

PRESS RELEASE: GEODE publishes Vision for Future-Proof Local Grids to Support Europe's Energy Transition

Brussels, 1 July 2026 – GEODE has published its new paper, titled “GEODE’s Vision for Future-Proof Local Grids”, highlighting the key regulatory, investment and policy measures needed to enable Distribution System Operators (DSOs) to deliver the infrastructure required for Europe’s energy transition, competitiveness and energy security.

As the European Union accelerates electrification and reduces its dependence on imported fossil fuels, distribution grids are becoming increasingly central to Europe’s energy security, competitiveness and decarbonisation efforts. DSOs are key enablers of this transformation, connecting renewables, integrating new electricity demand, supporting decentralised energy solutions and ensuring reliable network operation. At the same time, Europe’s electricity systems remain highly diverse, meaning policy and regulatory frameworks must reflect different national and local realities. Delivering the energy transition will require major grid investment, faster permitting, efficient planning, greater digitalisation and enhanced system resilience.

To address these challenges, *GEODE’s Vision for Future-Proof Local Grids* presents a set of recommendations that are essential to achieve the EU’s 2030 targets while strengthening security of supply, energy independence and competitiveness. The paper focuses on five key areas from the perspective of DSOs: investment and regulatory frameworks, affordability of grid infrastructure, planning and permitting, digitalisation and cybersecurity, and efficiency of local DSOs.

To unlock the required investments, the paper highlights the need for stable and forward-looking regulation that provides long-term visibility for network operators and investors, enabling timely grid investment and modernisation. It also calls for anticipatory investments based on future network and electrification needs, supported by timely cost recovery, and for adapting the mandate of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to better support the energy transition and grid resilience. On affordability, GEODE stresses that electricity grids are an essential enabler of the energy transition and should be viewed as part of the solution rather than a cost component of the energy bill and advocates for maintaining cost-reflective grid tariffs.

To accelerate infrastructure deployment, GEODE calls for faster and simpler permitting procedures, alongside a clear distinction, in EU legislation and regulatory discussions, between administrative permits for infrastructure build-out and grid connection procedures. On digitalisation, the paper advocates for interoperable standards, stable investment frameworks and technological neutrality for DSOs digital and flexibility solutions. It also stresses that digitalisation complements, not replaces, grid expansion and highlights the need for practical and proportionate cybersecurity rules. Finally, GEODE highlights the value of local and regional DSOs, whose close proximity to consumers enables targeted investments, faster response times and high-quality service.

Overall, the paper underlines that distribution grids are essential to delivering Europe’s energy transition, competitiveness and energy security objectives. Creating the right regulatory and policy conditions for DSOs to invest, innovate and deploy infrastructure at the required path and speed will be crucial to achieving Europe’s climate and industrial ambitions.

The full paper can be accessed [here](#).



About GEODE:

GEODE is the premium European association representing local electricity and gas distribution networks across the continent committed to sustainable, efficient and reliable management of the backbone of the energy system - the grids. Thanks to the technical expertise of its members, GEODE's mission is to pilot the energy transition towards decentralised, decarbonised and digitalised energy systems.

Contact:

Giulia Aluffi

Communication and Event Coordinator

galuffi@geode-eu.org

www.geode-eu.org