

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

LEGACOOP

Energy Communities of Legacoop FVG and shared Experiences

Clean Energy Conference

Nova Gorica, 27 May 2025



Legacoop – National league of cooperatives and mutuals

- Founded in 1886
- Develops cooperatives and mutuality
- Promotes the spread of cooperative principles and values
- More than 10K members
- Cooperatives are present in every region of Italy
- And in every sector

Legacoop's Role in the Energy Transition challenge

- Commitment to environmental sustainability
- Changing global and technological scenarios we need for distributed and inclusive models
- Promote strategic role of energy for cooperatives
- Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and the RESPIRA program

RECs in National and European Strategy

- Central role in Italian and EU energy transition plans
- Support decarbonization, efficiency, climate justice
- Legacoop promotes scalable national/EU model

Energy cooperatives

- Are worldwide
- Technology helps energy cooperatives in at least 5 ways. It:
- decreases the costs of energy production.
- allows an energy enterprise to be set up using less financing than in the past.
- facilitates the decentralization of energy production.
- permits some productions or storage of energy that were impossible or too expensive in the past.
- allows for the exchange, distribution or monitoring of energy that was impossible or too expensive in the past.

A Participatory and Intergenerational Model

- Cooperatives as naturally sustainable entities
- Community-based and inclusive approach:
public-private alliances, foundations, citizens
- Since 2008, over 140 MW installed from RES

RECs: Shared Energy, Participation, and Sustainability

- Associations of citizens, SMEs, public bodies to locally produce and consume renewable energy
- Goals: reduce costs, increase energy autonomy, community engagement, promote sustainability

The Cooperative REC Model

- RECs allow citizens, enterprises, institutions to share local renewable energy
- Cooperative model ensures democratic, inclusive, and economic benefits

Why Choose a Cooperative REC?

- Democratic participation: equal decision-making rights
- Social inclusion and transparent governance
- Naturally sustainable values: intergenerational focus and community well-being

RESPIRA: a platform for Cooperative RECs

- A platform set up by Coopfond, Legacoop, Banca Etica and Ecomill, to promote renewable energy communities (RECs) in a cooperative form.
- Helps citizens, enterprises and public administrations to create RECs and support the startup phase.
- Follows the community from the beginning on the legislative aspects, both national and European, and cooperative law, on economic incentives, business plans, and finally, access to funding.
- Is a multi-stake holder approach

Respira's partner

- Legacoop, supports RECS to comply with the Italian law, providing statute drafts and related documents.
- Coopfond, Legacoop 's mutualistic fund, finances feasibility studies to set up RECs, and supports the first round of investment.
- Banca Etica, the first Italian Bank entirely focused on ethical finance, provides loans to build renewable energy plants.
- Ecomill, a crowdfunding platform for energy transition, launches campaigns to finance the construction of renewable energy plants

RESPIRA: a platform for Cooperative RECs

In short, Respira provides a “ready to go” set of tools and partners. So, it is easier to set up a REC in a cooperative form, for all.

Strategic Partnerships for REC Development

- Agreements with ENEA, Iren Smart Solutions
- Same Regional initiatives: Friuli Venezia Giulia Umbria, Romagna, Lazio Forlì-Cesena

Agreement with ANCI FVG

- Signed June 5, 2024 between ANCI FVG and Legacoop FVG
- Supports cooperative REC model and
- Support municipalities
- Based on mutuality, sustainability, non-speculation

Experiences in FVG - SECAB

A Renewable Energy Community Before It was Recognized by Law

- SECAB: Società Elettrica Cooperativa Alto But, founded in 1911 in Paluzza (UD)
- 100% renewable hydroelectric energy from the But stream

SECAB is a 'REC Before Its Time

- Collective self-consumption from local renewables
- Participatory and democratic management
- Fair pricing and reinvestment in the territory
- Shared environmental and social benefits
- Pioneering bottom-up transition model
- “SECAB embodies the spirit of RECs for over a century, well before EU regulatory recognition.”

Experiences in FVG- Part-Energy

Role as Aggregator

- Simplifies REC access for local entities
- Provides centralized services and support
- Reduces costs, accelerates timelines, enables centralized monitoring

Experiences in FVG – Part-Energy

Scalable and Replicable Model

- Unlike isolated REC models, PartEnergy acts as cooperative central hub
- Local configurations share central structure
- Flexible for urban, rural, tourist contexts (e.g. Lignano Seaside REC)

Challenges

- Bureaucratic and regulatory barriers
- Technical and managerial complexity
- access to credit and long-term sustainability
- Community engagement and trust-building

RECs and Cooperation: A Win-Win Model

- Fighting energy poverty, empowering prosumers
- Challenges: long timelines, post-incentive sustainability, governance

Benefits for the Territory

- Economic: lower energy bills, cash flow independent from incentives
- Environmental: increased RES use, CO2 reduction
- Social: inclusion, community cohesion, energy poverty mitigation
- Empowerment: emergence of the 'prosumer'

Conclusion: Just, Inclusive, Cooperative Transition

- Long-term vision, scalable and replicable model
- Synergy between ethics, social impact, and sustainability

**Thank you
for your attention**

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