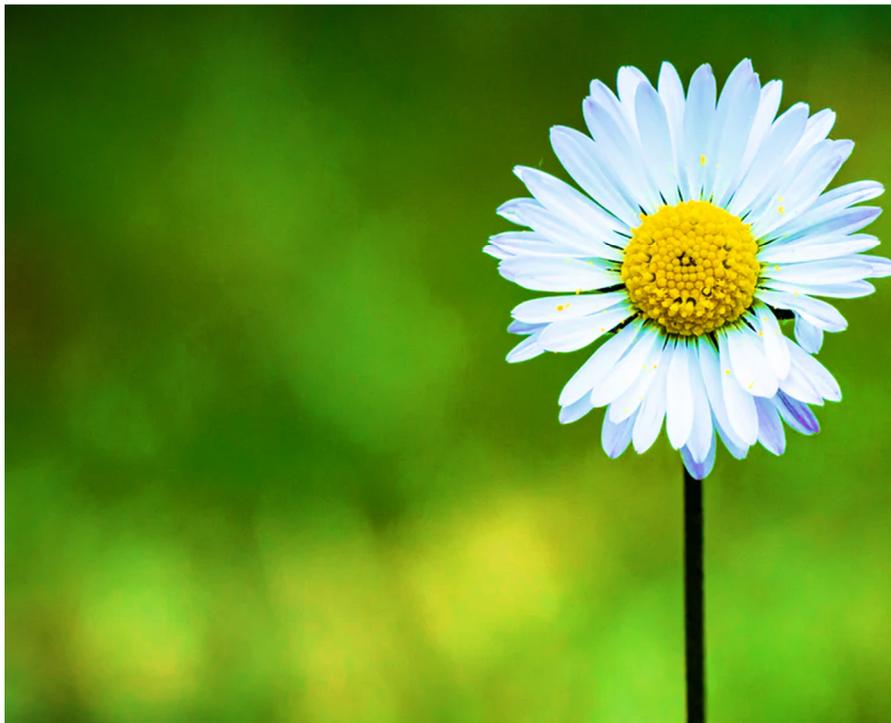


May
2021



Cyprus
Energy
Agency



[CYPRUS ACTION PLAN: SUPPORTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN EUROPEAN ISLANDS AND REMOTE REGIONS]



*Sharing solutions for
better regional policies*



Contents

1. General Information	3
2. Policy context.....	4
a) Operational Programme 2021-2027 - ACTION 1	4
b) Green Transition (RRF) – ACTION 2.....	5
3. Details of the actions envisaged.....	7
ACTION 1: Installing 1,000 EVs charging stations in publicly accessible areas	7
ACTION 2: Developing Sustainable Strategies (SECAPs) in 348 Communities	9



1. General Information

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

Partner organisation: Cyprus Energy Agency

Country: Cyprus

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The Energy Agency:

The Cyprus Energy Agency (CEA) is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization, founded in 2009. CEA was co-funded by the European Commission, through the Programme “Intelligent Energy for Europe” and by the Cyprus Union of Communities, for its establishment and first three years of operation. CEA has become an information point for the local society, providing education and vocational training. It participates in projects in partnership with local, European and international organizations, contributing to innovation, research and sustainable development. It enhances the role of local authorities in sustainable energy planning, providing technical support for developing and implementing actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change

CEA also participates in the Cypriot Consortium that coordinates the Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship Plan of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology for the Levantine region ([EIT Climate-KIC RIS](#)), focusing on education, networking, and the development and promotion of innovative solutions for the shaping of a low-carbon economy.

The Energy Agency's vision for the 2020-2030 period is: *"A Cyprus that is fair, inclusive and resilient to Climate Change, governed by the principles of sustainable development"* and its mission: *"To actively contribute to the saving of energy resources, the protection of the environment and the improvement of the quality of life."*



For the promotion of electric vehicles (EVs), the Electricity Authority of Cyprus has deployed a total of 19 recharging stations accessible to the public in Cyprus. Furthermore, the Department of Electromechanical Services is proceeding with the installation of 10 double fast-charging stations in highways and the Public Works Department will install 3 additional charging stations (Source: NECP).

The need for expanding the EVs charging network is obvious in Cyprus, something that will upscale the use of the EVs and reduce the GHG emissions remarkably.

The action plan will facilitate the finalization of the grant scheme relating to financing and installing 1,000 EVs charging stations in publicly accessible areas. The purpose of the scheme is to mobilize the development of the EVs charging network through private initiatives and active involvement of local authorities. The plan is aiming at private companies (SMEs) and local authorities (beneficiaries) that can provide parking to their customers / visitors such as supermarkets, shopping malls, gyms, hotels, sports centers, parking lots managed by local authorities, etc.

Already different meetings and discussions were organized with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works - Department of Electrical & Mechanical Services and afterwards with the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development for promoting EVs infrastructures under the new Operational Programme 2021-2027. The grand scheme will be managed both by **Department of Electrical & Mechanical Services** and **Cyprus Energy Agency**.

b) Green Transition (RRF) – ACTION 2

Local Authorities are recognized as important partners in the implementation of structural reforms and investments for accelerating the transition to a green economy. Local rural communities have committed to undertake actions for just, inclusive, decarbonised and climate resilient cities governed by the principles of sustainability.

About a third of the population of Cyprus (241,584) lives in rural communities represented by 348 community councils. Rural communities consume considerable amounts of energy,

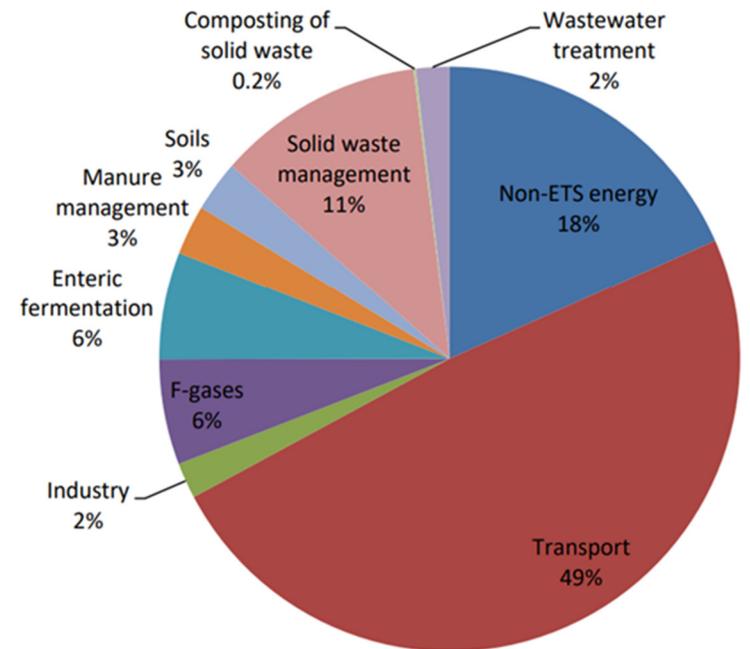


Figure 1: Contribution of non-ETS sectors to emissions (excluding LULUCF emissions), Source: NECP.

corresponding to **37% of the CO₂ emissions of Cyprus** (Source: Cyprus Energy Agency). Cyprus has committed to a reduction of 24% of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 through its National Energy and Climate Plan, which will require significant action by all sectors of the economy and at all levels of governance.

Local Community Councils, however, are faced with several challenges that significantly impede their capacity to undertake sustainable energy and climate action. Increasing rates of rural to urban migration, low economic diversity, an ageing population, and fewer assets (including infrastructure) have resulted in a lack of technical expertise and resources in Community Councils. As a result, community councils require technical assistance and guidance, in order to achieve their ambitious visions.

Community Councils are thus in need of technical support and capacity building for the development of dedicated Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), which will enable them to convert their ambitious policies and targets into a roadmap supporting the implementation of sustainable energy and climate action, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in their resilience to climate change.

The action plan will work for approving financing actions regarding the development of 32 joint Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), which will act as a roadmap towards their 2030 sustainability targets and beyond. A SECAP comprises both climate mitigation and adaptation action and **includes policies, investments, incentives, and activities to promote climate neutrality and adaptation in different sectors, including private sector and businesses.**

The 32 joint SECAPs will cover an area of more than 348 Communities in Cyprus. Furthermore, by securing the necessary capacity and resources, Community Councils are committed to join the [Covenant of Mayors](#), the world's largest movement for local climate and energy actions bringing together local and regional authorities in a voluntary commitment to implementing the EU's climate and energy objectives in their territory.

The technical support will be provided by the **Cyprus Energy Agency** to the Communities with the support of the **Union of Cyprus Communities**.



3. Details of the actions envisaged.

ACTION 1: Installing 1,000 EVs charging stations in publicly accessible areas

Beneficiaries: Private sector (SMEs) and local authorities

Grand Scheme Operators: Department of Electrical & Mechanical Services and Cyprus Energy Agency

The background

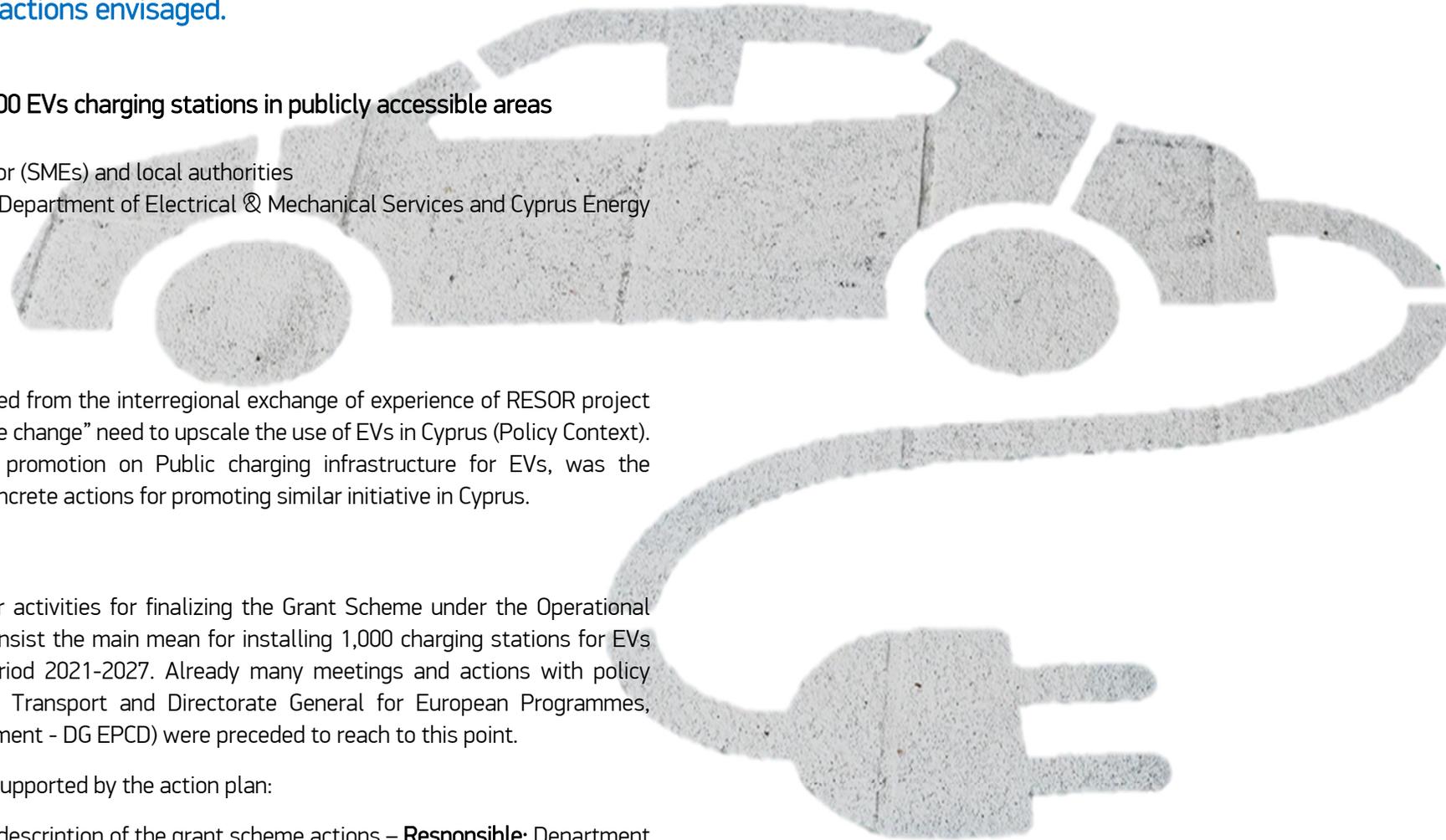
The Action 1 was influenced from the interregional exchange of experience of RESOR project combined with the “climate change” need to upscale the use of EVs in Cyprus (Policy Context). Azores’s experience and promotion on Public charging infrastructure for EVs, was the inspiration for initiating concrete actions for promoting similar initiative in Cyprus.

Nature of the action

The action plan will cover activities for finalizing the Grant Scheme under the Operational Programme, which will consist the main mean for installing 1,000 charging stations for EVs across Cyprus for the period 2021-2027. Already many meetings and actions with policy stakeholders (Ministry of Transport and Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development - DG EPCD) were preceded to reach to this point.

Next steps and activities supported by the action plan:

- TOR and detailed description of the grant scheme actions – **Responsible:** Department of Electrical & Mechanical Services (Ministry) and Cyprus Energy Agency
- Feedback and Corrections from DG EPCD and European Commission - **Responsible:** Department of Electrical & Mechanical Services (Ministry) and Cyprus Energy Agency
- Final approval of the Grant Scheme - **Responsible:** European Commission, DG EPCD



- Actions for preparing and announcing the final Grant Scheme to beneficiaries (SMEs and local authorities) - **Responsible:** Department of Electrical & Mechanical Services (Ministry) and Cyprus Energy Agency

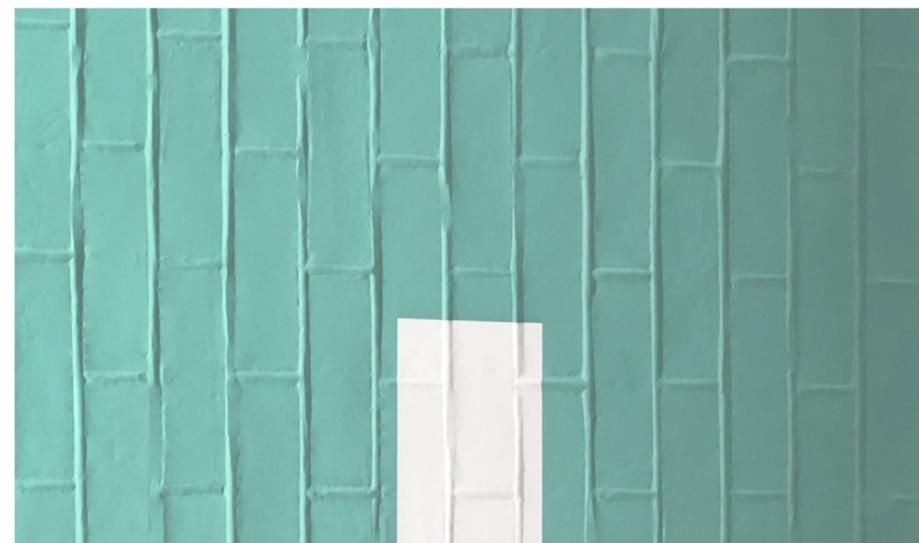
Stakeholders involved

1. European Commission: Operator of the European Structural and Investment funds, Cohesion Fund
2. DG EPCD: National Authority for European Structural and Investment Funds
3. Department of Electrical & Mechanical Services (Ministry) and Cyprus Energy Agency: Operators of the Grant Scheme for the period 2021-2027
4. Business sector (SMEs) and Local Authorities: Beneficiaries

Action	Timeframe			
	May 2021-July2021	August 2021-October 2021	November 2021-January 2022	February 2022-May 2022
TOR and detailed description of the grant scheme actions	[Yellow bar]			
Feedback and Corrections		[Yellow bar]		
Final approval of the Grant Scheme		[Yellow bar]		
Actions for preparing and announcing the Grant Scheme			[Dark yellow bar]	
Monitoring	[Light green bar]			

Funding sources

The grand scheme is expected to be financed by the Cohesion Fund and included in the new Operational Programme 2021-2027 with an estimated budget 4.000.000 EUR.



ACTION 2: Developing Sustainable Strategies (SECAPs) in 348 Communities

Beneficiaries: Local authorities

Grand Scheme Operators: Union of Cyprus Communities and Cyprus Energy Agency

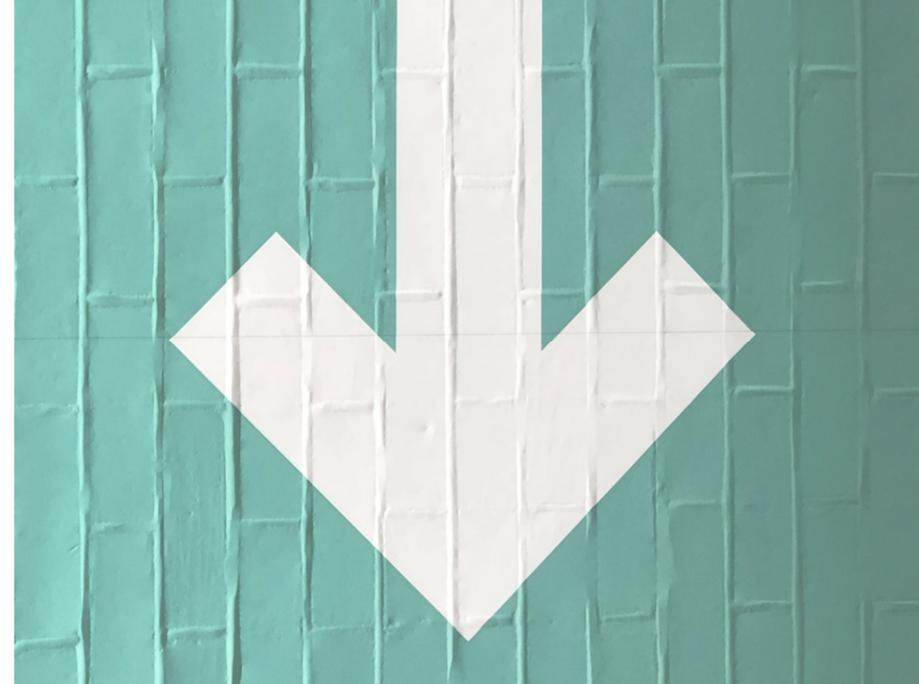
The background

In the interregional exchange of experience of RESOR project, both Union of Communities and Union of Municipalities participated presenting energy efficiency and sustainable initiatives on behalf of their members (local authorities). It is worth noting that both Unions are official supporters of the Covenant of Mayor in Cyprus together with Cyprus Energy Agency. What was pointed out is the influence of local authorities to the private sector through [green fiscal policies and local schemes](#), driving businesses towards sustainability.

On the one hand, have in mind the key role of the local authorities in achieving the commitments set out in different National & EU green policies like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Neutrality by 2050 and on other hand the need of technical support and capacity building for the development of dedicated local Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), efforts have been undertaken to secure funds for technical support and development of joint SECAPs in 348 Communities.

Nature of the action

The action plan will cover activities for successful safeguarding funds under Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) for supporting the Cypriot local authorities to develop SECAPs, thus transferring long term sustainability in their territory. As mentioned previously in Action 1, preparatory work with policy stakeholders (Union of and Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development - DG EPCD) was preceded to reach to this point.



Next steps and activities supported by the action plan:

- TOR and detailed description of the grant scheme actions – **Responsible:** Union of Cyprus Communities and Cyprus Energy Agency
- Feedback and Corrections from DG EPCD and European Commission - **Responsible:** Union of Cyprus Communities and Cyprus Energy Agency
- Final approval of the grant scheme - **Responsible:** European Commission, Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development
- Actions for preparing and announcing the final grant scheme to beneficiaries (local authorities) - **Responsible:** Union of Cyprus Communities and Cyprus Energy Agency



Stakeholders involved

1. European Commission: Operator of the Recovery and Resilience Facility
2. DG EPCD: National Authority for Recovery and Resilience Facility
3. Union of Cyprus Communities and Cyprus Energy Agency: Operators of the Grant Scheme for the period 2021-2027
4. Local Authorities: Beneficiaries

Action	Timeframe			
	May 2021-July2021	August 2021-October 2021	November 2021-January 2022	February 2022-May 2022
TOR and detailed description of the grant scheme actions	■			
Feedback and Corrections		■		
Final approval of the Grant Scheme		■		
Actions for preparing and announcing the Grant Scheme			■	
Monitoring	■			

Funding sources:

The grand scheme for the development of the joint SECAPs is expected to be financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility with an estimated budget 450.000 EUR.

Date: 31 May 2021

Signature:

Stamp of the organization:



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