

20th May 2026

Renewable Energy Communities in Emilia-Romagna Region

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Pact for Work and Climate

MISSION and 4 strategic Goals

- Make an unprecedented investment in people
- Accelerate the ecological transition generating new businesses, new jobs and new skills,
- Put work and the value of business at the centre
- Orient the digital revolution towards a new humanism
- Promote social innovation as an essential tool for development and democracy
- Give central importance to welfare as a tool for social equity and combating inequality
- Ensure a new leading role for cities, universities and territories

Signatories

Emilia-Romagna Region	Confapi Emilia	Polytechnic University of Milan
AGCI General Association of Italian Cooperatives E-R	Confapindustria E-R	Province of Ferrara
ANCI National Association of Italian Municipalities E-R	Confartigianato E-R	Province of Forlì-Cesena
ANCE National Association of Builders E-R	Confcommercio E-R	Province of Modena
Emilia-Romagna association among Banking Origin Foundations	Confcooperative E-R	Province of Parma
Metropolitan City of Bologna	CGIL Italian general confederation of Labour E-R	Province of Piacenza
Coldiretti Emilia-Romagna	CIA Italian Confederation of Farmers E-R	Province of Ravenna
CUPER Unitary Committee of the Intellectual Professions of the Professional Orders and Orders E-R	CISL Italian Workers' Union Confederation E-R	Province of Reggio Emilia
Regional Commission ABI E-R	CNA National Confederation of artisans and small and medium enterprises E-R	Province of Rimini
Bologna city council	COPAGRI Confederation of Agricultural Producers E-R	Zero Waste Municipalities Network E-R
Cesena town council	Confesercenti E-R	Regional School Office E-R
Ferrara town council	Confimi Romagna	Unioncamere E-R
Forlì town council	Confindustria E-R	UPI Union of the Provinces of Italy E-R
Modena town council	Confprofessioni E-R	UGL General Union of Labour E-R
Parma town council	Confservizi E-R	UIL Italian Union of Labour E-R
Piacenza town council	National Research Council (CNR)	UNCEM National Union of Mountain Municipalities and Communities E-R
Ravenna town council	Italian Federation Environment and Bicycle (FIAB)	Catholic University of the Sacred Heart
Reggio Emilia town council	Third-Sector Forum E-R	University of Bologna
Rimini town council	Legacoop E-R	University of Ferrara
Confagricoltura E-R		University of Modena and Reggio
		University of Parma

Emilia-Romagna region of **KNOWLEDGE**

Emilia-Romagna region of **ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION**

Emilia-Romagna region of **RIGHTS and DUTIES**

Emilia-Romagna region of **WORK, BUSINESSES and OPPORTUNITIES**



4 transversal **drivers** :

- **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**
- **SIMPLIFICATION**
- **LEGALITY**
- **PARTICIPATION**

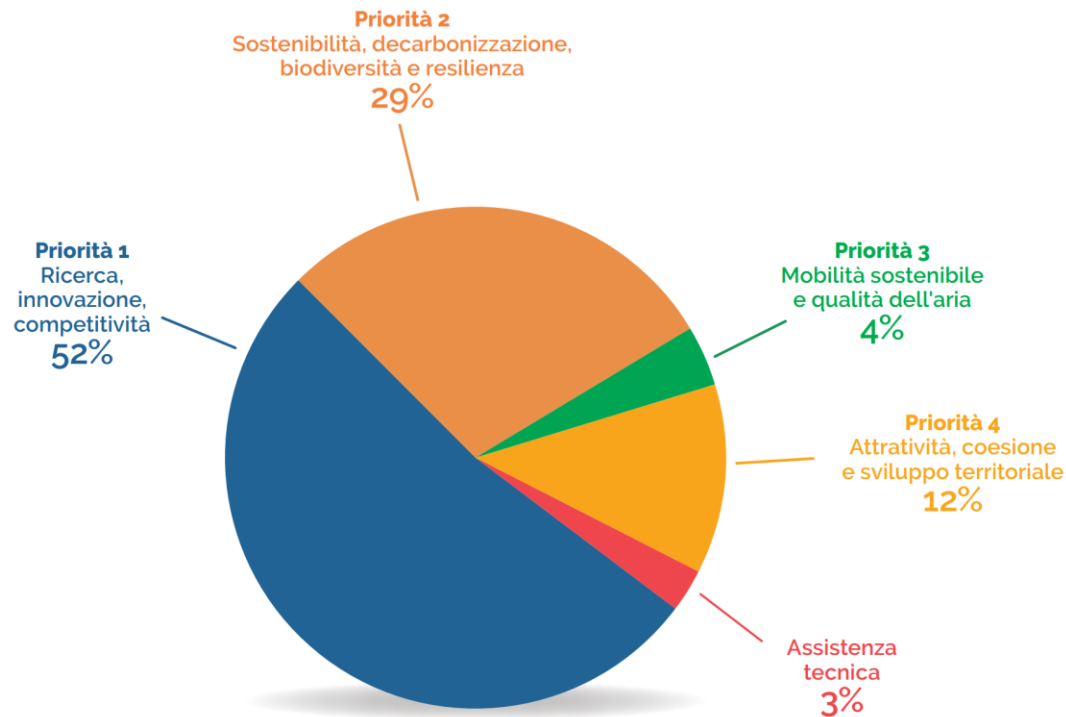


Now in discussion the updating agreement between the Region, institutions, and economic and social representatives. Priorities include European positioning of the regional system development models, quality and job security, public health, the climate crisis, territorial security, new forms of poverty, families in difficulty.

ERDF Regional Program 2021-2027

Main priorities

ERDF Regional Programme 2021-2027 (the programming document that defines strategy and operations for the use of funds allocated to the Region by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF))



Policy Objectives 1 Research, innovation, competitiveness
530,000,000

Policy Objectives 2 Sustainability, decarbonisation, biodiversity and resilience

Policy Objectives 3 Sustainable mobility and air quality

Policy Objectives 4 Attractiveness, cohesion and local development
120,000,000

Policy Objectives 5 Technical Assistance
31,200,000

Contribution of the program to the fight against climate change
30.9%

343,000,000

How does Emilia-Romagna Region promote RECs and Energy sharing?

Among the multiple measures provided by OP2 of the PR-ERDF 2021-2027, **2** are those that best enable the **share of renewable energy**:

1. Promotion and support for **creation and development of renewable energy communities**
2. Integrated actions to **support local public authorities** in the energy transition

The two measures are supposed to have an outcome in two main directions:

>> **Boosting the capacity building** of administrations and citizens to build up new RECs

>> **Strengthening social awareness and social links**, to drive the cultural change that is needed to make energy transition truly possible.

SPECIFIC OB. 2.1 Promote **energy efficiency** and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Energy requalification in public buildings including public lighting interventions

Energy requalification in companies

SPECIFIC OB. 2.2 Promote **renewable energy** in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria established therein

Support for the use of renewable energy in public buildings

Support for the use of renewable energy in companies

Support for the development of energy renewable communities (RECs)

Support local authorities and public administrations

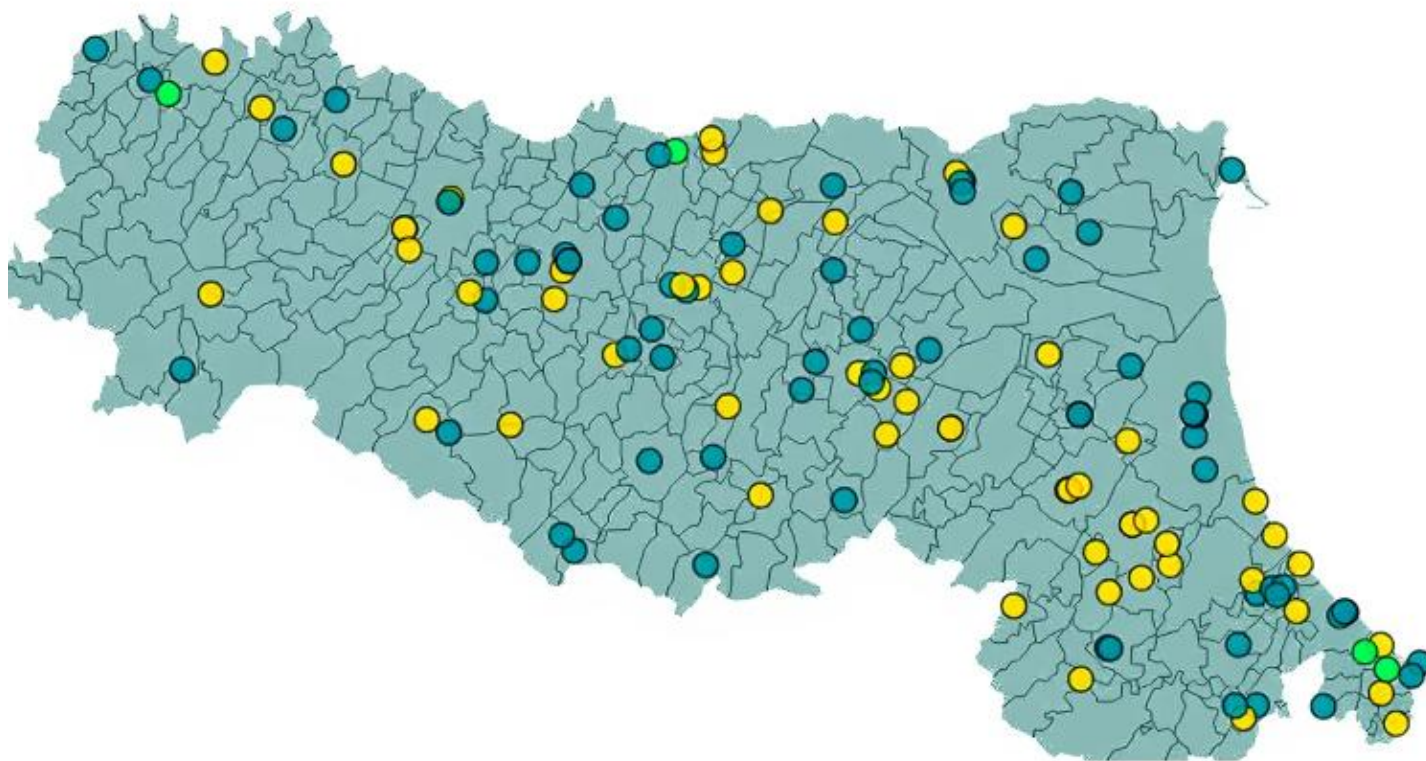


SPECIFIC OB. 2.4 Promote **climate change adaptation**, disaster risk prevention and resilience, considering ecosystem-based approaches

Seismic improvement and adaptation interventions in association with energy efficiency interventions in public buildings and companies

Interventions to fight hydrogeological instability according to an ecosystem-base approach and favoring Nature Based Solution (NBS) approaches and technologies

■ costituita ■ in progettazione ■ operativa



In Emilia-Romagna **more than 129 RECs**, growing and setting new renewable plants

By projecting the data currently available for the 60 CERs that have been established and are operational onto the remaining 69 that are in the planning stage, it has been estimated that if all 129 CERs became fully operational, these communities could produce energy from renewable sources corresponding to the annual electricity needs of over 52,700 typical households.

LINK (Italian Language)

<https://energia.regione.emilia-romagna.it/comunita-energetiche/materiali-e-pubblicazioni>



Over **60%** of Renewable Energy Communities (REC) projects include a **local authority** among their members.



Around **20%** of Renewable Energy Communities have been proposed by **businesses**.



8% of REC projects involve **religious organisations and third-sector organisations**.

For the RECs in Emilia-Romagna, **three typical models** have been identified: "Public-led", "Collaborative" and "Developer".

Public Driven: The promoter/founding member of the CER is a public body, predominantly a local authority, of medium size (5,000–50,000 inhabitants) which chooses the legal form of an association or foundation – **48,2%**

Collaborative: arises 'from the bottom up' in response to local challenges, develops in medium or large municipalities (> 50,000 inhabitants), in the form of an association or cooperative – **46,5%**

Developer: arises from the initiative of investors/plant developers who are involved in the development of the CER, with the aim of generating returns from large-scale plants > 1 MW Translated with DeepL.com (free version) – **5,3%**

RECs growth in Emilia-Romagna Region



Regional Law 5/2022 to promote and support the development of RECs in Emilia-Romagna Region



Establishment of a Permanent technical panel on Renewable Energy Communities with advisory and propositive functions



Publication of **a series of Notebooks on the Ecological Transition** – **link:** <https://energia.regione.emilia-romagna.it/comunita-energetiche/materiali-e-pubblicazioni>



Activation of a **Helpdesk** dedicated to assisting and informing all citizens and other stakeholders about RECs



Survey of the areas and surfaces of public buildings available for the implementation of Communities



Collaboration agreements with public and private actors in Emilia-Romagna Region (Administrations, Multiutilities, Agencies, Stakeholders etc.)



FIRST Call for support for the development of RECs which finances the **planning and establishment expenses of the RECs** (such as expenses for the technical and economic feasibility study, administrative and legal expenses and so on) - Spring 2022



FIRST Call for support for the development of RECs which finances the **investments to build the plants**

FIRST Call for support for the DEVELOPMENT of RECs

- **The budget for the call was €2 million from the European structural funds (PR-FESR 2021-2027)**
- The planned contribution was equal to **80 percent of eligible expenses**. This can be further increased by 10 percent up to a **maximum of €50,000** if the REC has a **strong social and local value**.
- A total of **141 applications** were received to the call and :
 - **84** of which from local governments/unions of municipalities, **36** from small medium enterprises, **7** from religious bodies, and **14** from individuals;
 - for a total capacity of more than **84** MW of photovoltaic to be installed;
 - for a total of more than **€5 million** in estimate resources.

A total of **125 application** were judged **eligible**.

The **recognized association** and the **cooperative** are the models most frequently chosen by the energy communities that participated in the first regional call.

71 RECs already established - 2,7 mln € awarded grants

SECOND Call for support for PLANTS and STORAGE

- **The budget for the call was €6 million from the European structural funds (PR-FESR 2021-2027)**
- The planned contribution was equal to **25 percent of eligible expenses**. This can be further increased by 5 percent up to a **maximum of €150,000** if the REC has a **strong social and local value**.
- The contribution is diversified depending on the power of the plants, in analogy to the national measure envisaged by the Recovery Plan
- The Region has also provided **greater support** for RECs who intend to create PV plants in a **parking area** or with the characteristics and requirements of **advanced agrivoltaics systems**.

27 RECs renewable plants installed - 1,2 mln € awarded grants

THIRD Call for support for PLANTS and STORAGE

- **The budget for the call is €2,5 million from the European structural funds (PR-FESR 2021-2027)**
- The planned contribution was equal to **35 percent of eligible expenses**. This can be further increased by 5 percent up to a **maximum of €150,000** if the REC has a **strong social and local value**.
- The contribution is diversified depending on the power of the plants, in analogy to the national measure envisaged by the Recovery Plan
- The Region has also provided **greater support** for RECs who intend to create PV plants in a **parking area** or with the characteristics and requirements of **advanced agrivoltaics systems**.

the call is ongoing

Integrated actions to support local public authorities on energy transition issues

2 Calls for applications activated by Emilia-Romagna Region in 2023 and 2024

Support public local authorities:

- in **information and assistance services and tools to the local community** based on network strategies and collaboration with local actors, on the issues of energy efficiency, production, self-consumption and sharing of renewable energy,
- in **strengthening the administrative capacity** of local authorities staff on the same topics

Goals:

- **involve citizens, companies and third sector bodies** of the Region in the transition path towards a more equitable and sustainable society and a circular economy that aims at efficient management of resources, a reduction in energy consumption and the production, self-consumption and sharing of renewable energy;
- Help local public authorities to **improve** their **internal skills**

Calls closed with a total of **67 applications**

A general tool for boosting and monitoring RECs: the RECs Regional Register

The Register shall contain at least the following information:

- the **identifying details** of RECs;
- the **location and capacity of the energy** installations built or owned by RECs
- an annual breakdown of the proportion of renewable energy produced, self-consumed and shared among the community's members; and data relating to the reduction in energy consumption

As the number and types of RECs grow, the Register could also serve as a "**virtual marketplace**" where RECs and potential new members can meet before joining, and where RECs could to compare their social, economic and environmental impacts.

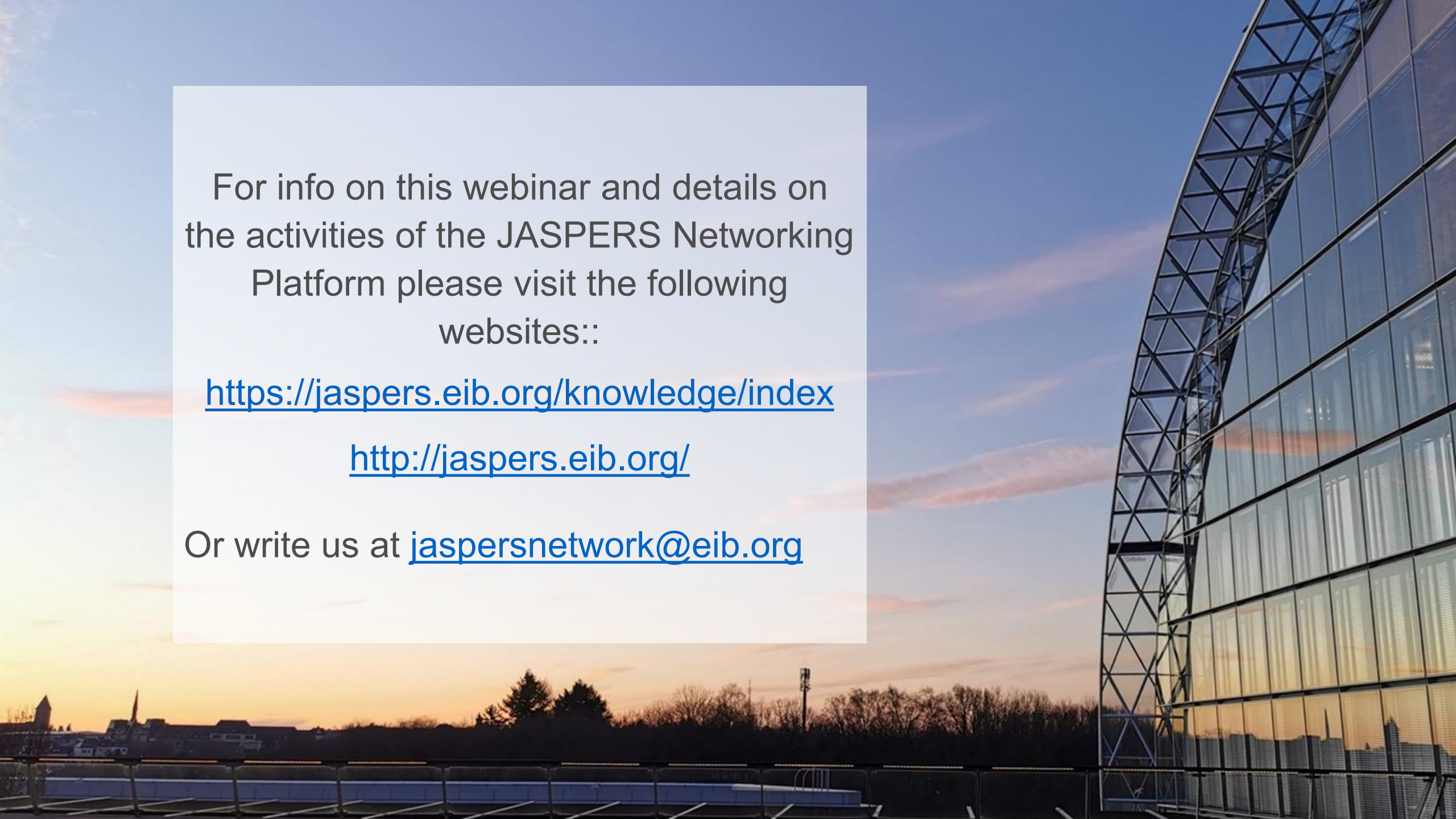
Through the development of selected KPIs, the **Register** could also become a **MONITORING TOOL** of their evolution over time and ASSESS:

- their effective contribution to combating energy poverty
- their impact on the uptake of renewables
- their effect on containing energy costs
- their support for projects of social and local significance.

Thank you

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A photograph of a modern glass skyscraper at sunset. The building's curved facade and steel framework are visible on the right side. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with a city skyline reflected in the glass. In the foreground, there is a parking lot with a metal railing.

For info on this webinar and details on the activities of the JASPERS Networking Platform please visit the following websites::

<https://jaspers.eib.org/knowledge/index>

<http://jaspers.eib.org/>

Or write us at jaspersnetwork@eib.org