

**Acronym** – IRENES

**Title** – Integrating RENewable energy and Ecosystem Services in environmental and energy policies

**Scientific coordinator** – Matelda Reho

**Sector** – BIO/07, AGR/01, ICAR/20

**Iuav Role** – Lead partner

**Duration** – 48 months

**Start** – 01/08/2019

**Closure** – 31/07/2023

**Project budget**– € 1.781.783,00

**Iuav budget** – € 288.475,00

**Funding to Iuav** – € 288.475,00

**Source of funding** – EU Call: INTERREG EUROPE – 4<sup>th</sup> Call for proposals

**Description** – The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005), and recently the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy emphasizes that human well-being is tightly linked to environmental conditions through the delivery of Ecosystem Services (ES), and therefore good territorial environmental management could, in principle, also deliver better outcomes for people and environment, resulting in win-win solutions. Low-carbon policies and Renewable Energy Sources (RES) development are challenged by the complexity of linkages between ecological, physical, social, and economic factors in relation to trade-offs and synergies between RES exploitation and the delivery of multiple ES. Generalizations and knowledge shortage lead to missing the acknowledgment of potential synergies between RES and ES within the governance and policy frameworks at territorial level. The IRENES project will put in place interregional knowledge and experience exchange process to identify gaps and barriers within current ERDF and energy policy instruments in relation to the RES and ES co-relation, including environmental, social, economic, and governance concerns. The active commitment of Structural Funds Managing Authorities, and governing bodies of other policy instruments addressed in the project, is of paramount importance to integrate the potential RES development trade-offs and co-benefits with ES into the territorial development policies. Therefore, IRENES consortium priority is to communicate and dialogue WITH policy makers and not to policy makers in order to trigger the knowledge transfer and to inform, with scientific evidences on RES and Ecosystem Services, the decision makers about the potential of a win-win outcome that can be incorporated into the regional and national ERDF Operational programmes, energy and climate strategies and laws.

**Objectives** – The IRENES overall objective is to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices of trade-offs and synergies of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) exploitation with multiple ecosystem services (ES) at territorial level, in order to incorporate the multiple benefits within the Structural Funds and other target policy instruments through the actions plans. IRENES aims to identify gaps and barriers within current policy instruments in relation to the trade-offs and synergies between RES and ES, including environmental, social, economic, and governance concerns related to the delivery of ES flows. Through the active engagement of ERDF management bodies, in coalition with technical partners, and with the engagement of relevant stakeholders including economic actors and local communities, IRENES will promote a process of multi-actor social co-learning through the coordinated action planning between EU regions and within the local case study areas.

With respect to specific objectives, IRENES aims to:

- 1) Assess the gaps, barriers, and level of knowledge about the environmental impacts of RES within current ERDF and other environmental policy instruments and governance framework addressed in the project;
- 2) Outline and share methodologies for the assessment of trade-offs and synergies between RES exploitation and ES;
- 3) Identify good practices and experiences to be transferred into mainstream Structural Funds programmes and other policy instruments addressed by the project.

Produce the action plans in each case study by integrating the RES-ES flow analysis in order to fill-in the gaps and barriers previously identified. This will be done by engaging stakeholders for the interregional learning process and to support the elaboration and implementation of the action plans. The action plans execution will be further compared at interregional level to depict lessons learnt and to strengthen the capacity of ERDF policies towards cohesive and innovative territories.

**Website** – [www.interregeurope.eu/irenes/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/irenes/)

**Twitter** – [twitter.com/IrenesProject](https://twitter.com/IrenesProject)

