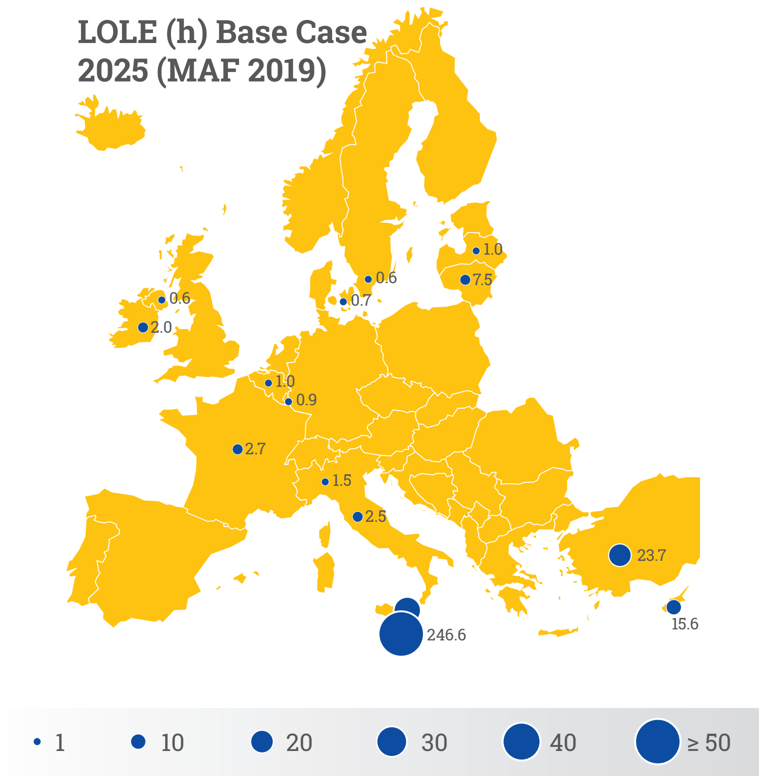


Figure 17 – Loss of Load Expectation in 2025 (Mid-Term Adequacy Forecast 2019)

Hourly residual load ramp is one parameter showing the challenges of operating a system with reduced amount of controllable units, high flexibility needs in normal operation, and a requirement to guarantee the necessary volume of frequency reserves for cases of unforeseen imbalances between active power generation and demand.

The curves show the changes of residual load (demand minus variable RES) from one hour to the following hour. These curves express the response (in MW/hour) that needs to be provided by controllable generating units or interconnectors in order to maintain balance between generation and demand. Steepness of the curve is most affected by the share of RES in the generation mix and by the load, for example Germany's curve is notably different from that of other countries because it has the highest RES and highest demand of all European countries.

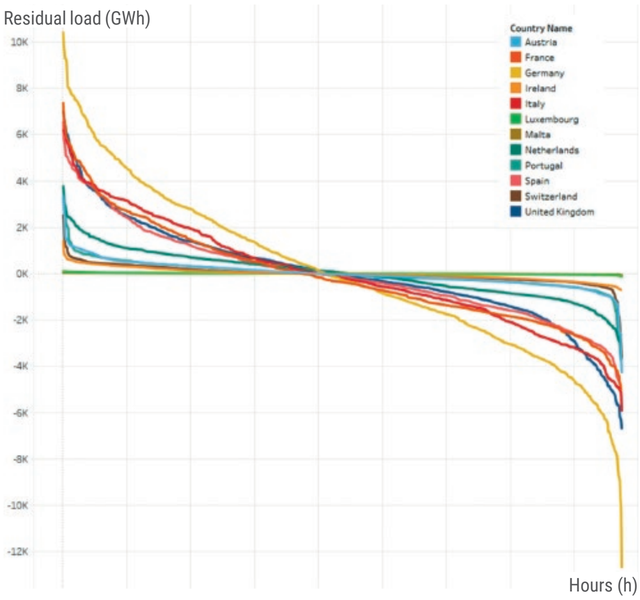


Figure 18 – Hourly residual load ramp of NSI West countries, in scenario National Trends 2025

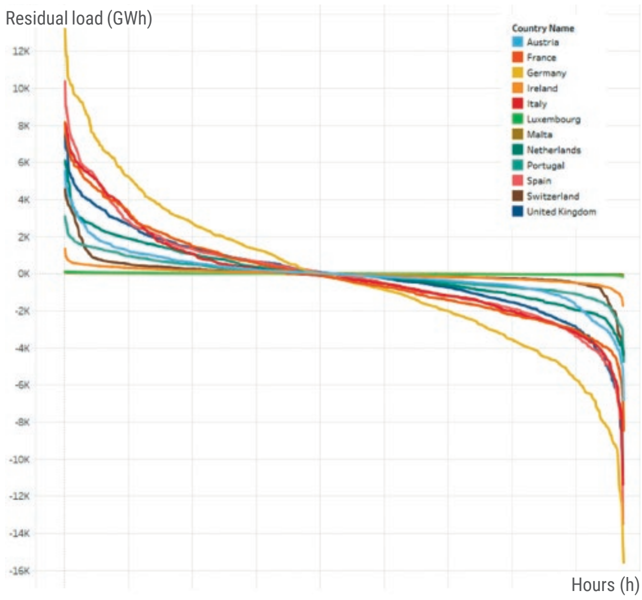


Figure 19 – Hourly residual load ramp of NSI West countries, in scenario National Trends 2030

To read more on needs triggered by operational challenges and possible solutions

click here or scan the qr-code

TYNDP 2020 Insight report on the inertia challenge

click here or scan the qr-code

Reinforcing interconnections will be needed in some countries for peak load to be served at all times in 2030

According to this indicator of the ITEG proposed indicators to assess interconnectivity, the domestic demand should be served through domestic generation or imports. The indicator is expressed through a ratio between the nominal transmission capacity of the interconnection lines (thermal capacity) and the peak load. A low ratio means that the peak load in a country is high compared to the thermal capacity of the interconnection lines.

Where the nominal transmission capacity of interconnectors is below 30 % of their peak load, Member States should urgently investigate options for additional interconnectors.

For countries in green the ratio is above 60 %, for countries in yellow it is between 30 % and 60 % while for countries in red it is below 30 %.

Figure 20 shows this indicator in the case where Europe would stop all investment in the grid after 2020 (top) and with the expected grid in 2025 (bottom).

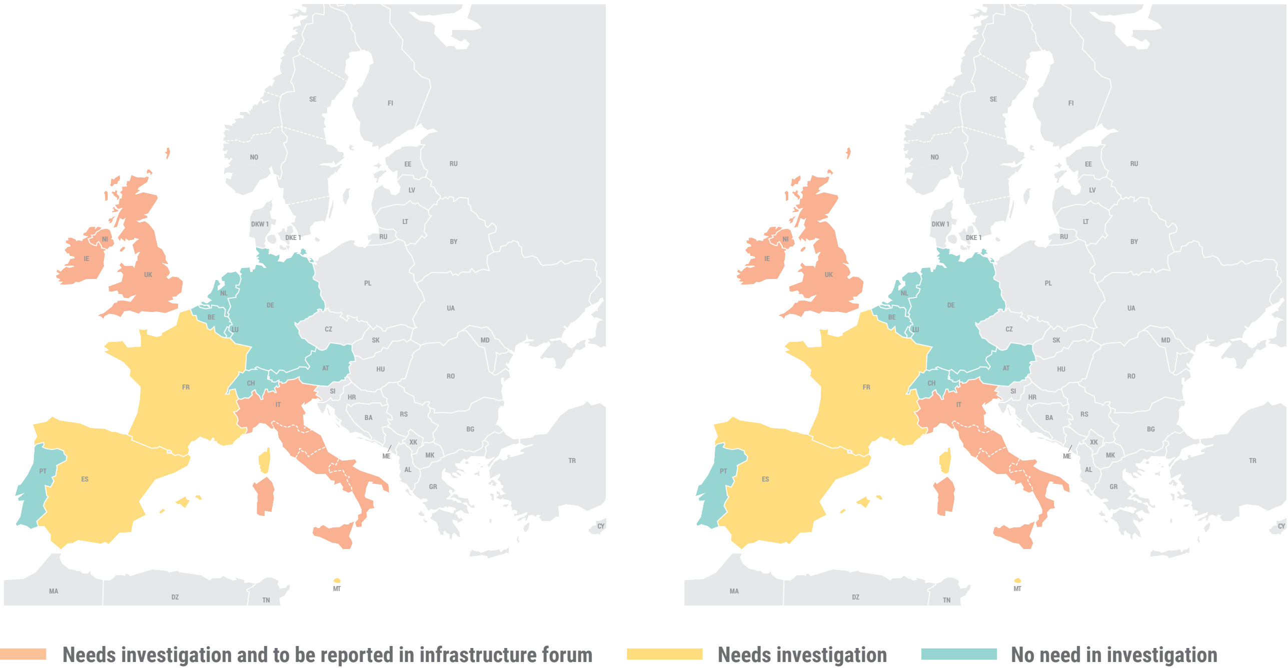


Figure 20 – Ratio of nominal transmission capacity (thermal capacity) to the peak load in 2030, in the case where Europe would stop all grid reinforcement after 2020 (left) and with the 2025 grid (right).