



2021 Annual Report



Brussels | April 2022

About EASEE-gas

EASEE-gas, the European Association for the Streamlining of Energy Exchange – gas promotes and develops solutions for the simplification and streamlining of the trading and physical transfer of gas.

EASEE-gas was set up in 2002 and currently comprises more than 80 companies active in the European gas market.

The association is registered in France (Law of 1901 Registration) and managed in Brussels, Belgium.

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Foreword

Dear EASEE-gas members,

2021 was a very unusual year for me to initiate my mandate as chair of the Board of Directors of EASEE-gas given the pandemic restrictions and the resulting limitations in terms of face-to-face meetings. Notwithstanding, I look back proudly at everything we managed to achieve during the past year; and I am thrilled with the prospect of celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Association in person this May in Brussels.

Our Working Groups continued delivering value to our member companies by making progress on their various activities and initiatives. The Message and Workflow Design Working Group launched three Task Forces to work on new messages on capacity interface, storage processes and e-invoicing. The WG also finalised version 6.1 of Edig@s which was published last month. A new version of the Harmonised Gas Role Model was also published early 2022 and discussions with the electricity sector are ongoing about harmonisation with the electricity role model.

The Technology Standards Working Group completed the development of EASEE-connect, the trusted digital platform for AS4/AS2 profiles. The launch of this platform has already been postponed a few times due to lack of resources within the WG to complete the development and testing. With the help of our member EGSSIS, the WG started the onboarding of the WG members early this year and we hope to be able to launch the platform to all members right after the GMoM.

On the side of the Gas Quality Harmonisation Working Group, very good progress was also achieved in 2021 with the Common Business Practice (CBP) on hydrogen flowing through natural gas infrastructure. This CBP was published February 2022 putting an end to over two years of discussions and meetings with the WG.

At the Board level, 2021 was the start of a more balanced distribution of responsibilities among Board members. We have a very committed and cohesive group which is ready to support the Working Groups with the achievement of their plans. I want to personally thank my fellow Board members for the good cooperation during these past twelve months.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of EASEE-gas, I thank you for your continued trust and dedication and I look forward to a productive and successful 2022! I am also looking forward to welcoming you to Brussels for another two days of meetings and networking opportunities. It's been way too long since we last saw each other face-to-face. I hope all members can join our 20th anniversary celebrations!



Yours sincerely,

Michael Sostmann
Chair of the EASEE-gas Board of Directors

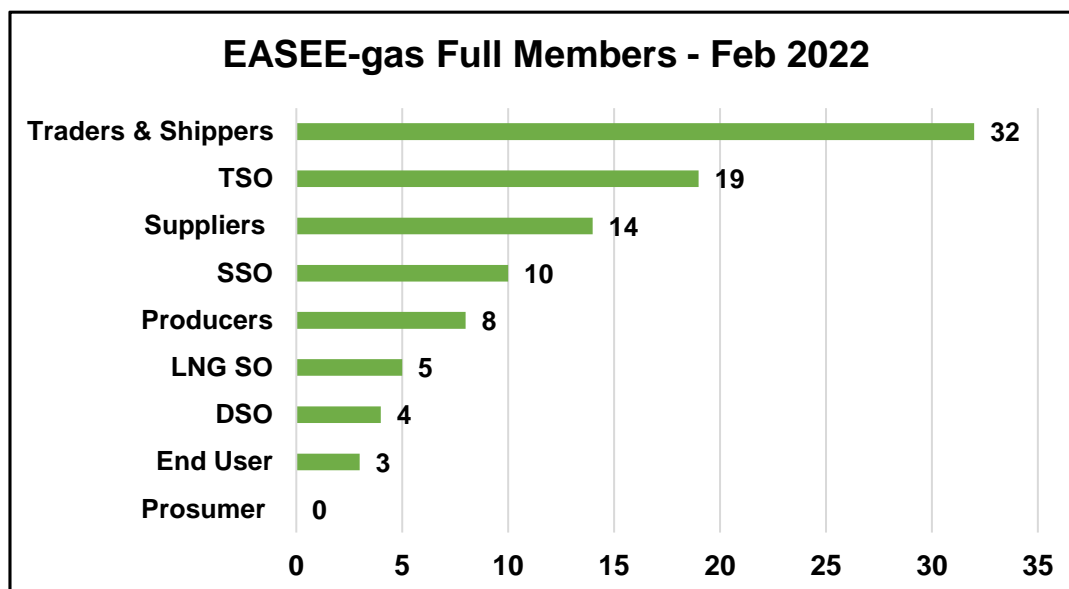


Membership

On 4 February 2022, EASEE-gas had 67 full members and 14 service provider members.

New members that joined since the last GMoM	
Full Members	Service Provider Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCI, end-user, The Netherlands  Türkakım A.Ş., TSO, Turkey  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cegal, Norway 
Resignations received since the last GMoM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNG Gasspeicher, Germany, SSO Spigas, Italy, Trader & Shipper USG, The Netherlands, end-user Storengy Deutschland GmbH, Germany, SSO AMETEK Process Instruments, Germany, service provider member Route4Gas, The Netherlands, service provider member 	

The full list of members is available on the website: <https://easee-gas.eu/members-list>.



The EASEE-gas Board encourages members to promote the association and to invite companies in the segments with lower representation to join the association and ensure that their views and concerns are taken into account in the various initiatives of the Working Groups and Board.

Board of Directors

Composition in 2021		
Name	Company	Gas Industry Segment
Chairman, Michael Sostmann	Open Grid Europe	TSO
Vice-Chairman, Michael Pustlauk	Equinor	Producer
Treasurer, Guillaume Vens	GRTgaz	TSO
Director, Luis Ignacio Parada	Enagas	LNG SO
Director, Bart Cornelis	Eni	Supplier
Director, Anita Nyvold	Yara International	End user
Director, Alexey Krugovets	Gazprom Export	Trader & Shipper

The EASEE-gas Board met regularly throughout the year - five virtual meetings were organised.

2021 Activities:

- Financial oversight and review of the association's revenue streams and expenses**
The Board is reviewing the financial structure of the association, including the revenue sources and the suppliers used to introduce efficiencies where possible. The number of membership resignations has been higher than the number of new membership requests in the past years which is not positive for the mid to long term financial sustainability of EASEE-gas. The restrictions brought by the Covid-19 pandemic have impacted positively in our expenses which have reduced because of no physical events and travelling, but attention needs to be paid to expenses in the coming years.
- Review co-operation agreement with ENTSOG**
We started discussions with ENTSOG about a possible review of the co-operation agreement. The agreement was signed in 2015 so the Board felt it was a good time to evaluate the implementation and analyse if changes to the scope and financing are necessary. This process initiated mid-2021 and will continue throughout 2022. One first conclusion is that the relationship is evolving very positively and is very much appreciated from both sides, EASEE-gas and ENTSOG.
- EASEE-gas services: EASEE-connect and security certificates**
Since a couple of years now EASEE-gas is allowed to sell services to members and non-members. The Board looked at the terms of use of both EASEE-connect and the security certificates as well as the pricing to be charged. The launch of EASEE-connect was postponed to 2022 which gives more time to fine-tune the conditions under which the service will be made available.
- Oversight over Working Groups and Strategic Plan**
The chairs of the three Working Groups attended some of the Board meetings to report on status of activities and discuss any needed support like for instance external help, budget or participation of specific gas industry segments in the discussions. Bart Cornelis is the Board liaison to the Working Groups and is in close contact with the chairs and secretaries. The Strategic Plan put together in 2020 is reviewed at each Board meeting. Updates are available in the EASEE-gas SharePoint as well as in the reserved area of the website.

Coordination Committee

Current Composition		
Name	Company	Segment
Bart Cornelis, Board liaison	Eni	Supplier
Jarle Rønnevik, Chair of the Message & Workflow Design WG	Equinor	Producer
Dirk Serruys, Chair of the Technology Standards WG	Fluxys	TSO/SSO/LNG SO
Peter Van Wesenbeeck, Chair of the GQHWG	Nederlandse Gasunie	TSO/SSO
Oliver Schirok, Chair of the Gas Role Model Task Force	VNG Handel & Vertrieb	Trader & Shipper / Supplier

The Coordination Committee groups the chairs of the Working Groups of EASEE-gas and one representative of the Board. The WG' secretaries and the chairs of Task Forces are also invited to take part in the meetings. The group's main purpose is to ensure a regular and updated information exchange about the activities performed by the Working Groups in relation to the objectives listed in the Strategic Plan of the association. The chairs of the Working Groups are also invited to take part in some of the Board meetings to report directly to the Board on the status of the Working Group activities.

The group had three virtual meetings in 2021: March, July and October. Discussions focused on: preparation for the virtual GMoM in March; the security certificate migration process which took place in January 2021, the completion of EASEE-connect, discussions about the CBP on Hydrogen and the update of Edig@s v. 6.

Working Groups

Message and Workflow Design Working Group

The Message and Workflow Design Working Group (MWDWG) was chaired by Jarle Rønnevik from Equinor until December 2021, with the support of Marius Fornæss from Sysco. Oliver Schirok took over the chairmanship of the group in January 2022.

2021 Activities:

- **Edig@s version 6**
- Edig@s version 6.1 was prepared, including essential corrections as well as a new business process with messages for Storage System Operators and LNG System Operators. Version 6.1 includes a complete set of examples for all messages and document types.
- A full version 5 and 6.1 comparison was prepared for publication together with the version 6.1 of Edig@s.
- A presentation of Edig@s version 6 and the new business process for System Operation was given at the joint ENTSOG/EASEE-gas/GIE workshop.
- The MWDWG task force activities were:
 - Task force for capacity process analysed further requirements
 - Task force to support the invoicing process in Edig@s decided on creating a CBP
 - Task force for Storage System Operators prepared the input for 6.1

140 downloads of Edig@s V6

- Further alignment with the Harmonised Gas Role Model and support for the gas role model task force regarding harmonisation for the electricity sector.

Technology Standards Working Group

The Technology Standards Working Group (TSWG) is chaired by Dirk Serruys from Fluxys with the support of Wim de Olde (Nederlandse Gasunie) as secretary.

2021 Activities:

- EASEE-connect was the major work topic of the TSWG this year. We finalized the version 1.0 product and onboarded the members of the TSWG as a first step. We are preparing the general launch phase.
- We worked on 3-step approach to increase implementation of the CBP on Agreement Update and certificate exchange. We presented this approach to the community during a joint workshop with ENTSO-g. Implementation of this CBP is crucial if we want to evolve in configuration management on our messaging systems. Implementation would ease future migration of certificate projects but we see little adoption which makes this topic a challenging one.
- We are working on a brief where we want to explain the impact/context of cloud adoption for messaging systems.
- Each TSWG meeting we foresee a small moment where we share cybersecurity incidents and events with the aim of security knowledge sharing.

Gas Quality Harmonisation Working Group

The Gas Quality Harmonisation Working Group (GQHWG) is chaired by Peter van Wesenbeeck from Nederlandse Gasunie with the support of the secretary Charlotte Besnier (GRT Gaz). Despite the fact that the GQHWG members had to adapt to remote working conditions, 2021 can definitely be characterised as a fruitful year in which a lot of work was carried out as can be seen from the following activities.

2021 Activities:

- In 2021, the GQHWG worked on a Common Business Practice (CBP) for the harmonisation of 'pure' hydrogen flowing through dedicated systems, meaning networks that were originally designed and used for natural gas transmission and after a safety and reliability assessment found suited for conveying hydrogen and newly built hydrogen pipeline systems. The CBP was approved by the Board on 14 September.
- The contribution of the GQHWG to the plenary meetings of CEN TC234 and the working group meetings CEN TC234 WG11 'Gas Quality' continued in 2021. CEN TC234 WG11 has started the reviewing process of the European H-gas standard EN 16726 which amongst other changes, includes the introduction of a Wobbe index range. Furthermore, CEN TC234 WG11 is drafting a Technical Specification for a hydrogen quality specification in repurposed pipelines.
- The GQHWG was involved in the Prime Movers' Group on Gas Quality and Hydrogen Handling. A contribution was made to Sub Group 1 which discussed with the details of the new classification system that forms part of the H-gas Wobbe index proposal and which needs to be enshrined in some form of regulation/legislation, the report will also inform a separate process in which the setup of the classification system is dealt with. Within Subgroup 2, which was co-chaired by EASEE-gas, created with the goal of providing an overview of potential future developments in each sector, including possible solutions for each area of concern and the main barriers preventing the implementation of the those solutions. A final report was delivered at the beginning of 2022.
- In 2021 the EU financed Pre Normative Study on Hydrogen was carried out by GERG under supervision of CEN. This project aims to remove the technical barriers for injection/use of hydrogen in natural gas infrastructure and gas applications. The project was divided in nine topics and for each topic a lead organisation was designated. EASEE-gas took a seat in the CEN supervisory board.

Advisory Panel

Current Composition	
Name	Company/Association
Raquel Ponte Costa, Advisory Panel Chair	EASEE-gas
Jan van Aken	EFET
Michael Sostmann	Open Grid Europe (EASEE-gas Chair)
Luis Parada	Enagas (EASEE-gas Board Member)
Boyana Achovski	GIE
Kees Bouwens	IOGP
Manuel Coxe	Marcogaz
Sue Harrison	UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Nicolas Jensens	Eurogas
Dirk Jan Meuzelaar	USG
Jochen Wagner	IFIEC
Markus Krug	E-Control
Hiltrud Schuelken	CEN TC 234 Secretary
Martin Winkeler	CEN TC 234 Chair
Cyril Harry	Eurelectric
Sonia Clarena Baron	EUTurbines
Annette Jantzen	EUGINE
Constantine Levoyannis	Hydrogen Europe
Hendrik Pollex	ENTSOG
Harmen Dekker	European Biogas Association

One of the objectives of 2020 set by the Board was to leverage the Advisory Panel and to turn it into a platform for exchange of information and where possible coordination of action between the major industry associations in the gas sector. Hydrogen Europe, ENTSOG and the European Biogas Association were invited to join the group. The chairmanship of the group also transitioned to Raquel Ponte Costa given the retirement of Jan Van Aken. Since there were no physical Madrid Forum meetings in 2021, the group met virtually on 26 April 2021.

Under the new format of the Advisory Panel, a topic is selected for each meeting and all members are invited to contribute and to share information and insights about activities and updates. The April 2021 meeting focused on the CBP on Hydrogen that is being prepared by the Gas Quality Harmonisation Working Group. Peter van Wesenbeeck (Nederlandse Gasunie) who is the chair of the Working Group presented the status of the discussions so far and answered to all questions and comments.

The meeting was also the opportunity to thank Jan van Aken, Dirk Jan Meuzelaar and Peter Meeuwis for their participation to the Advisory Panel and to EASEE-gas and to wish them a healthy and happy retirement.

Communications

The communication efforts were intensified in 2021 and focused on improving the website, developing branding and communication materials and ensuring ongoing activities on our LinkedIn. In terms of internal communications, the EASEE-gas SharePoint was introduced mid-2021. The SharePoint has been introduced to the Board and to some of the Working Groups. The remaining membership will be invited to join the platform during the first quarter of 2022. For the time being, the reserved area of the website will remain available as usual.

Website & LinkedIn

The website was updated with new content, new visual elements such as pictures, icons and videos were added to the different pages and the structure of the navigation bar was simplified to improve the user experience. Despite these efforts, the number of visitors on the website has decreased considerably compared to 2020 (**34% less users and 23% less sessions**). While this is a disappointing result, it must also be highlighted that the current website dates back to 2014, which means the platform is very old and would benefit greatly from a full revamp.

We are on the other hand happy to inform that the LinkedIn page continued to grow in 2021 in terms of followers and level of engagement. This is the positive result of more frequent and newsworthy posts that proved to be relevant for our audience. On top of that a paid advertisement campaign for the Edig@s video was carried out in November. The campaign resulted in additional 11k views to the video on LinkedIn. The exercise was judged very positive and might be repeated in the near future.

LinkedIn is in many ways the place to be for associations and companies. LinkedIn will also play a very important role for EASEE-gas when it comes to scale up and becoming more visible in general. The great efforts will continue on LinkedIn in 2022, and we invite everyone to engage with our content.

News & newsletters

In 2021, four news items were published on the website:

- 18 February: Migration of Certificates 2021: lessons learnt & future plans
- 1 April: EASEE-gas elects new Board Chair
- 28 September: First findings of the Prime movers' group on Gas Quality and Hydrogen handling
- 2 December: EASEE-gas' Message and Workflow Design Working Group elects new chair

Three newsletters were sent to the entire EASEE-gas membership in April, August and October. The newsletter is an important tool to keep members informed on the main activities and highlights of the association. All newsletters, including editions from previous years, can be consulted at any time on the reserved area of the website: <https://easee-gas.eu/reserved-area/easee-gas-newsletters>. Latest Newsletters are also already available in the EASEE-gas SharePoint.

Events

The travel and social distance restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic continued in 2021. All meetings therefore continued taken place virtually.



2021 Virtual General Meeting of Members (GMoM)

The 2021 GMoM took place virtually on 16th March. The GMoM resolutions were voted electronically ahead of the virtual event. The three active Working Groups – Gas Quality Harmonisation WG, Message and Workflow Design WG and Technology Standards WG - provided a comprehensive overview of the work done in 2020 and their plans for the future. The slides, different documents and the recording link for the webinar are available for members on the reserved area of the website in the GMoM section. The virtual meeting also included a farewell message to Peter Meeuwis who retired in May 2021.

Joint EASEE-gas, ENTSOG & GIE Workshop on Data Exchange and Cyber Security

EASEE-gas joined forces with ENTSOG to organise the annual data exchange workshop which took place virtually on 17 November 2021. This year's event also counted on the support of GIE and an additional session was organised on cyber security.

The Technology Standards Working Group and the Message Workflow Design Working Group represented EASEE-gas at the event with the following slots:

- Dirk Serruys, Agreement Update Specification Review on an ENTSOG AS4 profile extension
- Wim De Olde, Update on EASEE-connect
- Jarle Rønnevik, Practical use of the Edig@s format - Current and Future
- Oliver Schirok, System operations with Edig@s

The event presentations are available for download [here](#).

Contact

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