

# Project proposal form

## The Project Proposal

### Project Title

Assessment of the Potential for Renewable Energy Production in the Agricultural Sector of Three Selected Communities in South Tyrol, Considering Technical Potential, viable Business Models and Social and Political Dimension.

### Objective and methodology

- Introduction to set the context and reason for the development of the project

This thesis focuses on assessing the potential for the agricultural sector to produce renewable energy in three selected communities of South Tyrol, north Italy. It studies the technical potential, viable business models and the social and political dimension of future renewable energy installations in areas of these communities that are currently used for agriculture. The communities are three representative municipalities for different sizes, population densities and agricultural types. All communities are located within the same administrative region of the autonomous province of Bolzano (South Tyrol) and have typical agricultural activities for their altitudes. The first selected municipality is Bolzano (52 km<sup>2</sup>, 107,900 inhabitants, 262 m.a.s.l.), capital city of the region with typical peri-urban agriculture. The second chosen municipality is a low-lying village, Salorno (33 km<sup>2</sup>, 3,820 inhabitants, 224 m.a.s.l.) and the third is the most vast and high-lying municipality of the province with 302 km<sup>2</sup>, Sarentino (7,110 inhabitants, 967 m.a.s.l.).

- Objectives: 4-6 measurable activities to meet the aims

The main objective is to create one roadmap for each selected municipality with the aim to show how the renewable energy production in the agricultural areas can be increased. To reach this aim, the general possibilities and the technical potential for renewable energy installations will be studied in the first place. Subsequently, the technical potential to use these technologies in the three selected municipalities will be evaluated. Afterwards, viable business models, in the political context of the autonomous region, will be studied for the most attractive technologies. Furthermore, the social acceptance and the willingness to invest is studied for the selected technologies. Finally, the roadmaps will be created taking into account the technical, economical, social and political aspects. Conclusively, a comparison between the municipalities will highlight the differences and peculiarities.

- Proposed scientific methodology: how you are going to solve the problem and meet the objectives

The following conceptual framework with four phases will be applied with a mixed-methods approach. In phase 1, the general possibilities and potential for renewable energy technologies will be evaluated by studying existing literature within the EU. For the viable technologies that will be identified, an indicative technical potential in the agricultural areas of the selected municipalities will be estimated with adequate software or existing projects in the region. A review of the first phase will estimate the time effort for the next phases and these may be limited to two municipalities. In phase 2, the possible business models to invest in the selected technologies will be studied by analysing the political regulations and through adequate software or existing projects. In phase 3, the social dimension (social acceptance and willingness to invest or support) will be studied through participatory methods organized with the support of the Wissenschaftsladen Bonn (entity offering project), together with the farmers and stakeholders of the municipalities. In this context, the evaluation is fortified by collecting opinions of stakeholders and local politicians through semi-structured interviews. Moreover, the intentions of the local stakeholders are compared to national or EU policies and, if suitable, EU policymakers will be interviewed as well. Finally, in phase 4, the roadmaps are created by evaluating all the outcomes.

- Main expected outcomes of the project

The main expected outcomes are the three roadmaps for each municipality. Each roadmap will include the results of the technical, economical, social and political studies with guidelines for an increase in renewable energy production on agricultural lands. The collected opinions of politicians will be included in the roadmaps. Moreover, the increase of social acceptance, through the organised events for the participatory methods of the social evaluation and the interviews, is expected. Conclusively, planning advice is expected to be given to local stakeholders of the selected municipalities, in form of presentations. Ultimately, this process is expected to generate movements within the communities to increase the production of renewable energies and become exemplary models.

- References

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### **Other relevant information: (dates/pay...)**

Start: 15 August 2020. End: 14 December 2020. No payment.

Please return this form **by the end of June** to  
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