



OUTPUT FACT SHEET

Strategies and action plans

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Project index number and acronym	CE 1373 - PROSPECT2030
Output number and title	O.T2.1 Regional Energy Action Plans - Eco Energy Land (AT)
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	EEE European Center for Renewable Energy Gussing Ltd. - PP7
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/PROSPECT2030.html
Delivery date	Oct 2021

Summary description of the strategy/action plan (developed and/or implemented), explaining its main objectives and transnational added value

PROSPECT2030 focused its activity on interconnecting the implementation of the Regional Energy Action Plans (REAPs) based on 2030 horizon scenarios with capacity building activities aimed at boosting pilot regions' capacities in increasing the cost effectiveness of the use of financial resources and public funds in the future. Seven Central European Regions delivered their Regional Energy Action Plans (REAPs) in order to tackle the challenges related to the transition towards a low-carbon economy and the adoption of climate change mitigation policies. Although characterised by differing size in area and population as well as the differing position on levels of governance, the involved regions worked with a common methodological approach and set of targets in line with the European Green Deal. In the Eco Energy Land (EEE) Region the consultation of all the relevant stakeholders eased the identification process of the key innovative technologies and actions to be considered for the drafting of the REAP. Eco Energy Land identified the following key energy priorities:

- Awareness building in schools
- Smart energy systems
- Clean and silent region
- Energy efficient municipalities
- Establishment of a cooperation brand for enterprises
- Promotion of PV initiatives
- Renewable energy based space heating systems initiative
- Biogas as multifunctional energy carrier
- Eco-energy tourism
- Networking with other energy model regions

Based on those, measures and target groups for energy transition and developed the scenarios to 2030 taking into account the overall 2050 targets have been defined.

The unexpected challenge was that energy transition planning in its complexity requires a completely different way of thinking beyond standard energy planning processes. The respective awareness grew step by step while proceeding in the development of the action plans. The organisation of several capacity building workshops and mutual learning sessions supported the exchange of knowledge and experiences and eased the development of a common methodological approach defined at transnational level that guided the drafting of the REAP. The REAP was developed for and adopted by the association of 19 municipalities (Eco Energy Land). The association is the structure allowing the results of the project to continue to be in place.

NUTS region(s) concerned by the strategy/action plan (relevant NUTS level)

Burgenland - Eco Energy Land (AT)

Expected impact and benefits of the strategy/action plan for the concerned territories and target groups

The REAP set priorities, measures and actions to be implemented to align the Eco Energy Land to the Fit for 55 targets and the carbon neutrality goals in the long term. The key energy priorities have been identified with the need to change the actual regional energy system and to shift to lower carbon systems. Based on the proposed actions, Eco Energy Land prepared scenarios, referring to a main time horizon of 2030 taking into account the final goal of carbon neutrality in 2050.

The modelling of the scenarios was carried out by use of a calculation tool, based on MS Excel and developed in a cooperation of the project partners EEE and PoliTo. The calculation focuses on the two main aspects of energy transition, which are “shift” and “change”. “Shift” is characterised by abandoning fossil fuels and replacing them with renewable ones. “Change” means increase in efficiency through energy savings and sector coupling as well as the region-internal extension of renewable energy generation infrastructure. Both components are superimposed and lead to a calculatory estimation of:

- Final consumption
- Primary consumption
- Carbon emissions
- Region-internal generation vs. imports
- Share of renewables in final consumption

For Eco Energy Land, the following targets were defined:

- Final consumption: -6% compared to the baseline of 2016
- Primary consumption: -11% compared to the baseline of 2016
- Carbon emissions: -36% compared to the baseline of 2016
- Region-internal generation vs. imports: 47% compared to actual share of 27%
- Share of renewables in final consumption: 68% compared to actual share of 38%

One of the main trends of the whole energy transition process is to decentralise every kind of production, as RES are available also in remote areas and do not depend on the existing infrastructures. This is expected to have a very positive impact on rural and peripheral areas. To supply and sell, install, maintain and manage a high number of small RES plants numerous job places are expected to be created, with a positive impact also on the regional GDP.

Sustainability of the developed and/or implemented strategy/action plan and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The Action Plan drafted in the framework of PROSPECT2030 highlights the urgency of a timely implementation of the changes required and sets the basis for the further development of long term sustainable energy policies in the Eco Energy Land. The regulatory framework of the transition, indeed, must be set and kept stable or aligned to the long term objectives that are in front of us. Mitigation to climate change must be the red line that drives any investment project in the coming years. The association of 19 municipalities which constitutes the Eco Energy Land has adopted the REAP and will assure that the results of PROSPECT2030 project will continue to be in place. Energy transition is different from mere energy planning because it requires a different way of thinking and you cannot apply business as usual approaches. This was a challenge and required the exchange of knowledge among partners and external regions/institutions that was promoted during the project implementation thanks to the mutual learning, the replication process and the networking activities developed, which will improve the capacities to deal with the Fit for 55 targets. Moreover, all main regional stakeholders were involved during the project life as several public funds will be invested in this direction, this is a challenge that we cannot lose and all the efforts of public and private stakeholders should converge toward the same goal.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links

If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

The main relevant related project deliverables are the following:

D.T2.4.1 - Template Report for Regional Energy Action Plan drafting

D.T2.4.4 - EcoEnergyland Energy Action Plan

D.T2.4.9 - Comparative Report on Regional Energy Action Plans

They can be found on the project website under the “Documents” section:

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/PROSPECT2030.html>