



**IRENES**  
Interreg Europe



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Università Iuav  
di Venezia

## IRENES - Action Plan Veneto



Venice, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022



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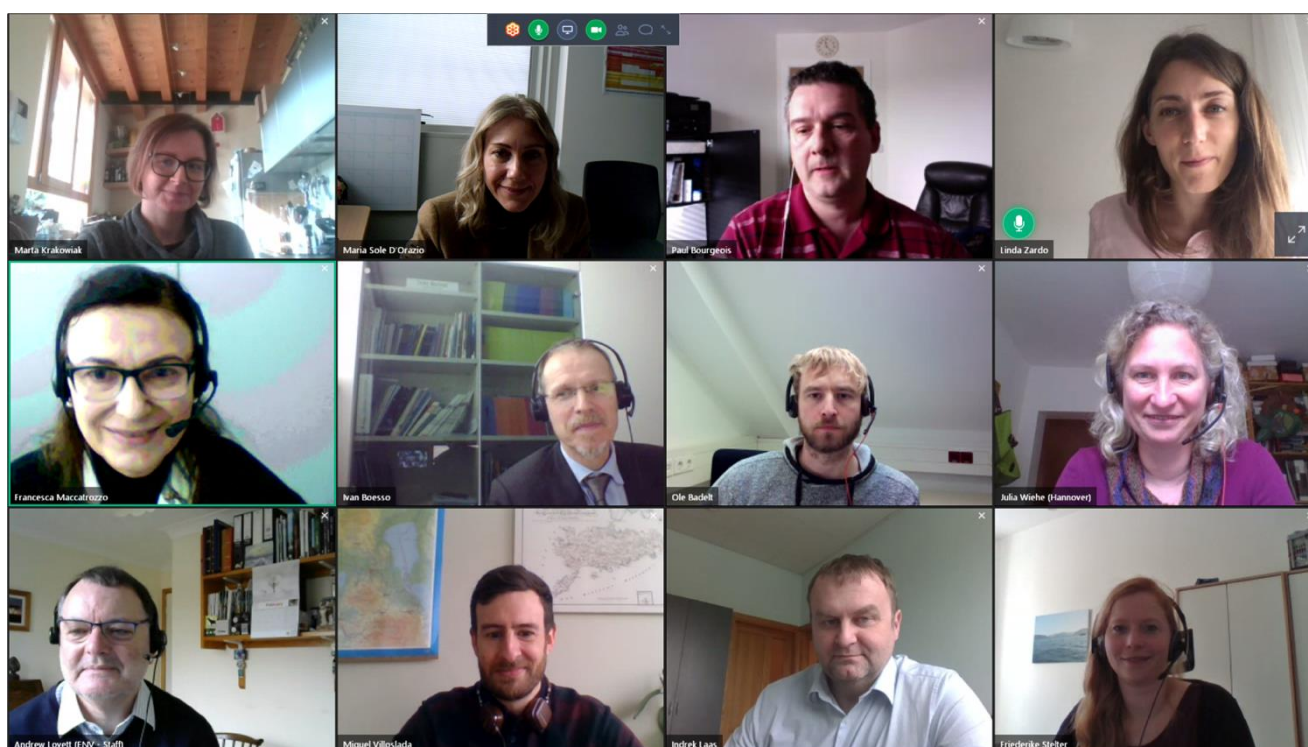
## Introduction

In the Veneto region two partners are working together: Veneto Innovazione s.p.a., the in-house innovation agency owned by Veneto Region, and IUAV University of Venice, LP of IRENES.

In the Interreg Europe project IRENES (Integrating RENewable energy and Ecosystem Services in environmental and energy policies) the main goal is to identify gaps and barriers within current ERDF and energy policy instruments in relation to the Renewable Energy Sources and Ecosystem Services co-relation, including environmental, social, economic, and governance concerns.

In the first part of the project, partners launched in each area the State-of-the Art (SOTA) analysis on Renewable Energy Sources (RES), deepening with a shared methodology, the regional and national regulatory framework, on one side, and the renewable energy potential, on the other side. On the basis of the resulting data, specific constraints map were then built by the technical partners to help decision makers in assessing the different possible scenarios to exploit the RES, accordingly to the constraints and the ecosystem services trade-off.

Figure: picture from one of technical meetings for defining the methodologies to select for the TO&S mapping for each region (based on the region's needs, data availability and resources)



The outcomes were step by step discussed with relevant stakeholders (i.e. business associations and clusters' representatives, business clusters, regional agencies and the Regional Authority) to understand each different perspective.

A deep SWOT analysis was also performed to make clear the positive aspects of the current policy instrument (OP ERDF document and the related material), the weaknesses and threats and to finding opportunities to improve the document. IRENES' methodology was based on current concepts of ES science. In particular, the



overall analysis focused on the understanding and adoption of the multiple aspects of ES and RES by the policy instrument's documents.

The study visits, although organised in a virtual modality due to the pandemic emergency, were useful to provide examples and input to the discussion, moving the local stakeholders and the regional Authority to consider new ideas and the way of transfer the good practice emerged into the local framework.

The following action plan provides details on how the lessons learnt from the cooperation and the analytical phase will be exploited in Veneto in order to improve the policy instruments and area developments tackled. It specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, their timeframe, the players involved and, estimated costs and funding sources.

Veneto Innovazione and IUAV have worked together with the stakeholders and the Regional Authority in drawing the Action Plan with their specific expertise and network and they will continue to support the Veneto region in the following phase.

Phase 2 of IRENES will start at the same time the new regional Operative Program will be launched as well as the National Recovery and Resilience Plan will enter into action. In the coming years Veneto will face many challenges in the field of sustainability and green transition and the coming Action Plan will contribute to support the Region in harmonising the goals settled at national level to the ones at regional level, with an integrated and structured mode.



## Part I – General information

Project: **IRENES (Integrating RENewable energy and Ecosystem Services in environmental and energy policies)**

Partner organisation(s) concerned: IUAV University of Venice, and Veneto Innovazione

Country: Italy

NUTS2 region: Veneto

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## Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact to the following Programs:

### **1. The Investment for Growth and Jobs programme i.e. the Operational Programme of the Veneto Region 2021-2027**

#### Background

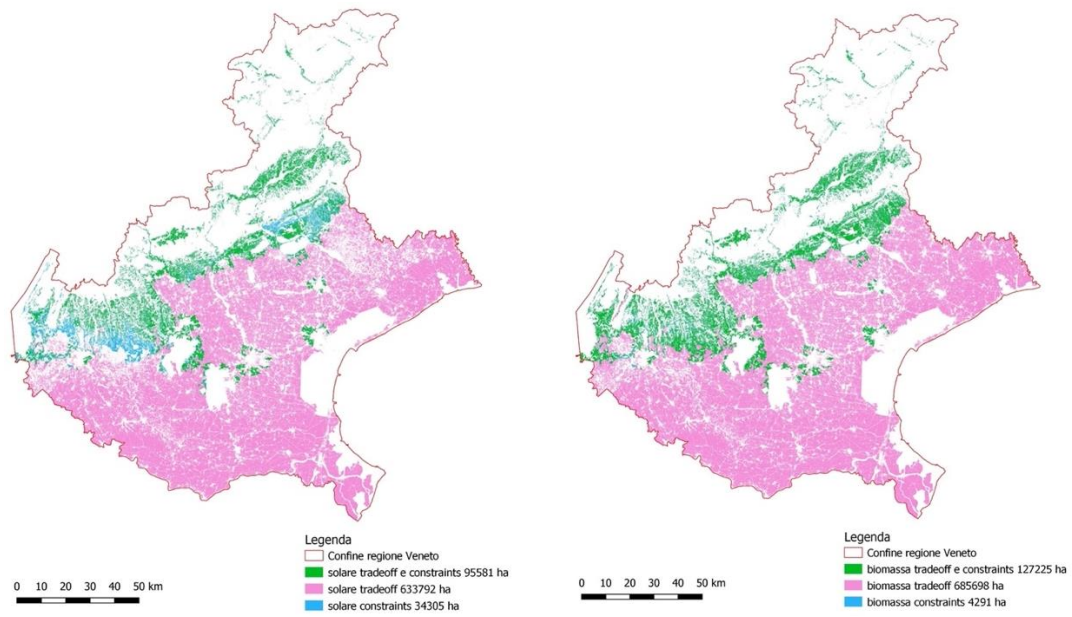
The main policy document which was analysed in IRENES was the Operational Program 2014-2020. The new Operational Program (2021-2027) is being prepared and it will likely be launched in the summer. While the main plan of the Operational Program 2021-2027 is already approved by the Regional Council, its calls for projects are not yet defined. This already set a fertile ground to integrate the call for projects for the new Operational Program with all the analysis and findings from the Operational Program 2014-2020, and to fill the identified gaps in terms of ecosystem service (ES) concepts and the implementation of ES-focused initiatives in the RES-related calls. The SWOT analysis of the Operational Program 2014-2020, performed with the methodology set up together in IRENES, identified positive aspects in terms of awareness of the importance of a healthy environment, as well as awareness of the interlinkages between decarbonization, environment and climate change.

However, the main focus resulted on two aspects: the general decrease of energy demand, and the production of renewables for self-consumption. No demand analysis nor impacts on the environment (and on the supply of other ES) are considered. Moreover, from a spatial point of view, there is no awareness about to which extent the activities are meant to target urban or rural areas, and there is no indication of where ES (renewable energy among others) are spatially produced (and where it is proper to locate energy production).

In addition, through the “trade-off analysis” developed in IRENES, awareness was risen toward the importance to include in the OP framework the integration of concepts related to energy, spatial development, and environment, together with the ecosystem services approach.



Figure: Results from IRENES for Veneto Region, where policy constrains focusing on general environmental protection and ES trade-offs constrains are mapped for solar farms (on the left) and agricultural biomass (on the right) respectively



Together with the Managing Authority, IUAV and Veneto Innovazione thus decided to focus on the Operational Program 2021-2027 (cooperating at the calls definition phase). However, the collaboration will have positive trickling down effects on the inclusion of ES-related concepts in in the process for the preparation also of other energy-related strategies and plans at regional level. The work defined in this plan, set one more brick in the building of effective pursue of decarbonization, without leaving the natural capital and ecosystem services behind.

## Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

### **ACTION: Promote Energy communities and support their positive impact on general ES provision, through the calls of the Operational Program**

#### **1.1. Relevance to the project**

The deep involvement of regional stakeholders in the Veneto Region resulted in a constructive discussion about the need to build actions aimed to boost the energy production with a bottom-up approach, and increasing the stakeholders' participatory process. The useful examples of private-public partnership given during the UK virtual visit and the vivid discussion at Veneto regional level concerning the reluctance of agricultural associations in boosting solar implants, moved the Regional Authority to plan specific funding measures dedicated to energy communities both citizens and industry driven.

Figure: pictures from the UK virtual visit, on 28/09/2021







The involvement of stakeholders ensures: i) ownership and durability over time of activities; ii) the identification of alternative solutions; iii) the integration of a good understating of the territory, in order to implement activities that fit needs and exploit the potential of a such various territory which the one presented by the Veneto Region.

The present attention of the Region on Energy Communities opens the floor for promoting the concept of ecosystem services and an environmental-friendly production of energy from renewables.

In addition, during the first phase of the project, through the SOTA and SWOT analysis, as well as through continuous discussion with the Managing Authority, IRENES highlighted that the present Operational Program (2014-2020) does not recognize territorial specificity. Hence, actions within the Program, as well as calls for project, targeted urban, agricultural, and mountainous areas irrespectively to their different needs and potentials. In response to this gap, the joint discussion identified the development of Energy Communities also as a potential measure to promote the rapid adoption of RES in different context, formulating site-specific solutions and empowering marginal areas.

Within the new Operational Program 2021-2027, through the sub-set of calls for projects that will focus on the development Energy Communities, it will be possible to introduce a set of criteria that promotes an increased attention on renewables and on renewables-related ecosystem service. In particular, the **set of criteria developed will capitalize from the trade-off and synergy analysis undertaken in phase 1 of IRENES**, to promote projects that produce energy from RES without negative impact on other ES provisioning. The ambition is to include these criteria for all the new OP 2021-2027 calls for proposals that address the energy communities.

## 1.2. Nature of the action

IUAV and Veneto Innovazione will support the Regional Energy Unit in considering how to systematically include the above-mentioned set of criteria in all OP's calls related to the promotion of Energy Communities. The introduction of such set of criteria will ensure that an ecosystem service approach is integrated in the management/governance of the new OP, specifically for all initiatives focusing on the development of Energy Communities.

Such goal will be pursued through:

- ACTIVITY 1\_The identification of Energy-Communities call that will be launched through the OP 2021-2027 (expected to be finalized by the end of September 2022 approx., though Milestone 1)
- ACTIVITY 2\_Results and products from the TO&S analysis for the Veneto Region during the project will be adapted and synthetized to support the writing of the new calls with a focus on Energy Communities (expected to be finalized by the end of October 2022 approx., though Milestone 2)
- ACTIVITY 3\_IUAV and Veneto Innovazione will support the Regional Energy Unit in the concept of specific policy instruments (criteria for project selection for the calls related to Energy Communities) to be included in the Regional Operational Program 2020-2027. The new set of criteria will valorise the knowledge collected in the previous phase. In addition, the development of criteria will facilitate the regional staff in the identification of ES-friendly proposal, and support the beneficiaries in writing ES-friendly proposals (expected to be finalized by the end of January 2023 approx., though Milestone 3)
- ACTIVITY 4\_Dissemination and promotion of the criteria to inform and support the interested beneficiaries, in order to ensure a healthy environment and to prevent negative impact of energy production from renewables on the provision of other ES (expected to be finalized by the end of February 2023 approx., though Milestone 4)



- ACTIVITY 5\_Validation of the set of criteria for projects selection by the Regional Energy Unit (expected to occur in 2023 approx., though Milestone 5)
- ACTIVITY 6\_Inclusion of the set of criteria in the new Calls for proposals for the creation of ES- friendly Energy Communities launched by the OP ERDF 2021 - 2027(expected to occur by the end of June 2023 approx., though Milestone 6)

### 1.3. Outputs:

Inclusion of the set of criteria in the OP ERDF 2021 – 2027 new calls for the proposal addressing the creation of Energy Communities.

### 1.4. Stakeholders involved

Veneto Innovazione, IUAV, and relevant regional stakeholders involved in policy development. More specifically:

- Veneto Region – Research, Innovation and Energy Directorate
- Veneto Region- Organizational Unit (O.U.) of the Energy Directorate
- Veneto Region- O.U. of the Tourism Department (Regional Strategy for Biodiversity and Parks)
- Veneto Region – Territorial Planning Directorate
- Veneto Region - AdG FESR Directorate
- Veneto Region- AdG FEASR and Forests Directorate
- Veneto Agriculture – Agency for Innovation
- ARPAV

### 1.5. Timeframe

The action will take place throughout Phase II in IRENES. The phase of developing the criteria and including them into at least one call under the OP 2021-2027 closes at the end of July 2023. Detailed dates for activities are indicated in section 1.2. Here below, timeframe estimated for the milestones related to the activities are listed.

Milestone n°	Milestone name	Estimated delivery date
M1	Energy-Communities related OP call identified	30.09.2022
M2	IRENES TO&S analysis synthesized to support the OP new calls elaboration	31.10.2022
M3	Criteria for project selection for the Calls related to Energy Communities (under the Regional Operational Program 2021-2027) defined and discussed with target stakeholders	31.01.2023
M4	New Call selection criteria shared and disseminated among the potential Calls' beneficiaries	28.02.2023
M5	Proposed criteria for projects' selection validated in the new OP by the Regional Energy Unit	April-June 2023
M6	New criteria for project selection included in the OP ERDF 2021-2027 Calls supporting the creation of ES-friendly Energy Communities launched	June 2023



## 1.6. Costs

The costs are mainly related to staff costs to both develop the criteria, and to organize joint working sessions and validation meetings. Minor costs cover to local travel costs of people joining meetings and activities. Venues will be provided by involved stakeholders for free. No other costs are expected.

In the table below activities, notes detailing the type of costs, and cost of each activity are summarised.

Activity	Type of cost	Cost	% of work and costs under VI	% of work and cost under IUAV	Total cost of the activity
Activity 1	2 people doing 2 weeks of desk research	2 people x 1000euros (cost of ½ month of work)= <b>2000 euros</b>	50% <b>1000 euros</b>	50% <b>1000 euros</b>	<b>2950 euros</b>
	1 person working one week to prepare the material for the meetings	1 person x 500euros (cost of ¼ month of work)= <b>500 euros</b>	0%	100% <b>500euros</b>	
	3 people presenting and moderating each of the 3 online half-a-day meetings with the Managing authority	3 people x 50 euros (cost of ½ day of work) x 3 meetings= <b>450 euro</b>	67% <b>300 euros</b>	33% <b>150 euros</b>	
Activity 2	1 person working for two months	1 person x 2000 euros (cost of 1 month of work)= <b>2000 euros</b>	0%	100% <b>2000 euros</b>	<b>2000 euros</b>
Activity 3	2 people working 2 weeks for 3 months (2people x800 eurosx3months)	2 people x 1000 euros (cost of ½ month of work) x 3 months= <b>6000 euros</b>	50% <b>3000 euros</b>	50% <b>3000 euros</b>	<b>6300 euros</b>
	2 people joining each of the 6 technical 2 hours meeting	2 people x 25 euros (cost of ¼ day of work) x 6 meetings= <b>300 euro</b>	50% <b>150 euros</b>	50% <b>150 euros</b>	
Activity 4	Material preparation (1 person, 2 weeks, 1000 euros)	1 person x 1000 euros (cost of ½ month of work)= <b>1000 euros</b>	0%	100% <b>1000 euros</b>	<b>2900 euros</b>
	Communication activities and organization of the events	1 person x 1000 euros (cost of ½ month of work)= <b>1000 euros</b>	100% <b>1000 euros</b>	0%	
	3 people presenting and moderating each of the 6 online half-a-day dissemination events	3 people x 50 euros (cost of ½ day of work) x 6 meetings= <b>900 euro</b>	67% <b>600 euros</b>	33% <b>300 euros</b>	
Activity 5	Material preparation and meeting preparation	2 people x 500 (cost of ¼ month of work)= <b>1000 euros</b>	50% <b>500 euros</b>	50% <b>500 euros</b>	<b>1850 euros</b>



	3 people moderating the meeting	3 people x 50 euros (cost of ½ day of work)= <b>150 euros</b>	67%	33%	
	One meeting, hosting 20 people + printing the material	(Catering for 20 people=500 euros) + Venue for free + (Printing the materials=200 euro)= <b>700 euros</b>	100%	0%	
Activity 6	Launch of the call	1 person x 500 euros (cost of ¼ of work)= <b>500 euros</b>	100%	0%	<b>500 euros</b>
Local travel	10% of all activities		50%	50%	<b>1650 euros</b>
<b>Total cost</b>			<b>8675 euros</b>	<b>9475 euros</b>	<b>18150 euros</b>

### 1.7 Funding sources

The total budget for the development of the criteria to be included in the new OP ERDF 2021 - 2027 is approx. 18150 euros. To cover such cost, both Veneto Innovazione (VI) and IUAV will use their own resources.

### 1.8 Endorsement

The present action plan has been drafted in collaboration with the Managing Authority. The two partners ensure that they will support the Managing Authority in the implementation of the Action Plan presented in this document.

Ivan Boesso,

representative for Veneto Innovazione

**Francesco Musco,**

representative for IUAV