

COMPOSE – Rural Communities engaged with positive energy

WP5 – Capitalising - Activity 5.2.5: Policy recommendations

Prof. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, *COMPOSE* project Ambassador, has outlined the framework within which the *COMPOSE Policy Recommendations* have been elaborated:

Where do we stand? • Earth has entered a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene – with profound implications for humanity and for the planetary stability • Earth is approaching tipping points due to human pressures. • Risks of extreme weather are increasing. • Rising sea levels and ocean acidification are growing threats.

Why should we care? • The costs of climate change are already being felt today and will increase in the future. • Human health is at risk from air pollutants that alter the climate, and the impacts of a changing climate, which are decreasing food security and increasing the risks of disease and heat stress. • Climate change is likely to exacerbate the risk of large-scale migration and civil unrest. • The Mediterranean is regarded as a climate change hot spot for two main reasons • stronger warming of the regional landbased hot extremes compared to the mean global temperature warming • substantial decreases in mean precipitation with associated substantial increases in dry spells.

The *Paris Agreement* takes effect in 2020, but the world IS NOT on track • Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) would lead to a warming of 2.8 °C, current government policies still lead to a warming of 3.6°C • INDCs are totally incompatible with 2°C objective • 1.5°C temperature increase could be reached even before 2025.

For limiting global warming to below... 1,5°C • global net anthropogenic CO₂ emissions must decline by about 45% (40-60%) from 2010 levels by 2030, • reaching net zero by 2050 **2°C** • CO₂ emissions should decline by about 20% (10-30%) by 2030 and • reach net zero around 2075.

How can we avoid dangerous impacts? • The world needs to act faster: deeper cuts are needed to reduce risk of global average temperature rising 2 °C above pre-industrial levels. A pathway of halving global emissions every decade is consistent with this goal. • It is possible for the world to meet *Paris Agreement* targets if nation states cooperate and coordinate mitigation efforts. Carbon pricing is an important policy tool that would create substantial revenues amounting to potentially several percent of GDP. • Adaptation and resilience building are necessary even if the world succeeds with aggressive international action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. For 2030, the EU has set targets to achieve a 40 % reduction in GHG emissions. Based on the current policies, measures and projections the EU is not on track to achieve these targets.

A European Green Deal • New *Just Transition Fund* (to support the people and regions most affected) • *European Climate Pact* – bringing together regions, local communities, civil society, industry and schools. • Turn parts of the *European Investment Bank* into Europe's climate bank (The *Sustainable Europe Investment Plan* €1 trillion of investment) • The EU will lead international negotiations to increase the level of ambition of other major emitters by 2021 (increase of the European Union's target for 2030 towards 55%).

Prof. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj

IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change- University of Ljubljana

08 October 2019 – *COMPOSE* European Parliament event

COMPOSE Policy Recommendations

1. To respond to the international scientific community more and more recurrent alarms and to successfully react to climate change effects, while at the same time encourage other world regions to do the same, **the EU should officially aim at achieving climate neutrality by 2050.**
2. In order to meet the *Paris Agreement* targets, **the EU needs to increase its 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets from the current 40% towards 55%.** We welcome the recent statements in favour of 2030 55% cuts, by both the EU Commission President-elect Ursula Von der Leyen and nominee executive Vice President Frans Timmermans **and hope they will quickly become legally-binding EU policy.**
3. **We need to reconsider our present energy model.** The *COMPOSE* project, with Partners in 11 Mediterranean countries - Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain - has implemented 15 small-scale projects, **demonstrating the advantages of energy transition concept shifts at the local level.** Tested working methods, with the key elements of the bottom-up and participatory approaches, have **resulted in transferable and replicable elements as well as potentials for scaling up, on the basis of the win-win energy reshaping opportunity for local communities,** with positive impacts ranging from CO2 emission decrease to new jobs creation,

optimization of local biomass management and reduction of bio waste, the creation of local supply chains, opening new and green business and improving the local population's quality of life.

4. **The *COMPOSE Sustainable Energy Planning Toolbox* is at everybody's disposal for sustainable energy planning and it is a useful tool also in the implementation of the *European Green Deal*.**
5. We support the proposed 2021-2027 *European Investment Bank* energy lending priorities, **with no funding for new oil & gas infrastructures and emphasis on renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and *deep renovation* in buildings.**
6. ***Energy literacy* has emerged during the *COMPOSE* activities as a major concern:** not only average citizens and students, but also decision-makers are insufficiently informed about energy facts and energy policy implications, with negative impacts in daily life as well as in policy decision-making. Formal and informal educational initiatives should be launched within the *European Climate Pact* to finally bridge this knowledge gap.
7. In spite of its being one of the richest world areas, significant EU population sections are still hit by energy poverty. To overcome existing energy access inequalities, **an *ad hoc EU Energy Poverty Elimination Plan* should be adopted in the current EU legislative term.**
8. The *Interreg MED Renewable Energy Community* projects, of which also *COMPOSE* has been part, have been an added-value success story within EU programmes: this should be recognized by the EU 2021-2027 *Multiannual Financial Framework*, **through the significant increase of the budget available for the 2021-2027 *Interreg MED Programme*, whatever the name of the programme will be in the coming seven years.**