EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK

Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme supporting clean energy for green growth

Prepared by JS Communication manager with projects' contributions

Spotlight on the EUSEW2020

This year the digital Policy Conference of EU sustainable energy week 2020 promoted by the EU Commission takes place online between 23 and 26 June, dedicated to the renewable and green energy. The theme chosen is "Beyond the crisis: clean energy for green recovery and growth".

The major topics addressed during the week are all around the following:

- Energy communities, systems and transition
- Finance and Industry
- Green transition
- Renewables
- Renovation wave
- Sector integration and strategies
- Transport

Energy context

In December 2019, was published the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of Croatia fot the period until 2030 with an outlook for the period until 2050, which envisages a much higher share of energy from renewable sources, greater energy efficiency and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Croatia plans to increase the share of renewable energy in its total energy consumption to 36.4% by 2030, from 28% registered at the end of 2018.

In Italy in January 2020, was published Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan prepared by the Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Natural Resources and the Sea and by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. Italy plans to pursue the target of obtaining 30% of gross final consumption of energy from renewable sources in 2030 by defining a pathway of sustainable growth for renewable sources and the full integration thereof into the system. In particular, the target for 2030 projects a gross final consumption of energy of 111 Mtoe, with approximately 33 Mtoe of that coming from renewable sources.

The European Commission together with 14 EU Member States (Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Sweden) signed on 24th June 2020 a Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the **Declaration on Clean Energy for EU Islands Memorandum of Split** prepared by the **Republic of Croatia** during its **presidency of the Council of the European Union.** European islands, home to more than 15 million citizens, can lead the transition to clean energy by using new technologies and applying innovative solutions. Given that Croatia has more than 1244 islands, many of which face various challenges, the Presidency Program places special emphasis on the potential that islands can have in the transition to clean energy.

Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme contribution

Italy-Croatia programme wants to support beneficiairies' effort for a **new European Climate Pact** as to to bring together regional and local authorities, civil society, industry and schools to agree on commitments to change behaviour.
According to the the **European Green Deal** the Italy-Croatia action would be aligned with a new industrial strategy to make the EU a world leader in the circular economy and clean technologies, and to decarbonise energy-intensive industries. As commented EU Commission President - Ursula von der Leyen - *"We must take action and implement our green pact for Europe: the work to do it begins today"*

On this occasion, Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme publishes a **Projects' Story-collection** underlining the role of EU funds (ERDF) and cooperation in supporting an economy built on clean, secure and efficient energy. Our projects are developing innovative actions to overcome the barriers to the sustainable green growth with aim to meet EU's energy and climate goals: building joint solutions starting from the shared resources.

Together we are greener and more efficient. With #Interreg we can!

Hereinafter the focus is on **6 specific projects** financed by the Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme with aim to sustain transition towards the low-carbon economy

JOINT_SECAP "Joint strategies for Climate Change Adaptation in coastal areas"

Project implements the measures and actions for adaptation to climate change on a wider district level: **8 joint action plans** in **8 project district areas** that include **30 municipalities** in Italy and Croatia. Each district area acts on its territory but sharing the same cross-border plan.

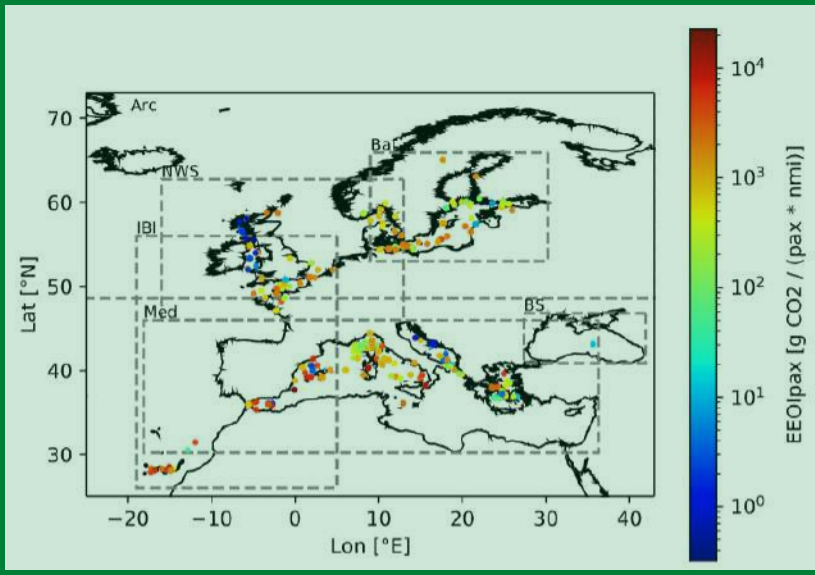
WORK IN PHASES	ACTIONS IMPLENTED
PHASE 1 Identification of common methodology	for **Joint Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs)** by sharing of the the basic knowledge concerning **climate change adaptation strategies** and **energy efficiency measures** with public and stakeholders and performing thorough analysis of vulnerabilities to the climate change for each area.
PHASE 2 Digital platform	starts when the analysis and data are uploaded in the **digital platform** - main project output - a tool for the development of scenarios which will be implemented in the Joint SECAPs. All **case studies, climate and energy measures, data on climate change risk** will be made available to stakeholders and citizens

Image showing Risk of damage to urban structures and people from consequences of extreme weather events in San Benedetto del Tronto

GUTTA “savinG fUel and emissions from mariTime Transport in the Adriatic region”

The bigger framework of the project is Climate Change. One of EU the instruments for its mitigation is the Regulation on Monitoring, Reporting, Verification (MRV) of **CO2 emissions from all big ships** calling at ports of the **EEA**. For 2018, about 12000 **MRV reports** were produced and 3% of them were from ferries. However, their emissions were an overproportional 10%. This raises the question of **energy efficiency or carbon intensity of these vessels**. What is it related to? How could it be raised?

An **energy efficiency indicator** is displayed in this map: it is the ratio of the CO2 emissions per passengers to the distance sailed (EEOIpax). A striking feature of the MRV data is that EEOIpax spreads over 5 orders of magnitude, without any clear geographical distribution. Then, in order to answer the question of the source of such a big heterogeneity, we augmented the MRV with other datasets, finding that service speed and type of payload of the ferries play a significant role. More at **2nd Maritime Big Data Workshop - 30th June 2020**



DEEP-SEA "Development of Energy Efficiency Planning and Services for the Mobility of Adriatic MARINAs"

Project is currently finalizing the methodology to implement the pilot actions which will lead to small technological investments and installation of equipment aiming at developing **new sustainable mobility services**, in selected marinas in the Venezia Giulia area, the Province of Foggia, on the Island of Krk and in Maslinica - Šolta. Services of **e-charging, e-bikes** and **e-car sharing** are planned to start up further on. The model of the investment plan for each marina is being composed and will represent the backbone of the guidelines for the **energy efficient and green mobility** in the Adriatic, and its transferability. In the meanwhile, the project partners continue to involve project stakeholders, such as Tourism Institutions, Public Administrations, Port Authorities, associations, SMEs from the nautical sector, which will create the **cross - border network**, entrusted with spreading project results and encouraging other marinas to apply the Deep Sea best practice.

COASTENERGY "Blue Energy in ports and coastal urban areas"

The project partners are currently working on the identification of their pilot sites and the definition of the **Blue Energy technologies** that will undergo specific feasibility studies.

Given the several constraints of the Adriatic sea in terms of wave height, currents, and tides, a thorough survey and selection of the technologies that are actually applicable has been necessary. The assessment on their applicability must also concern the technology readiness level that, for these innovative yet marginal technologies, is not always adequate to justify a possible investment. Last but not least, the involvement of local stakeholders of different kinds is proving essential for endorsing the use of a specific technology and identifying a site where its application is likely.

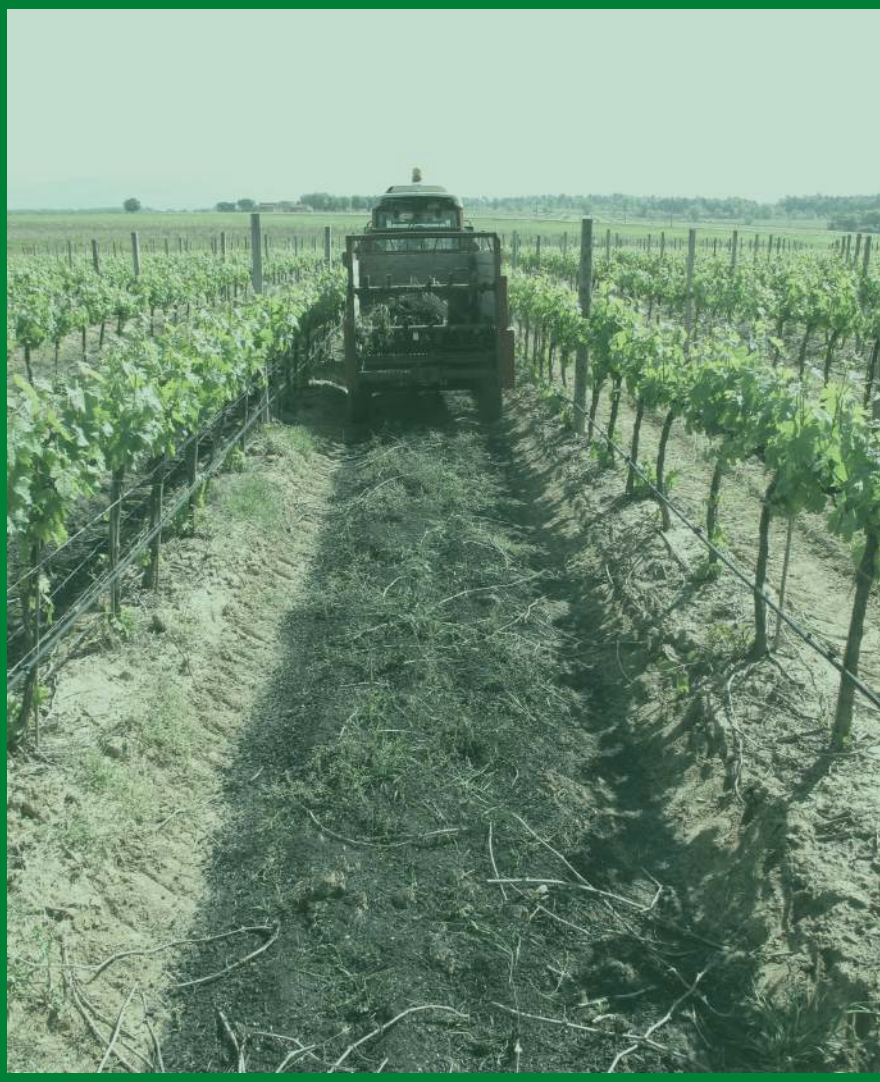
ADRIGREEN

"Green and Intermodal solutions for Adriatic airports and ports"

Italian and Croatian maritime cities deal with heavy flows of passengers during the summer season. The number of visitors reaching Adriatic cities by ferries and planes is increasing year by year; however, most Adriatic ports & airports suffer from lack of integration with other modes of public transportation, causing serious traffic congestion in road network and pollution. The project is working to derive an **green innovative framework** for Croatian and Italian airports & ports to improve their **environmental performances and connectivity** with other modes of transportation. The proposed **smart solution ideas** linked to improve **waste & water management** and to **reduce energy consumption** are:

equipping ports with **small electrical vehicles**, cleaning of ports with **green Ride-on Scrubber Dryer**, implementation of new and **green electrical ground power units** for airplanes. At Pula Airport we will built **electric vehicle charging station**. Intermodal and multimodal connectivity will be tested in Ancona between port of Ancona and the railway station: integrated timetabling and implementation of IT solutions to assist the passengers transiting the port of Ancona during the summer season. On the basis of results of the International Investigation and Environmental Assessment, the partners will elaborate **Joint Action Plans** that will detail the "**green innovation**"

GECO2 "Green Economy and CO2"



The project addresses the topic of **climate change mitigation** and **decarbonisation** by the exploitation of potential **carbon storage in agricultural soil**. GECO2 involves agricultural farms, boosting **'carbon smart' farming practices** and connecting farmers with industrial and services companies in the food supply chain in view of developing and testing a voluntary credit carbon market. With this in view, the use of **biochar as 'carbon smart' practice** was discussed in a GECO2 seminar. Biochar from crop residues and its incorporation in soils is an interesting measure to mitigate climate change, removing carbon from the atmosphere. A meeting on conservation and increase of organic matter in agricultural soils was also organized, highlighting good conservative agriculture practices to increase the organic matter content in the soils. In the framework of **carbon credit market**, the environmental communication of **products ecolabelling** was covered by GECO2 in a seminar highlighting the sustainability from the production system point of view.

Caption: application of biochar on a vineyard (Tuscany, Italy). Field experiment by IBE-CNR. Credits: IBE-CNR

Thank you

For preparing this pubblication we thank the Lead Partners and each of the Project Communication managers

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