CERVINO Project Webinar - Energy Data management in the EUSALP region

On February 23rd, the CERVINO project hosted an online webinar where they presented achievements and provided an overview of the CERVINO platform. The main targets of the CERVINO project were to establish an Energy Data Management Tool that would facilitate improved data collection, processing, and visualization of key energy data, addressing several shortcomings of previous energy survey campaigns. The platform should represent a useful tool for political decision-makers in the EUSALP regions.

The online webinar was opened by **Stefan DREXLMEIER** (*Energiewende Oberland*), who gave an overview of the event and provided an introductory trailer summarizing the past accomplishments of the CERVINO project.

Nuno MADEIRA (*Interreg Alpine Space*) delivered a welcome address, stressing reasons why the Interreg Alpine Space Programme decided to co-finance the CERVINO project, deeply rooted in the EU's Cohesion Policy aimed at reducing disparities among regions and improving performance across the territory covered by the program. He also introduced the new typology of projects, the so-called 'small-scale projects,' whose purpose is to bring on board stakeholders who might not be familiar with program rules or are interested in cooperating at the transnational level but do not need to be involved in long-term projects. The CERVINO project also falls under this category as it represents an opportunity to facilitate the exchange and visualization of energy data, a key priority in recent years in the EU.

This was followed by remarks from **Francesca VERARDO** (*Divisione Energia, Agenzia Regionale Ligure*), introducing the main aims of the CERVINO project, namely, to facilitate energy data exchange within the Alpine territory. The project began in September 2022, and is now, in its final month. She highlighted the importance of reliable data for energy policy, which led to the project's efforts to improve past energy surveys. The platform should represent a useful tool for political decision-makers in Alpine regions.

The EUSALP Energy Survey was introduced in greater detail by **Živa MAJERIČ VOVK** (*Energy Agency of Savinjska, Šaleška, and Koroška region*). She provided a summary of the history of the EUSALP Energy Survey, first implemented in 2017 as the initial step toward establishing a consistent monitoring system for energy data within the Alpine macro-region. A subsequent effort was launched in 2019. In 2023, the CERVINO project modernized the process by developing a user-friendly online tool for energy data collection, moving away from online questionnaires used in 2017 and 2019. The main objective was to create an updated version building upon previous achievements and challenges. Subsequently, Živa Majerič Vovk discussed the process of reshaping the survey. The CERVINO project redesigned the survey from 2017 and 2019 to maximize regional involvement and participation. This required analyzing previous data requirements and drafting a reshaped set of energy indicators. The analysis highlighted the importance of selecting energy indicators with a high level of data availability, limiting the number of indicators, emphasizing data quality, and minimizing missing data issues. Efforts have been undertaken to minimize the required input from

various regions to complete the survey, aiming to address shortcomings observed in previous survey processes. The selected indicators were structured into two groups: *Core data* (essential for comparing energy profiles among the EUSALP regions) which was mandatory, and *Additional data* (providing useful information to the core ones while not being fundamental). The new EUSALP Energy Survey tool was made available in May 2023, and was implemented for the third time. Efforts were made to collect data by engaging regional stakeholders to provide energy data through the newly developed online tool. Data were collected in 26 Alpine regions. Overall, the scope of data provided varied substantially between regions—52% of the data were "not completed" (data not entered in the survey), 18% were "not available" (data marked as unavailable by respondents), and 29% were marked as "available" (data entered, checked for inconsistencies, and validated by CERVINO analysts). Data were collected from four years (2018-2021). Regarding *Core/Additional data* collection, 33% were non-completed, 31% non-available, and 36% available for *Core data*, while for *Additional data*, 78% were non-completed, 1% non-available, and 21% available. Concerning regional cooperation, deviations in response rates were observed between regions. Italy, Germany, and France showed satisfactory responsiveness, while Austrian regions' responsiveness was notably low. From Liechtenstein data was not provided. Slovenia and Switzerland provided data for their countries as a whole. It was emphasized that more efforts would be needed in the future to achieve stronger commitment from the regions to establish periodic data collection. Identified challenges in establishing effective cooperation with the regions included time constraints, the non-mandatory nature of the task, and the lack of recognition of the added value of the Alpine energy data platform.

The next items on the agenda were the contributions by **Valentina D'ALONZO** (*EURAC*) and **Matthieu DENOUX** (*AURA-EE*). EURAC developed the web-based platform, meant to integrate all the collected energy data from the targeted regions and allow for potential data updates in the future in the EUSALP Energy Survey. It was stressed that an important feature of this platform was its user-friendliness. **Valentina D'ALONZO** subsequently presented all the particular steps meant to be followed by platform users when providing energy data. Then, **Matthieu DENOUX** presented the Alpine Energy Data platform which is based on all the data collected through the EURAC's data collection tool, automatically imported, and visualized. Visualization is possible through two main options: a map with various indicators and dashboards. An overview of indicators and particular features of the tool were provided. The CERVINO Alpine Energy Data platform is a tool based on an open-source policy, aiming to facilitate the development of a tool that can meet the needs of local authorities in managing their transition trajectory.

The final presentation was delivered by **Silvia BOVIO** (*Divisione Energia, Agenzia Regionale Ligure*), mainly focusing on the final point of CERVINO activities – the roadmap. The CERVINO activities could be summarized into 4 points: a) new survey simplified in the data collection with a dedicated platform, b) visualization tool to show results and support the decision – easy to use and easy to show, c) operation of the new survey, and d) roadmap. This roadmap, which identifies the key elements of the process to ensure the durability of the new energy management tool and ultimately leads to the establishment of the Alpine Energy Observatory AEO in the mid- and long-term. The stages of the roadmap have been identified as the

process towards the future establishment of the Alpine Energy Observatory: Stage 1 – Investigating the State of the art of energy data collection in EUSALP regions (definition of barriers and obstacles), Stage 2 – Increasing the commitment of the EUSALP regions to regularly add data to the CERVINO platform, Stage 3 – Exploring possible automation mechanisms in the data collection/filling the platform.

80 million people, 7 countries, 48 regions, mountains and plains addressing together common challenges and opportunities

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