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## INVITATION TO OUR FINAL EVENT

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European Committee  
of the Regions

### A PROJECT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICIES

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

Join us next 1<sup>st</sup> June for our final event!

lead partner



REGIONAL COUNCIL  
OF LAPLAND



advisory partner

Poliedra  
Politecnico di Milano



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
REGION OF EPIRUS



The objective of APPROVE (Advancing Public Participation and stakeholder engagement for the improvement of renewable Energy policies) is to improve the policies for the promotion of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in four very distinct European regions: Lapland in Finland, Epirus in Greece, Normandy in France, and Castilla y León in Spain.

The regional authorities involved in the project have shared and transferred experiences and knowledge to improve their energy policies. This has been taken forward through a process of interregional cooperation and with the support of advisory partner Poliedra (a consortium of Politecnico di Milano). Experiences in APPROVE regions show that increased awareness, capacity building, citizen participation and community engagement in RES projects have resulted in substantial added value in terms of local acceptance and mitigation of the environmental impacts. That also supports building resilient regional and local communities.

Representatives from the interregional communities, networks and agencies will join the debate about the benefit of the collaboration between the regions in the clean energy transition. The regions can gain a lot from the networks and communities by being active in sharing experiences and joining the interregional initiatives.

The first roundtable of the project's final event aims to display how APPROVE partners, through interregional and cross-sectoral cooperation, have enhanced their operational programmes financed by EU Structural Funds to tackle barriers to developing RES. APPROVE partners will showcase how solutions can be found and what is the importance of:

- ⇒ regional awareness-raising to create a positive cultural environment
- ⇒ systematic capacity building, improving skills and knowledge
- ⇒ engaging local population and relevant stakeholders in the green transition

In the second round table, we will discuss how active participation in the interregional collaboration arenas can stimulate the regions, municipalities, and cities to overcome the clean energy transition challenges. We will discuss good practices inspiring:

- ⇒ regional and local authorities to develop better climate and energy policies
- ⇒ building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition
- ⇒ participation in EU collaborations and creating successful partnerships

*If you are interested to learn more, please join us on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 (9.00-13.00 CEST)  
in presence at the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels*

*The event will also be web streamed – details will follow*

*You can register latest 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022 [HERE](#)*

*Find more about APPROVE and the final event on the project [website](#)*

## Citizen Participation: key to building public support for the energy transition

1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, 9.00-13.00 CEST

Venue: European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99/101, 1040 Brussels

### **Preliminary session** 9.00-10.20 CEST

Registration and coffee 

#### **Opening and welcome**

Mika Riipi, County Governor | *Regional Council of Lapland*

#### **Interreg Europe welcome and news**

Verena Priem, Policy Officer | *Interreg Europe Secretariat*

#### **Keynote Speech, Energy & Engagement**

Giuliana Gemini | *Poliedra - Politecnico di Milano*

### **APPROVE Show Cases on Citizen Engagement to Accelerate Energy Transition** 10.20-11.45 CEST

#### **Facilitating just energy transition in the regional and local context**

Päivi Ekdahl, Development Director | *Regional Council of Lapland*

#### **Action needed to enhance the performance and impact of Structural Funds in the energy transition**

Vasilis Antoniou | *Region of Epirus*


#### **Engaging citizens and project proponents for the transition to renewable energy**

Cécile Combette-Murin | *Normandy Regional Council*

#### **Renewing regional renewable energy perspectives**

Rafael Ayuste Cupido, Head of Planning and Promotion Energy Projects Department | *Regional public energy entity of Castilla y León (EREN)*

#### **Roundtable discussion – main findings and lessons learned** facilitated by Jukka Teräs

Coffee break 

### **Interregional Collaboration Encouraging Regional Authorities to Orchestrate Energy Transition** 11.50-12.50 CEST

Mikkel Näkkeljärvi, Lapland member | *CoR and Commission for the Environment, Climate change and Energy*

Mariangela Luceri, Coordinator | *Covenant of the Mayors*

Alix Bolle | *Energy Cities*

*LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme*, speaker TBC

#### **Roundtable discussion – resulting recommendations** facilitated by Jukka Teräs

### **Main findings and suggestions for the future** 12.50-13.00 CEST

#### **Conclusions and observations**

Ilari Havukainen, Director | *Brussels Office of the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities*

**Closing the APPROVE final event**, Jukka Teräs | *Norum Oy*