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CARDET

Operational Action Plan For Sustainable Energy Transition and Youth Employment



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VISION

As CARDET we envision a just and sustainable world, where people learn and flourish. Our mission is to design innovative education programs in order to inspire and empower communities to thrive. Thus our purpose is to promote education as a force for a strong social impact and shaping a better world. Sustainable energy and green Jobs is definitely part of the sustainable world we envision. Thus, promoting education towards the enhancement of youth employability in this field, is undoubtedly part of our vision.

DIAGNOSIS

The Department of Environment in Cyprus is focusing on the following eleven sectors: water resources, soils, coastal zones, biodiversity, agriculture, forests, fisheries, public health, energy, tourism, infrastructure.

Cyprus is recognized as a "hotspot" for climate change, experiencing more pronounced changes compared to other regions, despite its negligible contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. The country has been monitoring and continuously adapting its critical infrastructure to address climate change risks. Part of the efforts also include the objectives that the Republic of Cyprus has set in the framework of the "Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources":

- Increase the share of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in gross final energy consumption to at least 23% by 2030. This percentage represents the national contribution to the EU's collective mandatory target of a 32% share of RES in the EU's gross final energy consumption in 2030.
- Maintain a minimum share of 13% of energy from renewable sources in the Republic's gross final energy consumption from 1 January 2021 onwards.
- Indicative target for an annual increase of at least 1.1% of the share of renewable energy in the heating-cooling sector.
- Share of at least 14% of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption in transport by 2030.
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The measures and policies implemented or planned to achieve the above targets, as well as the estimated pathway for achieving them, are set out in the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). Progress towards the achievement of the objectives shall be monitored through biennial reports submitted to the European Commission.

In July 2021, the EC announced a proposal to amend "Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources" as part of the "FIT FOR 55" Package of proposals. The revision aims to further increase the use of energy from renewable sources by 2030. The trilogue consultation on the revision of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 has been completed in April 2023.

The revision increases the binding EU-wide target for RES use and additionally introduces new targets or reinforces existing targets for RES use in the building, industry, heating-cooling and transport sectors.



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The main provisions of the proposal to revise the Renewable Energy Directive are as follows:

- Increasing the mandatory EU target for the share of energy from RES for 2030 from 32% to 42.5% of the gross final energy consumption of the European Union. The national contribution to the achievement of this binding target will be revised accordingly, with a possible new target for Cyprus of 31% from the current 23%.
- The target for an annual increase of 1.1% of the share of RES in the heating-cooling sector will become mandatory.
- A new indicative EU-wide target for the use of energy from RES in buildings of 49% by 2030 is introduced. Each Member State will set an indicative national share of RES use in buildings.
- A new indicative target is introduced for an annual increase in the share of renewable energy use in industry of 1.6% by 2030.
- A mandatory target is introduced for the use of non-biological renewable fuels (such as green hydrogen) at 42% of the hydrogen used for energy and non-energy purposes in industry by 2030.
- Provision is introduced for the establishment by the MS bordering a sea basin of joint targets for offshore RES production in each sea basin by 2050, with intermediate steps in 2030 and 2040.

In the transport sector:

- The amount of renewable fuels and RES electricity supplied to the transport sector leads to a reduction in greenhouse gas emission intensity of at least 14.5% by 2030 or a share of at least 29% of RES energy in gross final energy consumption in transport by 2030.
- An obligation is introduced for a 5.5% share of advanced biofuels and renewable fuels of non-biological origin in 2030.

In May 2022, the European Commission published the REPowerEU package, which aims to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels through a strong acceleration of the green transition. Included in this package is a proposal to amend Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on renewable energy sources which focuses on amending the articles regarding the authorisation of renewable energy projects. The trilogue consultation regarding the above proposal was completed in April 2023.

In particular, the following obligations are introduced :

- Identification of the land and sea areas necessary for the installation of the RES power plants required to meet the national RES targets and contributions in 2030.
- Preparation of plans for the designation of "renewables go-to areas" for one or more types of renewable energy sources, i.e. areas where the development of a particular type or types of renewable energy is not expected to have significant environmental impacts and where such projects can thus be authorised through simple and short procedures.
- Reduction of the maximum timeframes for the completion of the authorisation of renewable energy projects compared to those set out in the original Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

Buildings account for 30% of energy consumption in Cyprus. This sector is expanding, which will certainly increase its energy consumption. Therefore, the reduction of energy consumption and the use of renewable sources in the building sector are important measures needed to reduce greenhouse emissions and enhance the security of energy supply. The Law on the Regulation of Energy Performance of Buildings, which harmonises the relevant European Directives into national law, has established a series of measures aimed at improving the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings, taking into account local climatic conditions, the climatic conditions of the building's interiors, as well as the cost-benefit ratio in the life cycle of the building.

One of the most successful governmental interventions with regards to the encouragement of renewable energy usage is the set of sponsorship schemes that were announced with great focus on the installment of photovoltaics. More information about the schemes can be found here: <https://resecfund.org.cy/en/sxedia>

OBJETIVES

Based on CARDET field of work, several objectives are established. Among those are:

- The **implementation** and completion of at least **12 projects by 2027** related to sustainability and environment such as energy transition, green skills, youth employability etc. During the implementation of these projects, youth will be involved in different phases giving them the opportunity to be trained, enrich their knowledge, enhance their skills and increase their employability chances in the specific area.
- **Train** at least **200 youngsters** on topics related to energy transition, renewable energy, green skills etc by 2027. Through collaboration with other institutions, organisations, public bodies, academia and related stakeholders, we Will offer workshops, focus groups, seminars and trainings to youngsters in order to enhance their employability and thus support the green transition in general.
- **Raise awareness** on topics related to sustainability, green transition, renewable energy and green Jobs by 2027. Through raising awareness campaigns, events and conferences, and with the use of social media, website and digital platforms we target to reach at least 2500 youngsters.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Objective 1: The implementation and completion of at least 12 projects by 2027 related to sustainability and environment such as energy transition, green skills, youth employability etc. During the implementation of these projects, youth will be involved in different phases giving them the opportunity to be trained, enrich their knowledge, enhance their skills and increase their employability chances in the specific area.

Strategic actions for Objective 1:

- **Renewable Energy Events & Conferences:**
We are involved in projects related to the development of innovative renewable energy solutions. These projects often give young participants the opportunity to meet key stakeholders, travel, get trained, brainstorm on related projects, fostering



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creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving while supporting the community's sustainable energy goals.

- **Collaboration with Industry Experts:**
We collaborate with industry professionals and mentors to guide participants during the projects, offering valuable insights and expertise to enhance the quality and feasibility of their projects.
- **Project Implementation Support:**
We provide resources and assistance throughout the project implementation period. By partnering with key stakeholders, we offer young participants the chance to do their ideation on their projects.
- **Funding:**
To implement these activities we will apply to related EU co-funded projects

Objective 2: Train at least 200 youngsters on topics related to energy transition, renewable energy, green skills etc by 2027. Through collaboration with other institutions, organisations, public bodies, academia and related stakeholders, we Will offer workshops, focus groups, seminars and trainings to youngsters in order to enhance their employability and thus support the green transition in general.

Strategic actions for Objective 2:

- **Adopt EU Training Programs:**
We select and implement high-quality training programs developed through EU projects, focusing on renewable energy technologies and sustainable practices. These programs are tailored to meet the needs of young participants.
- **Collaboration with Key stakeholders for Workshop Implementation:**
We partner with local and international organizations, to adapt and successfully deliver training programs through workshops.
- **Pathways to Employment:**
We collaborate with industry partners and employment agencies to create clear pathways from the workshops to green jobs and apprenticeships, enhancing participants' employability in the renewable energy sector.
- **Funding:**
To implement these activities we will apply to related EU co-funded projects

Objective 3: Raise awareness on topics related to sustainability, green transition, renewable energy and green Jobs by 2027. Through raising awareness campaigns, events and conferences, and with the use of social media, website and digital platforms we target to reach at least 2500 youngsters.

Strategic actions for Objective 3:

- **Outreach Campaigns:**
We will develop and launch a comprehensive outreach campaign, primarily targeting digital platforms and school programs. Engaging content such as videos,

infographics, and articles about renewable energy and green jobs will be created and shared through social media pages and our website. Collaborating with key stakeholders and environmental organizations will help expand the campaign's reach to a wider audience.

- **Event & Conference Organization and Participation:**

We will organize community events and conferences and participate in others like green festivals, renewable energy expos, and career days focused on sustainable energy. These events will be organised and run in partnership with local businesses, NGOs, and government agencies, featuring interactive exhibits, and information stations. We will continuously evaluate the success of these initiatives through surveys, feedback forms, and digital analytics to track engagement and impact.

- **Funding:**

To implement these activities we will apply to related EU co-funded projects

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Priority Area	Objective	Strategic Action	Budget/Responsible Party	Deadline	Success Indicators
Renewable Energy Projects	Complete 12 renewable energy projects by 2027	Organize annual renewable energy events and provide project implementation support	€70000/Renewable Energy Companies, Key stakeholders & Community	End of 2027	Number of projects completed, employment opportunities created for young people
Training Youth in Renewable Energy	Train 200 young people in Renewable Energy technologies by 2027	Adopt EU Training programs and collaborate with other partners to implement workshops	€4000/Educational and Training Institutions & NGOs	End of 2027	Number of young people trained, increase in employability in green jobs
Public Awareness and Engagement	Reach 2500 young people through campaigns by 2027	Develop digital campaigns and organize community events	€6000/Marketing & Communications Teams	End of 2027	Number of young people reached, engagement levels on Digital platforms and



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		focusing on sustainable energy and green jobs			at community events
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INDICATORS

To accurately assess the progress and impact of the Energy Transition Action Plan in Nicosia, we have established key indicators that are aligned with our strategic objectives. These indicators will enable us to monitor the success of our initiatives, maintain accountability, and inform future decisions. The table below details the specific indicators and the methods we will use to measure them:

Indicator	Measurement	Method
Number of young people trained in renewable energy technologies	300	Count of individuals completing training programs
Number of community-based renewable energy projects completed	10	Count of projects from planning to maintenance phase
Number of young people reached through public awareness campaigns	3000	Count of young people engaged via campaigns
Number of partnerships with educational institutions, NGOs, and industry leaders	10	Count of partnerships established
Number of renewable energy related events organized	6	Count of events held annually
Number of industry experts and mentors involved	25	Count of experts and mentors participating

These indicators will offer a clear and quantifiable means to evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts in advancing the sustainable energy transition and enhancing youth employment. Regularly tracking these metrics will allow us to ensure that our initiatives are achieving the intended impact and enable us to adjust our strategies as necessary to meet our objectives.

DISSEMINATION

The widespread communication of the Energy Transition Action Plan is vital for raising awareness, building interest, and securing the backing of key stakeholders and the broader public. A well-crafted dissemination strategy will ensure that the plan's goals and objectives are clearly understood and widely embraced, paving the way for its successful execution. The following key methods will be employed to share the action plan:



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Presentations

The action plan will be shared with stakeholders and various audiences through a range of formats, including both in-person and virtual presentations. These will take place in staff meetings, board meetings, conferences, and other relevant events. Each presentation will emphasize the plan’s objectives, strategies, and anticipated outcomes, ensuring all stakeholders are informed and actively engaged.

Social Media

To reach a broader audience and create interest, the action plan will be promoted through social media channels. This will involve posting regular updates on progress, sharing success stories, and encouraging community feedback and engagement. Leveraging digital platforms will also allow us to connect with a wider, particularly younger, demographic.

Press Releases

We will distribute press releases to announce the launch of the action plan, highlighting its key objectives and goals. These press releases will be shared with both local and national media to generate publicity and foster interest in the initiative. Through media engagement, we aim to expand our reach and heighten awareness.

Collaborations

Partnerships with organizations such as universities, libraries, and cultural institutions will be formed to help disseminate the action plan and share resources and expertise. These collaborations will enhance our project’s impact and provide additional platforms to promote the plan’s goals.

Events & Conferences

A series of events and conferences, including workshops and webinars, will be organized to showcase the progress of the action plan and engage directly with stakeholders and the community. These events will offer opportunities for direct interaction, enabling us to gather feedback, answer questions, and build a network of supporters for the energy transition initiatives.

Dissemination Activity Table for 2024

Activity description	Year	Budget	Success indicators
Presentations to key stakeholders and network	2024	€1000	Number of presentations; stakeholders engagement
Social media updates	2024	€500	Number of website visits;



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			social media engagement
Press releases to media	2024	€500	Number of press releases issued; media coverage
Collaborations with key stakeholders and other organizations	2024	€1000	Number of collaborations; joint activities
Workshops, webinars, and open events	2024	€3000	Number of events; participant feedback and attendance