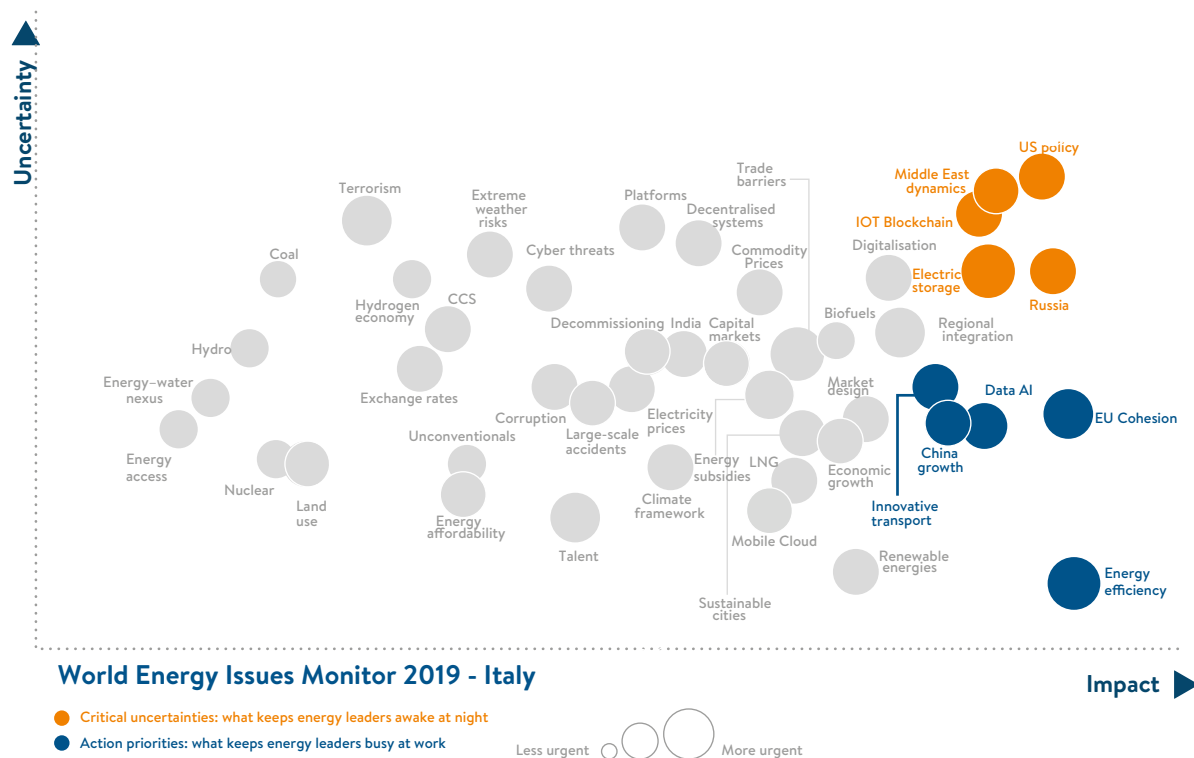


ITALY



NATIONAL OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

Energy supply balance, institutional framework and technology developments are key to understanding the 2019 Italian Issues Monitor.

Geopolitical and political issues are both in the Critical Uncertainties (Russia) and in the Action Priorities (EU Cohesion). In fact, Italian energy supplies are characterised by the same European reliance on Russian gas, making EU Cohesion crucial to address diversification and improve resilience. In addition, the historical industrial and commercial relationship between Italy and Russia make geopolitical issues related to Russia critical for the Italian energy sector. At the same time, technology developments bring along the need for a policy and regulatory framework that can enable the development and deployment of new solutions and technologies. This is the case of IoT/Blockchain, as its deployment is still facing consumers’ scepticism and the lack of a clear regulatory framework.

Electric Storage also continues to be perceived as a critical issue mostly due to the evolving regulatory and technological framework. This issue, is generally connected to the development of both renewable energies and electric mobility - two areas of great interest for national and local energy stakeholders.

At the national level, private and public actions on Innovative Transport are not only related to electric mobility, which is more suited to the urban context. The replacement of traditional vehicles for improved emission performance, the development of biofuels and the deployment of natural gas and bio-methane (CNG and LNG) for buses, heavy vehicles and maritime transport, are important pathways in the evolving landscape of sustainable transport in Italy.