# Sustainable and Resilient Connectivity in Asia-Pacific

### **Matthew Wittenstein**

**UN ESCAP** 





### Why does connectivity matter?

Security



Sustainability



Affordability

Power systems involve trade-offs:

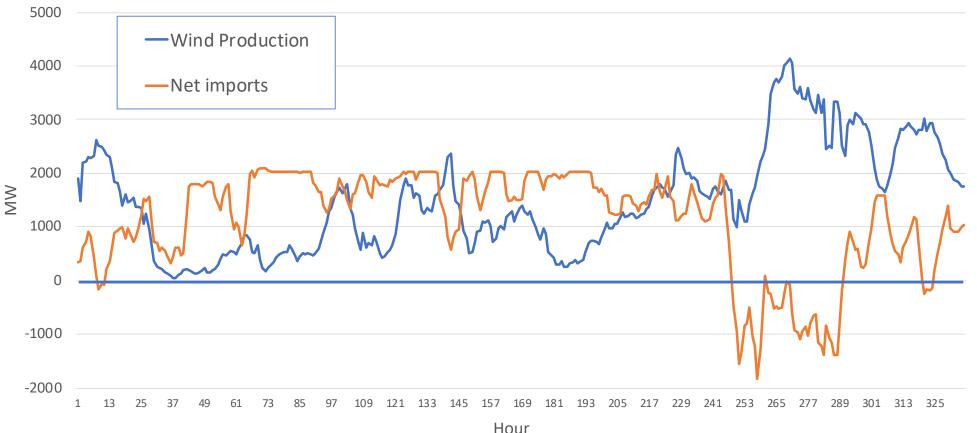
- Maintaining a sufficient level of security
- Ensuring power is **affordable** to all
- Limiting environmental impact

Connectivity helps resolve this **energy trilemma** 



# Sustainability implications of connectivity

#### Denmark wind production and net imports, October 1 to October 14, 2020



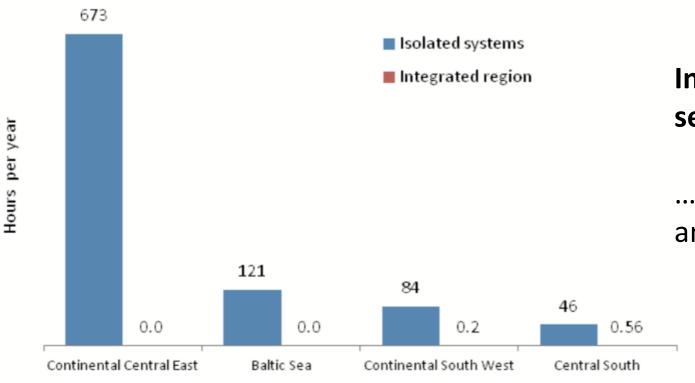
Wind contributes nearly **50%** of Denmark's power generation, on average. Significant levels of interconnection helps to **balance variability.** 

Source: Energinet.dk



### Security implications of connectivity

Loss-of load expectation (LOLE), isolated vs integrated systems, Europe



Integrated grid = more secure grid

...if supported by regulatory and market harmonization.

Note: Scenario B of ENTSO-E.

Continental Central East region: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovak Republic;

Baltic Sea region: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway and Sweden;

Continental South West: Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy and Slovenia;

Central South: France, Spain and Portugal.

Source: IEA graph, based on ENTSOE calculations.



## Local vs global: getting the balance right

#### Security:

- Local control
- Avoided imports
- Limits diversity of supply

#### Sustainability:

- Local resources
- High variability/correlation of resources
- Minimize transmission losses

Local & small

Higher generation costs (LCOE)

Avoid transmission losses, investment

Limited diversity

Local control

Distant & large

Lower cost of generation (LCOE)

Higher transmission losses, cost

Increased diversity

Requires coordination

#### Security:

- Requires coordination
- Exposure to external risks
- Increased diversity

#### Sustainability:

- Access to high quality RE resources
- Variability smoothing
- Requires transmission investments



### ESCAP's draft Electricity Connectivity Roadmap: Strategies towards interconnecting the region's grids

**Planning** 

Regional Masterplan

Coordinate cross-border transmission planning

Development

Mobilise investment

Trading and operations

- Move toward multilalteral trading and competitive markets
- Co-ordinate cross-border system operations

**Cross-cutting** 

- Build trust and political consensus
- Develop intergovernmental agreements
- Capacity building, sharing of best practices and data
- Ensure coherence of connectivity with the SDGs



# Thank you

matthew.wittenstein@un.org