

# **Opportunities and risks for Utility in DR – Elektro Ljubljana**

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Utility has today two choices: to cherish the “status-quo” of existing regulation or to embrace the recent developments and solutions in Smart Grids. In Elektro Ljubljana we have chosen the second option with the vision to become modern, service oriented utility. Demand response, as one of the most promising areas of Smart Grids, enables utility to:

- optimize use of existing distribution infrastructure,
- cope with new operational issues caused by Distributed Generation and Renewables,
- explore additional functionalities of the existing Smart Metering infrastructure,
- decrease future investment costs pressure,
- offer new services to suppliers and end consumers (e.g. Energy Efficiency Services, Electrical Vehicles and Virtual Power Plant).

New Demand Response opportunities are usually accompanied with some risks. To manage them efficiently it is wise to start development of the new service, its piloting and demonstration cycle in early commercialization stage of the associated technology. The complete life cycle of a new service should be fully focused with clear vision and strategy in place. The multi-disciplinary nature of Demand Response area requires vertical (metering, control, telecommunications, finance, regulation) and horizontal (customer services, project management) management structures of the utility to be engaged.

Achievements of Utility in Smart Grids area will be used as a bridge between energy retailers and electricity consumers delivering synergies and efficient use of existing resources and infrastructure thus lowering daily costs and increasing common European welfare.