



Advancing Renewable  
Energy Communities



## FIRST THEMATIC WORKSHOP AND POLICY LAB OF THE ITALIAN COUNTRY DESK

# SUMMARY REPORT

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## SUMMARY

The activities of the Italian Country DESK for Renewable Energy Communities (REC), established within the Horizon 2020 COME RES project, marks a new step. The DESK produces sectorial analysis, promotes exchanges of experiences and new approaches to the energy management allowing informal dialogue fora, participative roundtables and workshops. An exchange of experiences between Piedmont Region (model region in COME RES) and Apulia Region (target region in COME RES) was accomplished during the first thematic workshop that represented a transfer activity on common issues related to REC implementation. The Policy Lab, which took place in the second part of the day, was dedicated to the state of the art of transposition and implementation of RED II at national level. Moreover, best practices and technological solutions for REC were addressed.

A total of 26 speakers and more than 170 people have participated to the meetings. The activities in compliance with AntiCovid regulations were carried out online on a ZOOM platform. A detailed documentation of the meeting in Italian language including the presentation slides can be found at the the [Italian DESK](#) webpage on the COME RES website.

## FIRST THEMATIC WORKSHOP "ENERGY COMMUNITIES: FORMS, LEGAL MODELS AND BUSINESS PLANS" AN EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES BETWEEN PIEDMONT AND APULIA

L'obiettivo del progetto COME RES "Community Energy for the uptake of RES in the electricity sector: Connecting long-term visions with short-term actions" è quello di facilitare la diffusione sul mercato delle tecnologie energetiche basate su fonti rinnovabili attraverso la costituzione delle Comunità Energetiche Rinnovabili (CER). In questo incontro si farà il punto sulle iniziative in corso nelle Regioni interessate dal progetto con un particolare focus sui modelli organizzativi per la costituzione delle CER.

Orario	PROGRAMMA
09:45	Avvio della connessione da remoto
	Moderatore Massimo Bastiani, Ecoazioni
10:00	Introduzione ai lavori e aggiornamento sul progetto COME RES - Elena De Luca, Dipartimento Tecnologie Energetiche e Fonti Rinnovabili, ENEA
10:10	Il manifesto delle Comunità Energetiche - Romano Borchiellini, Energy Center Politecnico di Torino, Presidente Advisory Board
10:20	Recon: una nuova piattaforma per le comunità energetiche - Matteo Caldera, Laboratorio Smart Cities and Communities, ENEA
10:30	Stato dell'arte delle iniziative in Piemonte - Alexia Boulianger, Envipark
10:40	La "CER" di Magliano Alpi (CN) Il ruolo del Municipio - Marco Ballo, Sindaco di Magliano d'Alpi Il modello business - Sergio Olivero Presidente del Comitato Scientifico della CER
11:00	Stato dell'arte delle iniziative in Puglia - Salvatore Tomaselli, DITNE
11:10	La Comunità Energetica di Roseto Valfortore (FG) Il ruolo del Municipio - Lucilla Parisi, Sindaco Roseto Valfortore Il ruolo delle imprese - Michele Raffa, Friendly Power S.r.l.*
11:30	Il Progetto CREAREE per lo sviluppo delle aree interne - Elena Torri, UNIPOL
11:40	SWOT partecipata: barriere e opportunità dei diversi approcci - Virna Venerucci, ECOAZIONI
12:20	Conclusioni - Elena De Luca ENEA e Massimo Bastiani ECOAZIONI

\*Da confermare



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First Thematic Workshop Agenda

The **first thematic workshop** of the Italian DESK, titled "ENERGY COMMUNITIES: FORMS, LEGAL MODELS AND BUSINESS PLANS", took place on May 06, 2021 organised and coordinated by The Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and Ecoazioni. The meeting aimed stakeholders dialogue on the different forms of energy communities adopted in different territorial context favouring an exchange of experiences the different application model for RECs. Some peculiarities due to Regional regulations and to different business model have emerged during the dialogue.

The workshop was structured into three sections: the presentations about COME RES activities, a specific focus on FORMS, LEGAL MODELS AND BUSINESS PLANS developed in Piedmont and Apulia, and the last part in the form of participatory workshop.

The workshop was moderated by **Massimo Bastiani** for **Ecoazioni**.

**Elena De Luca** for **ENEA** presented the activities and preliminary results of the COME RES project. In particular, she showed a comparison on transposition process of the REDII and the activities on stakeholder engagement in the countries involved in COME RES.

**Romano Borchiellini**, **Energy Center Lab - Politecnico di Torino**, presented the initiative "Manifesto delle Comunità Energetiche". The Manifesto is aimed to catalyse the ability of different public and private stakeholders (municipalities, universities, companies, citizens) to build an integrated capacity for dialogue with national standardization and regulatory authorities, in order to give a unified voice to the efforts to transpose European Directives and to make them more focused on the needs of public and private energy users.

**Matteo Caldera**, Laboratorio Smart Cities and Communities of **ENEA**, presented the tool RECON, developed by ENEA, and which allows an initial technical and economic assessment to support the implementation of a CER.

**Alexia Boulanger** for **Envipark**, illustrated the history and the state of the art of the Piedmont' experience in the RECs, explaining why it is a model for Italy. This region has already been active for some time, with planning and organization of laws and regulations that have anticipated national legislation on several points. At the regional level, Piedmont has set the goal of covering 10% of the territory with energy communities.

**Marco Bailo Mayor of Magliano d'Alpi** and **Sergio Olivero President of REC Scientific Committee**, described their REC pilot experience in Piedmont. In particular, Olivero deepened the business model that has been adopted to enable participatory development of a REC in Magliano d'Alpi. The success of this experience has made this the first "true" REC in Italy.

The case of the Apulia Region, the Italian' target region for COME RES, was introduced by

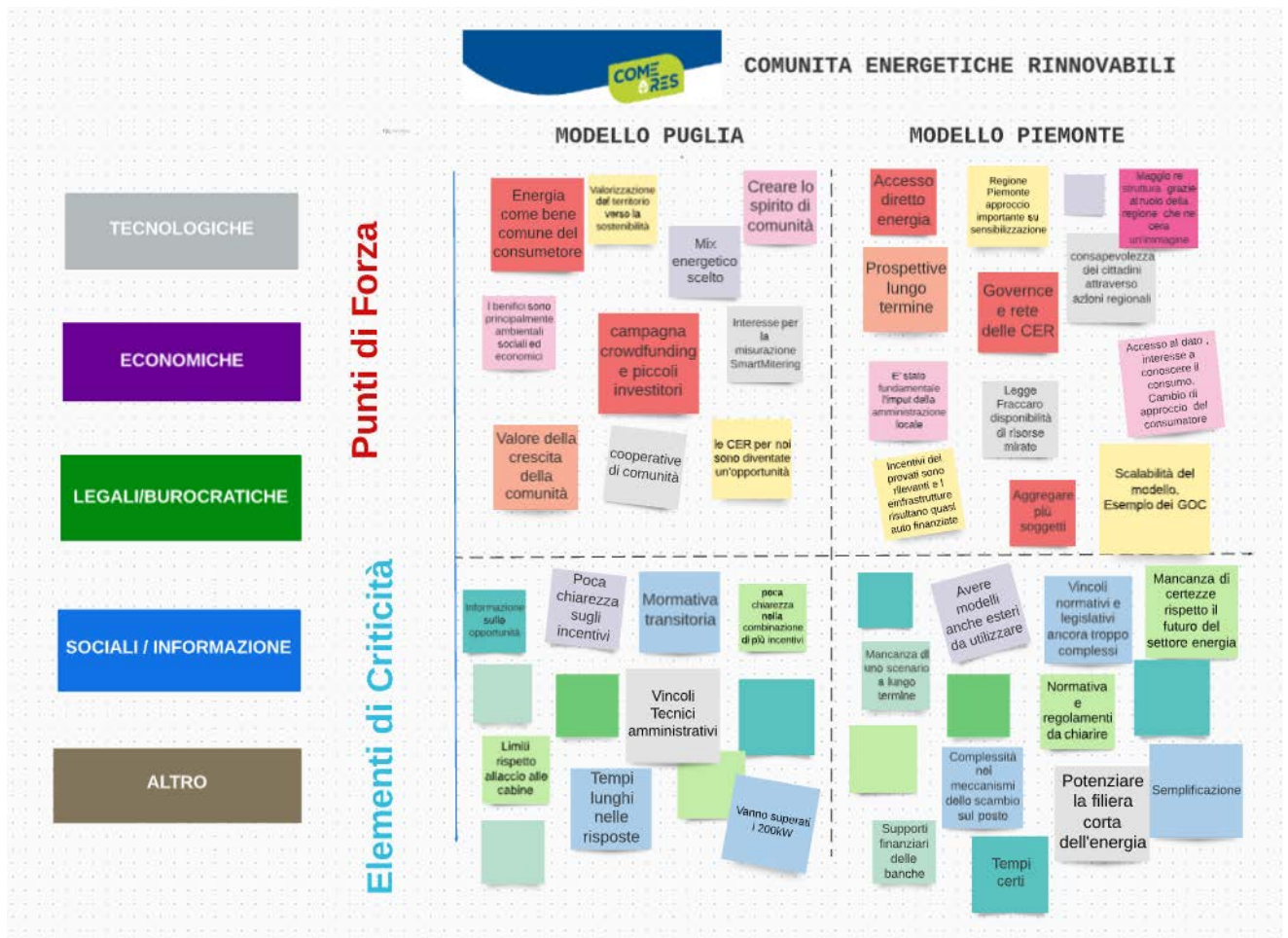
**Salvatore Tomaselli** for **DiTNE**, who described the regional legislative framework and the initiatives that are being implemented.

**Lucilla Parisi, Mayor of Roseto Valfortore** and **Michele Raffa** for **Friendly Power S.r.l.** described the path that is being pursued in the creation of the first energy community in Apulia. The energy community of Roseto Valfortore, participated by citizens, businesses and local authorities, was created with the aim of maximise the use of natural resources of the territory and, through targeted investments, to retain locally the benefits created by Renewable Energy Sources (RES).

Creation of RECs it is closely connected with the concept of “energy poverty” and in Italy this experience it’s spreading mainly in the contexts of small municipalities and internal areas of the country, as well as in large urban peripheries.

**Elena Torri** for **UNIPOL** support this type of initiatives because they have great potential to bring attention to energy consumption, for the renovation and conversion of public and private buildings in the marginal areas of the country.

**The second part of the workshop** was focused on the application of an on-line participatory SWOT ANALYSIS, coordinated by **Virna Venerucci** for **Ecoazioni**. Through the SWOT, strength and weaknesses of the REC models, treated in the previous sessions, were highlighted with the aims of bring out the similarities, deviations and elements of success between Piedmont and Apulia. The emerged issues may be useful on planning, at regional and national scale, the implementation of energy communities.



Dashboard completed during the SWOT analysis on REC implementation in Piedmont and Apulia regions, Italy

## BOXES 1

Summary of the main issues highlighted by the SWAT analysis on REC implementation:

- The Regional Authorities and the regional policy context are strategic in supporting RECs;
- The authorization process and related timelines need to be simplify and reduced;
- The establishment of the RECs must be supported from the beginning, by promotional and information initiatives, training activities, and dissemination of technical support tools;
- The adoption of smart monitoring and control tools can help reduce "not aware" consumptions by users with positive effects in terms of reduction of the energy use;
- The need of overcome the uncertainty caused by transitions of rules in the path of RED II transposition;
- The creation of territorial networks, such as the Community Operational Groups (GOCs) operating in Piedmont to facilitate local processes and create specific expertise;
- The attention on supporting business plan for small municipalities with particular focus on resources collection. The case of Roseto Valfortore in the Apulia region was peculiar for RECs start up: the REC was implemented through the use of the crowdfunding and the contribution of small investors;
- The support of the deployment of RECs in marginal areas and urban suburbs contributing to overcome energy poverty and supporting small local economies;
- The use of energy mix, as possible, integrating different sources: wind, solar, but also biomass and geothermal;
- The overcome of existing limit of location of REC members on the same secondary transformation cabin of low-voltage electricity network, provided by the current national regulation (Art. 42-bis of DL 162/2019 converted into Law no. 8/2020), which can hinder small municipalities and inland areas. Moreover, increase the current limit on size (currently 200kW) and encourage repowering of existing plants.

## FIRST POLICY LAB "SCENARIOS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES"

Desk Nazionale  
I Policy Lab



### Scenari per le comunità energetiche rinnovabili

6 maggio 2021

Link Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95720387761?pwd=RlFObkovc3REb1BZbk15OHc0TDJkdz09>

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Orario	PROGRAMMA
14:45	Avvio della connessione da remoto
	Moderata Elena De Luca, Dipartimento Tecnologie Energetiche e Fonti Rinnovabili ENEA
15:00	Saluti di benvenuto – Federico Testa, Presidente ENEA*
15:05	Introduzione ai lavori e aggiornamento sulle attività del Desk - Massimo Bastiani, Ecoazioni
15:10	Stato dell'arte del recepimento della REDII in Italia - Gianni Giroto, Presidente della X Commissione Industria Commercio e Turismo del Senato
15:20	Consultazione su autoconsumo collettivo e comunità di energia rinnovabile e potenziale in Italia – Davide Valenzano, Responsabile Unità Affari regolatori, GSE
15:30	Le smart cities nei nuovi programmi di ricerca comunitaria – Eleonora Riva Sanseverino, Rappresentante Nazionale Partnership Driving Urban Transition
15:40	Sharing economy, comunità energetiche, aree interne e formazione - Maurizio Sasso, Dipartimento di Ingegneria Università degli Studi del Sannio
15:50	La "CER" di Magliano Alpi (CN) come modello di organizzazione e di partecipazione - Marco Bailo, Sindaco di Magliano d'Alpi, e Sergio Olivero, Presidente del Comitato Scientifico della CER
16:05	Le piccole e medie imprese come attori delle comunità energetiche - Claudio G. Ferrari, Presidente FEDERESCO
16:15	La visione delle associazioni ambientaliste - Luca Iacoboni, Responsabile della campagna Clima e Energia di Greenpeace Italia
16:25	Le piattaforme digitali per lo sviluppo delle economie locali - Mauro Annunziato, Direttore Divisione Smart Energy ENEA
16:35	Prospettive per le comunità geograficamente marginali – Marco Bussone, Presidente Unione nazionale comuni comunità enti montani, Uncem
16:45	Le comunità energetiche: uno sguardo sull'Europa – Jens Lowitzsch, Europa-European University Viadrina (ODER)
16:55	Buone pratiche per le comunità di energia rinnovabile – Daniela Patrucco, Consulente per l'attivazione di Comunità Energetiche - Giornalista freelance Qualenergia.it
17:00	Conclusioni – Giorgio Graditi, Direttore Dipartimento Tecnologie Energetiche e Fonti Rinnovabili ENEA



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### First Policy Lab Agenda

In the second part of the day was held the Policy Lab "Scenarios for renewable energy communities" was moderated by **Elena De Luca for ENEA**, who also opened the event and provided some remarks on behalf Representatives of ENEA involved in other institutional commitments.

**Massimo Bastiani for Ecoazioni**, presented preliminary results of the COME RES project including the findings of a legal gap assessment referring to the transposition of the RED II in the different COME RES partner countries.

The institutional session was opened by Senator **Giovanni Giroto** updating the participants on the progress of the development of RECs in Italy, pointing out that 10 days ago was voted the law on transposition of EU the Directives including REDII. In particular, Giroto informed about the overcoming of the limit of 200kW that is an important step for the promotion of renewable energy communities since the existing limit represented a significant criticality for their diffusion in the country.

**Davide Valenzano**, Head of Regulatory Affairs Unit **GSE** introduced the progress and the results of the public consultation on collective self-consumption and community renewable energy initiatives in Italy. The GSE considers citizens at the center of the energy transition to renewables and emphasises the role of participation and consultation. He inform on tools and models of specifications available to support those communities that want to start to establish RECs.

**Eleonora Riva Sanseverino**, **National Representative of Partnership Driving Urban Transition**, with her speech she highlighted the role of Smart cities in the new community research programs.

**Then started a session participated by representatives of Research Institutions, Associations, Mass Media to encourage the dialogue between different stakeholders.**

**Maurizio Sasso**, Department of Engineering **University of Sannio**, explained the role of energy communities in developing new forms of sharing economy with particular reference to internal areas. Training initiatives were also presented to favour the expertise and reskilling of locals. Sasso highlighted the role of the small and medium enterprises as actors in energy communities which should be involved in the energy transition process.

**Claudio G. Ferrari**, President of **FEDERESCO**, represented the point of view of small and medium enterprises recalling that of the many public resources available for them, less than a third was spent in 2020. The planning is not lacking but there is an inability of the central government to produce adequate rules and streamlined processes to allow investors to stay on schedule. At local level, according to what emerged in the previous presentation, there is also a lack of specific skills that should be trained.

The point of view of the some environmental associations acting in Italy was provided by **Luca Iacoboni**, Head of the Climate and Energy Campaign of **Greenpeace Italy**, who indicate REC as a true democratic and green initiative in the path of energy transition This form of energy production and consumption could help to meet the energy targets for 2030.

Then, have followed the interventions of: **Mauro Annunziato**, Director of Smart Energy Division **ENEA** on the digital platforms for the development of local economies developed by ENEA. In addition to RECON, that was presented in the thematic workshop, some IoT and blok chain technologies are already available while new tools like the Local Energy Community (LEC) will be soon implemented to support the local token economy.

Moreover, on the benefit for local communities, **Marco Bussone**, President of national union of mountain communities (**UNCCEM**), recalled the possibility of communities in remote territories with scarce availability of energy to be part of REC initiatives.

**Jens Lowitzsch**, European University Viadrina (ODER) illustrated the importance of international cooperation in the development of RECs and provided examples of business models such as the Consumer Stock Ownership Plan (CSOP). This plan enable consumers through leveraged investments in companies that offer their services on regulated markets with natural monopolies (usually enterprises providing public services), to become (co-)owners and (co-)producers.

The presentations were ended with **Daniela Patrucco**, Consultant for the activation of Energy Communities - Freelance Journalist **Qualenergia.it**, who presented existing good practices for the promotion of more conscious energy communities already existent in the Italian territory.



A number of interventions have also highlighted the need for a better governance that allows the fruitful use of public funding available and promotes the development of territories and local communities also involving the private sector of small and medium-sized enterprises.

It has also emerged the role of science and technique: the digitization and the use of tools that allow citizens to monitor energy exchanges and have a positive effect on reducing consumption counteracting the rebound effect. These tools, based on advanced technological solutions, can promote the emergence of new forms of economy with positive social impacts activating a network of exchange of services.

During the debate it was emphasized as RECs represent the great change underway in the energy system, which is moving from a centralized model to a form of greater decentralization of energy production and consumption, where the citizen becomes a responsible actors. It was also pointed out that Italy is far to met the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), targets (-40GW only for photovoltaic), but the National Recovery Plan will provide new resources (2.2 billion euros) to support CERs that, if we refer to photovoltaic, could achieve an annual production of 1,250 kWh per kW, which would produce about 2,500 GWh per year, contributing to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions estimated at about 1.5 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

So far Italy has made great efforts, adopting transitional legislation that allows for the creation of CERs and launching a public consultation that has allowed for the participation of citizens and various local entities, such as local administrations. Now it is necessary to complete the technical-legal instruments and work in the sense of simplification to encourage the birth of concrete initiatives through the creation of public-private partnerships (PPP).



***We would like to thank all the speakers and participants for having actively contributed to those Italian national desk initiatives.***

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