

The European Battery R&I Community

Task Forces

Terms of References

The Terms of Reference will cover the Task Forces which are operated jointly by Batteries Europe and BEPA.

Batteries Europe is an open-to-all forum bringing together all relevant stakeholders in the European batteries research and innovation ecosystem in order to develop and support a competitive battery value chain in Europe. Batteries Europe creates a bridge between the different actions related to the battery industry, especially in relation to research and innovation (R&I) and ensure that the relevant stakeholders have the possibility to discuss and agree upon common R&I priorities. Batteries Europe aims to support the development of the whole competitive, sustainable battery value chain in Europe through Research and Innovation.

BEPA is the association representing the private side of the BATT4EU Partnership, the public side of which is represented by the European Commission. BEPA gathers the European battery community willing to contribute to the ambitious Batt4EU Partnership under Horizon Europe.

Batteries Europe and BEPA organise Working Groups to streamline the input from the battery community to the deliverables by both organisations. These Working Groups are structured along the battery value chain. To tackle cross-cutting topics which touch upon multiple parts of the battery value chain, Batteries Europe and BEPA have established thematic joint Task Forces.

Due to the nature of the Partnership, some specific tasks and inputs relevant to the BEPA Work Programme might be restricted to BEPA members. For focused tasks only, and outside the scope and structure of the current BE/BEPA joint Task Forces, the Partnership BEPA can also establish temporary Partnership Task Forces that will be covered by different rules than the joint Task Forces outlined in the current document.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The Task Forces on cross-cutting issues are permanent structures and will be in operation for the whole duration of the Batteries Europe CSA. The Task Forces on cross-cutting issues will facilitate the collaboration between mainly the Working Groups' members in non-technical thematic areas that are transversal to the entire value chain. The aim of the Task Forces is to discuss the main challenges in these areas and provide recommendations and support to the workstream of the Working Groups, taking into account their specific challenges and needs.

The Task Forces previously established for Batteries Europe will be further engaged and supported and integrated with the transversal Technical Working Groups established under the wings of BEPA, where

relevant. Additional Task Forces will be established to address the increasing need for public engagement and hybridisation of batteries solutions with other technologies.

These Terms of Reference provide a flexible structure that will allow for a repurposing of their scope, based on the needs of the battery ecosystem and give room to establish other Task Forces if desired by Batteries Europe and/or BEPA. More information about the envisaged scope of each Task Force can be found in ANNEX I.

The main objective of the Task Forces will be:

- to strengthen the battery R&I ecosystem by gathering relevant EU stakeholders and fostering discussions on cross-cutting topics for the battery value chain;
- to identify needs, challenges, and barriers that the battery community could face, within the respective scopes of the Task Forces;
- to contribute to the strategic documents produced by Batteries Europe and BEPA, most notably the Roadmaps, the SRIA, KPIs and the Batt4EU Work Programme under Horizon Europe;
- provide clear and concise recommendations for the battery community and policymakers.

The outcomes and the associated deliverables of each Task Force will be linked to their specific needs and objectives. Each of the foreseen outcome(s) of the Task Forces should be brought for approval by the Steering Board. Their timeline and content will be outlined in their Work Plan. More information about the foreseen outcomes of the Task Forces can be found in ANNEX I.

COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCES

Members

Participation in the Task Forces' activities is open to those who actively sign up to each Task Force. Representatives from any organisation within Europe¹ with relevant expertise, and regardless of their connection to BEPA and/or BATTERIES EUROPE can become members of a Task Force. Any interested expert that is willing to become a member of one or more Task Forces will be able to fill in and submit an online application via the website of BEPA and Batteries Europe Secretariat. As an exception to the above, participants to the Task Forces' meetings and events at an ad-hoc basis could be one of the following, without the need to have the status of a Task Force member:

- Experts with specific expertise relevant to the Task Forces' main outcome
- Delegates from the European Commission and from Member States (involved in the National and Regional Coordination Group of Batteries Europe)

The Task Forces membership will be made available publicly. The list of member organisations and nominated persons will be available on the BEPA/BATT4EU and BATTERIES EUROPE websites.

Expertise

The composition of each Task Force should reflect the needed expertise in respect to their specific research area. Task Forces should be primarily staffed by a small representation of each Working Group, and it should be ensured at any given time, that in their composition there is at least one representative from each Working Group (exceptions apply only for the scope of the WGs is not relevant to the scope of a Task force, and vice-versa). Additionally, the collective expertise of each Task Force should be able to cover the entire value chain of batteries. Task Force Core Team should be able to identify any missing expertise and if needed take actions to cover any expertise gap by inviting the necessary experts in case the balance is disturbed.

Commitment

Participants in the Task Forces are expected to actively contribute to the Task Forces' objectives, workstream and deliverables. Interested stakeholders that are willing to participate in the Task Forces should declare their commitment for their active participation and their availability to dedicate time and effort to the Task Force they participate in. Members involved in the Task Forces not showing activity for more than eight months will be automatically removed from the mailing list of the Task Forces.

¹ Countries eligible for funding under the Horizon Europe programme or based in the United Kingdom or in Switzerland.

Size

There is no limit on the size of each Task Force, but the Core Team of each Task Force will strive to keep the percentage of engaged members as high as possible and take actions toward their efficient operation and reasonable distribution of the respective workload.

GOVERNANCE OF THE TASK FORCES

Coordination and participation

Each Task Force is led by a Core Group, which should consist of one Chair and one co-Chair as a minimum.

The members of the Core Group are nominated for a period of 2 years, can be reappointed without limit, and may be replaced if the scope of activities of the Task Force is changed.

The Core Groups of the Task Forces are supported by Task Leaders of BATTERIES EUROPE Secretariat. They will also receive administrative and technical support by the BATTERIES EUROPE Secretariat and/or the BEPA Office.

To ensure diversity and appropriate representation among the stakeholders,

- an individual can be elected only for one Core Group position in one Task Force;
- an organisation can have a maximum of two individuals elected in a Core Group (considering all Task Forces);
- individuals from the same organisation cannot run for a Core Group position within the same Task Force.

Elections and Admissibility

Elections for the Task Forces will take place through a transparent and online process organised/overseen by BATTERIES EUROPE Secretariat and the BEPA Office. Each Task Force member will be eligible to vote for the Core Group of their Task Force.

Admissibility of an application for a Core Team position will be assessed jointly by BEPA's Executive Board and BATTERIES EUROPE Secretariat, based on the following criteria:

- relevance of the applicant's expertise with the scope of the specific Task Force;
- years of experience in the relevant field;
- ability to represent the entire scope of the Task Force;
- track record of previous work in the European battery community.

METHOD OF WORKING

Operation

The Core Group of each Task Force will draft a Work Plan which should be in line with the Grant Agreement of the BATTERIES EUROPE and the Memorandum of Understanding of BEPA. It will detail the course of actions, timeline, the specific objectives of the Task Force, foreseen deliverables and any specific rules that complement the current ToR document. The Work Plan of each Task Force should be presented for approval to the BATTERIES EUROPE Steering Board and the BEPA Executive Board and will be flexible to accommodate any future requests and expectations.

Decisions and approval

The decisions in each Task Force will be taken by consensus or through majority vote in case consensus is not reached. In case of critical matters, the Task Force Core Team will call on the BATTERIES EUROPE Steering Board and/or the BEPA Executive Board to receive appropriate guidance.

The outputs/deliverables of each Task Force will be submitted to BATTERIES EUROPE Steering Board and the BEPA Executive Board for approval before finalisation.

Meetings

The Core Team will call for Task Force meetings when deemed necessary for the preparation of the outputs and deliverables.

Task Forces meetings may be organised by teleconferencing, and consultation on draft documents and requests for input may be done via email. The working documents of the Task Forces will be shared and accessible online via repositories with appropriate access rights.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Core Group

The responsibilities of the Core Group of each Task Force will include (but not limited to):

- Inviting Task Force members
- Setting up the agenda of each meeting
- Chairing the meetings
- Producing the minutes after each meeting summarizing the relevant decisions and actions and distributing them to the Task Force members
- Coordinating and consolidating feedback and inputs

For those tasks and inputs which are expected to be delivered by the Task Force for the Batt4EU Partnership, the above-described tasks will be executed by a member of the Core Group who is a member of BEPA, or by a third member of the Task Force who is a member of BEPA.

BATTERIES EUROPE and Batt4EU/BEPA

BATTERIES EUROPE Secretariat and BEPA's Office will oversee the operation of the Task Forces and monitor their compliance with the current Terms of Reference document, with the Grant Agreement of the BATTERIES EUROPE and the Memorandum of Understanding of BEPA Association.

ANNEX I – SCOPE, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE CURRENT TASK FORCES

The following Task Forces are currently in operation:

Task Force: Digitalization

Scope	The Task Force on Digitalization aims to identify challenges and opportunities related to digital technologies for the battery value chain. It focuses on topics from discovery to end of life, assessing and evaluating the state-of-the-art of the currently available digital technologies and the benefits their further development can bring.
Timing	For the duration of the Batteries Europe CSA (up to June 2025)
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual recommendations; • Position paper; • KPIs for a digital battery passport; • Input for digitalisation topics for the Roadmap, the SRIA • Input for the Batt4EU Work Programme (BEPA members only) • Final report;

Task Force: Education and Skills

Scope	This Task Force focuses on the needs of the battery value chain in terms of education and skills for its workforce, looking at core technical knowledge and skills needed for manufacturing. Its focus is on the analysis of the present situation and a set of recommended actions needed to make Europe ready for competitiveness in 2030.
Timing	For the duration of the Batteries Europe CSA (up to June 2025)
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position Paper on Education and Skills (covering skill gaps; recommendations for the next 5-10 years; attractiveness of new talent) • Input for education and skill-building topics for the Roadmap, the SRIA and • Input for the Batt4EU Work Programme (BEPA members only) • Support to the EDU Battery Network

Task Force: Safety & Standards

Scope	The intention of this Task Force is to identify safety-related aspects across the entire battery value chain, working on the identification of potential hazards and failure modes, and working on prevention and mitigation of risks. The Task Force contemplates challenges like future battery technologies, automatization and the use of robotics in the processes, digitalization, sustainability actions and education needs.
Timing	For the duration of the Batteries Europe CSA (up to June 2025)
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position paper on Safety and Standards • Input for safety and standardisation topics for the Roadmap, the SRIA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input for the Batt4EU Work Programme (BEPA members only) • Act as a forum for dialogue with other initiatives; • Standardised content framework and communication practices
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Task Force: Sustainability

Scope	The Batteries Europe Task Force on Sustainability aims at defining the key sustainability aspects that need to be taken into account across the whole battery value chain, defining the main sustainability requirements in terms of economic sustainability (lack of raw materials, EU independence, regulatory aspects, etc), social sustainability (workers' rights, jobs, social life cycle assessment, etc) and environmental sustainability (use of hazardous materials, recycling, life cycle assessment, etc).
Timing	For the duration of the Batteries Europe CSA (up to June 2025)
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position Paper on Sustainability • Input for sustainability topics for the Roadmap, the SRIA • Input for the Batt4EU Work Programme (BEPA members only) • Organisation of a workshop

Task Force: Social Science and Humanities

Scope	The aim of this Task Force is to use methods from the Social Sciences and Humanities research domains to understand and to communicate the social reality complexities associated with batteries and promote the STEM disciplines. It will cover the processes across an entire batteries' supply chain and will put a strong focus on the battery use part, exploring enablers and obstacles of social acceptance among different groups of users, and reaching out to civil society and citizens through open consultations.
Timing	For the duration of the Batteries Europe CSA (up to June 2025)
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to improve SSH analysis of the batteries' supply chains • contribution to the roadmap and KPIs

Task Force: Standardisation and Hybridisation

Scope	This Task Force will facilitate knowledge exchange activities (e.g. meetings, workshops etc.) between the Batteries Europe and the ecosystem of experts and research infrastructure for energy storage technologies (both mobility and stationary applications) developed in the StoRIES project.
Timing	For the duration of the Batteries Europe CSA (up to June 2025)
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position paper on the potential for hybridized energy storage using batteries; • improve technology acceptance and citizens' engagement