

OPEN CALL FOR MIRROR ECOSYSTEMS

GET ONBOARD THE RIPEET PROJECT

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1. THE RIPEET COMMUNITY OF MIRROR ECOSYSTEMS

In the frame of the Horizon 2020 funded project '[Responsible research and Innovation Policy Experimentations in Energy Transition \(RIPEET\)](#)', the consortium is building a community of "Mirror ecosystems" consisting of passionate regional representatives committed to shaping their regional energy vision of the future. Interested applicants can submit their expression of interest by responding to the open call to join the RIPEET Community of Practice (CoP). Up to six applicants will be selected to participate in a peer-learning scheme which follows the pilot-mirror approach: they will be working closely as "mirror ecosystems" with those engaged in the three "pilot ecosystems" based in **Extremadura (Spain), Highlands and Islands of Scotland (United Kingdom), and Ostrobothnia (Finland)**. The objective is to adopt the system of methods developed, tested, and validated throughout the project to reinforce the regional capacity to implement a more responsible, inclusive, and sustainable approach to the energy transition.

For a year, a programme made of a blend of offline and online activities will foster collaboration and knowledge transfer between those engaged in the pilot ecosystems, RIPEET consortium partners and the up to six selected applicants. Together, they will form the RIPEET Community of Practice sharing an interest in collaborative approaches to energy transition processes. Divided into three mutual learning groups, the mirror ecosystems will learn methodologies, tools, and practices to connect the innovation ecosystem stakeholders through policy experimentations for the energy transition. The RIPEET community will be managed by the European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN).

Applications to join the RIPEET community can be submitted by completing [the online form](#) until 23 June 2022

2. THE RIPEET PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL

RIPEET stands for ‘**Responsible research and Innovation Policy Experimentations for Energy Transitions**. The overarching goal of RIPEET is to support policy experimentations for energy transitions in different European regions by bringing together a broad range of stakeholders from the innovation ecosystem.

Title of the project	Responsible research and Innovation Policy Experimentations for Energy Transition
EU programme	Horizon 2020 (Coordination and Support Action)
Duration	36 months (1 st February 2021 – 31 st January 2024)
Coordinator	Zentrum für Soziale Innovation GmbH (ZSI) (AT)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zentrum für Soziale Innovation GmbH (ZSI) (AT) • University Leiden (UL) (NL) • European Regions Research & Innovation Network (ERRIN) (BE) • Conoscenza e Innovazione Srls (K&I) (IT) • Vaasan Yliopisto (UVA) (FI) • Österbottens förbund – Pohjanmaan liitto (RCO) (FI) • Merinova OY AB (MERINOVA) (FI) • Fundacion FUNDECYT Parque Cientifico y Tecnologico de Extremadura (FUNDECYT) (ES) • Agencia Extremena de la Energia (AGENEX) (ES) • Highlands and Islands (HIE) (UK) • Community Energy Scotland (CES) (UK)

The Horizon 2020 funded project [RIPEET](#) supports Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) policy experimentations for the energy transition in three European territories, also called “pilot ecosystems” - Extremadura (ES), Highlands and Islands of Scotland (UK) and Ostrobothnia (FI). The methodology builds on notions such as RRI, transformative innovation, transition management and place-based innovation ecosystems.

RIPEET develops a system of methods and tools to bring together quintuple helix actors in a specific format called “Transition Labs”: the idea is to envisage and implement a place-based energy transition process which is more responsible, inclusive, and sustainable than the current transition governance modes. These Labs bring together stakeholders to co-create common visions based on the potentials and priorities of territorial eco-systems (mapping and visioning), generate transition pathways and

highlight innovation needs, launch a call for bottom-up solutions to these (pathways and piloting) and embed this process within the organisations as well as at policy level (sustainability and exploitation).

The framework conditions, processes, and outcomes of these experiments will be mapped, monitored, and evaluated. This constitutes an evidence-base for the revision of sectoral policies, strategies and research and innovation (R&I) instruments as well as for establishing a European RIPEET community of additional EU regions interested in establishing experimental spaces to address the territorial dimensions of the European Green Deal.

The three European regions, called “pilot ecosystems”, will be at the heart of RIPEET’s activities: Extremadura (ES), Highlands and Islands of Scotland (United Kingdom), and Ostrobothnia (Finland). These regions are among **the most ambitious in their respective countries regarding energy transition** and renewable energy production. However, their **energy infrastructures differ**. While Ostrobothnia is experimenting with Smart Grids, the Highlands and Islands of Scotland are still suffering from weak transmission and distribution infrastructure. All of them have put forward ambitious decarbonization goals and have policy frameworks in place upon which RIPEET can build upon. However, the challenges and potentials arising from territorial energy transition vary between the territories.

In the Highlands and Islands, local energy communities play an important role, with many local groups trailblazing innovative developments and leading their communities through energy transition towards a low carbon economy.

Extremadura’s transition plans are driven in large parts by the public sector and are highly focused on solar and photovoltaic technology. Including civil society actors in the decentralisation of energy systems is a key challenge in the region.

Ostrobothnia’s innovation system is dominated by large, vertically well-integrated multinational entities that export energy technology and will remain central to the innovation system. Decentralisation and local engagement are key challenges for a sustainable and just energy transition in the region.

The object of this call for participation is to select six additional organisations which will join forces with the pilot ecosystems to form the RIPEET community. **The Community of practice will be invited to share their best practices and participate in the project’s peer-learning and capacity-building activities.** The community members will have access to a peer-learning scheme 100% funded by Horizon 2020 and dedicated to practitioners in charge of shaping the energy transition process in their regions.

3. WHAT'S ON OFFER?

Peer learning and knowledge transfer will be at the heart of the RIPEET community. Based on the pilot /mirror approach, regional representatives will learn from and reflect on the experiences gained during the implementation of the project's activities in the three pilot ecosystems. The peer-learning programme includes:

- **Three peer-learning groups**

Selected applicants will be matched to one of the three pilot ecosystems. Three groups will be set up, each made of two mirror ecosystems and one pilot ecosystem. They will work closely together on the implementation of the RIPEET methodology. Both the selected applicants and the pilot regions will designate one person to act as a reference point: they will share their feedback on the learning experience and help tailor the activities to specific needs.

- **Dedicated online activities**

The RIPEET project offers a digital support infrastructure to facilitate the interactions between the regional representatives while providing them with curated content to further the exploitation of the project's outcomes.

The six selected applicants will be invited, together with the pilots, to participate in:

- **Quarterly community conversations** (from September 2022 onwards) between pilot and mirror ecosystem representatives which will offer a **shared space for dialogue** to exchange on the **methodologies, tools and practices** developed throughout the project. In addition, this flexible format will allow the invitation of **external speakers with specific expertise** or interest to the RIPEET community members. These quarterly community conversations are the place for informal peer learning: they are ensured until the end of the project and will not last more than two hours.
- **Webinar series** (From September 2022 onwards) the webinars will focus on the **main methodological pillars of the project**, such as setting implementing participatory policy experimentations, co-creating shared visions for energy transition, and developing transition pathways. Furthermore, the webinars will provide inputs on key topics of interest selected by the mirror ecosystems, including issues such as community energy projects, energy citizenship, decentralisation of energy systems and many more. These webinars will pave the way to the study visits which will take place in the three EU regions.

- **Mutual learning visit (in the course of 2022 /2023)**

Mirror ecosystems will be invited to participate in an onsite study visit in the pilot region, to gain more direct knowledge of the regional challenges linked to energy transition. These visits will build up a better understanding of innovative tools and methods (including RRI in energy transition), and better connect and exchange pilot hosts and mirror ecosystems. Mutual learning visits will be

organised back to a back with project events and will be tailored to the specific interests of the CoP. Moderation and facilitation of the sessions will be conducted by experts from the consortium or the Advisory Board.

- **Support from mentors**

Each mirror ecosystem will benefit from the support of a duo of mentors, one representing the pilot region and the other one coming from an academic/scientific background. They will provide the following support:

- Additional knowledge of RRI notions, methodologies, and tools.
- Additional information on the state of play of the pilot implementation; a comprehensive overview of the challenges and successes occurring in the pilot region.
- Assistance in the transfer from the pilot region to the mirroring region of the main results and lessons learnt.

- **Participation in project dissemination activities**

Mirror regions representatives will be invited to participate in two activities at the end of the project:

- **Policy learning lab** to gather feedback from policy-makers and experts on territorial policies to discuss the policy experimentation methodology.
- **RIPEET Final conference** presenting the findings of RIPEET as well as concrete tools and policy recommendations.

4. BUDGET

The travel and accommodation costs for the on-site peer-learning visits and dissemination activities will be covered by the project⁴.

For the study visits: Each mirror region will participate to one study visit.

Once the three mutual learning groups are established, three peer-learning visits will be organised. A maximum of two interested mirror ecosystems will be selected for the visit, each with the possibility of having travel costs for up to three representatives from the quintuple helix reimbursed.

For the dissemination activities: Only the ambassadors will be invited to activities: Policy Learning Lab and Final conference. Travel and accommodation for ambassadors will be reimbursed by the RIPEET project.

Staff costs, other external costs and additional travel and accommodation costs will have to be covered by your own funding

5. WHY JOIN?

Joining the RIPEET project and engaging as a mirror ecosystem in a funded peer-learning programme is a unique opportunity to participate in a promising research project. Successful applicants will also gain valuable insights into energy transition implemented in a responsible energy transition as well as new methods and tools. The key benefits of being involved with the project include:

Networking and gaining visibility. You will be connected with leading organisation from regions facing similar challenges as you in their way towards just and sustainable energy transition.

Saving time and effort. The experiences shared with you will allow you to design and implement new policy and governance tools that have been tested, adapted according to learnings and validated.

Knowledge transfer. You will learn from the experiences of the RIPEET pilot territories and have the chance to be on the forefront of the responsible, just and sustainable energy transition movement in the EU (and beyond)

⁴ RIPEET travel grants have been reserved for this purpose, the reimbursement of travel and accommodation cost will not exceed a previously agreed upon amount, depending on number of persons travelling and selected destinations.

6. WHO CAN APPLY?

The RIPEET community and peer-learning scheme **targets decision-makers at the local and regional levels** committed to shaping a more responsible, inclusive, and sustainable energy transition in their region. We are looking for **regional authorities, local authorities, universities, regional clusters, energy agencies and innovation agencies or similar other well connected regional energy transition actors.**

Ideally, the profile of the applicant should reflect:

- Commitment to learning and sharing challenges, experiences and innovative ideas; interest in actively participating in the RIPEET peer-learning scheme and Community of Practice.
- Professional experiences related to energy transition, urban & regional development and innovation processes.
- The ability to mobilise a broader ecosystem of interested stakeholders (regional authorities; energy agencies; innovation agencies, civil society organisations).
- Interest in new co-creation methodologies, preferably with some experience in participatory/collaborative approaches to innovation.
- Based in Europe (EU27 and non-EU countries) or associated countries.

Therefore, **applicants should be able to indicate:**

REQUIRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant strategies in the energy field in the regional context (for example, your Smart Specialization Strategy states priority axes linked to energy transition and/or social innovation) • Experience of energy transition processes or capacity in driving them. • Ability to identify barriers to the energy transition. • Willingness to participate in the peer-learning scheme (identification of an individual inside the organisation as a RIPEET Ambassador). • Intention to replicate the RIPEET methodology in their own territory. • Capacity to demonstrate institutional commitment.
OPTIONAL / PREFERRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in co-creation and participatory approaches • Participation in European networks active in the energy field • Experience in EU-funded projects, especially if related to energy transition

The **evaluation process** will be managed by the members of the RIPEET consortium. The **evaluation criteria** focus on:

- Interest in the peer-learning (including choice of the pilots).
- Match with the pilot in terms of approach to the production and distribution of renewable energies and of the energy transition process.
- Strategic vision, including links with EU policy framework and programmes.
- Innovation ecosystem mobilisation and ecosystem thinking
- Relevance of the challenges faced and ambition to overcome them
- Experience/examples/best practices in energy transition
- Experience/examples/best practices in including society in research and innovation

7. HOW TO APPLY?

- Fill out [the online submission form](#) by **Wednesday 23 June 2022**
- If you have any further questions, get in touch with Rodolphe Doité by sending an email to rodolphe.doite@errin.eu.

8. RIPEET TERMINOLOGY

Terminology	Definition/Explanation
Co-Creation	Co-creation is a form of collaborative innovation rooted in working together. The product of co-creation is created by multiple people from different backgrounds and disciplines. It can be applied in different settings.
Community of Practice	The Community of Practice refers to all the mirror ecosystems within RIPEET.
Horizon Europe Missions	EU missions are commitments to solving major societal challenges like fighting cancer, adapting to climate change, protecting our oceans, living in greener cities and ensuring soil health and food. They operate as a portfolio of actions with measurable goals.
Innovation ecosystem	<i>'An innovation ecosystem consists of a group of local actors and dynamic processes, which together produce solutions to different challenges.'</i> ⁵ An innovation ecosystem is an interconnected network of quintuple helix stakeholders, including academia, industry and different levels of the public sector and civil society. This multi-level approach applies a systemic approach to creating research, innovation and knowledge.
Mirror ecosystem	A mirror ecosystem is a replication site that will continue to test RIPEET's methodology after the piloting phase. Collectively the mirror ecosystems form the Community of Practice.

⁵(Oksanen and Hautamäki, 2014) [JRC Publications Repository - Place-Based Innovation Ecosystems: Espoo Innovation Garden and Aalto University \(Finland\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

Open innovation	Open innovation is the targeted and systematic cutting across the boundaries between organisations, sectors and disciplines to generate new knowledge and develop new products, services or processes Open innovation is the targeted and systematic cutting-across the boundaries between organisations, sectors disciplines to generate new knowledge and to develop new products, services or processes.
Pilot ecosystems	This refers to the three pilots where RIPEET’s methodological approach and research actions will be tested throughout the project. The pilot ecosystems are Extremadura (ES), Highlands and Islands of Scotland (UK), and Ostrobothnia (FI).
RRI	Responsible Research and Innovation is an approach anticipating and assessing potential implications and societal expectations regarding research and innovation. The approach aims to foster the design of inclusive, responsive, reflective and sustainable research and innovation. ⁶
Transition Lab	Transition Labs are regional research and innovation spaces that follow a common process and governance design. They bring together a broad range of stakeholders from the public and private sectors, as well as academia and civil society, to envision sustainable energy futures by using participatory tools in a common event format.

9. CONTACTS

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⁶ [Responsible research & innovation | Horizon 2020 \(europa.eu\)](#)