Newsletter #5

June 2022

Increasing RES uptake through Microgrids in the Alps

Dear Reader,

Another global crisis is hitting our world linked to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and has direct effects on the energy security of EU regions including Alpine territories. In March 2022, EU leaders agreed in the European Council to phase out Europe's dependency on Russian energy imports.

The repowerEU plan proposes ambitious measures to reduce the EU's energy dependency. It builds on the 'fit for 55' legislative package and an increase of the EU renewable energy target to 45 % of RES by 2030 (equivalent to 1236 GW). Achieving these results will require a massive speed-up and scale-up in renewable energy which will require stronger support for joint local initiatives such as energy communities and microgrid solutions.

In this 5th newsletter, the ALPGRIDS project partners are delighted to present to you key results of their actions in favour of local joint energy initiatives. Three major crises (climatic, sanitary and war in Ukraine) took place during the project's timespan. Despite this dramatic and unprecedented situation, the Partners were able to strengthen their cooperation, join efforts in implementing innovative solutions and develop instruments supporting local action, thus contributing to accelerating the energy transition of Alpine regions.

Follow us on the website
https://www.alpine-space.org/projects/alpgrids/en/home

We hope you enjoy learning more about ALPGRIDS!

IN THIS EDITION …….

ALPGRIDS AT A GLANCE

The general objective is to create a transnational enabling environment to foster microgrid solutions supporting in particular the creation of local energy communities.

DURATION:
01/10/2019–31/8/2022

ERDF: €1,599,511

LOW CARBON

Read more about ALPGRIDS at:

www.alpine-space.org/projects/alpgrids

ALPGRIDS is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme

Watch the new testimonies videos

ALPGRIDS pilot partners have released their testimonies videos on their pilots. Take a look and learn more about each of the pilot sites.

You can access them on the homepage of the ALPGRIDS website https://www.alpine-space.org/projects/alpgrids/en/home

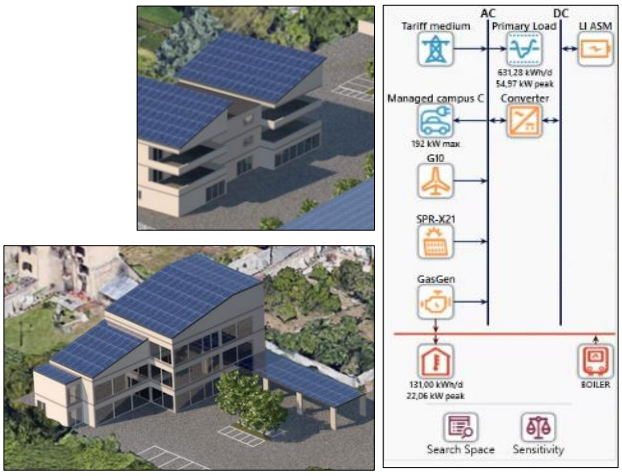
Final results and conclusions in pilot areas

Municipality of Selnica ob Dravi (Slovenia)

As part of the ALPGRIDS project, the technical options for building solar power plants were researched and tested. Calculations have shown that the installation of solar power plants at the fire station and the cultural centre will increase the self-sufficiency of the facilities and reduce electricity costs. In addition to solar power plants and an integrated management system, there are plans for the future to also integrate a community battery storage system into buildings. With lessons learned from good experiences and great collaboration between all stakeholders, the system will be able to improve to work optimally.

City of Savona (Italy) - How could Microgrids be helpful in Energy Community development and operation?

A small University Campus with thermal & electric loads and electric mobility infrastructures, served by a microgrid has been modelled within the Savona Pilot project. The developed optimal planning studies proved that, with current incentive schemes and electricity prices, only the photovoltaic resource and hydrogen CHP have been selected in the winning base case. Other resources such as storage and wind turbines that are useful in the operating phase of the energy community can be included by supporting them with higher incentives or by remunerating them for the provision of additional services to the grid (demand response, load shifting, peak shaving).



The Pilot Thannhausen (Austria)

The Pilot Thannhausen is fully in Operation and is providing electricity to the neighbourhood. The PV plant is providing 29 kWp and this electricity will be distributed to 8 consumers. The system is designed to maximise the user's share of their own produced electricity and maximise the economic advantage for the producer as well as consumers.

The Rothmoser Pilot in Grafing (Germany)

The Rothmoser Pilot in Grafing discovers the possibilities of a Mieterstrom-Model combined with public EV charging on a retirement home. The recent energy crisis emphasizes the importance of local energy production and energy sharing. In the case of the Mieterstrom-Model, tenants benefit from cheap PV energy, which is a significant advantage in the coming years given the stock market's explosion of energy prices. Construction of the retirement home started on 10.3.2022. The demand at the Rothmoser charging points for public EV-charging in 2022 increased by 25 % compared to last year. Therefore, the demand for new charging points in the next years seems obvious and confirms the EV charging aspect of the pilot with its central location.

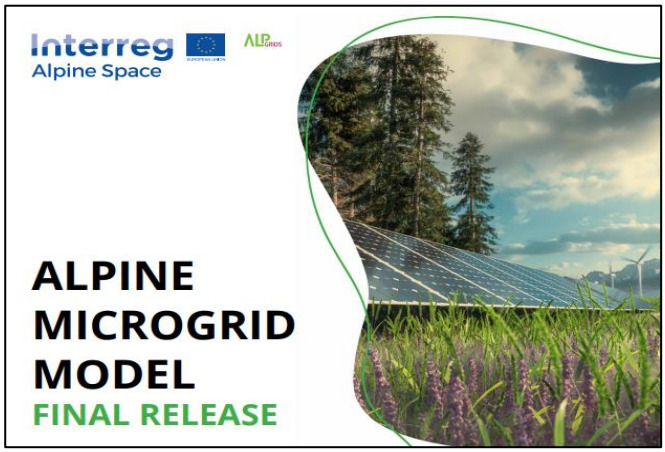
St Julien and Val de Quint (France)

Among other results, the studies carried out on the Val de Quint pilot site highlight the key role of consumption flexibility to boost the economic interest of collective self-consumption operations. It appears that beyond the direct interest of this flexibility to increase the self-consumption ratio, it can even help the complementary energy provider to fulfil its balancing obligations towards the grid, creating an additional value. Photo: J.P. Bajard

Final output publications

Alpine Microgrid Model

Partners have released an “Alpine Microgrid Model” guide. It provides information about Microgrids and Energy Communities through the description of the 7 pilot projects implemented by project partners as well as the outcome of transnational exchanges. It gives information about the policy framework supporting the creation of local Energy Communities and provides some initial hints from project partners for implementing such projects.



Microgrid Policy Package

Partners have released a “Microgrid Policy Package” guide. This guide provides concrete elements to help design and implement political strategies for the effective development of Local Energy Communities in the target territories of the Alpine space identified by the Project. It describes what can be done by policymakers to design supportive policies and instruments for Local Energy Communities.

You can access them on the ALPGRIDS website https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/alpgrids/en/home.

ALPGRIDS Summer School in Savona, Italy

Thanks to the ALPGRIDS project, young graduates can now attend a free specialization course on Microgrid and Energy Communities. The course is structured as an intensive international Summer School that provides specific skills in the design and management of energy microgrids, even in the context of the energy community.

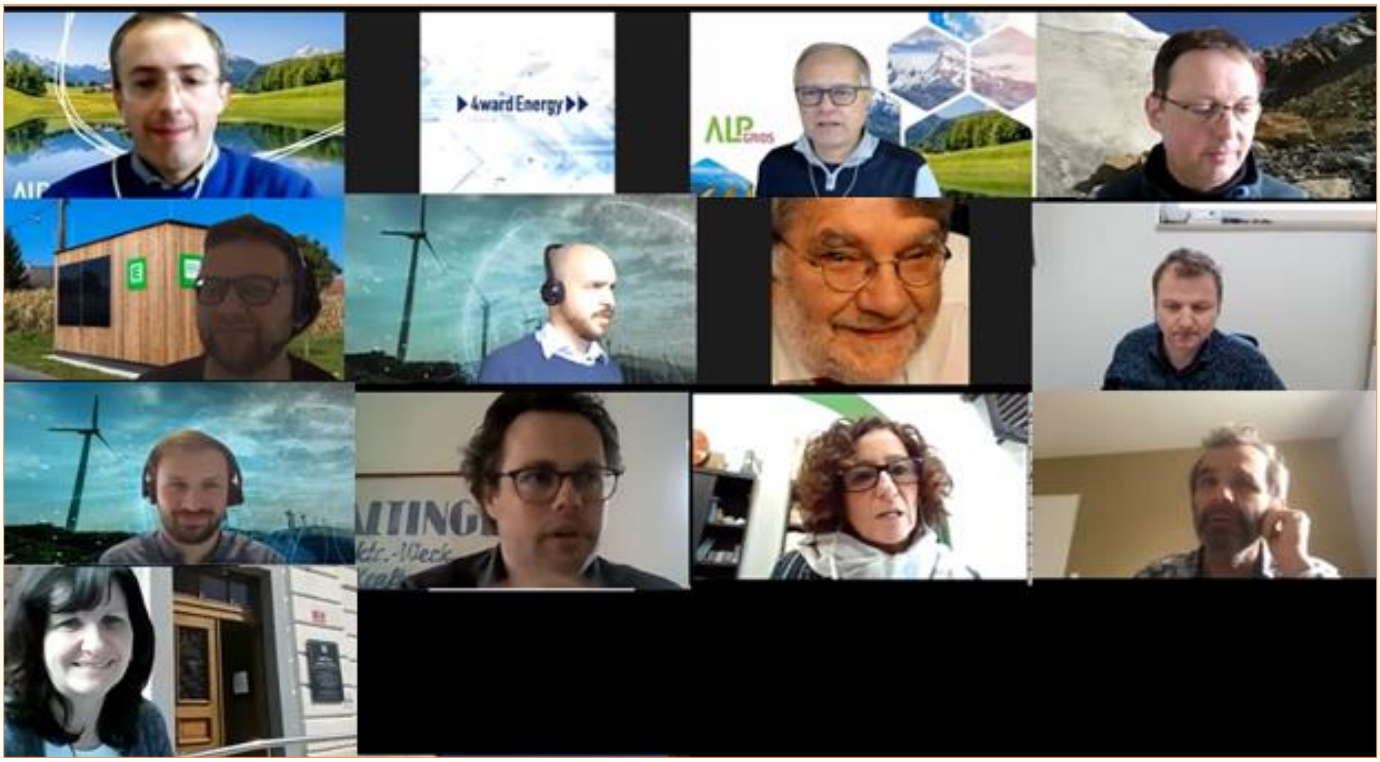
The Summer School is open to three-year or master's degree graduates (in engineering, architecture, economics, mathematics, physics, etc.) for no more than 3 years in the universities of the European Alpine space. The course is being held from the 6th to the 10th of June at the University Campus of Savona - University of Genoa. Students have the possibility to follow the lessons face-to-face or remotely.

ALPGRIDS Final conference

The Final Conference of the ALPGRIDS project on »Microgrid solutions: A Win for Energy Communities in the Alps! «, took place online on the 8th of April, 2022. The main objective of the conference was to present and discuss findings and results of the ALPGRIDS Alpine Space project to local, regional and national public authorities, sectoral agencies, European institutions, local and national stakeholders and representatives from the research field and companies, business support organisations and the general public. A special focus was developed on the overall project experience in terms of challenges and lessons learned by the 12 project partners as well as the experts, the consultants and the different stakeholders involved in the project. The ALPGRIDS final conference also provided the opportunity to present the results, the policy recommendations and the future outlooks of the project.

Relevant speakers updated the participants, about 72 people from different fields of private and public institutions, about the most innovative microgrid solutions, energy transitions in the Alps and Local Energy Communities. The conference was divided into three sessions. The first one was about the overview of the ALPGRIDS project, the second was a thematic session about developing enabling instruments and an environment for collective energy actions, and the last *closing* one was intended for the interactive session. *A* keynote speaker, a member of EUSALP AG9, also spoke at the conference, as the relationship with them is very important; this will assure the durability of the ALPGRIDS project results and transnational cooperation beyond the project.

It was fascinating to learn that many participants are already involved in Collective Energy Action Projects. The event also showed us that Collective Energy Action topics are an issue, and that participants are eager for new knowledge and information in this field, despite their strong understanding of microgrids. However, many obstacles must be overcome, including the legal framework for collecting energy actions in almost all of the project partners' countries, as well as administrative issues. **MORE**



Interactive session with event participants

ALPGRIDS News & Events

French guests visit microgrids in Bavaria

Microgrids are a bouquet of many possibilities, more a source of inspiration than a template for imitation. The technical possibilities and forms of implementation are diverse. What they all have in common is the involvement of citizens in one way or another, at least as customers who acquire more than just energy. This was the conclusion after three intensive days, during which two representatives of the Association des Centrales Villageoises (ACV) visited four examples of microgrids in Bavaria. **MORE**

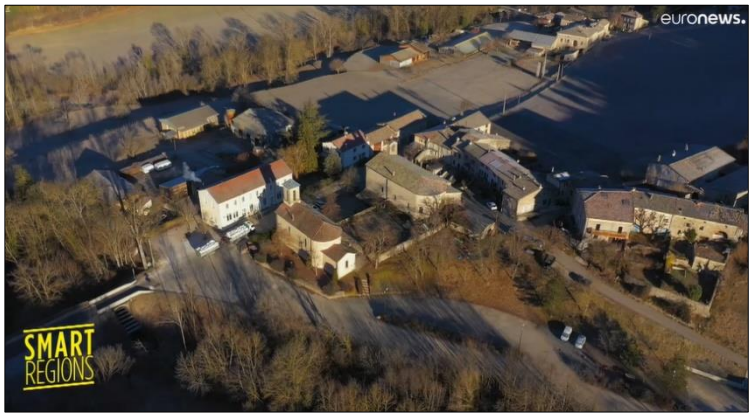
ALPGRIDS addresses Local Authorities: event in Udine on Energy Communities

On May 13th, over 120 representatives from Local Authorities in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region gathered in Udine to **attend the conference "Renewable Energy Communities: Benefits and Challenges"**, organized by the Municipality of Udine in collaboration with APE FVG (the Energy Local Agency) and ANCI (the National Association of Italian Municipalities). **MORE**

ALPGRIDS in the spotlight on EURONEWS

In the framework of the EURONEWS "Smart Regions" programme, the journalist Aurora Velez came to the CNR pilot site in Val de Quint, to discover the ALPGRIDS project and the benefits of microgrids.

The coverage was broadcast on EURONEWS in February and is now available on the internet, translated into 7 languages. You can watch it **HERE**



ALPGRIDS on the conference in Geneva from May 31st to June 2nd

"CNR (Compagnie Nationale du Rhône) and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Énergie Environnement (AURA-EE) attended the Assises Européennes de la Transition Energétique (European Energy Transition Conference) organised in Geneva from May 31st to June 2nd. The conference gathered up to 2.000 French and European actors to discuss energy sobriety. In this framework, AURA-EE and CNR presented the ALPGRIDS project to the actors of the territories through "speed-datings". The results of the French pilots' sites of Val de Quint and Drôme were presented and discussed with the participants. The idea was also for them to understand the most easily replicable configurations, the regulatory framework, the links to the distribution network, and the tools available for collective self-consumption and microgrids. We noticed a lot of interest in this future-oriented energy model."

Partners & Contacts

- Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment Agency (AURA EE)
- Regional Agency for Infrastructure, Building Renovation and Energy of Liguria (IRE spa)
- Energy and Innovation Centre of Weiz (W.E.I.Z.)
- Energy and Climate Agency of Podravje (ENERGAP)
- 4ward Energy Research Ltd. (4ER)
- Design and Management of Electrical Power Assets (DeMEPA)
- B.A.U.M. Consult GmbH München (BAUM)
- Rothmoser GmbH & Co. KG (ROTH)
- Compagnie Nationale du Rhône (CNR)
- Municipality of Udine (UDINE)
- Municipality of Selnica ob Dravi (SELNICA)
- University of Genoa (UNIGE)

LET'S STAY IN CONTACT!

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This Newsletter provides information about the Interreg Alpine Space project ALPGRIDS as well as other information about news, events and initiatives in thematic areas covered by or connected with the project and the Alpine Space Programme.

ALPGRIDS is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme