

**Advancing Public Participation and stakeholder engagement  
for the improvement of renewable Energy policies**

**NORMANDY REGION**

**ACTION PLAN 2020-2022**

**FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF REGIONAL POLICIES  
PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY**



This action plan is a deliverable of

**APPROVE - an Interreg Europe Low-carbon economy project**

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Junta de  
Castilla y León



Partner organisation: Normandy Regional Council

Country: France - NUTS2 region: Normandy

Contact person: *Stéphane LOBBEDEVY* ✉ [stephane.lobbedey@normandie.fr](mailto:stephane.lobbedey@normandie.fr) ☎ +33 231067839

Text elaborated by: *Stéphane LOBBEDEVY, Hélène MARLOT, Mickael TAOUI* - Renewable energy department - Energy Environment and Sustainable Development Division - Normandy Region

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Action Plan is a project deliverable of the INTERREG EUROPE “APPROVE” project led by the Regional Council of Lapland and in which the Regional Council of Normandy is partner.

Even if the territory is quite far away the national objectives in the field of renewable energy, Normandy Region has real assets for renewable energy development, notably regarding biogas production, wood and wind energy. A regional policy has been implemented in order to increase the share of renewable energy in the Normandy energetic mix. This policy is supported by ERDF funds. First results are already visible; nevertheless, the increase of projects generate a growth of local opposition.

Taking full advantage of the knowledge and good practices identified thanks to the first phase of the “APPROVE” Project, the Normandy Region has set up this action plan. It will contribute to improve the acceptability of the projects through two main points : the quality of the projects and the participation of the citizens.

Two actions has been designed :

Action 1	IMPROVED BIOGAS PROJECTS CRITERIA AND CHARTER/PROTOCOL ABOUT THE PROJECT’S ENVIRONMENTAL AND PARTICIPATORY ASPECTS
Action 2	DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NORMANDY FRAMEWORK AND ANIMATION FOR A CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN ENERGY PROJECTS

These actions will both concern the Normandy Region ROP (14-20 & 21-27) and the regional policy instrument. They will be monitored during the phase 2 of the “APPROVE” project.

## I. INTRODUCTION

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This action plan is developed within the Interreg Europe APPROVE project, which aims at improving the renewable energy policies of four different European regions (Lapland in Finland, Epirus in Greece, Normandy in France, Castilla y León in Spain). The project considers **awareness raising, capacity building and stakeholder participation** as ways to enable and promote **Renewable Energy Sources (RES)**, tackling barriers such as: low level of knowledge in the general public, lack of expertise of RES proponents and civil servants dealing with permitting procedures, issues of public opposition within approval procedures.

Through **interregional cooperation and involvement of regional stakeholder groups**, the four partner regional authorities (the lead partner Regional Council of Lapland, the Region of Epirus, the Normandy Regional Council, and EREN - Regional public energy entity of Castilla y León) have shared and transferred experience and knowledge to improve their policies. The advisory partner Poliedra, an Italian research centre from Politecnico di Milano, has supported the regional authorities through the interregional learning activities.

Such process, started in 2018, has included the analysis of regional gaps, needs and opportunities and the identification of regional good practices. All the produced deliverables and material can be found on the **project website** ([www.interregeurope.eu/approve/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/approve/)).

As final goal, the lessons learnt from the interregional cooperation are used by each regional authority to define an action plan focused on the improvement of its **Structural Funds Operational Programme**, considering investment priorities related to TO4 “Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors”. Phase 2 of the project, which will end in November 2022, will see the implementation of the regional action plans and their monitoring and assessment.

Normandy decided to participate in APPROVE because the development of RES represents an important regional challenge. Despite the European and French national objectives to reach 32% of renewable energy in the energetic mix by 2030 (with a 23% milestone in 2020), **in 2017 Normandy had still around 9% of renewables in its gross final energy consumption.**

Normandy is characterized by three nuclear power plants providing more electricity than the territorial consumption. Despite this, in the 90's the regional policies started promoting RES with the first regional **wood energy programme**. Its objective was to bring together and involve the interested stakeholders to create a real cluster around wood energy in Normandy and to develop the use of wood to produce renewable heat or electricity. Normandy has become an example in France for the organization of the wood energy sector from forestry or wood exploitation to management of heating plants. There are 310 heat factories, including 262 collective boiler installations, for a total of 664 MW of installed capacity, and a total consumption of 867 000 tons of wood per year.

Normandy has also a relevant potential for the development of other types of RES, mainly with wind energy (onshore and offshore) and biogas production. Even if Normandy has lower solar energy yields compared to the south of France due to geographical location, the solar energy sector is also taken into consideration.

Normandy Region initiated and got involved into marine renewable development in early 2010's; the three Normandy **offshore wind energy farm projects** (1.5 GW of installed power) are supposed to start the production of energy in 2022 or at worst early 2023.

At the moment (2018 data), in Normandy there are 79 **onshore wind energy farms** with a total of around 700 MW of installed power (365 wind turbines over 500 KW). After years of very strong growth, until 2011, the wind energy sector showed a change. The growth slowed down but nevertheless staid regular over the years 2012 to 2017 (increase in installed capacity of about 10% every year since 2015).

With regard to **biogas**, 2016 data reported 66 biogas plants, all small scale installations producing electricity.

With regards to **solar energy**, 2017 data estimated the area of photovoltaic solar panels at around 995 600 m<sup>2</sup>, for an installed capacity of 131 MWp.

The development of RES projects in Normandy often meets claims, or even legal proceedings, in the onshore wind sector and, to a lesser extent but increasingly, in the biogas sector. In particular, the **opposition** to wind farm projects has increased and is now quite important among some parts of the population (mostly citizens but also some elected officials) depending on the area in Normandy. Indeed, the locations of wind farms are quite heterogeneous in Normandy: there are some areas with quite a lot of projects while others have none. In the continuity of the Hauts de France region, northern Normandy is densely equipped of wind farms. As in the neighbouring Hauts de France area, local opposition against wind farm is quite high in northern Normandy due to the number of projects which starts to be considered as too high by inhabitants and elected officials. The opposition reported on the media tends then to cause diffidence towards wind farms also in unequipped areas that still have a significant potential for new wind farms developments.

The Normandy Regional Council is competent for climate, air, energy and has the responsibility of planning the energetic transition on its territory, in order to contribute to reach the national objectives by mobilizing its assets and capacities, and to reach the objectives approved in the territories planning, sustainable development and equality regional scheme SRADDET (Schéma Régional d'Aménagement, de Développement Durable et d'Égalité des Territoires) setting guidelines for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy production. The mission of the Renewable Energies unit is to foster the best possible conditions for projects to be developed and supported.

The multiplication of oppositions to RES production projects is a concern for the Regional Council, which pays attention to the objectives to reach for its territory. The aim of the Region, by participating into APPROVE, was to boost the trend regarding the renewable energy development improving its ERDF Regional Operational Programme (ROP) but also its regional funding measures by:

- Developing/supporting **new projects**, especially in the field of biogas production, to be funded under the ROP under investment priority 4.a (“Promoting the production and distribution of energy from renewable sources”). When Normandy Region decided to participate in APPROVE, only one biogas production project had been submitted and approved in the framework of the Haute-Normandie ERDF ROP. Normandy Regional Council was making the statement of a lack of projects submitted.
- Working for a better governance and management of the policy instruments, and especially promoting effective **stakeholder engagement** in the energy planning process or providing stakeholders with a better understanding of the scope of the policy instrument and its content.
- Contributing to improve the **local acceptability** of RES.

The **APPROVE** project framework and its purpose allows Normandy Region to tackle some of the main issues for renewable energy development. To date, Normandy Region has actively participated in the interregional exchange of experience, finding interesting learning opportunities and contributing with its own experience and inputs.

A big work has also been done at the regional level to share the project progress and to collect and discuss ideas along phase 1 of the project. Normandy Region gathered numerous and various regional stakeholders within the APPROVE’s Normandy regional group (e.g. state services like the regional directorate for the environment, planning and housing, energy unions of Eure, Calvados and Manche counties, the Normandy energy cluster, companies in the field of energy like ENGIE or GRDF, municipalities unions, a sociologist of the University of Caen, associations and organizations involved in the renewable energy field like Biomasse Normandie, Enercoop, 7 vents cooperative...). Many APPROVE regional stakeholder meetings have been held. A thorough analysis of regional gaps, needs and challenges in the development of RES was shared. Close to 10 good practices have been identified and promoted and so far (September 2020) four of them have been included in the Policy Learning Platform good practice database.

Good practices proposed by Normandy have been appreciated by the APPROVE partnership. One of them (the Regional Observatory for Energy, Climate and Air) is of inspiration for the action plan of Lapland. Other good practices, involving the themes of crowdfunding and cooperatives, are taken into account in the development of the Castilla y León action plan. Also Epirus is considering Normandy experiences in designing their awareness raising and capacity building actions.

The regional stakeholders were also involved in the definition on the present action plan, which, as explained in chapter III, was influenced by several inputs, including: our participation in meetings of the Smart Specialization Bioenergy Partnership in occasion of APPROVE interregional workshops, the support of the project advisory partner with expertise in the field of citizen participation, and specific initiatives and studies (on project acceptability, communication with citizens and elected officials, participatory and citizen projects).

## II. POLICY CONTEXT

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### The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

### Policy instruments addressed:

- Regional Operational Programme Investment for growth and jobs Haute-Normandie 2014/2020
- Regional Operational Programme Investment for growth and jobs Normandie 2021/2027
- Normandy Region IDEE (Sustainable development Energy Environment Initiative)

Axis 2 “Supporting the Haute-Normandie Energy Transition” of the ROP Haute-Normandie 2014/2020 and its specific objective 2.1 “Increase the production and distribution of high-potential renewable energy in Haute-Normandie” (under TO 4, investment priority 4.a) are in close connection with the purpose of APPROVE. The €6 million initially allocated to RES projects support at the beginning of the ROP implementation are in the process to be increased, as we will see in the Background of Action 1. This objective is mainly focused on renewable heat (e.g. from wood energy or biogas). The next ROP will maintain supports for that kind of renewable energy projects as it is needed to make it competitive compared to fossil fuels solutions.

In order to achieve the regional objective of raising RES production, particularly of biogas, and the efficiency of the ROP specific objective, it is necessary to increase the number of funded projects, which implies a better quality of projects and a better local acceptance.

The other policy instrument involved is the regional funding programme and energy policy IDEE (Initiative Développement durable Energie Environnement), in the framework of which the Region finances measures for the development of RES projects, such as regional animation, feasibility studies, micro projects without mobilizing ERDF.

These policy instruments are made to support beneficiaries such as companies, public authorities and associations, not individual citizens. However, the work done within the framework of APPROVE shows the importance of promoting the role of citizens, especially in the field of energy.



### III. DETAILS OF THE ACTIONS ENVISAGED

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Thanks to the work done with APPROVE partners and regional stakeholders, including National state services, local authorities, energy unions, Caen University, associations and clusters (e.g. Normandy Energies, ATMO Normandy, Normandy Biomass, 7vents cooperative, Enercoop, ...) and companies (e.g. ENGIE, GRDF), Normandy Region has decided to focus on two actions: the first action is specifically dedicated to biogas projects, aiming at improving their quality and social acceptability; the second action is a more transversal action for the promotion of a better involvement of citizens in the energy transition. Both have citizens as a final target (for acceptance but also for empowerment), which is in fact new and a lesson taken from the APPROVE project.

#### ACTION 1

#### IMPROVED BIOGAS PROJECTS CRITERIA AND CHARTER/PROTOCOL ABOUT THE PROJECT'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND PARTICIPATORY ASPECTS

**Background** In late 2017, while the APPROVE project was under evaluation, Normandy Region decided, in association with the National agency for environment and energy (ADEME) and on the basis of the successful organization around wood energy, to start a similar action dealing with biogas production in Normandy. A three-years Biogas Production Plan 2018-2020 has been engaged with the objectives to organize stakeholders and facilitate projects. This was a response to the lack of projects to be funded.

The governance of the Plan is led by a steering committee and a technical committee gathering all the main stakeholders of the sector (from private banks to national state services). The technical committee aims to share information on projects and their feasibility in regulatory, technical and financial terms to provide a more complete and certain information to the stakeholders involved. The regional plan also offers a single counter for projects funding.

After two of the three years of the plan duration, we already notice a real increase of biogas projects (fig 1). Beyond the number of plants, what is remarkable is the number of emerging projects. In addition to the 83 biogas producing plants, there are on the same time in Normandy: 18 plants under construction, 38 projects under permitting process, 37 under feasibility studies, 60 at the idea stage.

The “Normandy Biogas Production Plan - Technical committee for project appraisal” has been included in the PLP good practice database<sup>1</sup> and was evaluated as “an interesting approach for boosting regional bioenergy, bringing together stakeholders and experts to help in development of biogas project and better targeting of public funds to projects which are likely to have high impact”.

Evolution du parc d'unités de méthanisation et comparaison à la feuille de route

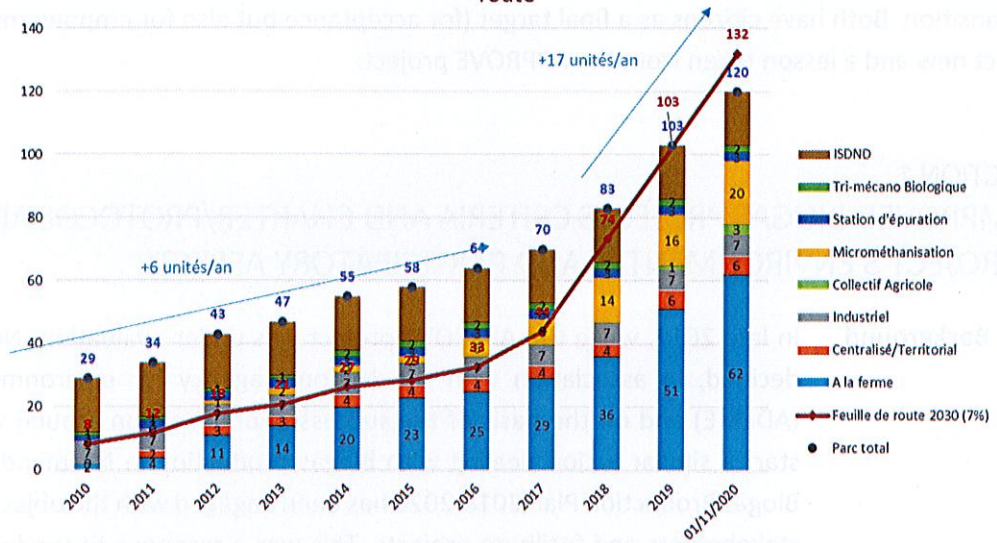


fig 1 : number and type of producing biogas plants in Normandy on 2020/11/01 (\*only one project funded by ERDF in 2017)

Figure comment : This figure illustrates how the type and number of producing biogas plant evolved during the last ten years. Accordingly, the average number of plants initiated annually has increased from 6 a year until 2016 to 17 a year from 2018 (this shows the efficiency of the promotion made at a regional level). Still, the target (132 units) is not reached in 2020. Another interesting thing is that the new plants are mainly “at the farm” (blue category). One can see that agricultural collectives start to make projects (light green category). At the time this figure was made (November 2020), 16 more units of these types (“at the farm” & “agricultural collectives”) were under construction. Usually, these units are close to villages and towns. That’s why projects holders encounter an increasing opposition. The development trend of this type of units is at a high rate; because it fits well with the territory assets and characteristics. The yellow category refers to small sized units which are also mostly done at the farm but do not create local opposition due to their size and the self-sufficiency for raw material that avoid any truck traffic.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/3398/normandy-biogas-production-plan-technical-committee-for-project-appraisal/>

The strong increasing trend, the funding of some projects and the upcoming funding requests led us to adjust the funding capacity allocated in the Haute Normandie ROP 2014-2020 to axis 2, strategic objective 2.1, increasing by €13,4 million the originally granted €6 million, mainly dedicated to wood energy boilers and heat networks and biogas production.

Even this additional funding capacity will probably be insufficient to support all the projects that have been submitted, unless further funding becomes available under the next ERDF period. Meanwhile, more projects suffer from claims and local oppositions: this is the main issue for biogas development.

Within the APPROVE activities at the regional level, on 6 November 2019 a workshop dedicated to the acceptability of biogas projects was organised with the participation of stakeholders involved in the regional biogas production development and other actors directly or indirectly involved in this sector (main stakeholders of the regional group plus some others, e.g. environmental associations, University of Caen, energy union of Seine Maritime county, ...). Most of the stakeholders agreed that it is important to promote good practices in biogas projects and that some requirements could be asked / imposed on project holders in order to ensure a better local acceptability and answer to arguments that are usually opposed to projects. Discussions led to the idea of defining guidelines or criteria about the best way to do biogas in Normandy. In the APPROVE interregional activities, our participation in meetings of the Smart Specialization Bioenergy Partnership<sup>2</sup> had been already an opportunity for some exchanges with public authorities regarding the issue of projects quality, which later reinforced our idea.

In the development of the action, inspiration came also from the good practice "Service unit wind energy & quality label in Thuringia", which was pointed out by the APPROVE advisory partner Poliedra who had known about it from the H2020 project WinWind. Such good practice, included in the PLP database<sup>3</sup>, gives a very interesting insight on the setting up and the implementation of a quality label for wind energy, with an approach that can be usefully transposed to the biogas sector. Indeed, as the ThEGA, the Normandy Region has the political will to restore trust in local biogas production. The biogas production plan already aims to provide comprehensive and neutral advisory and technical assistance to project developers. However, the fact is that there is still a gap between inhabitants expectations and content of the projects on some particular points. The idea of a quality label

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<sup>2</sup> <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/bioenergy>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/3841/wind-energy-service-unit-and-quality-label-in-thuringia/>

developed in Thuringia for wind energy projects appeared really interesting and especially the fact that for the award of the label, it is required that developers fulfil transparency and participation criteria also including the development of direct financial participation opportunities for citizens.

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**Description**

Even if the Haute Normandie ROP 14-20 has been increased by €13,4 million, the amount of projects in the pipeline was higher than what Normandy Region was able to fund. This is the reason why this action addresses the selection criteria of the projects to be funded by the Normandy ROP 2021-2027 and by the regional instrument IDEE. Its main objective is to improve their quality and to reduce the local opposition. The action will be run through a partnership led by Normandy Region and ADEME (National agency for environment and energy).

Some of the local opposition to projects is linked to technical and method points that project holders could address. Taking into account the local situations and arguments that are often advanced by opponents to biogas projects, we propose to define what would be the most appropriate way to develop biogas production in Normandy from a technical and social point of view. Keeping our regional objectives regarding the energy transition, this action will contribute to make them reachable. Indeed, this action aims to produce criteria of what could be considered by the regional stakeholders as a “good” biogas project (at least a project taking into account the main technical points that are discussed by opponents). When such criteria will be identified and commonly agreed by the regional stakeholders, including funding organisations (e.g. ADEME and Normandy Region), they could become criteria of the regional policy instruments (ROP and IDEE). These criteria should include transparency and participation points.

The criteria could also be drawn up in the form of a charter or a label that regional stakeholders involved in the biogas sector could join. The charter may be a basis for the kind of biogas production regional stakeholders want to promote and support, and a priority condition to have access to public funding for the project holders.

The charter will also be supported by communication actions about the charter to highlight it, and more widely about biogas. All the associated stakeholders will be allowed to communicate. Normandy Region will use different communication means such as its website. All the involved stakeholders will be able to communicate about how to set up a good and integrated project corresponding to the criteria for public funding. The proponents of biogas projects will be able to communicate to citizens that they are developing “labelled” quality projects in the territory. The project holders having signed the charter will be able to communicate on the quality of their project.

Through such criteria and the possible charter, this action aims to address the local opposition and citizens who would be receptive to an objective information agreed by the larger part of stakeholders in Normandy.

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**Players involved**

A regional stakeholder group including the National State services, environmental associations (FNE, CREPAN...), energy unions (SDEC, SIEG27, etc.), Normandy Energies, 7 Vents cooperative, are already volunteering to contribute to the process of defining what would be the type of project to be promoted and supported.

The Normandy Biomass association and the Regional Agriculture Chamber will be key partners to co-facilitate with the funding authorities (Normandy Region and ADEME) the stakeholder engagement activities. Normandy Region and ADEME will be part of this process and will specify their vision and work to integrate the criteria into their policy instruments.

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**Steps and timeframe**

- From September to November 2020: meetings and/or exchanges between Normandy Region and ADEME about technical criteria that could be needed to get public funding. 2 meetings were held.
- From September 2020 to October 2021 : workshops and/or exchanges led by Biomasse Normandy and the Regional Agriculture Chamber between stakeholders in order to define the specifications for a “good” biogas production project regarding the Normandy context (on the road to the charter). At least, 2 meetings will be held (3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2020 + to one be scheduled). This part of the action will also identify what communication resources are available. Participation of the Normandy Region and ADEME to this work.
- November 2020: information to the regional biogas production plan strategic committee on the upcoming charter/label and on the funding criteria to be adopted.
- December 2020 – May 2021: correction of the draft / first promotion of the criteria and charter during the biogas production regional day event and other communication ways.
- April 2021 – September 2021 : integration of the criteria into the 21-27 ROP to be approved by the EU commission.
- 2021-2022: communication actions & implementation for new projects funding under the ROP 2021-2027.
- 2022: first assessment of the criteria effectiveness.

These milestones are linked to the next Normandy ROP, which will be the one that Normandy Region will be able to use for projects funding.

<b>Costs</b>	<p>Staff costs about 6 000 €.</p> <p>Communication costs about 15 000 €.</p>
<b>Funding sources</b>	<p>Regional and ADEME funds provided in the budget of the Biogas Production Plan 2018-2020 and for the next three-year period (2021-2023). APPROVE budget regarding the Normandy Region staff costs and a part of the communication costs.</p>
<b>Expected results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set of technical, environmental, social and management criteria (eg. the origin of raw materials, the use of the waste after the production of biogas, the consultation steps and methods used, ...) expected for a "locally better accepted" biogas production project.</li> <li>- A charter / label which could engage all the interested actors (stakeholders, researchers, environmental associations, ...) to support the kind of projects corresponding to the charter / label.</li> <li>- Requirement for the project holders to follow the eligibility criteria in order to be funded by public funds (especially ERDF). This result is not sure at the moment and has still to be evaluated as feasible or not; the ADEME funding can easily be adapted to new circumstances while ERDF is less quickly adaptable. As we want to continue to offer a single counter to project holders, this is an issue to deal with.</li> <li>- At least it is sought to make more difficult the projects which won't follow the criteria good practice as they won't be funded.</li> </ul>

## ACTION 2 DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NORMANDY FRAMEWORK AND ANIMATION FOR A CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN ENERGY PROJECTS

**Background** The role and the place of citizens in how RES projects are developed can have a great influence on the development of RES and on the prevention of local oppositions.

Among the good practices identified in Normandy for the APPROVE project, two are of particular interest on this regards: “A crowdfunding and citizen-focused renewable energy project”<sup>4</sup> and “Joint development of wind farm projects”<sup>5</sup>.

Other interesting considerations came up in the occasion of the bilateral meeting with EREN in Valladolid on 23 September 2019, where Normandy Region was accompanied by ATMO Normandy (regional association responsible for the measurement of air quality in the region) and by 7 Vents cooperative as members of its regional stakeholder group. Part of discussions was on the characteristics of our territories and the project types. In particular, we talked about cooperative projects (as 7 Vents cooperative explained one of its ongoing projects involving citizens) and shared an interest for that kind of projects, probably not enough developed. Castilla Y Leon talked to us about Energética<sup>6</sup>, a cooperative project on its territory.

Normandy Region was also interested in the way citizens are part of decisions and planning in Finland; for example, in Lapland the organisation responsible for managing state-owned forests uses collaborative forestry planning methods that ensure the local inhabitants and stakeholders have a possibility to influence their living surroundings and the land use (see the good practice “Collaborative planning for improving social acceptance of forestry practices in state-owned lands”<sup>7</sup>).

Accordingly, Normandy Region wanted to know more about how participatory and/or citizen RES projects could be implemented in its territory, so in autumn 2019 prepared a call for tender in order to get knowledge and pieces of advice on this topic. The call for a thematic study has been launched in December 2019 and 7 Vents cooperative and Enercoop have been selected. The study was led in association with Enercoop Normandy. The final report "Analysis, identification of tools and actions, recommendations for the development of participatory and citizen projects" has been delivered to Normandy Region on 22 April 2020.

According to the study, it appears clearly that Normandy is late in that field compared to other French regions. For instance, Normandy is among the only two French regions without a regional branch of the national association “Energie

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/3364/a-crowdfunding-and-citizen-focused-renewable-energy-project/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/3365/joint-development-of-wind-farm-projects/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.energetica.coop>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/3310/collaborative-planning-for-improving-social-acceptance-of-forestry-practice-in-state-owned-lands/>

Partagée" ("shared energy"), which promotes and supports participatory and citizen-led renewable energy projects.

Furthermore, the advisory partner, who has expertise in the field of citizen participation, has been supporting the more precise and complete design of the action.

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**Description** This action addresses the ERDF ROP and the regional instrument IDEE regarding how to improve the renewable energy project's feasibility and to reach regional energy transition objectives. The action also aims at creating a regional framework that could lead to a real participatory and citizen-led projects development. Based on the experience taken from biogas sector policy, we think that, to get a successful development of participatory and citizen-led projects, it is necessary to facilitate the implementation of a first step which would be a structuration, a promoting action and a first level of support for local communities who want to manage energy projects.

Creating a regional framework for the coordination of the regional stakeholders in Normandy would have many advantages and would notably make it possible to remove the barriers encountered by the communities or groups of citizens willing to engage in energy project at an early stage of their organisation.

The intention is to structure the stakeholder network within 2-3 years, accelerating a process that without the support of the Region would definitely take longer. This will allow to disseminate the approach, create links among regional stakeholders, and help the project leader groups to be set up and mature with the support of the network. This will finally facilitate concrete projects.

Normandie Region appears to be understructured in that field compared to other French regions. A side objective to this action will be the creation of an anten of the national network "Energie Partagée" through regional stakeholders. „Energie Partagée“ is a national organization that can be joined by regional organizations interested in implementing its policy and tools, which include some citizen fundings. Normandy regional stakeholders willing to be involved in the creation of a regional framework in order to facilitate participatory and citizen-led projects could take advantage on this opportunity and affiliate with "Energie Partagée".

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**Players involved** Normandy Region (funding) and regional stakeholders. The role of Normandy Region will be to support organisations or associations expert in participatory and citizen-led projects development and which will submit to the Normandy Region



proposals of initiatives to be funded in order to create a regional framework for the coordination of the regional stakeholders in Normandy.

<b>Steps and timeframe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- October – December 2019: preparation and launch of a call for tender in order to get an analysis on identification of tools and actions for the development of participatory and citizen-led projects.</li> <li>- April 2020: final report of the study led by 7 Vents &amp; Enercoop.</li> <li>- April 2020: proposal of a modification of the Haute-Normandie ROP 2014-2020 and of its implementation document into the strategic objective 2.1 in order to integrate the possibility to support actions dealing with the development of participatory and citizen-led projects. This will firstly allow to fund actions related to this theme such as promotion actions, first level information regional actions, resource centre creation, etc. all dealing with citizen led and participatory renewable energy projects. The change of the ROP 14-20 does not refer to investment support of renewable energy projects but to regional animation actions</li> <li>- 2020: approval of the proposed modification.</li> <li>- By the end of 2020 or early 2021: proposal by regional stakeholders of initiatives to be funded. Normandy Region has already received a funding demand.</li> <li>- 2021-2022: Thanks to the ROP change, support of initiatives submitted in order to reach the goal to organise a dedicated facilitating framework for renewable energy participatory and citizen-led projects.</li> <li>- 2021-2022: Modification of the IDEE policy instrument in order to include citizens as potential beneficiaries of regional funds. First step in 2021 with the integration of citizens collectives as eligible project holders in the regional call for projects for solar energy self-production and self-consumption. Funding of submitted citizen-led projects.</li> </ul>
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<b>Costs</b>	Normandy Region allots the remaining animation funds of the ROP 2014-2020 and additional regional funds for supporting any proposal of action referring to this part of the 2.1 measure. The budget is about €220 K for 2021-2022 (support funds and Normandy Region follow-up staff cost). Funds of the next ROP will also be available for this kind of action.
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<b>Funding sources</b>	Haute-Normandie ROP 2014-2020, Normandy ROP 2021-2017, regional funds.
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<b>Expected results</b>	- Functioning tools dedicated to citizens to be gathered and first analyses on possible projects
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- Successful communication and promotion of participatory or citizen-led projects.
- Increase of the number of energy projects led by or actively involving local communities.

An additional result could be represented by the installation of the Normandy regional resource office of the national network “Energie Partagée”.

## IV. MONITORING

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The two actions will be managed as projects, with the respect of the timeframe as a first way to monitor the achievement of their objectives.

As regards the monitoring of the results, we are going to define a set of indicators that will be measured and shared with our stakeholders during the implementation of the action plan.

A first indicator that will be considered is the CO30 indicator "Additional capacity of renewable energy production in the region", which we specified in the APPROVE application form as self-defined indicator with a 6 MW target. This indicator is used in the current ROP and will be used also in the next one. It must be noted, however, that in monitoring the implementation of this action plan such indicator has to be read together with other pieces of information. In fact, even if both Action 1 and Action 2 intend to contribute to the creation of energy production projects, it would be not easy to measure such contribution, since many other conditions and inputs may influence the initiatives of proponents and citizens groups.

In order to monitor the action plan, other indicators have to be defined:

- to monitor the results of Action 1:

- claim rate against projects funded under the new criteria / label compared to previous ones
- number of applications for funding and their success rate

- to monitor the results of Action 2:

- number of information and sensibilization actions towards citizens and local authorities
- number of accompanied citizen groups in the first step of projects
- number of information session dedicated to local elected officials and civil servants
- number of citizen-led projects submitted in the framework of the regional call for self-consumption solar projects.

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Date: 22/07/21

Signature:

Stamp of the organisation:

Pour le Président  
de la Région Normandie  
et par délégation,  
La Directrice Energies, Environnement,  
Développement Durable

  
Sandrine MESIRARD

