

The 17th IAEE European Energy Conference- Impressions and recommendations

The conference was held in Athens, at the American College of Greece & the Alba Graduate Business School, between the 21-24 of September 2022. It was the first live IAEE conference since COVID-19 began. The conference was organized by the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics .

The conference included 15 Plenary sessions, focusing on energy related challenges that are affecting Europe: The unprecedented energy crisis, green energy transition, Investments & Innovations, alternatives fuels, sustainability and more. There were an impressive number of speakers with diverse backgrounds and expertise, from government officials, researchers, and CEOs of leading companies. I was fascinated by the discussion regarding the European energy crisis. I found it most interesting that some experts see it as a wakeup call for European countries, to use this crisis as an opportunity for a clean energy transition.

The conference also included 42 concurrent sessions and 2 poster sessions. In those sessions researchers from all energy related fields shared their latest work. I presented & attended the energy efficiency sessions and attended some of the transportation sessions. I found most presentations worthwhile, and I was impressed mostly with the level of data being used. Most of the research presented at the energy efficiency sessions dealt with households and consumer behavior regarding energy usage and energy efficiency: the claim was that the private sector has a lot of room to improve from the perspective of energy efficiency and energy usage. There were a lot of conclusions regarding the information given to consumers, and how in some cases the lack/over information can lead to suboptimal decision making.

At the transportation sessions I attended, most of the studies presented were focused on the implementation or possible effects of different new technologies (for example hydrogen fuel

and electric cars) on different parts of the transportation sector. Most of the conclusions from those studies are related to policy gaps that need to be addressed by policymakers to successfully implement the new technology discussed. Following my presentation, I received some questions regarding my model. These questions ignited a discussion at the end of the session on the different models that can be used in this case. This inspired me to consider additional modeling approaches.

Lastly, the conference included several social events including private guided tours of the Acropolis Hill & Museum and a Gala dinner at the Acropolis Museum Restaurant.

The two recommendations I see as the most significant ones following this conference:

1. We must learn to adapt to a changing reality where we can't get everything we want. Growing fast, uncontrolled, and unmonitored was accepted and even sometimes encouraged in the old world. This needs to be changed, sacrifices will have to be made.
2. The present and future problems in this field must be dealt with a multidisciplinary approach, experts from different fields need to work together. The challenges we face are complex, and they require a variety of perspectives and expertise.