



AgroRES Final Conference Dossier

19th April 2023, Palazzo Merulana, Rome



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INTRODUCTION

The four-year AgroRES project ending in July 2023 has brought about tangible measures that encourage the production and use of renewable energy in the agricultural and rural sector. Help desks or support services have been established, new innovative technologies found and implemented, and regulations and strategies developed.

In the beginning, AgroRES project encountered challenges due to the Covid 19 pandemic. After the kick-off meeting in November 2019, only online meetings were possible for two years. But thanks to the resilience against the adverse circumstances, the AgroRES project team has managed to join in interregional learning and exchange of experiences, discover common needs and find joint solutions.

Essential activities such as interregional events were held online, organizing virtual visits, elaborating regional videos, and using innovative online platforms and tools to allow the interexchange of experiences. In person activities were activated in October 2021 with the celebration of the Interregional Event and Cross Cut visit in Ireland.

During the exchange of experiences of AgroRES project, [22 best practices](#) were identified and published for guidance for anyone interested, and 6 interregional events and 45 local stakeholder meetings were organized, increasing capacity of more than 100 regional actors.

With the knowledge gathered during the three years of learning activities, project partners together with their stakeholders produced 7 action plans to improve their regional policy instruments, including specific actions to be implemented and monitored in the last stage.

Regional project results were presented and disseminated at AgroRES Final Conference, where partners and stakeholders participated sharing the achievements in every region.

INVESTING IN RES FOR AGRICULTURE AGRORES EXPERIENCE

19th April 2023 – 09:00 am
Palazzo Merulana
via Merulana, 121- Roma



ARSIAL

Agenzia Regionale
per lo Sviluppo e l'Innovazione
dell'Agricoltura del Lazio



AGENDA

09:00 REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

09:30 INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS

Special Commissioner of Arisial | Andrea Napoletano

President of the Order of Agronomists | Dott. Agr. Corrado Falcetta

09:55 EU CONTEXT

Interreg Europe overview

Charo Camacho | Interreg Europe Policy Officer - Low-carbon economy

Introduction to AgroRES experience

Ana Martínez | AGENEX - Consortium Extremadura Energy Agency

10:20 INNOVATIVE RES TECHNOLOGIES

The role of biomass in domestic low carbon heating and sustainability

Charlotte Vaughan Burleigh | Devon County Council.

Energy from biogas plants in rural areas - a chance for agriculture and the environment

Alina Kowalczyk-Juśko & Grzegorz Maj | University of Life Sciences in Lublin

By-product recovery potential and energy solutions for the agri-food industry in the EUROACE area

M. Carmen Carrillo Sánchez | CTAEX - National Agrifood Technological Center – Extremadura

Achievements in the use of renewable energy for agricultural applications

Ms. Iuliana Gageanu | The National Institute of Research - Development for Machines and Installations Designed for Agriculture and Food Industry – INMA Bucharest.

11:00 COFFEE BREAK

INVESTING IN RES FOR AGRICULTURE AGRORES EXPERIENCE

11:15 STRATEGIES AND NEW REGULATIONS

Energy policy in the Lubelskie Voivodeship with a 2030 perspective

Adam Glab | Lubelskie Voivodeship

Improving the Climate and Energy Programme and its Implementation Plan

Pasi Pitkänen | Regional Council of North Karelia

Boosting investment in renewable energy

Kaisa Figueiredo | North Karelia Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

11:55 HELP DESKS

Technical and Financial support services for Energy Communities in rural areas in Extremadura

Daniel Encinas | AGENEX - Consortium Extremadura Energy Agency

RES Regional support services

Matei Smadu | Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency

Targeted technical and commercial advisory service for farmers in energy intensive sectors

Mel Gavin | ATU Sligo

State of the art of AgroRES Help Desk at Lazio Region

Mauro Gaggiotti | Enostra for ARSIAL

The voice of LAZIO stakeholders

12:50 CONCLUSIONS

Representative of the Lazio Region

Cosme P. Segador | AGENEX – Consortium Extremadura Energy Agency Director

The meeting will be chaired by Rachel C. Tully (AGENEX) and Dina Maini (ARSIAL)

13:00 LIGHT LUNCH

19th of April 2023
Palazzo Merulana (Rome)

AgroRES
Interreg Europe

ARSIAL

Agenzia Regionale
per lo Sviluppo e l'Innovazione
dell'Agricoltura del Lazio

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agenzia estremaña para el desarrollo

AGRORES FINAL CONFERENCE

Final Conference of AgroRES project was held on the 19th of April 2023 in Rome, organized by ARSIAL in collaboration with AGENEX. During the event, project partners and their stakeholders from Ireland, England, Spain, Italy, Finland, Romania and Poland presented their achievements resulting from the 4-year project for an audience of 80 people in Palazzo Merulana.

The event, chaired by Rachel C.Tully (AGENEX) and Dina Maini (ARSIAL) was structured in different thematic panels that went from the EU context to the regional results focusing on the following topics:

- Innovative RES Technologies
- Strategies and New Regulations
- Help Desks

INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS

The Final Conference started with greetings by Dott. Agr. Corrado Falcetta, President of the Order of Agronomists in Lazio region. He emphasized the importance of sustainability of the complete food production chain from farm to dining table, as an important part of protecting the world from climate change, and he gave credit for the AgroRES project in its efforts.



EU CONTEXT

Interreg Europe policy officer Charo Camacho make an overview from the Interreg Europe. She congratulated the AgroRES partners for a successful project, thanks to their resilience even when facing crises due to the current world situation.



SLIDE 5

Strengths of AgroRES

- **Importance of the issue addressed (Green Deal)**

- ✓ 22 good practices identified
- ✓ 113 people with increased capacity
- ✓ 1 policy instrument improved
- ✓ Active contribution to the PLP activity
- ✓ Resilience against the adverse circumstances

Ana Martinez, project coordinator from AGENEX, Spain, lead partner of the project, gave an overall introduction to the AgroRES project



Then all partners from the UK, Poland, Spain, Romania, Finland, Ireland, and Italy presented their efforts and achievements in the project. Stakeholders from each country and region gave presentations on their activities and services related with the AgroRES themes.

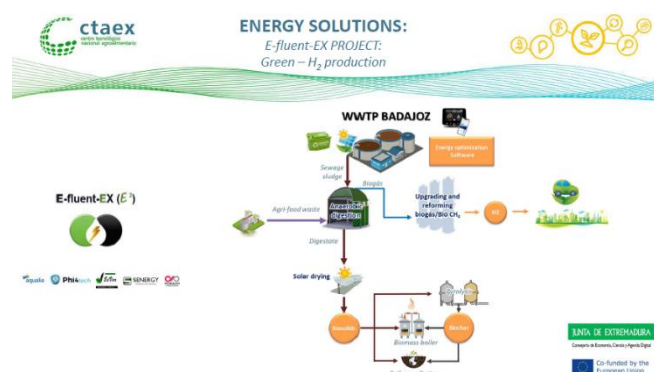
INNOVATIVE RES TECHNOLOGIES

Charlotte Vaughan Burleigh, from Devon County Council explained the role of biomass in domestic low carbon heating and sustainability.



Alina Kowalczyk, Juško & Grzegorz Maj from University of Life Sciences in Lublin, stakeholder of Lubelskie Voivodeship, speak about the energy from biogas plants in rural areas - a chance for agriculture and the environment.

Carmen Carrillo Sánchez, from CTAEX - National Agrifood Technological Center – Extremadura, stakeholder of AGENEX, explained the by-product recovery potential and energy solutions for the agri-food industry in the EUROACE area.



Then, Ms Iuliana Gageanu from the National Institute of Research - Development for Machines and Installations Designed for Agriculture and Food Industry – INMA Bucharest, presented the achievements in the use of renewable energy for agricultural application.

STRATEGIES AND NEW REGULATIONS

As part of the implementation of the regional AgroRES Action Plan, the [Lubelskie Voivodeship updated its Development Strategy](#). The new version includes improving the competitiveness of farms, supporting bottom-up initiatives, and improving management efficiency. The next steps will be the new energy policy. This was presented by Adam Glab.



Activities and effects under the AgroRES project in Lubelskie Voivodeship

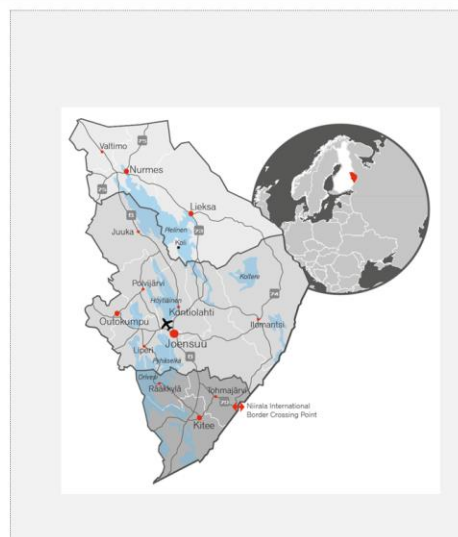
- Analysis of the region in terms of the development and use of RES, especially in agriculture and in rural areas,
- Identification of examples of Good Practices in the field of RES in the region,
- Establishing a Local Stakeholder Group,
- Impact on the selected regional strategic document,
- Development of an Action Plan.

Pasi Pitkänen, presented the AgroRES action plan of [North Karelia, which focuses on improved governance of funding renewable energy projects](#) in agriculture and rural areas, in line with the revised and updated Climate and Energy Programme and its implementation plan.

One of their stakeholders, Kaisa Figueiredo, from the North Karelia Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, speak about how to boost the investment in renewable energy.

The ELY Centres (15)

promote regional development by implementing government initiatives and development tasks in the regions



HELP DESKS

Daniel Encinas, AGENEX Technical Coordinator presented [a new support service that has been created](#) in Extremadura thanks to AgroRES project, with the aim of providing technical and financial support services for Energy Communities in rural areas in Extremadura.



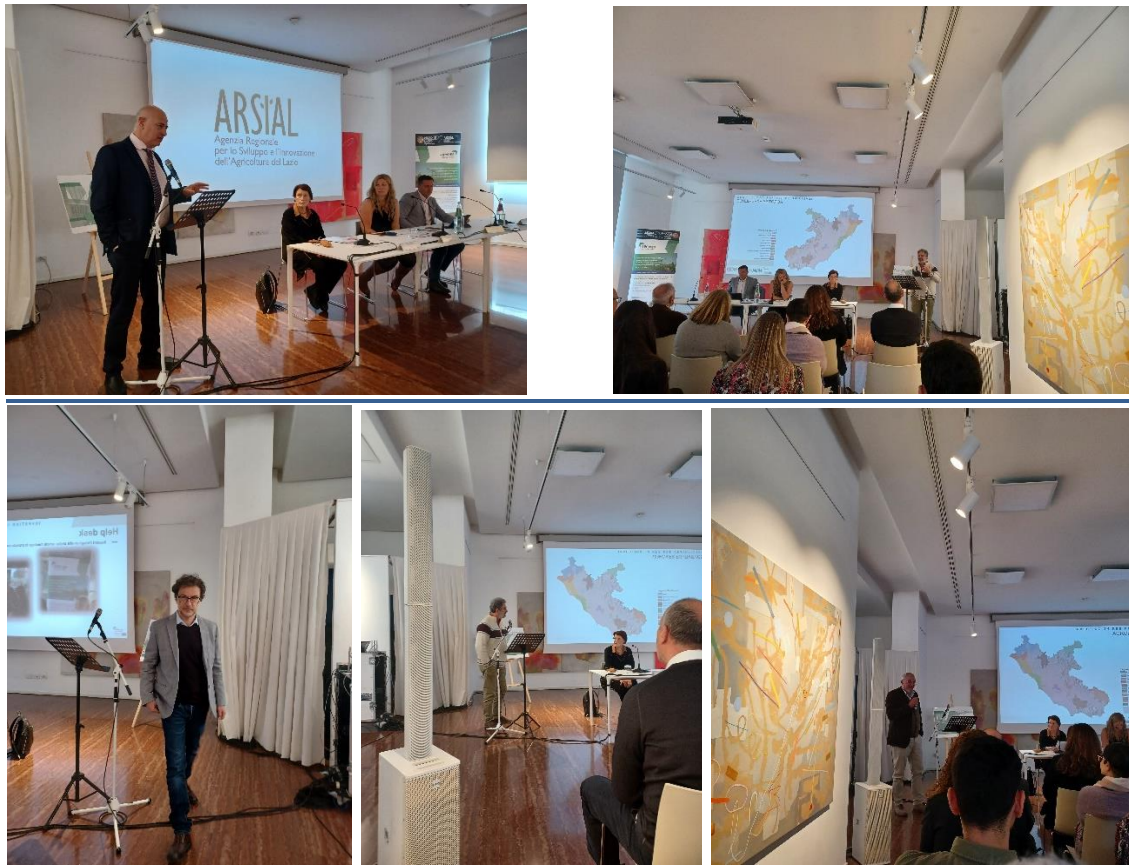
For Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency (BIRDA), AgroRES gave an opportunity to [build up know-how and visibility of renewable energies](#). BIRDA is developing [regional support services](#) to guide potential beneficiaries of funds for the development of production and use of RES from Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency. Matei Smadu introduced the details of this service.

The Atlantic Technological University (ATU) and Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA), the Irish partners in the AgroRES project [support an energy specific advisory service for the integration of renewable technologies on farms](#). Mel Gavin from ATU Sligo introduced the targeted technical and commercial advisory service for farmers in energy intensive sectors.

[Arsial has set up a Help Desk](#) as a part of the AgroRES project to support communities in rural areas in the establishment of renewable energy communities, with a technical, financial and administrative assistance service. Mauro Gaggiotti, from Enostra for ARSIAL, shared the State of the art of AgroRES Help Desk at Lazio Region.

The voice of LAZIO stakeholders

Taking advantage of the location, several LAZIO stakeholders could directly participate in the event commenting the lessons learned during the project, the benefits obtained and the advances of the region regarding the project topic.



CONCLUSIONS

To conclude the conference, Cosme P. Segador, Director of AGENEX, lead partner of the project, highlighted the following:

- The project has brought us the opportunity to **boost RES in the agricultural and rural sector**.
- We had to face **difficulties in the learning process** from the beginning of the project, as the project activities were impacted by the COVID crisis just 6 months after the project started.
- We were forced to **adapt project activities**. Physical activities were changed for online meetings/events/workshops/virtual visits. Now, we are experts in organising such events, but at the time it took a few months to react and reschedule the activities postponed or cancelled.
- AgroRES has a great **consortium** that has allowed us to achieve the project indicators and to overcome some of the initial barriers. Thank all the partners for their collaboration these years and for the learnings shared that will improve our regional policies.
- This will not have been possible without the support of the **Joint Secretariat of Interreg Europe**. We had to work with them more than usual, to see the flexibility of the programme to adapt the work plan, to grant the project extension needed, to rearrange the project budget... Thanks Charo, our policy officer, for your cooperation, patience and support during this period.
- And regarding **Extremadura's experience**, the project has brought together stakeholders from the agricultural, rural and energy sectors.
- Regarding the project results, thanks to the learnings we have realised that **Energy Communities** could be a key solution to involve citizens of rural areas like Extremadura in the energy transition.
- So, we are now working on new initiatives in this line, such as another Interreg Europe project under the first call, ShareRES, to improve policies to enable an active participation of citizens in the energy transition by sharing RES through energy communities.
- The final conference has highlighted many interesting project results in all the partner regions. **A special thanks to ARSIAL for the organisation of the event** and for welcoming us again in Rome.



Presentations of the Final Conference are available here: [Final Conference materials](#)