

DSO Entity at a glance: Role, mandate, governance and tasks

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DSO
ENTITY
DSOs FOR EUROPE

Overview

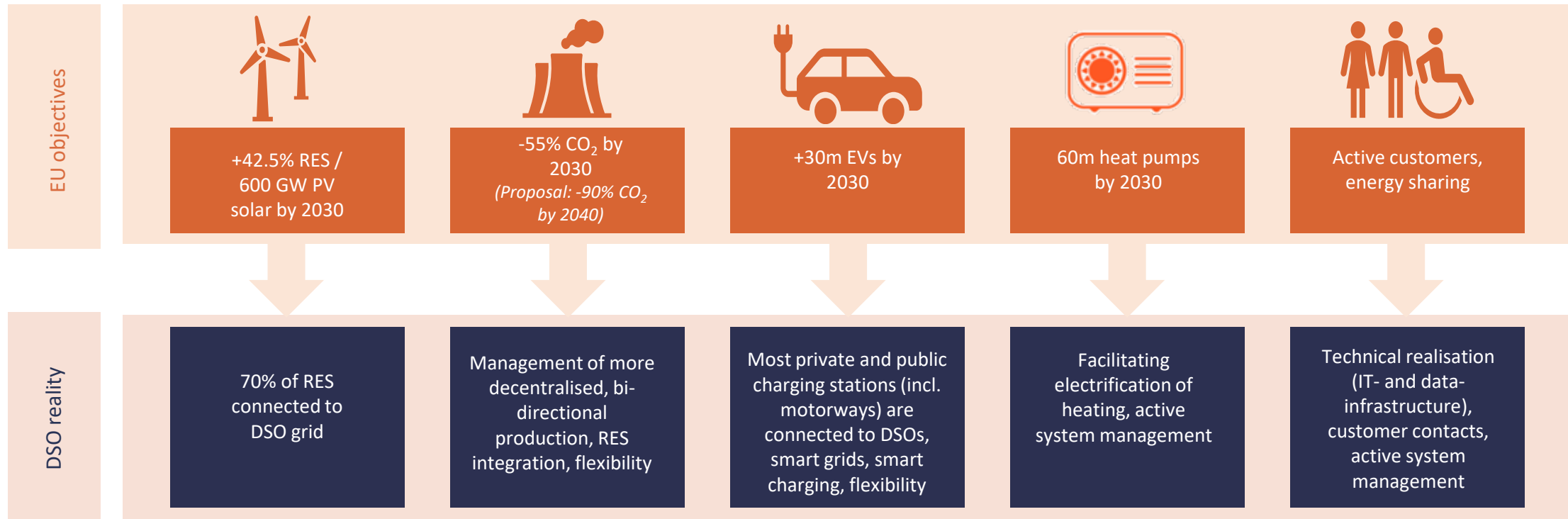
- 1. General introduction: DSO Entity's role and mandate**
- 2. Deep dive: Governance, tasks and expertise structure**
- 3. Looking beyond: DSO Entity's membership**



1. General introduction to DSO Entity: Role & mandate



1. Context: DSOs' role is increasing in the EU energy system and key for the achievement of EU's targets



Decarbonisation, Decentralisation and Digitalisation increase the role of DSOs as key actor in transition

The war, the energy crisis and the EU emergency measures **intensify this trend as of 2022**



For more facts and figures on DSOs, check our Factsheet (available [here](#)).

1. Closing the gap: DSOs were the “missing link” when technical rules for the electricity system were created before 2021



For a long time, **DSOs were the missing puzzle stone** in the institutionalized relationship between ENTSO-E, ACER and the European Commission

DSOs united in diversity

Enablers of the energy transition



DSO Entity is tasked to **develop future-proof conditions for the electricity system** and to facilitate the energy transition

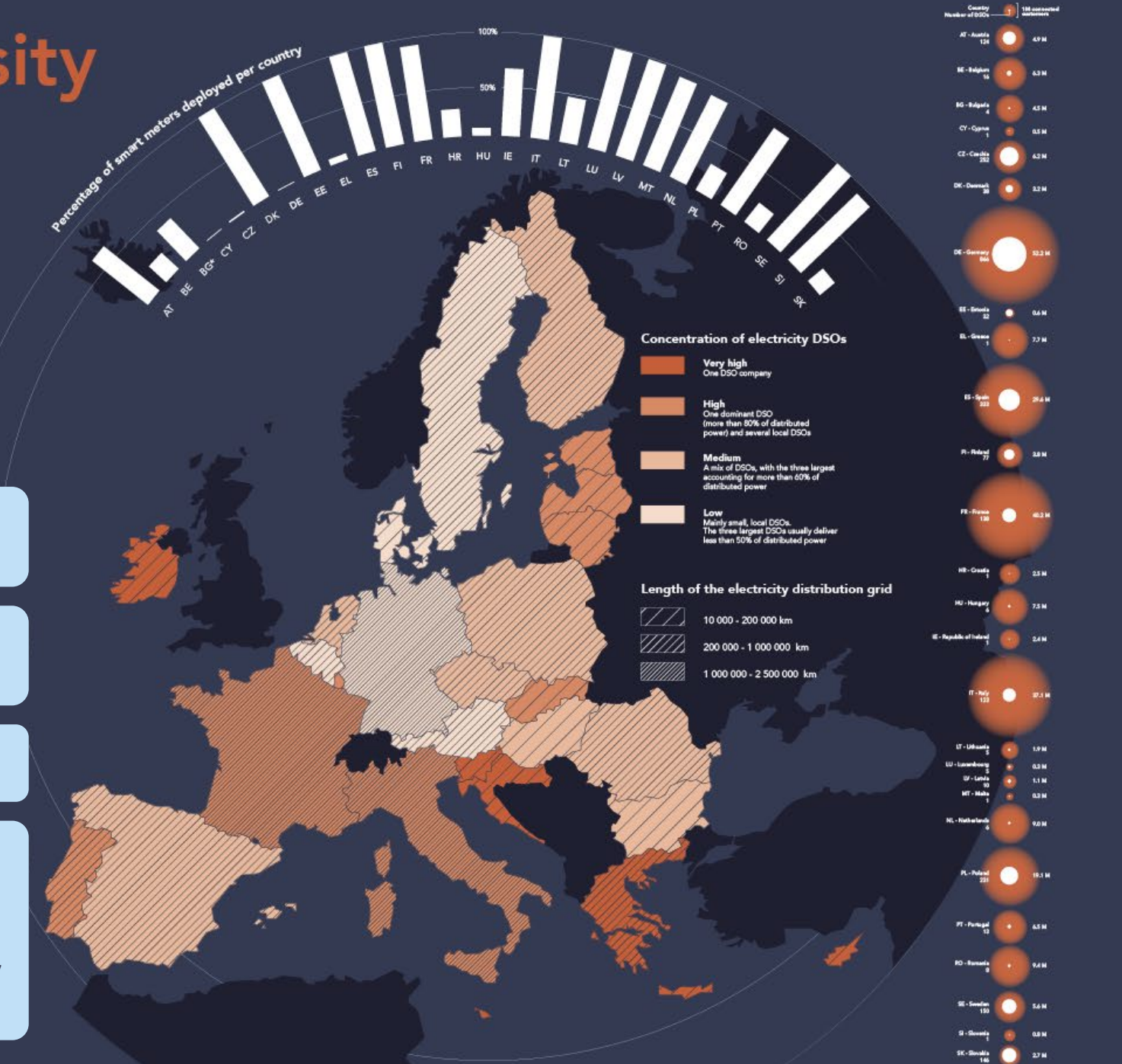
830 electricity Distribution System Operators (DSOs) of all sizes from all EU 27 Member States

10 million km of power lines (97% of all power lines)
Four million distribution transformers

Connecting +250 million European households

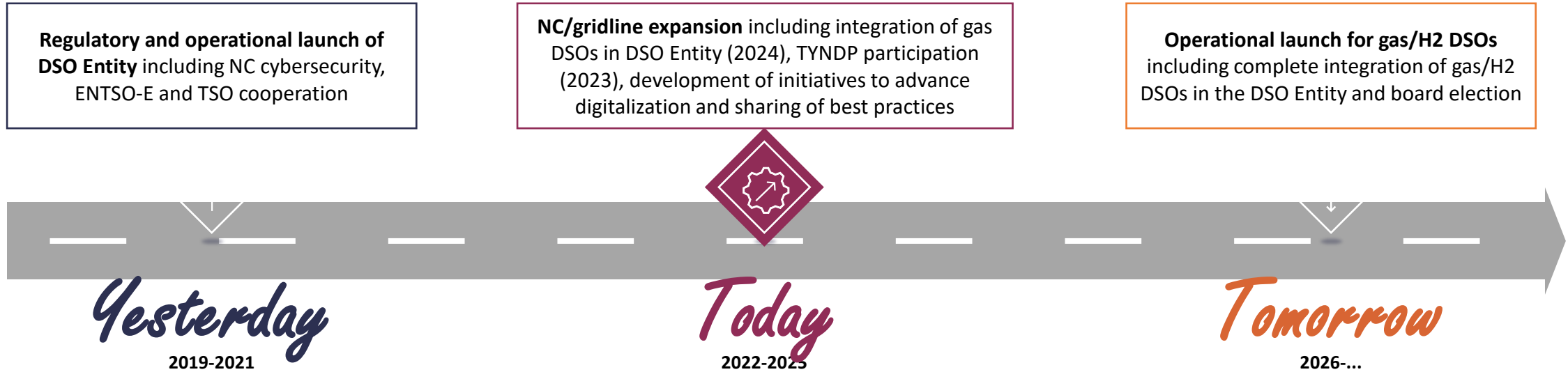
Despite differences, same challenges for DSOs:

- Enabler of transition, empower consumer
- DSO Entity enhances implementation of EU rules
- DSOs have bigger focus on local level; EU transparency can increase, but no top-down harmonisation needed



1. Growing membership: DSO Entity will integrate a new vector, adding 50% in members and 32% in connections in 2026

Main DSO Entity steps over time since the start in 2021

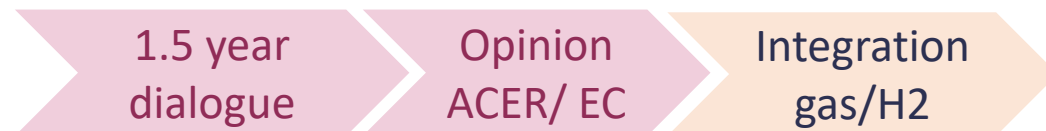


Key numbers

830 Members	~250M Connections
0 Expert groups	0 Experts
1 FTE Staff	

830 Members	~255M Connections
8 Expert groups	>200 Experts
25+ FTE Staff	

1.250 Members	~337M Connections
12+ Expert groups	250-300 Experts
30-35+ FTE Staff	



2. Deep dive: Governance, tasks and expertise structure



2. Legal mandate: EU Regulation 2019/943 (Art. 52-61) gives DSO Entity a clear mandate with three core pillars



Network Codes & Guidelines

Participates in the drafting of Network Codes & Guidelines relevant for DSO grids

- **NC Cybersecurity** (in force since May 2024)
- Joint first draft with ENTSO-E of new **NC Demand Response** (Joint Proposal in May 2024)
- **Review of existing NCs** (e.g. Grid Connection Codes)



DSO/TSO cooperation

Promotes optimal & coordinated planning and operation of DSO/TSO networks

- **MoU** with ENTSO-E on general cooperation
- DSO-TSO Joint Work Plans
- Intensive cooperation on all **Network Codes and beyond** (e.g. *Grid Action Plan*)

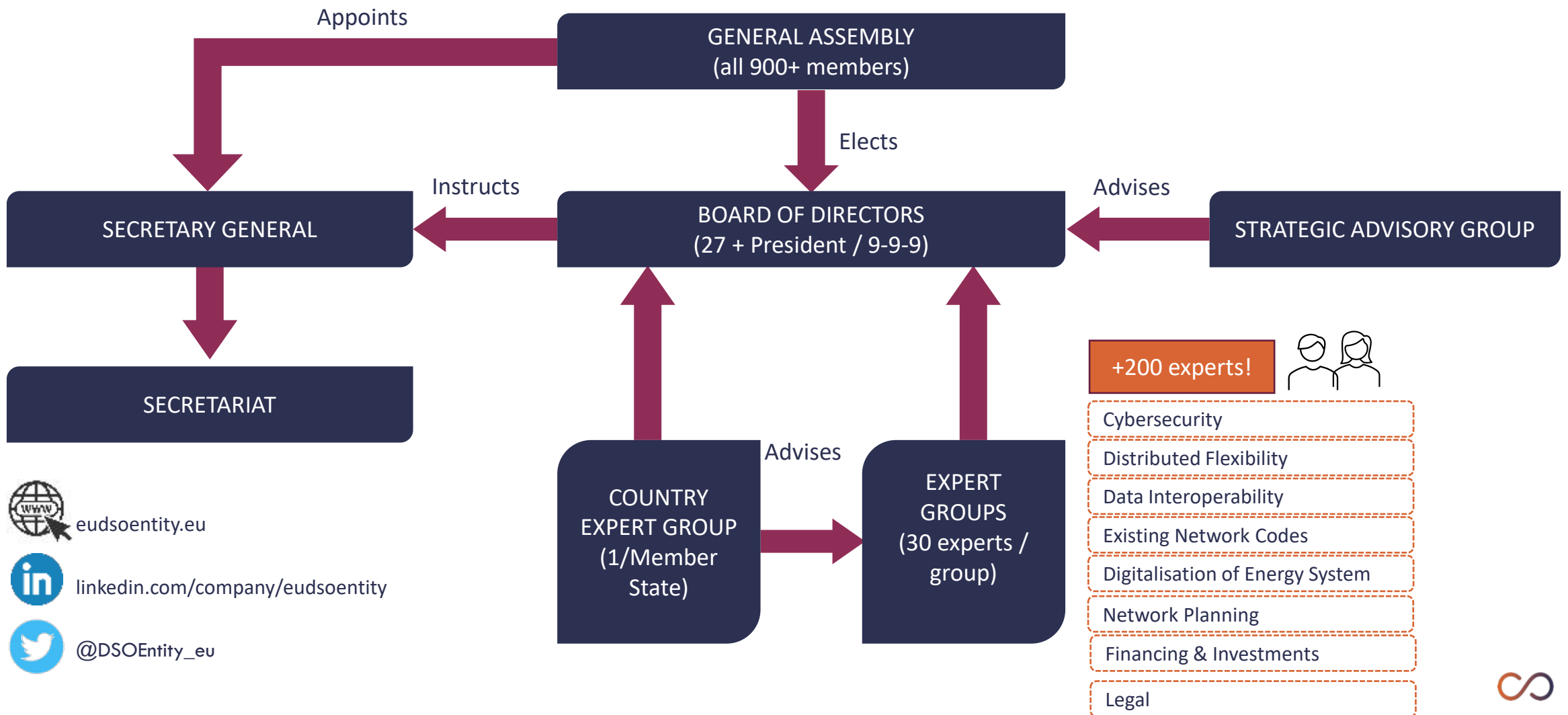


Sharing best practices

Provides a forum of expertise enabling exchange of views within the association & Expert Groups

- DSO Entity only association with all DSOs from all sizes & EU-27
- **Knowledge Sharing Strategy and Website**
- **e.g. Technical Vision** (Dec. 2024), Competitiveness Paper (Sep. 2025), Grid Package Booklet (Oct. 2025), Resilience Paper (Feb. 2026)

2. DSO Entity's governance: Balanced governance enabling active member participation & expertise

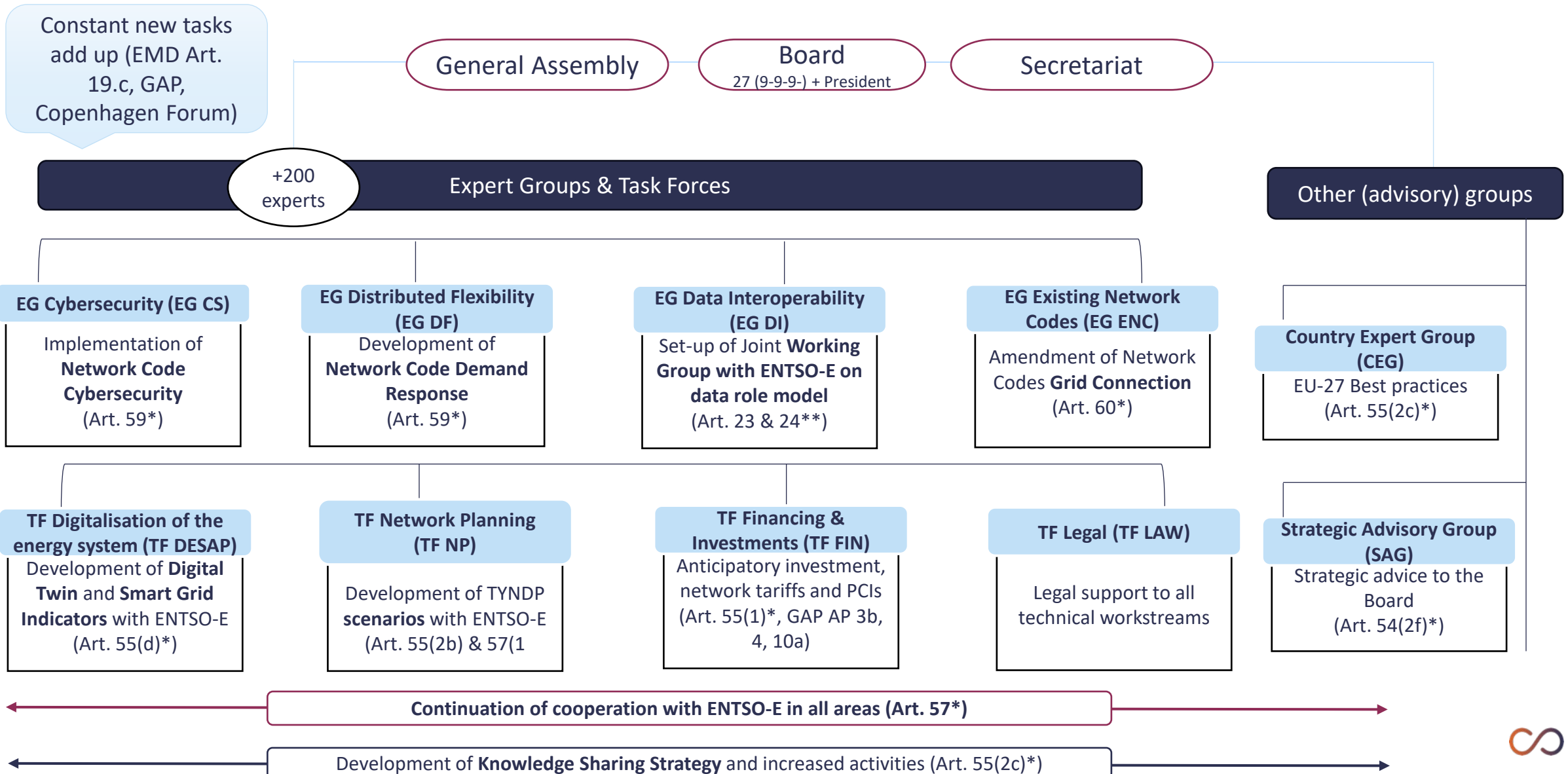


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2. DSO Entity's structure: Expert Groups & Task Forces at the core of the work



* Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU)
 ** Electricity Market Directive (2019/944/EU)



3. Looking beyond: DSO Entity's membership

3. DSO Entity's membership

DSO Entity's membership rules are defined by DSO Entity's Statutes under Chapter II and are described below.

- DSO Entity offers several membership categories for DSOs, each providing access to specific benefits and subject to defined eligibility requirements.
- Memberships apply to DSOs as defined according to **the meaning of the EU Electricity Directive (2019/944/EU)**.



DSOs from EU Member States

- **MEMBER:** DSO Entity's full membership applies strictly to **DSOs from EU Member States**, i.e. no DSOs from third countries (outside of EU-27) can be a DSO Entity's member.
- **OBSERVER:** Are eligible European and/or national associations representing (EU) DSOs pursuant to the EU Electricity Directive (2019/944/EU) and subject to DSO Entity's Board's approval.



DSOs from third countries

- **Electricity DSOs from outside of the European Union** can apply for DSO Entity 'Associate Member' or 'Third Country Partner' membership:
 - **ASSOCIATE MEMBER: DSOs applying all EU energy laws** in accordance with Art. 194 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union.
 - **THIRD COUNTRY PARTNER: Only via partnership agreements** and with restricted involvement, i.e. no participation in Expert Groups developing proposals for EU rules, in particular network codes.

DSO Entity's publications

DSO ENTITY - GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGULATORY INSIGHTS



EU DSO Map



Let's connect booklet



Delivering the Grid Action Plan (GAP) – DSO Entity's role and takeaways



From the Grid Action Plan to the Grids Package: What is still missing



Facts and Figures

DSO ENTITY TECHNICAL PAPERS AND REPORTS



Digital Solutions for Handling Connection Requests



Grid Forming Roadmaps



DSO's Access to Finance



Innovation for regulated companies – An initial DSO perspective



Public Funding for DSOs



DSO Entity's Technical Vision

Thank you for you attention!

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