



Clean energy
for EU islands
**Regulatory barriers
in Italy: findings and
recommendations**

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FROM CLEAN ENERGY VISION TO CLEAN ENERGY ACTION

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Executive Summary

Italy has recently implemented national and regional policy measures to facilitate the energy transition on the Italian islands. However, several major challenges remain.

Based on an **inventory** of the current legislation, the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat carried out surveys and interviews to identify the barriers to clean energy deployment and the solutions to overcome those. These findings were discussed with all relevant stakeholders in two Focus Group meetings and a National Stakeholder Meeting (NSM). The result of that process is described in this booklet.

The barriers identified in Italy relate to spatial planning constraints with stringent and generic restrictions, lack of attention for the local level within the national strategic energy planning and complex and lengthy permitting procedures. Moreover, the system of unified prices and the existence of regulated monopolies as well as grid constraints also pose barriers for the clean energy transition on Italian islands. As island energy projects are mainly community driven, the fact that support measures focus on household level and not on community level pose a particular barrier for those type of projects. In addition, the rather underdeveloped regulatory framework for energy communities does not improve the situation either.

These barriers can be overcome, through stakeholder discussions, European-wide islands-to-islands exchange of best practices and leadership by the relevant authorities. The recommendations in this booklet serve as guidance for the accelerated renewable energy deployment on the Italian islands.

Sintesi

L'Italia ha recentemente attuato diverse misure politiche nazionali e regionali per facilitare la transizione energetica nelle isole italiane. Tuttavia, permangono diverse sfide importanti.

Sulla base di un **inventario** della legislazione vigente, il Segretariato dell'Energia pulita per le isole dell'UE ha condotto indagini e interviste per identificare le barriere alla diffusione dell'energia pulita e le soluzioni per poterle superare. Questi risultati sono stati discussi con tutte le parti interessate in due incontri di focus group e in una riunione Nazionale degli stakeholders. Il risultato di questo processo è descritto in questo opuscolo.

Le barriere identificate in Italia riguardano i vincoli di pianificazione territoriale con restrizioni stringenti e generiche, la mancanza di attenzione per il livello locale nell'ambito della pianificazione della strategia energetica nazionale e le complesse e lunghe procedure di autorizzazione. Inoltre, il sistema di prezzi unificati e l'esistenza di monopoli regolamentati, così come i vincoli di rete, rappresentano delle barriere per la transizione energetica pulita nelle isole italiane. Dal momento che i progetti energetici sulle isole sono principalmente guidati dalle comunità, il fatto che le misure di sostegno si concentrino sul livello domestico e non su quello comunitario, in aggiunta a un quadro normativo piuttosto sottosviluppato per le comunità energetiche, rappresenta una barriera particolare per questo tipo di progetti.

Queste barriere possono essere superate attraverso le discussioni tra le parti interessate, lo scambio di buone pratiche tra isole europee e una buona leadership delle autorità competenti. Le raccomandazioni contenute in questo opuscolo servono da guida per accelerare la diffusione delle energie rinnovabili nelle isole italiane.

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Introduction

There are more than 2,200 inhabited islands in the EU. Despite having access to an abundant amount of renewable energy, such as wind, sun and waves, many of them depend on petrol imports for their energy supply. Through the deployment of clean energy assets, EU island communities can have access to reliable, clean, and competitive sources of energy. Given their insular nature, they can even become leaders in the clean energy transition.

While it has often become technically and financially possible to develop renewable energy projects on islands, the current legal frameworks are not always fit for purpose. The Clean energy for EU island secretariat embarked on the mission to identify the legal, regulatory and policy barriers to clean energy deployment and provide recommendations to overcome them.

This booklet contains the highlights of the more in-depth country study. It processes the insights gathered from literature review, surveys sent to 120 stakeholders, 17 interviews, two Focus Groups attended by nine and six participants and one National Stakeholder Meeting. The meeting was held in Rome with representatives from the national level such as the Ministry of Ecological Transition (MiTE), the Energy Services Manager (GSE), the Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and the Environment (ARERA). The islands’ views were represented by National Association of Minor Island Municipalities (ANCIM). Sapienza University of Rome, Politecnico of Turin, Greening the Islands, National Union of Minor Electric Companies (UNIEM) and SINLOC were also present. The barriers and recommendations represent the view of the Clean energy for EU island Secretariat and does not bind the stakeholders who contributed to it.

Italy and its Islands

Italy has 450 islands with a high diversity in size, population, and distance to the mainland. 10.9 % of Italian population lives on the islands. The largest and most populated Italian islands in the Mediterranean, Sicily and Sardinia, have regional governments as defined by the Italian constitution. Smaller islands are governed by the overarching region. In many cases these smaller islands consist of their own municipality.

Renewable energy on Italian islands

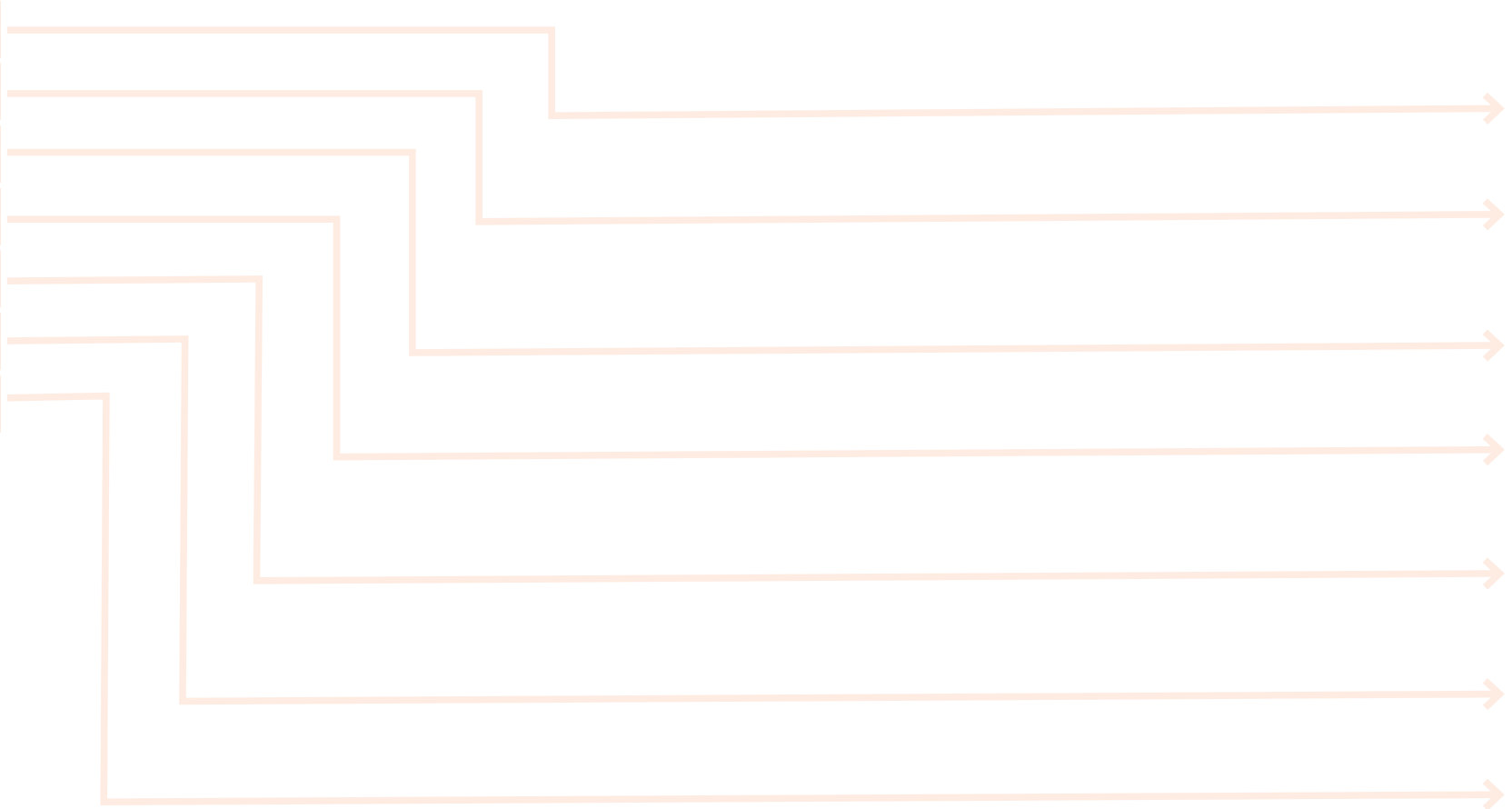
The renewable energy supply on non-interconnected Italian islands is relatively small compared to the mainland. While approximately 37% of the power generation on the mainland comes from clean energy sources, renewable energy represents less than 10% of the electricity mix on most **small non-interconnected islands**.

Main Barriers to the Clean Energy Transition

Based on the detailed assessment of the current regulatory framework and consultation with relevant Italian stakeholders (via surveys, interviews, and joint meetings), the most important regulatory barriers to a clean energy transition on Italian Islands were identified.¹ These are ranked by order of priority according to the stakeholders consulted:

- ↳ Spatial planning and stringent and generic restrictions
- ↳ Lack of attention for the local level within national strategic energy planning
- ↳ Complex and lengthy permitting procedures
- ↳ Unified prices and regulated monopolies
- ↳ Grid constraints due to congestion
- ↳ Support measures focus on household level and not on community level
- ↳ Regulation on energy communities underdeveloped

Each of these barriers is presented, including recommendations for overcoming them, examples of best practices and connections to the **REpowerEU** policy. For the presented recommendations, the actors who should be responsible to initiate implementation are highlighted.



¹ The content of this booklet is based on the "Regulatory barriers in Italy: findings and recommendations" report to be found [here](#) | Clean energy for EU islands (europa.eu)



DID YOU KNOW?



ACTION FROM



USEFUL INFORMATION

Barrier 1: Spatial planning and stringent and generic restrictions

↳ As some parts of the spatial planning are regionalised and some parts are still at the national level with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MIBAC), ambiguity in these plans or policies provide discrepancies in the implementation. Specifically, restrictions for installation of clean energy projects are often vaguely defined, stringent for renewable energy source (RES) projects and not adjusted to the local island’s characteristics. Islands are very often located in protected areas, in national parks, or they are covered by areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA). While local authorities are responsible for Municipal General Regulatory Plans, they cannot divert from the regional policies and priorities that have been defined by Regional Landscape plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Even though protection of historical and cultural sites and protection of natural landscape is a priority on islands, delaying energy transition and decarbonisation causes unnecessary emissions and climate effects that pose a risk and threat to those same sites and environments. To solve this challenge, we have the following recommendations.

1.1 Develop national framework law for spatial planning

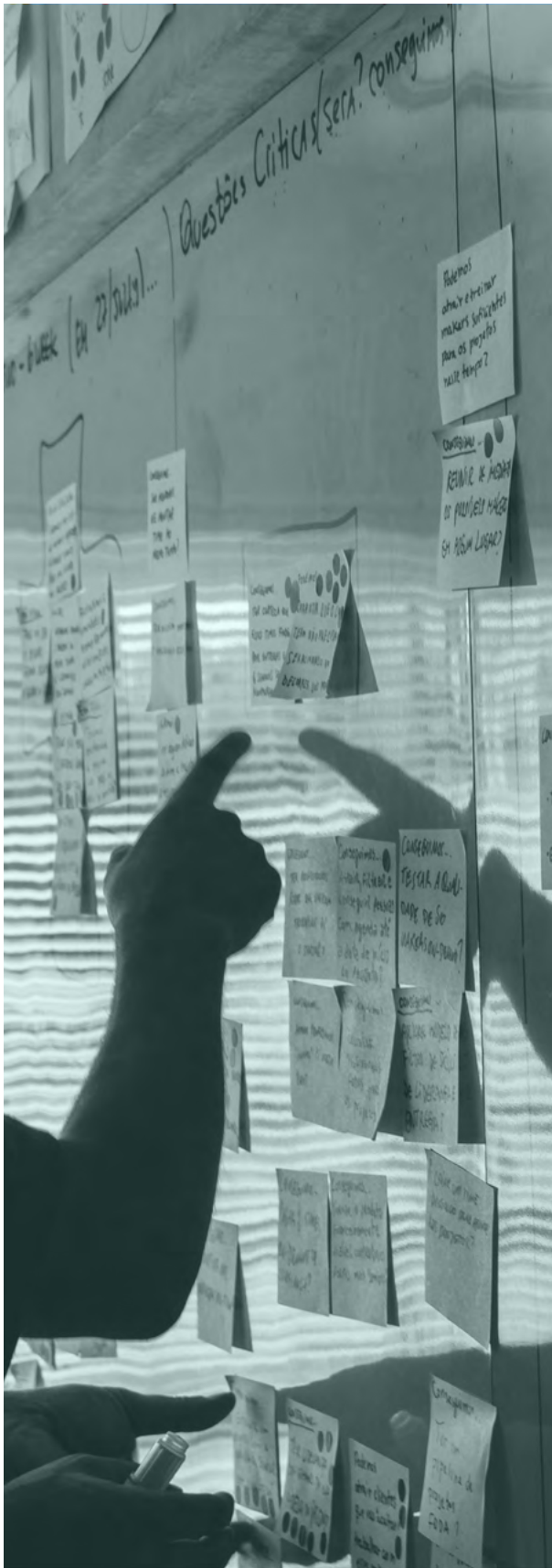
↳ We recommend prioritising the development of a new national framework law for spatial planning which should provide clarity and guidance on how to integrate sectoral plans and policies within regional, subregional, and local spatial planning instruments and practice. The law could provide guidelines on how to integrate regional energy plans with the existing Regional landscape plans so that the clean energy guidelines become binding for the Municipal General Regulatory plans, provided that local needs and priorities can be taken into account.

1.2. Develop master plans with indications on the regional and local level

↳ We recommend creating detailed Regional Energy Master Plans that investigates and establishes the areas or sites for clean energy development, island by island. The national guidelines mentioned above as well as the guidelines for “suitable areas” for RES projects should be guiding the development of the Master Plans for the clean energy projects on the regional level. These plans should concentrate on the needs of clean energy projects on the islands, as potential leaders of clean energy transition.

1.3 Make expert and local involvement mandatory in regional landscape plans

↳ Regional and local governments should assure involvement of the private sectors, local actors and energy experts in preparation of the regional landscape plans and local spatial plans. We also recommend making stakeholder engagement mandatory when defining sector priorities based on local needs and priorities.



Did you know?

REPowerEU - A faster roll-out of renewable energy projects could be supported by strategic planning carried out by Member States. Member States should identify the land and sea areas necessary for the installation of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources. The designation of **renewables go-to areas** should allow renewable energy plants, their grid connection as well as co-located energy storage facilities located in these areas to benefit from predictability and streamlined administrative procedures. In particular, projects located in renewable go-to areas should benefit from accelerated administrative procedures



Further action is expected from:

- ✓ Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, National Council of Public works
- ✓ Ministry for Ecological Transition
- ✓ Ministry for Culture and Tourism (MIBAC)
- ✓ MIBAC local branches Superintendencies (Soprintendenza)
- ✓ Ministry for Ecological Transition
- ✓ Regional authorities



Useful information

- ✍ **National Law 1150 from 1942**
- ✍ **Regional landscape plans**
- ✍ **Italy spatial planning overview, ARL**
- ✍ **Map of protected areas in Italy**

↑ © Photo by Startae Team on Unsplash.

Barrier 2: Lack of attention for the local level within national strategic energy planning

↳ In Italy, both the energy sector strategy development and the long-term energy planning are highly centralised. Islands are included in the National Energy Climate Plan for Italy (NECP) as innovation laboratories, but it does not specify any additional objectives or technology specifications for the Italian islands. Specific attention to islands is given in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) with the allocation of funds and financing dedicated to the energy transition (Green Islands Program), but the small island municipalities lack the capacity to prepare project proposals. Overall, municipalities and local communities are not involved enough in the process of strategic energy planning. There is lack of overall monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the clean energy projects on the islands based on the provided loans and subsidies. The lack of such feedback loop leads to significant gaps between national plans and targets and local level implemented projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is clear need for a link between islands and national level coordination so that islands priorities and challenges can be more visible. This leads us to present the following recommendations.

2.1 Set up a task force dedicated to islands

↳ To foster the involvement of island stakeholders in national strategic & long-term energy planning and funding distribution, we recommend that the Ministry of Ecological Transition forms an Italian Islands Task Force. The Task Force is a committee of national, regional and local experts involved with planning and implementation of clean energy projects on Italian islands. It should include representatives of the government, non-governmental sector, academia, and private and civil sector. The Islands Task Force should ensure representation of island priorities and needs on the regional and national level, as well as among various sectors (energy, environment, culture, tourism, industry, etc.).

2.2. Provide assistance with development of energy and climate plans

↳ It is recommended to mandate, through legislation, regional targets and the adoption of local or regional energy and climate plans that would be aligned with the NECP and PNRR. Local and regional energy agencies, supported by the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) can be responsible for preparation of such plans. In cases where local governments lack capacity to develop their own energy and climate plans, the plan could be developed for a group of municipalities or islands on a regional level. Technical assistance can be provided from Gestore Servizi Energetici (GSE), the service responsible for all clean energy incentives and funding in Italy.

2.3 Mandatory monitoring and reporting of energy and climate plans

↳ The implementation of projects on the local level is not monitored, leading to gaps between production and demand. Our recommendation is to introduce a mandatory monitoring and/or reporting of the implementation of the regional/local energy and climate plans. This can be annual or bi-annual and focus on local and regional governments with the guidelines provided by the Italian Islands Task Force.



↑ © Photo by Brands People on Unsplash.



Did you know?

REPowerEU - Regions and cities are playing a leading role in developing energy saving measures tailored to their local context. They should launch awareness and information and support schemes, energy audits and energy management plans, pledging savings targets, and ensure citizens' engagement such as through the European Mission on climate-neutral and smart cities or the European Urban Initiative under cohesion policy



Further action is expected from:

- ✓ Ministry for Ecological Transition
- ✓ GSE - Manager of energy services in Italy



Useful information

- ✍ **Italian National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)**
- ✍ **Italy's Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)**
- ✍ **Green Islands Programme**
- ✍ **Decree of Ministry of Economic Development of 14 February 2017** defining objectives and incentive methods for renewable energy in the small Italian islands non-interconnected with the electricity grid of the continent
- ✍ **Minor islands between sun, sea and wind, ENEA**
- ✍ **Study on energy transition for small islands**

Barrier 3: Complex and lengthy permitting procedures

↳ While there have been some simplifications and improvements to the permitting and authorisation procedures², clean energy projects, specifically on islands, are facing complex and lengthy authorisation and permitting procedures. Within the permitting procedures, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MIBAC) has to give a formal and authorising opinion on every new plant/installation, through their local branch Superintendencies (*Soprintendenza*). Superintendencies have been interpreting the national and regional laws on a case-by-case basis. Very often, they are not present at the decision-making table, even though they are crucial actors, and their approval is necessary for implementation. In addition, representatives of some sectors do not have the knowledge to concretely evaluate the cases and projects presented.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To unblock renewable energy projects on the islands, we recommend guidance and simplification via the following measures.

3.1 Provide permitting guidance and capacity building

↳ The Ministry of Ecological Transition is expected to develop guidelines with regards to the “suitable areas” which are to be followed by regions to further identify these areas. The guidelines should emphasize the need to take into account the islands’ characteristics and the islands’ needs and priorities into account when defining the suitable areas on and around the islands. We recommend that the Ministry develops guidelines for authorisation and implementation of clean energy projects, providing clarity to regional and local stakeholder on how to further implement these regulations.

3.2. Create a process for monitoring and evaluation of the simplified procedures

↳ We recommend an evaluation of the existing simplified procedures, based on local and regional feedback. The evaluation can identify implementation bottlenecks (for e.g. parts of regulation which are still too complex, unnecessary requirements, etc.). Stakeholders that have a role in the implementation and execution of the procedure (e.g. the superintendencies, local governments, grid operators) should be involved in the evaluation process and preparation of the further simplified procedure.

² See the Italian Study for more details, “Regulatory barriers in Italy: findings and recommendations” report to be found [here](#) | Clean energy for EU islands (europa.eu)



↑ © Photo by Linkedin Sales Solutions on Unsplash.



Did you know?

REPowerEU - The RES Simplify report contains some useful recommendations and examples on guidance. Guidelines for authorities and stakeholders act as a helping hand when it comes to the realisation of renewable projects. They inform and describe the RES permitting process and thus increase expertise and knowledge amongst all parties involved. Stakeholders can follow a clear ‘cook-book recipe’ and have direct access to the standard ‘ingredients’ (templates for all application documents, etc.) they have to use during project permitting.



Further action is expected from:

- ✓ Ministry of Ecological Transition
- ✓ GSE Manager of energy services in Italy
- ✓ ENEA National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development



Useful information

- 📌 **Legislative Decree 199/2021** introducing ways to accelerate authorisation procedure
- 📌 **Legislative Decree 17/2022** on urgent measures for the containment of electricity and natural gas costs, for the development of renewable energies and for the relaunch of industrial policies
- 📌 **Legislative Decree 55/2022**

Barrier 4: Unified prices and regulated monopolies

- ↳ The system of unified prices that involved splitting the extra cost of electricity production on islands to all Italian inhabitants has two main aspects related to it. On the one hand, it provides political support to islands by decreasing the cost of energy and living, while on the other hand, it decreases motivation or financial interest of local stakeholders to change from fossil fuel-based energy sources to renewables. Therefore it is seen as a negative price signal.

There are 19 small non-interconnect islands, out of which 11 have vertically integrated electricity companies. Eight Distribution System Operators (DSOs) and suppliers are independent but part of the Enel group. The thermal power plants on the islands are generally oversized to assure security of supply during summer peak consumption. The inefficient and fossil fuel-based generation is remunerated for their operation through system charges collected through electricity bills from all Italians.

Such an ecosystem provides low motivation for clean energy transition and depends on the single energy actor who experiences no competition. In addition, local DSOs define the maximum installable intermittent RES power for the island beyond which the DSOs would not connect additional systems. The measure is taken to assure grid stability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To tackle this barrier, we provide the following recommendations.

4.1 Make an assessment of the unified price scheme

- ↳ As the system of unified prices is complex and not transparent to regional and local energy actors relevant for the islands, we recommend that the system of unified prices is evaluated by ARERA (Regulatory Agency for Energy Networks and Environment) in light of the support for clean energy transition on the islands. The evaluation should take into account various factors such as the need for more efficient generation, the implementation of demand side management, increase in share of renewable energy generation, electrification of transport, etc.

4.2. Introduce obligation for suppliers to invest in RES

- ↳ We recommend that local energy suppliers should be obliged to have a specific share of energy from locally produced RES in the supply mix. This measure would incentivize the energy company to either invest themselves in the RES generation or to buy electricity from the future small local RES plants.

4.3 Redirect fossil fuel remuneration to support for RES and storage

- ↳ Currently, remuneration for the operation costs of the oversized thermal power plants on the islands is collected through the system charges of all Italian consumers. Gradually decreasing the remuneration for the operational costs (OPEX), would allow for these costs to be redirected for the clean energy transition and decarbonisation of the Italian islands (by supporting the improvement of the local grids, implementation of demand side management, etc.)

4.4 Provide capacity building towards DSOs to start implementing regulatory sandboxes on islands

- ↳ In line with what has been done in other EU Member States, Italian islands could be put forward as innovative laboratories via regulatory sandboxes. We recommend for ARERA to organize training with island DSOs to inform about the possibility and benefit of using regulatory sandboxes through pilot regulation to test innovative solutions and technologies.



↑ © Photo by Mikael Kristenson on Unsplash.



Did you know?

REPowerEU -Member States are encouraged to put in place regulatory sandboxes to grant targeted exemptions from the national, regional or local legislative or regulatory framework for innovative technologies, products, services or approaches. This facilitates permit granting in support of the deployment and system integration of renewable energy, storage, and other decarbonisation technologies, in line with Union legislation.



Further action is expected from:

- ✓ Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA)
- ✓ Ministry for Ecological Transition
- ✓ Distribution System Operators (DSOs)



Useful information

- **Integrated text on electricity dispatching (TIDE): Overall guidelines** (Document for consultation 322/2019 / R / eel), ARERA
- More information on **regulatory sandboxes**
- **Innovative Regulatory Approaches with Focus on Experimental Sandboxes 2.0** - Casebook, IEA

Barrier 5: Grid constraints due to congestion

↳ Grid infrastructure constraints limiting the share of RES electricity and stringent requirements for RES on islands are a barrier for renewable energy developments. Even though Italian islands have low penetration of RES in their grids, the congestion of the island's electricity networks prevents them from developing any more intermittent renewables. General rules that apply to the mainland are unfavourable to island characteristics. Moreover, the current regulation does not take into account possibilities offered by coupling RES with storage capacity, use of RES for self-consumption, or demand side management that could ease the integration of RES or electric mobility with the electricity grid.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To cope with this barrier, we recommend putting islands forward as innovative laboratories and promoting and supporting energy storage systems as explained below.

5.1 Put islands forward as innovative laboratories

↳ As the NECP indicates small islands as the areas for exploring the technologies and the pathways for the energy transition, we recommend that the islands work with ARERA, DSOs, technology providers and research institutes to test implementation of energy storage technology in combination with RES plants, electric mobility and demand side management to provide flexibility on the existing grids. Funds could be allocated for research and innovation. The coordination of such testing and research activities, development of regulation, strategic plans and available funds can be the responsibility of the Italian Islands' Task Force.

5.2. Promote and support implementation of storage systems

↳ In order to increase the implementation of RES share on the islands and to help their integration into the existing networks, the enabling framework (regulation, grid codes and support schemes) need to be adopted that supports implementation of storage devices.



↑ © Photo by Alexander Schimmeck on Unsplash.



Did you know?

REPowerEU - Article 1(10) of the proposed amendment to RED II inserts a new Article 16d to ensure that plants for the production of energy from renewable sources, their connection to the grid, the related grid itself or storage assets are presumed to be of overriding public interest for specific purposes.



Further action is expected from:

- ✓ ARERA Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and the Environment
- ✓ Ministry for Ecological Transition
- ✓ Distribution System Operators (DSOs)



Useful information

- ✎ **ARERA resolution no. 574/2014/R/eel** defining storage
- ✎ **Pilot storage projects, TERNA**
- ✎ **Storage lab on Sicily and Sardinia by TSO Terna**
- ✎ **Best practices of innovation on the islands**

Barrier 6: Support measures focus on household level and not on community level

↳ As the support scheme for renewable energy and energy efficiency on the islands based on the Ministerial Decree of 2017 is directed towards household level, not many communities are incentivised to act together. Currently the only use case for community initiatives would be to collectively initiate and navigate changes in the spatial restrictions as this procedure for each individual consumer is very lengthy and complex.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To overcome this barrier we recommend introducing the possibility of clustered applications and to raise awareness about existing incentives, as detailed below.

6.1 Introduce possibility of clustered applications

↳ The Decree should be reviewed to allow for the submission of clustered applications for the support measures. This way citizens and local stakeholders or communities could organise themselves in clusters to apply for similar support measures. This can be done through energy communities, energy cooperatives, or through organization by a third party, such as energy service company (ESCO). The advantage of collective or cluster applications for support are that the implementation of the clean energy measures happen faster and help create standardized solutions that can be used by Italian islands.

6.2. Raise awareness about existing incentives

↳ In order to attract islands to the incentives provided by the Decree of 14 February 2017, systematic awareness raising action of regional and local stakeholders should be organized. Local municipalities should have clarity on the existing support schemes so that they can provide guidance to the local stakeholders or at least be able to direct them to transparent and easily accessible explanation online.



↑ Pianosa, Campo nell'Elba, Province of Livorno, Italy. © Photo by Sara Geiko on Unsplash.



Did you know?

REPowerEU - To facilitate citizen and community participation, Member States should stimulate the participation of citizens, including from low and middle-income households, and energy communities in renewable energy projects, as well as take measures to encourage passing the benefits of the energy transition on to local communities thus enhancing public acceptance and engagement.



Further action is expected from:

- ✓ Ministry for Ecological Transition
- ✓ GSE Manager of energy services in Italy
- ✓ ENEA National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development



Useful information

🔗 **GSE support measures for small non-interconnected islands**

Barrier 7: Underdeveloped regulation on energy communities

↳ Energy communities are a rather novel concept not only for Italian islands but for the whole country. Italy adopted measures on Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) & Collective Self-Consumption (CSC) and incorporated them into national law with Law 8/2020 and several implantation measures. A basic definition for Citizen Energy Communities (CEC) was adopted in November 2021 with the Legislative Decree of 8 November 2021. GSE launched a web portal through which applications for the allocation of incentives for RECs and CECs are to be submitted. However, there are currently very few active energy communities on the mainland. Only one was formed on the island Ventotene in the Tyrrhenian Sea. The implementation of the REC, CEC and CSC is not well integrated with the other support for clean energy projects, which incentivise individual installations as explained above. Moreover, traditional energy companies need to adhere to strict regulations and obtain a permit to act as an energy supplier. Such complex administration and legal barriers do not make it attractive for citizens to start a community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To unblock the potential of renewable energy projects on islands, we recommend further development of the regulatory framework and clear communication on procedures as explained below.

7.1 Prioritize regulatory framework and provide right incentives

↳ We recommend continuing and prioritising further development of the regulation for energy communities. The regulation should make clear the advantages to forming an energy community. The support can be in the form of incentives for specific projects, tax benefits, technical assistance for starting an energy community and simplified procedures for clean energy projects. Moreover, the regulation for energy communities on the islands could be coupled with the regulatory sandboxes to allow controlled environments for testing of the new tariffs and innovative technologies.

7.2. Provide clear communication on procedures

↳ The Ministry of Ecological Transition and GSE should provide clear and transparent communication about advantages and disadvantages of forming an energy community and available support. This should be easy to access and written clearly in easy language. Designing the level and details of communication can also be a task for the Italian Islands' Task Force. Local/regional offices, municipalities or contact points that could provide more information on clean energy transition, existing legislation and possible procedures might be an option to improving the communication with the local stakeholders.



↑ Marettimo, Italy in 2021. © Photo by Carmen Laezza on Unsplash.



Did you know?

REPowerEU - Community energy projects still face significant barriers, including difficulties in securing financing, navigating licencing and permitting procedures or developing sustainable business models. In addition, as they are often initiated by a group of volunteers, they suffer from limited time and lack of access to technical expertise. Member States should establish appropriate incentives and adapt administrative requirements to the characteristics of energy communities. An integrated 3-step “learn-plan-do” programme could help energy communities build technical expertise and secure access to financing. The assessment and removal of existing barriers would level the playing field with more professionalised and established market participants.



Further action is expected from:

- ✓ Ministry for Ecological transition
- ✓ ARERA Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and the Environment
- ✓ Regional and local offices and municipalities
- ✓ GSE Manager of energy services in Italy



Useful information

- **Measures on Renewable energy communities (RECs) and Collective self-consumers (CSC) | Law 8/2020**
- **Implementing measures | ARERA Resolution no. 318 of 2020**
- **Ministerial Decree of 16 September 2020**
- **Measures on Citizen Energy Communities (CEC) | Legislative Decree of 8 November 2021, n.2010**
- **The National Recovery and Resilience Plan** provides for a total investment of € 2.20 billion to boost and support energy communities

Comparison to other countries (map)

Some of the identified legal and regulatory barriers in Italy are also present in several of the other countries which were part of the study.



If the type of barrier present in Italy is also present in an other country, the corresponding icon is bright.



If the type of barrier is not present, the corresponding icon is faded.

Type of barrier

Italian barriers summary



GRID

Grid constraints due to congestion



SYSTEM INTEGRATION

Unified prices and regulated monopolies



PERMITTING

Complex and lengthy permitting procedures



SUPPORT SYSTEMS



SPATIAL PLANNING

Spatial planning and stringent and generic restrictions



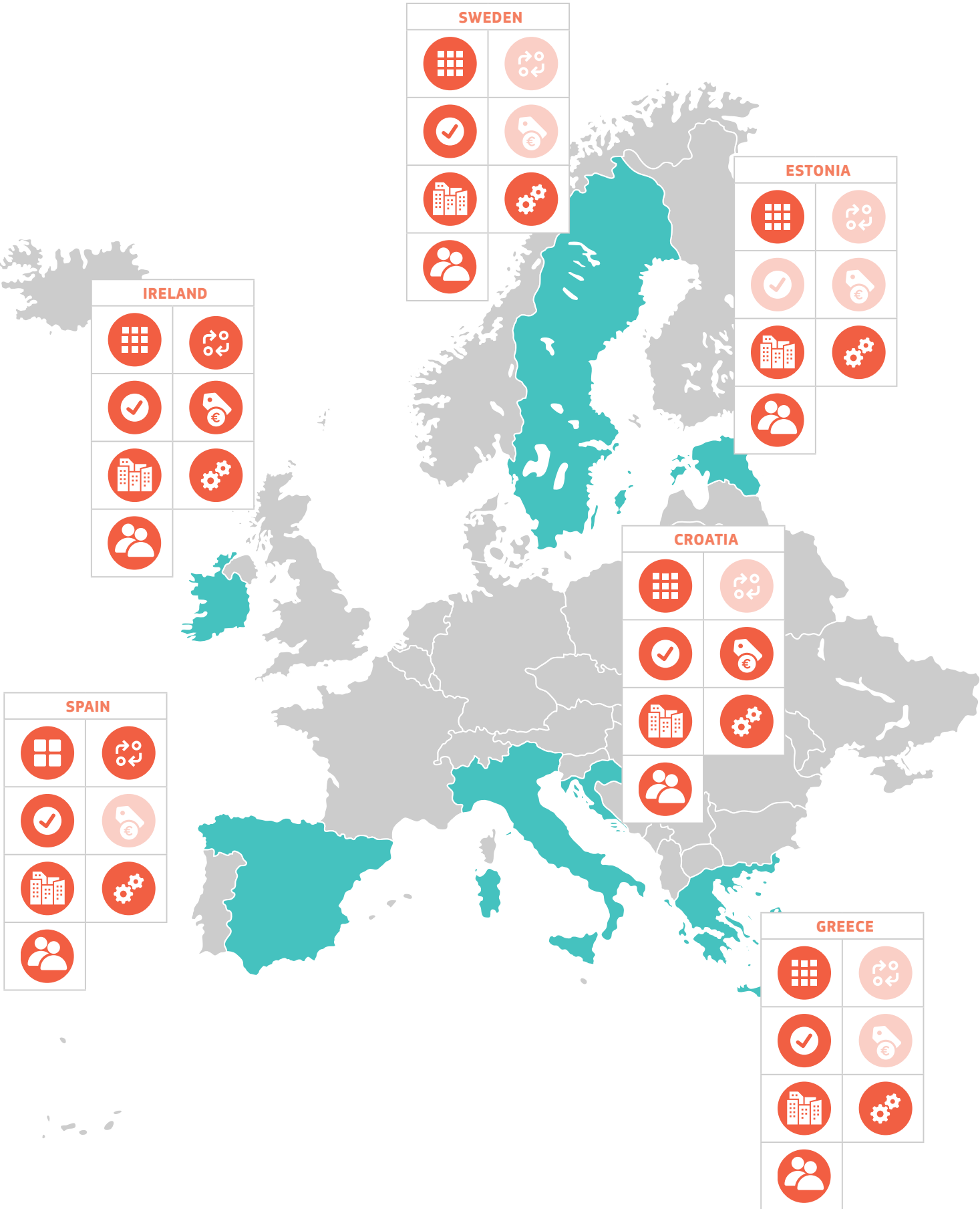
COORDINATION & STRATEGY

Lack of attention for the local level within national strategic energy planning



ENERGY COMMUNITIES

Regulation on energy communities should be further developed



Further Reading

Regulatory barriers in Italy: findings and recommendations

📄 Read the full study [here](#) | Clean energy for EU islands (europa.eu)

Italian islands with a Clean Energy Transition Agenda (CETA)

- 📄 [Pantelleria](#)
- 📄 [Salina](#)
- 📄 [Ventotene](#)

Italian islands that have received technical assistance

- 📄 [Capraia](#)
- 📄 [Favignana](#)
- 📄 [Gorgona](#)
- 📄 [Levanzo / Egadi Archipelago](#)
- 📄 [Marettimo](#)
- 📄 [Pianosa](#)
- 📄 [San Pietro](#)

Regulatory Framework in Italy

- 📄 [Italy regulatory inventory](#)
- 📄 [NECP](#)
- 📄 [Energy Decree, Law Decree 17/2022](#)
- 📄 [Minor Islands Decree, Decree of Ministry of Economic Development](#) of 14 February 2017
- 📄 [National Law 1150 from 1942](#)
- 📄 [Electricity market Law](#), Decree of 16 March 1999, n.79
- 📄 [Law 8/2020](#)
- 📄 [Legislative Decree](#) of 8 November 2021, n.2010

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↑ In April 2019 the Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat visited Sicily and pilot island Salina to establish and strengthen their contacts in the region. © Photo by Clean energy for EU islands secretariat



↑ The "Green Salina Energy Days" took place in Salina from 27 to 29 June 2019. © Photo by Maia Crimewon Unsplash



↑ In October 2022, the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat organised an Energy Academy in Pantelleria. © Photo by Adelio Zanotti on Unsplash

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