CALL OF INTEREST

Collaborate with RENOVERTY to Alleviate Energy Poverty Across sectors and Borders!

The RENOVERTY Project is launching a comprehensive call of interest to drive transformative change in rural communities facing energy poverty. This call invites municipalities, energy agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, industry experts, and other stakeholders to join forces in combating rural energy poverty by applying knowledge received through training and mentorship, while taking advantage of collaborative opportunities and verified solutions for rural renovation. The focus of the call will be to foster a sustainable energy future for rural citizens through the application of renovation and energy-efficient retrofitting solutions. **JOIN THE RENOVERTY INITIATIVE: COMBATING RURAL ENERGY POVERTY TOGETHER!**

Objectives of the RENOVERTY Replication Call

The RENOVERTY replication call is designed to **foster collaborative partnerships while replicating successful project solutions** to address energy poverty in rural and marginalized communities, while simultaneously increasing social inclusion and achieving local decarbonisation goals.

RENOVERTY will help to establish and strengthen collaborations of replication beneficiaries with municipalities, Local Action Groups (LAGs), energy agencies, financial institutions, and agricultural associations across the European Union. These partnerships will focus on pooling resources, sharing knowledge, and leveraging expertise to tackle energy poverty.

Project solutions to be replicated include a range of RENOVERTY's practical and tested resources to combat energy poverty in rural areas, which can be adapted to local needs. Key elements to be replicated can include one or more of the following:

- **REERs (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Resources):** These are at the core of RENOVERTY's solutions, promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in communities. They encompass:
    - **Energy-saving and emission reduction measures** designed for rural adaptability, meeting current efficiency standards.

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- **Renewable energy technologies** for installing and managing sustainable energy sources in residential and public spaces.

- **Stakeholder Training**: RENOVERTY provides specialized training to enhance stakeholders' skills in the energy sector, including:
  - **Renewable technology and retrofit methodologies** for effective and sustainable energy-saving solutions.
  - **Project management and financing guidance** to support planning and funding initiatives in energy poverty.
  - **Co-creation techniques** to actively involve stakeholders, ensuring solutions are locally rooted and participative.
- **Co-creation Process**: RENOVERTY's collaborative approach engages partners and local communities in:
  - **Participatory design sessions** with local governments, associations, and stakeholders to address specific needs and foster shared solutions.
  - **Co-creation facilitation tools** for effectively managing feedback, ensuring solutions are sustainable and relevant.
- **Ongoing and Customized Support**: RENOVERTY offers:
  - **Mentorship and consultations** with expert support for technical, strategic, and administrative needs.
  - **Impact monitoring and evaluation** to track progress and make necessary adjustments, securing energy poverty reduction targets.

What RENOVERTY can do for you:

1. **Facilitate Collaborative Actions**: RENOVERTY will foster connections between participants, encouraging collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders. While there is no obligation to replicate RENOVERTY's results, these connections can lay the groundwork for successful future initiatives aimed at addressing energy poverty and promoting sustainable energy solutions.

2. **Resource Sharing and Knowledge Exchange**: Share existing resources, such as data, research findings, and technical tools, with participants. Organize explanatory sessions, workshops, seminars, and conferences to help stakeholders understand and effectively utilize these materials for their specific needs, while also promoting the use of best practices following knowledge exchanges

3. **Replicate Successful Models**: RENOVERTY will encourage entities to replicate its successful project outcomes in their own contexts. By providing access to tested methods, tools, and case studies, RENOVERTY will support participants in adapting and implementing effective solutions tailored to their local needs. This will include offering tailored guidance, training, and ongoing support to ensure successful

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replication of solutions to alleviate rural energy poverty, while minding participants resources and capacities to do so.

4. **Provide Proven Methods**: Share detailed methodologies tested within RENOVERTY pilots (in Italy, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Slovenia, Spain, Portugal) to inspire the replication of practical and successful initiatives for the alleviation of technical, administrative, financial and regulatory barriers to rural energy poverty based on cases with similar policy settings as those of the participants.
5. **Offer Implementation Training Sessions**: Conduct training sessions and workshops to educate participants on how to implement these methods.
6. **Continuous Support**: Provide ongoing technical support and consultation to assist with local adaptation and implementation.
7. **Customisation Assistance**: Help participants customise the solutions to fit their specific local contexts and challenges.
8. **Drive Meaningful Impact**: RENOVERTY aims to support initiatives that can create substantial and lasting improvements in reducing rural energy poverty. By evaluating proposals based on their potential impact, RENOVERTY will provide the necessary networks, mentorship, training, and technical support to ensure these initiatives are successful. The focus is on implementing solutions that significantly improve the lives of rural communities affected by energy poverty.
9. **Impact Monitoring**: Aid participants in the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the impact of supported initiatives to ensure participants achieve their intended outcomes, and support with course correction, when needed.

Key Benefits of Participating

Contribute to a Transformative Cause: Be an integral part of a project dedicated to creating sustainable solutions for energy poverty, driving change in your Member State.

Clearly Defined Commitment: Understand the time and resources required to increase the energy performance of rural communities, ensuring clear expectations and manageable involvement of relevant stakeholders.

Holistic Approach: Engage with a project that considers all dimensions of energy poverty, providing comprehensive solutions.

Impact Evaluation: Proposals will be assessed based on their potential to achieve meaningful and lasting change, ensuring that selected projects are those most likely to make a significant impact in combating energy poverty.

Comprehensive Solutions: The RENOVERTY project adopts a multidimensional approach to reducing energy poverty, considering economic, social, and environmental

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factors. Participants will benefit from this broad perspective to develop well-rounded solutions.

Access to Tested Strategies: Leverage insights from previously implemented solutions within the RENOVERTY project. Participants can utilize these proven strategies to enhance their own projects and avoid common pitfalls.

Opportunities for Additional Support: While direct funding is not provided, successful proposals may lead to opportunities for collaboration and external financial or technical support. Increased visibility through the RENOVERTY network can attract additional resources and partnerships.

Mentorship: RENOVERTY offers a personalized mentorship program to guide participants through the adoption of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Resources (REER). This includes one-on-one mentorship sessions, tailored advice, and continuous support to help participants effectively implement their proposals. Mentors will provide expertise in project management, technical aspects, community engagement, and navigating regulatory landscapes.

Training and Webinars: Participants will access specialized training sessions and exclusive webinars focused on co-creation methodologies, project management, and technical aspects of renewable energy renovation and energy efficiency. These sessions will be tailored to address participants' specific needs and contexts.

Networking: RENOVERTY will organize regular networking events, including virtual and face-to-face meetings, to connect participants with a broad network of stakeholders. These events will facilitate the exchange of best practices, foster collaborative relationships, and create opportunities for partnership. Participants will interact with other organizations, experts, and policymakers, enhancing their projects through shared experiences and collective knowledge.

Recognition and Visibility

- **Special Recognition Awards**: Outstanding proposals will receive the "RENOVERTY Excellence Recognition" certificate, acknowledging their significant contributions. The winners will be announced after the completion of the capacity-building phase offered by RENOVERTY. A specific date for the announcement will be communicated to participants, ensuring they have ample time to prepare for the recognition event. Winners will benefit from promotion through various channels, including features within RENOVERTY's social media, the Energy Poverty Bulletin, the IEECP newsletter, and a dedicated policy brief. They will also receive visibility

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at EU and national events, including the RENOVERTY final conference, providing further opportunities for recognition.

- **Enhanced Visibility for Participants' Projects:** Participants' projects will be prominently featured on our partner's official website (insert the link) and social media channels, offering enhanced visibility and recognition. We will also ensure that information about the selected participants and their initiatives remains accessible online for at least 1 year after the project's conclusion, providing ongoing opportunities for exposure and collaboration.

Who Can Participate:

The RENOVERTY call is open to stakeholders from all European countries, in particular:

- **Municipalities**: Local governments that manage public services and resources at the community level.
- **Local Action Groups (LAGs)**: Organisations that bring together public, private, and civil society actors to promote rural development.
- **Energy Agencies**: Entities that specialise in the planning and implementation of energy policies and projects.
- **Agricultural Associations**: Organisations representing the interests of farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

We particularly encourage applications from entities located in rural and peri-urban areas, including public authorities, energy agencies, private organizations and financial institutions with a commitment to rural development. We also welcome applications from those experienced in combating energy poverty and those capable of contributing resources or support to vulnerable communities.

What Participants can Receive:

- **Visibility and Recognition**: Gain acknowledgment for your contributions in combating energy poverty.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded organizations, experts, and stakeholders in the energy sector.
- **Potential Collaboration and Funding:** Successful proposals may lead to collaboration, funding opportunities, and active involvement in a transformative project with a lasting impact.

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- **Technical and Financial Support**: Potential for generating additional support from external sources.
- **Training on Co-Creation**: Access to specialized training on co-creation methodologies to enhance collaborative efforts.
- **Webinars**: Early participants will benefit from exclusive webinars tailored to their needs.
- **Special Recognition Awards**: Participants with the most impactful proposals will receive a "**RENOVERTY Excellence Recognition**" certificate, highlighting their contributions to combating energy poverty and offering further visibility through our official channels.

Award Criteria

1. **Impact Potential**
   - **Quantifiable Outcomes**: Proposals should clearly outline expected outcomes of their intended actions, including the number of rural residents or communities that will benefit, reductions in energy costs, or number of households/ people to benefit from improvements in energy efficiency through renovation. Priority will be given to proposals that directly involve rural municipalities or communities, ensuring that the benefits are targeted toward rural areas. Additionally, applicants must plan to incorporate at least one energy-efficient renovation measure (REER) from RENOVERTY within their local context. Proposals that successfully implement multiple REERs will be eligible for special recognition or a reward, demonstrating that RENOVERTY has laid the foundation for cascading efforts toward sustainable energy renovation in rural settings
   - **Long-term Benefits:** The proposal should demonstrate how the project's benefits will continue beyond its initial implementation, contributing to sustained reductions in energy poverty.
2. **Innovative Approach**
   - **Innovative Approaches to Renovation**: Priority will be given to proposals that present new or unique solutions for energy-efficient renovation, particularly those that can be adapted or scaled to different contexts. Emphasis will be on innovative methods that enhance the effectiveness of energy retrofits and contribute to reducing energy poverty.
   - **Use of Technology:** Proposals that incorporate innovative technologies or methodologies are highly encouraged, especially those that not only enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of energy poverty interventions but also improve the quality of life, well-being, and public participation in affected communities.
3. **Collaborative Effort**
   - **Partnerships:** Projects that involve multiple stakeholders, including local governments, private sector partners, NGOs, and community groups such as

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LAGs, will be viewed favorably. This demonstrates a broad base of support and the potential for wide-reaching impact.

- **Community Involvement:** There must be a commitment to the active involvement of target communities and stakeholders in the planning phase, ensuring that the projects are tailored to meet their specific needs and circumstances. For existing projects applying to the call, this commitment can be demonstrated through letters of intent from stakeholders and by providing evidence of community engagement, such as surveys, meetings, or participation records that reflect the community's input and involvement in the project's development. For new projects, commitment should be articulated through proposed strategies for engaging with the community.
- **Implementation Plan:** A detailed and realistic implementation plan, including timelines, required resources, and key milestones.
- **Sustainability Strategy:** A clear strategy for maintaining the project's benefits over time, including plans for ongoing funding, maintenance, and potential expansion.
- **Risk Management:** Identification of potential risks and challenges, along with mitigation strategies to address them.

4. **Community Engagement**
   - **Local Impact:** Demonstrated commitment to creating a positive impact at the local level, particularly vulnerable rural or geographically dispersed areas.
   - **Empowerment:** Proposals that focus on empowering local communities, such as through capacity-building initiatives, training, or the creation of local jobs, will be given special consideration.
   - **Inclusivity:** Proposals should demonstrate efforts to include marginalised or vulnerable groups in the project, ensuring that the benefits are equitably distributed.

Additional Considerations

1. **Manage Expectations**
   - **Awareness Generation:** The RENOVERTY call provides a platform to increase the visibility of participating projects and organizations. While direct funding is not available, gaining exposure through this call can attract external financial or technical support from other sources. It is important for applicants to understand that the primary benefit lies in enhanced recognition, access to training, guidance on implementation of tested solutions, and networking opportunities.
2. **Collaborative Opportunities**
   - **Partnerships:** Applicants are encouraged to explore and develop partnerships with Local Action Groups (LAGs) and other relevant stakeholders. Building such

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collaborations can enhance the effectiveness and reach of the projects, leading to more successful and sustainable outcomes.

3. **Capacity Building**
   - **Skills Development:** Strengthening the skills and knowledge of local communities and organizations in energy efficiency is a key focus. Providing training, workshops, and technical support will help build local expertise, enabling more effective project implementation and management.

Addressing Potential Challenges

1. **Inclusive Criteria**
   - **Diverse Participation:** To ensure a broad range of participants, the call aims to be inclusive and avoid restrictive criteria that might exclude potential contributors. Encouraging a diverse pool of applicants from various sectors and regions will help achieve a wide-reaching impact.
2. **Support Network**
   - **Mentorship and Guidance:** Offering mentorship and one-on-one support is essential for guiding participants through the application and project processes. This support will help address challenges and ensure that participants have the resources and advice needed to succeed.
3. **Resource Allocation**
   - **Clear Communication:** Providing clear, concise information about the application process and project requirements is crucial. Ensuring that participants are well-informed and not overwhelmed by the process will facilitate a smoother application experience and successful project outcomes.

How to Apply

Interested parties can submit their proposals through the main application form linked on the RENOVERTY IEECP webpage. The application process is open to all European Countries and includes several key sections to ensure comprehensive coverage of all proposal aspects. Additionally, links to local partners' websites will be provided, and application instructions will be available in both English and the seven pilot languages, facilitating access for all potential applicants. Applicants can choose from two options:

1. **Present an Existing Renovation Project:** If you already have an active renovation project, provide details about your project, including its objectives, expected outcomes, and how RENOVERTY's support can enhance it.

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2. **Seek Support to Develop a Renovation Project:** If you are looking to develop a new renovation project, describe how RENOVERTY's information, training, REER solutions and support will help you establish and implement a successful renovation pathway.

Each RENOVERTY partner will determine the approach to work with the selected beneficiaries, choosing either face-to-face or online modes, as per the specific requirements and context.

Key Information:

I. **Handling of Responses:** All responses will be managed by the RENOVERTY Consortium.
II. **Participant Contacts:** The consortium will evaluate the participant's proposal and explore potential involvement in the project.
III. **Application Language:** Applications can be submitted in English or any of the piloting languages (Italian, Spanish, Catalan, Slovenian, Croatian, Hungarian, Estonian, Portuguese).

Application Form Outline

1. **Applicant Information**
    - Organization
    - Name
    - Contact Person
    - Address
    - Email
    - Phone Number
    - Type of Main Authoring Organization (Municipality, Local Action Group, Energy Agency, Agricultural Association, etc.)
2. **Project Proposal**
    - **Project Title**
    - **Executive Summary:** A brief overview of the project, including its main goals and expected outcomes (maximum 300 words).
    - **Objectives:** Clearly defined objectives that the project aims to achieve.
    - **Target Area and Population:** Description of the geographic area and demographic group targeted by the project, including any specific focus on rural or vulnerable communities.
3. **Project Details**
    - **Problem Statement:** Explanation of the specific issue of energy poverty the project addresses.

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- **Proposed Solution:** Detailed description of the activities, methodologies, and technologies to be used in the project.
- **Innovative Aspects:** Highlight any novel approaches or innovations involved in the project.

4. **Implementation Plan**
   - **Timeline:** Outline of the project phases, milestones, and estimated completion dates.
   - **Resources and Budget:** Overview of the resources required, including personnel and equipment. RENOVERTY will assist participants in managing their own resources and identifying additional public or private resources that can be leveraged. However, RENOVERTY will not provide direct funding.
   - **Partnerships:** List of key partners involved in the project and their roles.
5. **Sustainability and Impact**
   - **Expected Outcomes:** Description of the expected impacts on the target community, including metrics for measuring success.
   - **Sustainability Plan:** Strategies for maintaining project outcomes beyond the initial implementation phase.
   - **Risk Assessment:** Identification of potential risks and challenges, along with proposed mitigation strategies.
6. **Community Engagement**
   - **Stakeholder Involvement:** Description of how stakeholders, especially citisens of the local community, will be engaged throughout the project.
   - **Inclusivity Measures:** Steps taken to ensure the project benefits are inclusive, particularly for marginalized groups.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Relevance and Impact (30%)**
   - The proposal's relevance to the issue of energy poverty and its potential impact on the targeted community.
   - Clarity in defining the problem and the expected benefits.
2. **Innovation (20%)**
   - The degree of innovation in the proposed solutions, including new technologies, methodologies, or approaches.
3. **Feasibility and Sustainability (25%)**
   - Workability of the implementation plan, including timelines, budget, and resource allocation.
   - Sustainability measures ensuring long-term benefits and maintenance.
4. **Collaboration and Community Engagement (15%)**

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- Level of involvement from local stakeholders and the community.
- Partnerships with other organizations or entities.

5. **Inclusivity and Equity (10%)**
   - Efforts to ensure that benefits are equitably distributed, with a focus on vulnerable or marginalized groups.

Visibility and Accessibility:

In addition to outlining the main objectives and benefits of the RENOVERTY call, it is crucial to address several important factors that can influence the success of the application process and project implementation. These factors include managing expectations, fostering collaboration, building local capacities, and ensuring inclusivity and support. The following sections provide guidance on how to approach these aspects effectively.

Application Phase:

- **Opening Date:** 28 February 2025
- **Closing Date:** 31 May 2025

Follow-Up and Application Results:

Exclusive Content: RENOVERTY will provide application results, relevant comments and feedback to participants in English and the seven piloting languages.

For questions about this call, please email renoverty@aisfor.it

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