



ACTION PLAN INTERREG EUROPE RESOR

**VICE MINISTRY OF FIGHT
AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE
OF THE CANARY ISLANDS**

PART I

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project: RESOR - Supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy in European islands and remote regions

Partner organisation: Vice-Ministry for Combating Climate Change (VLCCC) of the Government of Canary Islands

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): GESTUR - The network of green offices in the Canary Islands

Country: Spain

NUTS2 region: Canary Islands (ES70)

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2. CONTEXT

2.1. The project

The Vice-Ministry of Fight Against Climate Change (VLCCC), an organ of the Regional Ministry of Ecological Transition, Fight Against Climate Change and Territorial Planning, has among its competences the development of good environmental practices, as indicated in article 25.3 of the current Organic Regulations of the Regional Ministry.

On 13 March 2018, the Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG EUROPE Programme approved the project PGI05092 RESOR (Promotion of good practices in energy efficiency and renewable energies in European islands and remote regions), in the 3rd call for proposals. Specifically, the project falls under Axis 3 of the Interreg Europe Programme "Improving low carbon economy policies", being its objective to promote the exchange of good practices to support energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies in secondary and tertiary sector enterprises in partner regions through the improvement of existing regional policies.

The RESOR project brings together 8 partners from 7 European remote regions, including 6 outermost regions (OR), and is led by the VLCCC. Other project partners include the following:

-  Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias (ES).
-  AREAM - Regional Agency for Energy and Environment of Madeira Region (PT).
-  Cyprus Energy Agency (CY).

-  Regional Council of Réunion (FR).
-  Epirus Region (GR).
-  Territorial Collectivity of Martinique (FR).
-  Azores Regional Secretariat for Energy, Environment and Tourism (PT).
-  Regional Council of Guadeloupe (FR).

The Project has a planned duration of 4.5 years (9 semesters), starting on 1 June 2018, with an expected completion date in 30 November 2022. The project activities are structured in two phases:

First Phase: with a duration of three years (6 semesters), it was composed by an interregional learning in which the staff of the participating partner entities and representatives of bodies of interest exchanged experiences, good practices, ideas, points of view, etc. on the policies being implemented in their region. This exchange of experiences was carried out through the organisation of field visits (to the Canary Islands, Madeira, Cyprus, Greece) Steering Committee meetings, round tables, and local seminars, and through the identification of good practices for the elaboration of an Action Plan, based on the lessons learned during this first phase.

Second Phase: at the end of the first phase, the implementation of the Action Plan begins in each partner region, after approval by the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg Europe Programme and will be monitored within two years of the start of the 2nd phase of the project.



2.2. The Action Plan

Elaborated by each region, the Action Plan is a document detailing how the lessons learned from the cooperation during Phase I of the project will be used to improve the policy instrument addressed in that region. It specifies the nature of the actions to be carried out, their timing, the actors involved, the costs (if any) and the sources of funding (if any).

In the case of the Vice-Ministry of Fight Against Climate Change of the Government of the Canary Islands, the policy instrument identified for this Action Plan is the ERDF Operational Programme of the Canary Islands. The thematic objective chosen is OT4 "Supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors" and the only investment priority foreseen in this thematic objective is IP4c, aimed at "Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and the use of renewable energies in public infrastructure, including public buildings, and in housing".

Currently, the Operational Programme does not include any investment priority aimed at energy efficiency in enterprises. This is the main issue that the action intends to address, considering, for example, the importance of the services sector of the archipelago and, consequently, the consistent amount of energy consumption generated by these activities.

Although the issue of energy efficiency in enterprises is not addressed in the policy instrument, the Lead Partner of the project considers important to promote changes in this respect by adding a specific focus on enterprises operating in both industry and the service sector for the next Operational Programme, which is not ready yet. There is therefore a clear untapped potential for improvement in terms of energy efficiency in the region and the OP could go a long way in unlocking this potential.

In fact, this Action Plan will boost an open subsidies line in the framework of the Canary Islands Operational Programme 2014-2020 (<https://sede.gobcan.es/sede/tramites/6701>) , implemented by the Directorate General for Energy, and is expected to continue in the new programming period. This Action Plan will help the Canarian private sector to have access to all the information and facilitate the commitment they want to make in terms of service provision. This support will be financially reinforced in the new programming period as it falls under OT4 "Supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors", with the idea of including an investment priority aimed at energy efficiency in enterprises.

For this reason, **the Vice-Ministry, through the Action Plan elaborated in the framework of the RESOR project, intends to support the introduction of this priority, by promoting a greater energy culture at all levels.** In fact, by giving clear and accessible information to the general population (creation of energy culture) on the possibilities of renewable

energies and the energetic services provided by regional enterprises located in the Canary Islands, the Vice-Ministry of Fight Against Climate Change will make a big step to promote energy efficiency and foster the investment in the private energy sector.

After all the experiences lived through the project, the Lead Partner has concluded that the transition towards a sustainable energy model in the Canary Islands requires greater awareness on the part of Canarian society related to the need to make better use of energy.

It is necessary to promote a greater energy culture regarding the different energy sources available, the advantages and disadvantages of each type of energy and the reasons that justify the need for a diversified energy mix, based on renewable energies of indigenous origin, but which need to be complemented with other energy sources of a manageable nature, which are not present on the islands, and therefore need to be imported. It is also essential that the policy of maximising renewable energies in the Canary Islands is accompanied by an adequate communication and awareness-raising strategy, especially focused on informing about the advantages of self-consumption with renewable technologies, among which the following stand out:

- ✚ It allows the natural and indigenous resources of the Canary Islands to be used in an unlimited and freeway.
- ✚ It would help to reduce electricity bills, if accompanied by appropriate regulation.
- ✚ It contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and, therefore, to the fight against global warming.
- ✚ It would help to reduce energy dependence on the outside world and avoid the damage caused by fluctuations in the price of fossil fuels.
- ✚ It promotes the creation of a local industrial and business fabric.
- ✚ It contributes to the democratisation of energy, as it relies solely on renewable resources of an unlimited nature and available to all and requires moderate investments in equipment and installation that can be assumed by the consumer.
- ✚ It contributes to distributed generation, as the energy is produced in the same place where it is consumed, without the need to transport it through power lines, thus reducing the energy losses that occur in the grid. Moreover, as the generation points are in the same location as consumption, self-consumption would avoid new developments in transmission and distribution networks, and would reduce the maintenance costs of these infrastructures, thus containing the future costs of electricity infrastructures.
- ✚ Self-consumption allows the use of different renewable technologies, but mainly photovoltaic and small wind power, whose resources are highly available throughout

the Canary Islands all year round. In addition, photovoltaic installations can be integrated into buildings with little visual impact and, furthermore, there are different solutions on the market that allow the replacement of some construction materials with photovoltaic architectural elements.

- ✚ Self-consumption offers the possibility of developing different solutions in the field of R&D, aimed at improving electricity supply (combination of different generation sources, or generation with storage).
- ✚ Self-consumption contributes to boosting economic growth and job creation, especially in the field of vocational training.

Through the action that will be described in detail in the following section, the Vice-Ministry of Fight Against Climate Change of the Government of the Canary Islands intends to ensure that information on available energy efficiency mechanisms and on financial and legal frameworks is transparent and widely and actively disseminated to all interested market actors; to establish the conditions for market operators to provide consumers with adequate and specific information on energy efficiency, and to promote awareness-raising actions and training initiatives to inform citizens of the benefits and usefulness of adopting measures to improve energy efficiency.



PART II

3. THE ACTION IDENTIFIED

3.1. Relevance

As mentioned above, throughout the RESOR project, the Vice-Ministry of Fight Against Climate Change has carried out and witnessed numerous exchanges of experiences, both at international level through the Study Visits, and at regional level, through the so-called "Local Seminars" (seminars organised by the Vice-Ministry itself, where the main objective is to present the results of the visits and gather the reactions of the stakeholders in order to identify appropriate lines of action for the elaboration of the Action Plan).

Regional Exchange of Experience

Due to the situation caused by COVID-19, several Study Visits planned in the project had to be cancelled, because of the difficulty of international travel. Thus, the Vice-Ministry took advantage of this situation and organized several regional webinars, in order to further exchange and identify regional needs related to energy efficiency to positively influence the Operational Programme of the Canary Islands.

After each of these webinars, the Vice-Ministry shared a survey with the participants (stakeholders related to the energy sector), to help identify the difficulties encountered by the sector and the possibilities for improvement.

In order to be able to identify efficient actions to be included in the Action Plan, independently from the analysis of best practices, a mapping of these surveys was made to better understand the concrete needs at regional level, which can be used for energy improvement in the Canary Islands. Based on this mapping, the proposals mainly included the following:

- ✚ More emphasis should be placed on the search for alternatives to promote public-private cooperation in the implementation of renewable energies, energy efficiency and sustainable mobility.
- ✚ The Regional Ministry should be involved in the creation of a common management platform for all public points on the islands, which would serve both the institutions that own them and the users.
- ✚ There is a need to give impetus to neighbourhood communities, to the dynamic distribution of energy, and to the unification of basic criteria and management models.
- ✚ There is a need to speed up the procedures for the installation and implementation of projects.

Furthermore, in view of the proposals made, during one of the seminars, the Regional Ministry of Ecological Transition undertook the commitment to promote a permanent line of communication through the RESOR Project to promote the reforms indicated and to consolidate the leadership of the different types of social leadership in order to achieve their objectives.

Project Exchange of Experiences

Apart from the regional mapping of needs, the other inspiration to implement this Action Plan also comes from the project exchange of experiences, mainly through the exchange of Good Practices, specifically through a GP presented by the Regional Secretariat for Energy, Environment and Tourism of the Azorean Region: the GP named “AZORES ENCOUNTERS WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY”, which consists in a cycle of seminars focusing on various energy topics ranging from energy efficiency to renewables or sustainable mobility.

According to the partner in charge, this cycle was extremely successful: nine seminars were organised so far with an average of 100 participants per sessions, and attendees were eager to participate in additional information seminars. After exchanging with the coordinator of the Azorean Region, we concluded that this was another proof that there is a clear need within stakeholder groups and the general public in outermost regions to receive accessible and clear information on the possibilities of renewable energies and the energetic services at regional levels, and that is why the Vice-Ministry intends to create an Energy One Stop Shop, including centralised and accessible information on the possibilities of renewable energies and energetic services at regional level. In fact, according to the coordinator of the Azorean Action Plan **“This model is especially relevant for outermost, archipelagic regions where the lack of information is a major market failure”**, which is an extended and common idea within the RESOR Partnership.

International Exchange of Experiences

Finally, there is a last practice that inspired the action included in the Canary Islands Action Plan: an international project, financed by the H2020 Programme, COME RES, an EU project aimed at facilitating the market uptake of renewable energy sources. The project focusses on advancing renewable energy communities (RECs), and in order to engage closely with local stakeholders the project is setting up stakeholder desks in each country and organises solution-oriented thematic dialogues and policy roundtables to co-create solutions to overcome existing barriers for the growth of community energy.

In conclusion, the current energy transition is not only making the shift from fossil to renewable energy sources, but it also rethinks how energy is distributed. Next to traditional top-down distribution, with electricity being generated in large power plants and transported to the end consumer, local energy networks gain in importance. These local

energy networks have a huge potential in our future energy system, by facilitating their rollout and supporting the implementation of the facilities for renewable energy communities. Taking into account these facts, and the regional and project exchange of experiences carried out, the Vice-Ministry of Fight Against Climate Change considers of major relevance the implementation of an Action based on the creation of a centralised energy platform, that would not only help the general public to gather accessible information on energetic services and subsidies but would also help to create a renewable energy community.

3.2. Nature

Considering these assessments and having mapped Good Practices, the Action to be implemented within the framework of the Action Plan of the Vice-Ministry for the Fight against Climate Change, is based on the creation of a virtual and interactive platform (HUB), to put together companies, universities, neighbourhood communities, individuals and public entities belonging to the Canary Islands Government that are related to the energy efficiency sector in direct contact with each other.

This interactive platform would consist on giving a response to the needs of the Canarian population, creating an **"Energy One Stop Shop"**, which would include news, good practices and demonstrations, accessible information for grants and subsidies and a database where the different "branches" of the quadruple helix related to energy efficiency projects would be put in contact, thus facilitating and favouring the transition to a more efficient autonomous community.

This HUB could include direct information on calls for subsidies related to self-consumption and energy efficiency, both for individuals, associations, and companies, as well as publications and news on the subject at regional level. On the other hand, it is proposed to add a database and provide direct contact information of companies and institutions related to the sector to facilitate the creation of networks and partnerships. This would also help individuals and communities to find the necessary support for the installation of more efficient energy systems, as they would have all the necessary information centralised in a single platform.

At the end of the day, the creation of this HUB responds to the needs of the Canarian population, by harmonising management models at regional level, promoting public-private cooperation, creating renewable energy communities, and facilitating access to information for the entire population.

For the implementation of such a HUB, a group of computer scientists would be needed to advise on the most appropriate platform model, taking into account the needs outlined above. It is also proposed to organise virtual meetings with local stakeholders, prior to the creation of the HUB, so that they can propose ideas on the information to be

included in the platform, and thus respond more efficiently to regional gaps.

In summary, the activities to be carried out for the implementation of the Action would include:

- a) Mapping of energy companies in the Canary Islands to be included in the platform's repertoire.
- b) Contacts with public administrations (87 Town Councils, 7 Island Councils) and mapping of available subsidies to be included in the platform.
- c) Compilation of all the information for the creation of the platform and registration of the information: registers of companies, public administrations, and subsidies.
- d) Creation of the Virtual Platform "Energy One Stop Shop".
- e) Contact with the Media.
- f) Opening of the Platform to the public.
- g) Dissemination of the creation of the platform in the media and social networks.
- h) Maintenance of the web platform.

3.3. Stakeholders involved

The stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Action are described as follows:

- ✚ **GESTUR - The network of green offices in the Canary Islands:** The public company GESTUR will be responsible for equipping and maintaining the following services: Environmental consultancy services, Web portal with environmental information, Telephone helpline, Publications on grants and subsidies, Technical and administrative support telephone number, Continuous training for councils and companies, Publication of news, events and training and dissemination actions, Links to official websites of the Regional Ministry of Ecological Transition, Fight against Climate Change and Territorial Planning. GESTUR has a team of computer scientists who will be in charge of the creation of the “**Energy One Stop Shop**”.

<https://www.canariastransicionecologica.com/gobernanza-y-participacion/red-de-oficinas-verdes-de-canarias/>

- ✚ **Public regional entities:** 87 City Councils of the Canary Islands and 7 Cabildos (local councils). Contact with these public entities is needed for the inclusion of information regarding grants at local level, and their contact information is needed for the creation of the *Public Entities repertoire*.
- ✚ **Private energy sector:** A mapping of private companies providing energetic services will also be needed for the creation of the platform. All the companies that agree to be included in the platform will sign a *Partnership Agreement*, and

their contact information and catalogue of services will be inserted in the web.

3.4. Timeframe

RESOR - ACTION PLAN CANARY ISLANDS - TIMEFRAME					
Action	Description	Semester	Duration	Start date	End date
Action 1a	Mapping of Energy Companies of the Canary Islands to be included in the repertoire of the platform	7	1,5 months	01/06/2021	15/07/2021
Action 1b	Contacts with public administrations (87 City Councils, 7 Cabildos) and mapping of available subsidies to be included in the platform	7	1,5 months	15/07/2021	01/09/2021
Action 1c	Collection of all information for the creation of the platform and registration of information: registers of companies, public administrations and subsidies	7	1 month	01/09/2021	01/10/2021
Action 1d	Creation of the Virtual Platform "Energy One Stop Shop"	7	2 months	01/10/2021	01/12/2021
Action 1e	Contact with the media	8	1 month	01/12/2021	01/01/2022
Action 1f	Opening the Platform to the public	8	1 month	01/01/2022	01/02/2022
Action 1g	Dissemination of the Creation of the Platform in media and social networks	8	4 months	01/02/2022	01/06/2022
Action 1h	Platform maintenance	9	6 months	01/06/2022	30/11/2022

3.5. Indicative Costs and Sources of Funding

The costs for the implementation of these actions will be covered by own funds, through the **Autonomous Community's own general budget for the years 2021 and 2022.**

- ✚ Indicative costs for Actions 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1f, 1h: 20.000 €
- ✚ Indicative costs for Actions 1e, 1g: 5.000 €