



Image © Karsten Würth



## A project for the improvement of renewable energy policies



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

**SUBSCRIBE** to our newsletter for updates on project progress, activities with stakeholders, news about RES!

**NEWSLETTER #01**

**November 2018**

APPROVE aims at supporting the development of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) with promoting **awareness raising, capacity building, effective public participation** in the approval procedures and **engagement of stakeholders** of the complete supply chain.

lead  
partner



REGIONAL COUNCIL  
OF LAPLAND



Poliedra  
Politecnico di Milano

advisory  
partner



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
REGION of EPIRUS



ENTE REGIONAL DE LA ENERGÍA  
DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN



Junta de  
Castilla y León



RÉGION  
NORMANDIE



€1,175,632.00



from 1 Jun 2018  
to 30 Nov 2022

**TOPIC**

Low-carbon economy



[www.interregeurope.eu/approve/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/approve/)



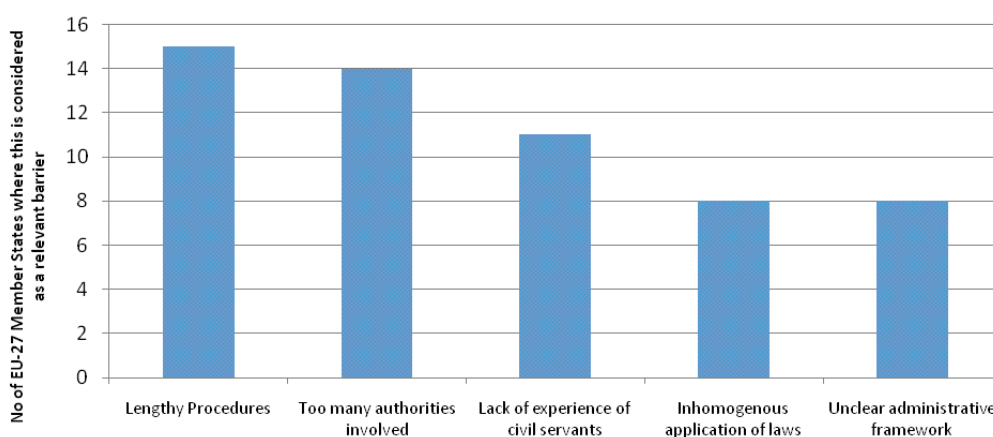
[www.linkedin.com/company/approve-interreg-europe/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/approve-interreg-europe/)

*"EU energy system projections indicate that current Member States and EU policies, if no new policies are put in place, would only lead to, approximately, 24.3% of renewable energy consumption in 2030. This level would be well below the at least 32% EU level binding renewable energy target as agreed by the European Council and would prevent the Union from collectively delivering on the commitments made in the 2015 Paris Agreement. The continuation of unchanged policies would also seriously risk undermining the realisation of the Union's political ambition for world leadership in renewable energy. In addition, it would forego the benefits of security offered by increasing energy supply from indigenous sources, and reduce consumers' participation in the energy system."*

Revised Renewable Energy Directive

Barriers such as **lack of specific expertise** of proponents and of civil servants dealing with permitting procedures and **social opposition**, ranging from spontaneous neighbourhood protests to professional campaigns in both emerging and mature markets, apply in some measure to all RES (e.g. bioenergy, solar, wind, hydro).

APPROVE will consider all of them, yet developing a particular focus on bioenergy, which is of particular interest for all four territorial partners, also developing synergies with the **Smart Specialization Bioenergy Partnership**.



*Assessment of non-cost barriers to renewable energy growth in EU Member States - DG TREN No. TREN/D1/48 – 2010*  
[https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/2010\\_non\\_cost\\_barriers.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/2010_non_cost_barriers.pdf)

APPROVE addresses  
4 operational programmes  
financed by EU Structural Funds:

- ✓ **Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020 - Finland's Structural Funds Programme**
- ✓ **Regional Operational Program of Epirus 2014-2020**
- ✓ **Regional Operational Programme Investment for Growth and Jobs Haute-Normandie 2014/2020**
- ✓ **ERDF Operational Programme Castilla y León**

The project is structured in two phases

**Phase 1** (2,5 years) – the activities focus on interregional cooperation and exchange of experience, with the ultimate goal to develop regional action plans for the improvement of the **operational programmes financed by EU Structural Funds** as regards the promotion of RES, also addressing regional innovation strategies for smart specialisation

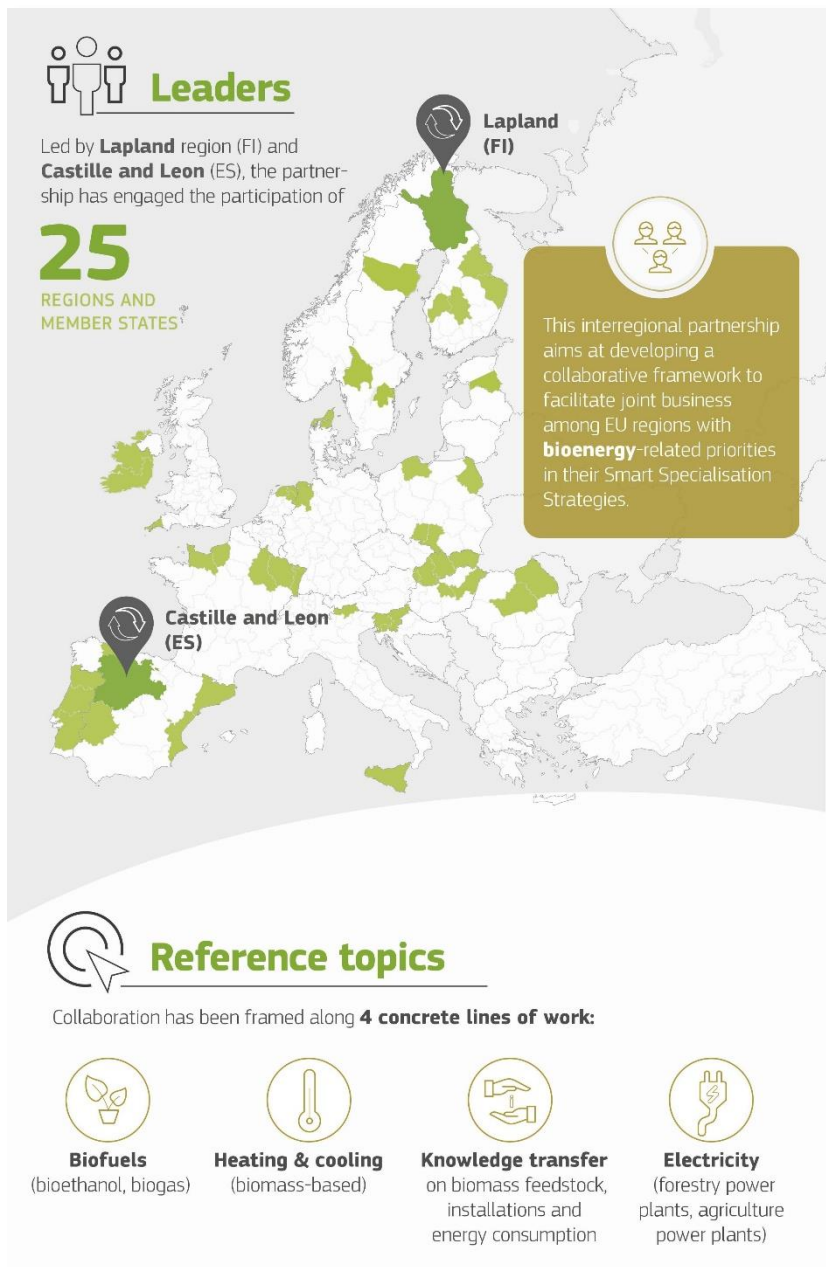
**Phase 2** (2 years) - the implementation of the action plans will be monitored and the results will be assessed and disseminated

## The Smart Specialization Bioenergy Partnership

This is one of the five interregional partnership initiatives promoted by the **Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy**. The participant regions expect to develop common ground for cooperation through the common elaboration of steps such as mapping, pilot activities and joint investments based on decentralized renewable solutions (e.g. wood chip or biogas CHP plants) second generation biofuels, produced mainly from lignocellulose biomass, residues or waste.



<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/bioenergy>



APPROVE was presented as a tool for partnership implementation during:

- ✓ the partnership meeting held in Bruxelles during the European Sustainable Week - EUSEW 2018 in June
- ✓ the partnership meeting held in Rovaniemi in October
- ✓ the S3 Thematic Platforms Conference held in Bilbao in November





## The first APPROVE interregional workshop

Each territorial partner has identified a group of regional stakeholders to involve in the project through local meetings and activities and through participation in the interregional workshops that are organised twice a year for the exchange of experience.

On October 23, the first interregional workshop was held in **Rovaniemi**, with the presence of stakeholders from energy projects and authorities in Lapland (e.g. representatives from regional agencies, clusters and academia) and also stakeholders from the other partner regions.



It was also an opportunity for the vice-presidents of Lapland and Epirus to meet and discuss about possible collaborations.



## SITE VISITS



*Loue biogas plant*



*Lapland Vocational College's district heating plant*

The next interregional workshop, to be held in Ioannina in April 2019, will address the criteria for the selection and reporting of good practices.

Newsletter #02 will inform about the meetings that every project partner is organizing with the regional stakeholder group and about how this is helping in the analysis of the gaps, needs and challenges as regards public participation and stakeholder engagement for the promotion of renewable energy

*This newsletter reflects the views of the authors.  
The Interreg Europe programme authorities are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.*

*Contact person:  
Eero Purontaus - Project Coordinator  
[eero.purontaus@lapinliitto.fi](mailto:eero.purontaus@lapinliitto.fi)*

