

# 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 European Regions Research and Innovation Network ([ERRIN](#)) is building a community of passionate regional representatives committed to shaping the 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). 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 in order to reinforce the regional capacity to implement a more responsible, inclusive, and sustainable approach to energy transition.

For two years, 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 six selected applicants. Together, they will form the RIPEET Community of Practice sharing the interest in collaborative approaches to energy transition processes. Divided in three mutual learning groups, they will learn methodologies, tools, and practices to connect the innovation ecosystem stakeholders through policy experimentations for 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 Friday 31 December 2021.**

## 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.

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

The Horizon 2020 funded project [RIPEET](#) supports Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) policy experimentations for energy transition in three European territories, also called “pilot ecosystems” - in 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. These Labs will 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 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 decarbonisation goals and have policy frameworks in place on 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 while the Highlands and Islands follows a very localised, community-driven transition approach. In Ostrobothnia, a key industry is renewable energy technology, including bio energy and wind power. The territory’s cluster of energy technology companies is the largest energy cluster in the Nordic countries. Ostrobothnia’s innovation system is dominated by large, vertically well-integrated multinational entities which export energy technology and will remain central to the innovation system also in the near future, so private sector stakeholders are indispensable to transition efforts.

**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. **Managed by [ERRIN](#), the group of nine organisations 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 is led by ZSI and 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 reference point for ERRIN: these ambassadors 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 February 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 a specific expertise** of interest to the RIPEET community members. These quarterly community conversations are the place for informal peer-learning: they are ensured until halfway through the project and will not last more than two hours.
- **Webinar series** (From November 2022 onwards) organised by the ZSI, 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. These webinars will pave the way towards 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 to an onsite study visit in the pilot region, in order to gain more direct knowledge on the regional challenges linked to energy transition, have a better

understanding of innovative tools and methods regarding RRI applied to energy transition, and better connect and exchange with the pilot host, participate to the building of an ecosystem. Each mutual learning visit will last 3 days and 2 nights and will be organised to allow participants to travel during the day whenever possible. Moderation and facilitation of the sessions will be conducted by experts from the consortium or from the Advisory Board. The agenda of a peer-learning visit will consist of:

- 50%: introduction, presentations by the hosting pilot region and onsite visits focusing on the topics of the project.
  - 50%: collaborative meetings on broader thematic issues, with a specific focus on knowledge transfer and replication.
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- **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 on RRI notions, methodologies, and tools.
- Additional information on the state of play of the pilot implementation; 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.
- Transfer to the mirror region of implementation

## 4. WHY JOIN?

Joining the RIPEET project and engaging as a mirror ecosystem in a fully-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:

- **Co-shaping** of methodologies and tools to be used in policy making. Thanks to your participation in the Community of Practice, you will have the opportunity to learn from the pilot regions on the tools and methodologies developed by the project and which have started to be implemented on their territories. More importantly, you will be able to co-shape the tools by providing feedback, and make sure the success and challenge of the transfer and implementation processes are reflected in the final versions of the tools.
- **Saving time and effort** in designing new policy frames. With the support of the mentors, of the activities and resources planned by ERRIN and through the peer learning process, your organisation will be able to save time and energy in policy design. You will learn from the successes and failures from other similar regions, as well as ensure for your own region a first-hand understanding of innovative ways to foster energy transition in territories.
- **Networking with peers and gaining EU visibility** as an energy transition front-runner in terms of RRI inclusion. Your involvement in the Community of Practice (CoP) will allow you to exchange with other regional organisations that face similar challenges. It may lead to the development of joint submissions of project proposals to attract more funding on interregional projects (pilots, capacity building, joint investments). Thanks to your presence in the RIPEET CoP, you will also be identified by key stakeholders (EC, European networks, national and regional actors) as a relevant player in the field of energy transition.

*Please note that only travel and accommodation costs for the on-site peer-learning visits and workshops will be covered by the project. Staff costs and other external costs cannot be covered by RIPEET budget and will have to be covered by your own funding.*





## 5. WHO CAN APPLY?

The RIPEET community and peer-learning scheme **targets decision-makers at the local and regional levels** committed to shaping the future of energy transition in their region. We are looking for regional practitioners who are passionate about regional energy ecosystems and their paths towards a more responsible, inclusive, and sustainable transition.

**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 (ideally in peripheral regions) and innovation processes.
- The ability to mobilise a broader ecosystem of interested stakeholders (operators in the field of energy production, transport and distribution; regional authorities; energy agencies; innovation agencies).
- Interest in new co-creation methodologies, preferably with some experience in participatory/collaborative approaches to innovation.
- Based in Europe (EU27 and non-EU countries).

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

<b>REQUIRED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Experience of energy transition processes or capacity in driving them.</li> <li>• Ability to identify barriers to the energy transition.</li> <li>• Willingness to participate in the peer-learning scheme (identification of an individual inside the organisation as a RIPEET Ambassador).</li> <li>• Commitment to replicate the RIPEET methodology in their own territory.</li> <li>• Capacity to demonstrate institutional commitment.</li> <li>• Capacity to ensure the commitment of the innovation ecosystem and stakeholders.</li> <li>• Interest in one pilot ecosystem.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>OPTIONAL / PREFERRED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience in co-creation and participatory approaches</li> <li>• Experience in Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) projects</li> <li>• Participation in European networks active in the energy field</li> <li>• Experience in EU-funded projects, especially if related to energy transition</li> </ul>

The **evaluation process** will be driven by the European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN), who will be responsible for setting up **an evaluation board made by one expert from each core partner of the RIPEET consortium**. In addition, **one representative per Pilot Ecosystem** will be offered the option of joining the selection process. The **members of the Advisory Board** might be involved on an ad hoc basis.

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

## 6. HOW TO APPLY?

- **Download** the template of the application form.
- **[Optional] Register for the webinar on xxx. During the event the project, the open call, and the peer-learning programme will be presented, and participants will have the opportunity to receive first-hand information and see their first questions answered.**
- Fill-out [the online submission form](#) **by Friday 31 December 2021**
- If you have any further questions, get in touch with Etienne Rodzinka-Verhelle by sending an email to [etienne.verhelle@errin.eu](mailto:etienne.verhelle@errin.eu).

## 7. RIPPET 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 solve 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> <sup>1</sup>  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.
Open innovation	Open innovation is the targeted and systematic cutting-across of the boundaries between organisations, sectors and disciplines to generate new knowledge and to develop new products, services or processes Open innovation is the targeted and systematic cutting-across of the boundaries between organisations, sectors and disciplines to generate new knowledge and to develop new products, services or processes.

<sup>1</sup>(Oksanen and Hautamäki, 2014) [JRC Publications Repository - Place-Based Innovation Ecosystems: Espoo Innovation Garden and Aalto University \(Finland\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

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 in regard to research and innovation. The approach aims to foster the design of inclusive, responsive, reflective and sustainable research and innovation. <sup>2</sup>
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.

## CONTACTS

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<sup>2</sup> [Responsible research & innovation | Horizon 2020 \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu)