

STORIES MENTORING PROGRAMME REPORT

Mentee (PhD Student) Details	
First Name:	Irena
Last Name:	Beloreshka
Affiliation / Employer:	Faculty of Management, Technical University - Sofia
Country of Employer:	Bulgaria
PhD Thesis Title:	Research into and development of economic models for deployment of electricity storage systems
Mentor (Supervisor) Details	
First Name:	Manuel
Last Name:	Baumann
Affiliation / Employer:	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung und Systemanalyse (ITAS)
Country of Employer:	Germany
Online Meetings	
How often and since when do the mentee and mentor meet online?	
Monthly meetings since March 2024, follow-ups in writing (links and materials) for strategic advice and technical support on specific topics.	
In Person Meeting (if applicable)	
Where and when did the mentee and mentor meet in person?	
8 th – 10 th July 2025, Karlsruhe, ITAS' premises.	
Mentoring Programme Report	
<p>My research has been heavily influenced by the rapid development of the energy storage market due to the introduction of specific support schemes for hybrid and standalone energy storage in Bulgaria. At the same time, a New Electricity Market Design framework was adopted by the EU and came into force last year, which brought new regulatory</p>	

requirements for carrying out flexibility needs assessment as a foundation for future investments in electricity storage systems and introduction of non-fossil flexibility support schemes across Europe. Part of the secondary EU laws is in its final process of adoption by the competent EU bodies. All of this is steering the object of research - the economic models of electricity storage systems in a new direction, which necessitates the reassessment of the added value of the dissertation and the results it will show.

In addition to helping me redefine the value of my research and restructure the thesis in light of the new research reality for energy storage, the Mentor has been complementing the Supervisors for elaboration of the thesis with its accompanying papers and articles by way of: (a) Recommending the relevant research methods and their sequence; (b) Recommending the most recent scientific materials of relevance to the topic; (c) Connecting me with other researchers who have been applying similar methods.

During the latest in-person sessions the Mentor reviewed the latest draft paper (to be published as part of Springer proceedings), which is indicative of the direction of the dissertation and provided recommendations for improvement and scaling for the dissertation. As part of the this in-person sessions programme I participated in an ITAS team meeting which provided me with the opportunity to connect and follow up (in immediate in-person meetings) with other researchers – shared their experience on Multi-criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) for energy technologies, and sustainability KPIs and MCDA.

- **Confirmation**

This report has been confirmed by both parties (16/07/2025).

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