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A project for the improvement of renewable energy policies



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NEWSLETTER #06

November 2021

APPROVE aims at supporting the development of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) with promoting **awareness raising, capacity building, effective public participation and stakeholder engagement.**

PHASE 1 of the project, based on interregional cooperation and exchange of experience, has produced regional **action plans** for the improvement of the **operational programmes financed by EU Structural Funds** as regards the promotion of RES.

PHASE 2 is seeing the implementation and monitoring of the regional action plans and will assess and disseminate the results.

lead partner



advisory partner

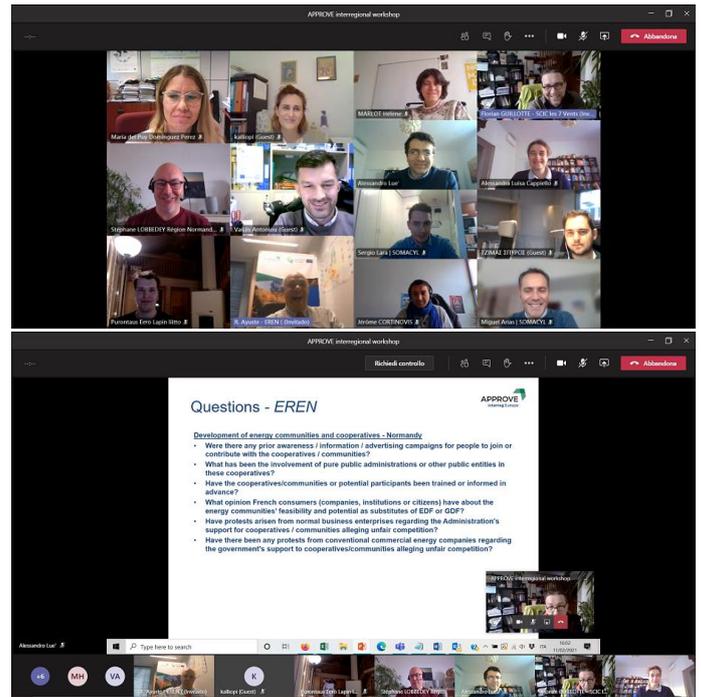


THE FIFTH APPROVE INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP

On February 11, the fifth APPROVE interregional workshop was a great occasion for the project partners and some of their regional stakeholders to update each other about the progress of their preliminary action plans. It was a “peer review workshop”, where every partner asked other partners and their stakeholders for advice on specific issues and open questions that need to be addressed in finalizing their action plans.

The objective was to reinforce the interregional exchange in an alternative way, since the COVID-19 situation prevented the partnership to complete their exchange of experience through face-to-face meetings and site visits. Before the workshop every partner had shared with the others an updated draft of the action plan accompanied with a list of questions.

The topics discussed included the representation of indicators to assess the energy transition in Lapland, the involvement of the public in preparing a regional framework for the promotion of citizen energy projects in Normandy, and several points about the good practices that inspired the action plan of Castilla y León.



REGIONAL ACTION PLANS

The APPROVE territorial partners have finalised their action plans, which aim at improving their ERDF operational programmes and further regional policy instruments. Here is an overview.

The **Lapland's** action plan concerns a monitoring system for the renewal of district heating in the framework of the regional Just Transition Plan, and on the promotion of public-private co-development in the next Finnish operation programme.

Epirus has modified a call in order to increase the installation of photovoltaic panels and integrate them with the realisation of chargers for electric vehicles, and will explore the opportunity of developing a small scale network of biogas plants in the next programming period.

Normandy is working on initiatives for the involvement of citizens in energy projects and on the definition of improved criteria and a protocol about the environmental and participatory aspects for biogas projects.

The action plan of **Castilla y León** (available also in Spanish) focuses on the integration of the concepts of participatory ownership or funding, cooperation between rural entities, and links between educational institutions and renewable energy installations in several policy instruments.



download the Regional Action Plans [here](#)



APPROVE AT THE EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES

APPROVE was among the organisers of the participatory lab "Citizen participation: key to building public support for the uptake of renewable energy" which took place online on Wednesday October 13. The session included the presentation of learnings collected within the APPROVE and [INTENSIFY](#) Interreg Europe projects and insights from REN21's Renewable Energy in Cities 2021 Global Status [Report](#). The recording of the event can be watched [here](#).



OUR POLICY BRIEFS

Lessons learned and recommendations to policy makers and stakeholders were reported by each territorial partner in a policy brief.

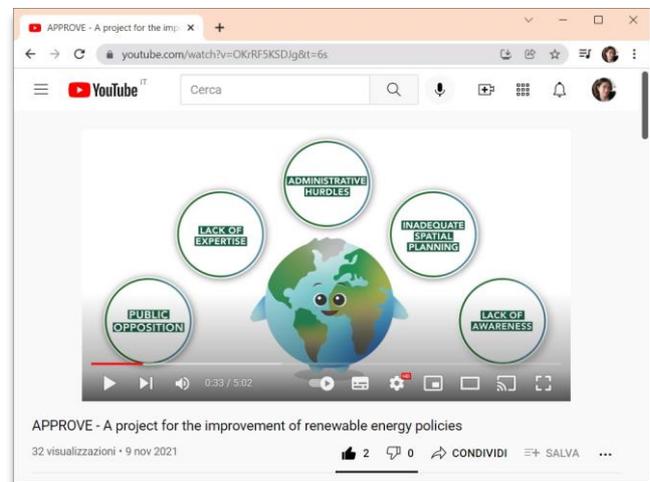


download the Policy Briefs [here](#)

OUR VIDEO

As phase 1 of APPROVE has been completed, we have prepared a video to briefly explain what we have accomplished and what is next in our project.

watch our video [here](#)



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



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