



## A holistic and Scalable Solution for Research, Innovation and Education in Energy Transition

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## Editorial

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This is the second issue of the Newsletter of the H2020 ASSET project, which will be released every three months. If you want to receive the next newsletters, please subscribe to our mailing list on the ASSET website. In this issue, we will continue introducing the project goals, main objectives and approach, also provide an update of the project activities, internal events, workshops, and conferences so far.



### What is ASSET...?

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ASSET is a 24-month research and innovation project financed by the European Commission under the H2020 Research and Innovation Programme in the topic of research, innovation and educational capacities for energy transition. ASSET is a learning ecosystem which offers adequate training to the different stakeholders. Our consortium team consists of 11 partners, established in 6 different countries.

**ASSET is building a learning ecosystem** that offers educational services in Energy Transition that are:

- **Free** to access
- **Open** to anyone, students and general public because all material will be available on <https://platform.europeanmoocs.eu/login>
- Global supporting all learning opportunities in energy transition
- **Easy to use**, with an interface simple and intuitive
- Flexible and on-demand adapted to each target group considering a multi-disciplinary perspective

All Newsletters are available in the project website:

<https://www.energytransition.academy>

for further information please look at our website and social network profiles on

-  @Project\_Asset
-  ASSET EnergyTransition
-  ASSET EnergyTransition

### The ASSET goals are split in the following specific objectives:

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- **Attract and engage different actors** such as (Universities, research centres and training actors; students and new employees; companies from the energy sector; policy makers, authorities, public administrations and market regulators; societal actors and energy citizens) to the ASSET community
- **Define a conceptual framework** to facilitate and significantly accelerate the creation of new learning modules and update the currently available programmes
- Foster **interdisciplinary in research, innovation and education services**
- Strengthen **collaborations between academia and industry**
- **Support trainers** to cultivate new talents in the new generation of engineers
- **Develop innovative programmes** to educate students, trainers, employees, and citizens



## Welcome to the ASSET Energy Transition Community

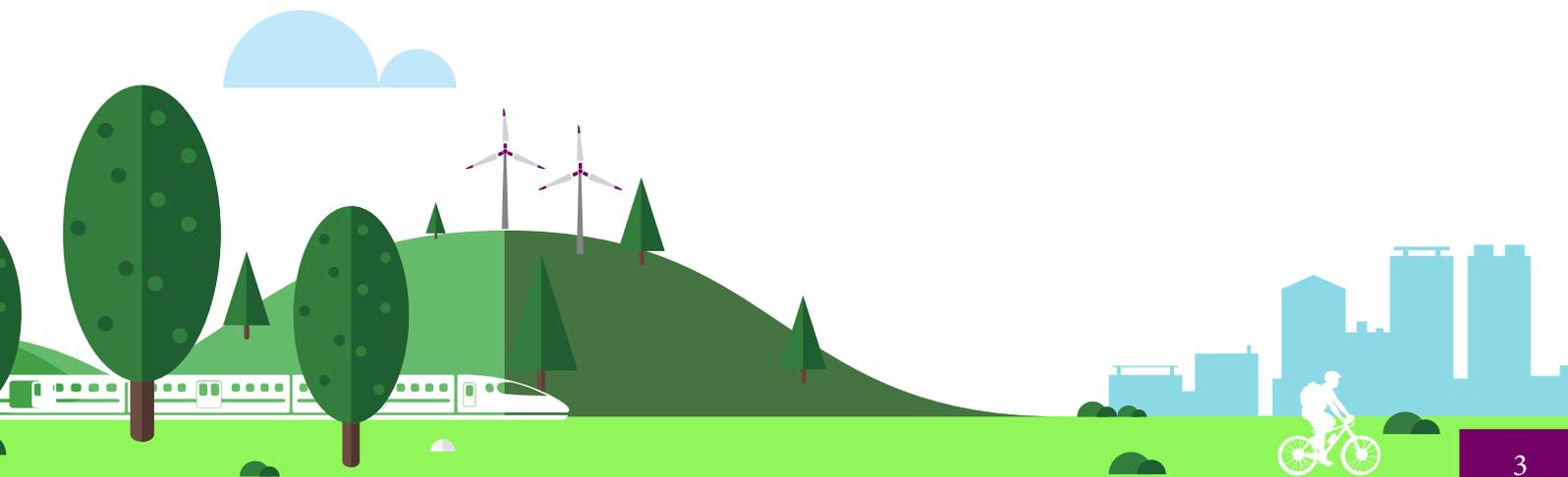
ASSET is filling the different needs of students, universities, social actors, policy makers to offer them training offering in energy transition topics.

As a joint effort from energy transition drivers, we invite you to **JOIN THE ASSET FORUM!!**

ASSET forum is designed to bring together the key stakeholders from academia, industry, policymaking institutes and society working for energy transition and climate change. The intention is to facilitate and expedite the pathway towards a green energy future by creating new knowledge, competencies, and skills required for energy sustainability. Also, dissemination of the existing practices along with the lessons learned so far by the various stakeholders striving for the energy transition is the key motivation for the development of this Forum. Energy companies, policymaking institutes, University faculty, students and common citizens can raise their queries regarding key energy knowledge, competencies, and skills. The active members of the forum will answer those queries based upon their expertise and exposure pertinent to the relevant energy issue. Overall, it will serve as a discussion platform for all the key players from diverse backgrounds giving them a chance to express their views about key issues related to the energy transition.

Click here to register for the community and the Forum:

<https://community.energytransition.academy/asset-services>



## General Assembly Meeting in Naples (Italy)



On October 7th and 8th of 2019, took place the **first General Assembly meeting** of the project in the premises of our partners from the University of Federico II (UNINA) at Naples, Italy.

The objective of this meeting was reviewing the status, share and discuss the progress on the project and present the work plan for the next months in the different Work Packages:

1. ASSET ecosystem and networking
2. Energy transition skills identification and societal challenges
3. Energy transition programs preparation
4. Programs delivery and piloting
5. Dissemination, communication and sustainability
6. Project management and quality assurance

Finally, our team decided about the time and place of the next consortium meeting, which will take place in Athens, Greece, hosted by OTE Academy on the 13th and 14th of January 2020.

## Expected results from the next report: "Skill shortage, training and educational needs"

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This report represents an important achievement for ASSET considering that identifying skill shortages and training/educational needs, required from the labour market in the multiple areas cross-related with the energy transition to a low-carbon economy, is a key- objective for the project itself.

The document reports the main findings of the activity carried out, namely:

- There is a pressing need for universities to introduce a holistic approach in many of the courses for university students who, at the end of their curriculum of study, will likely undertake a kind of job related to the energy transition. These multi-disciplinary approaches shall allow the delivery of inter-disciplinary KSCs, namely embedding technical-scientific disciplines and areas as well as soft skills and abilities to cope with societal challenges;
- The outstanding importance to establish platforms/frameworks/ecosystems where stakeholders from universities (professors and students from different disciplines), large and small-medium sized industrial and business companies, research institutes, public agencies (e.g. at the local level) and end-users of the technology, collaborate to create a strategy. The aim is to develop case-based modules (problem-based learning and more), innovative courses and train-the-trainer strategies related to sustainable energy (EE and RES), in a real-life context.

As a way forward to achieve the fundamental goal of identifying and updating, along the time, research and teaching skills, a methodology has been proposed, which main points for action are:

1. Interviews to a specific focus group including representatives selected from universities (either technical and SSH Departments), research institutes, training organizations, industrial companies, authorities, and the citizen;
2. Elaboration and delivery of an ad hoc questionnaire addressed to a wider audience;
3. To foster a strong commitment from university leaders. This should allow more student-led ideas and innovative initiatives, new models of learning, including the greater inclusion of digital technologies, a life-long commitment to the continued development of new energy-related professional skills by employers and employees.

The outcomes of the document will represent a well-grounded starting point for the ASSET consortium to further deepening and updating, over the time, skill shortages as well as educational and training needs that interested universities might evaluate and/or consider for introduction among their teaching courses.



## ASSET Project on the International Workshop in Aachen (Germany)



Prof Muscas Chair of IEEE AMPS 2019 presents at the opening session.

On September 24 to 29, 2019 RWTH hosted the tenth edition of the IEEE International Workshop on Applied Measurements for Power Systems. The workshop was well attended, and the participants were from academia and industry. The Workshop hosted an “ASSET desk”, where the workshop attendees could find printed information on the ASSET project and surveys to be filled out and returned them with input on skills and competences that are on demand for the Energy Transition.

Ferdi Ponci (RWTH) gave a short presentation of the goals of ASSET to the group of attendees, inviting them to the ASSET desk and to one-to-one discussion. In particular, she reached out for Prof. Carlo Muscas (University of Cagliari, Italy) who is the Chair of the TC39 “Measurements in Power Systems” of the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society and Prof. Sara Sulis (University of Cagliari, Italy), who is the Education Coordinator of GMEE, (Associazione Italiana Gruppo Misure Elettriche ed Elettroniche, Italian association of the academic group in Electric and Electronic measurements).

produced useful hints on learning needs and methods and resulted in interesting potential collaborations.

Ferdi Ponci also had a fruitful discussion with Prof. Mihaela Albu (Polytechnic University of Bucharest, Romania), with Dr. Roberto Ferrero (University of Liverpool, UK), who is involved in the WP on Skill Identification of the UK project EnergyREV, and Prof. Dario Petri (University of Trento, Italy), who is the Director of the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Trento. The discussions were focused on the energy transition needs in the area of instrumentation and measurements for power systems, which span from competences in measurements in non-sinusoidal and dc conditions, to measurements of converter-based power systems, to communication and synchronization. These contacts raised interest in the approach of ASSET in prominent representatives of the Instrumentation and Measurement Community.

## ASSET Project represented on the National Conference of Environmental Sociologists in Naples (Italy)



The XII National Conference of Environmental Sociologists in Italy, titled “Politics, Ecology and Society in the Anthropocene”, has been held on 26 and 27 September 2019, at the University of Salerno. The Conference focused on the organization and re-organization of political, social, and ecological relations within the era that some scholars define as Anthropocene.

The concept, however has been critically considered. On the one hand, it has been recognized the degree of uncertainty of the general scientific debate concerning this concept, developing a deep critique. On the other, it has been highlighted the geographical, social and political homogeneity implied by the concept of Anthropocene, as it places in the background the inequalities which characterize the socio-ecological relations over time – for example those linked to colonial and neocolonial, gender, and human and extra-

human natures relations. The concept of Anthropocene, in fact, marks a field in movement, both from the point of view of the quality of socio-ecological relationships, and from the point of view of the epistemological and methodological aspects that drive research and knowledge production. This turbulence is theoretically and empirically important, involving the intertwining of politics, society and ecology in all the areas of socio-ecological relationships that are considered relevant.

In the closing session of the conference, Anna Maria Zaccaria presented the ASSET project, highlighting its objectives, contents and methodologies. The presence of exponents of associations and environmental groups at the final discussion table has made the presentation quite lively and the project has received positive feedback from stakeholders working on the territory in promoting environmental sustainability.



## H2020 3rd Contractors' Workshop on Social Sciences and Humanities in Brussels (Belgium)

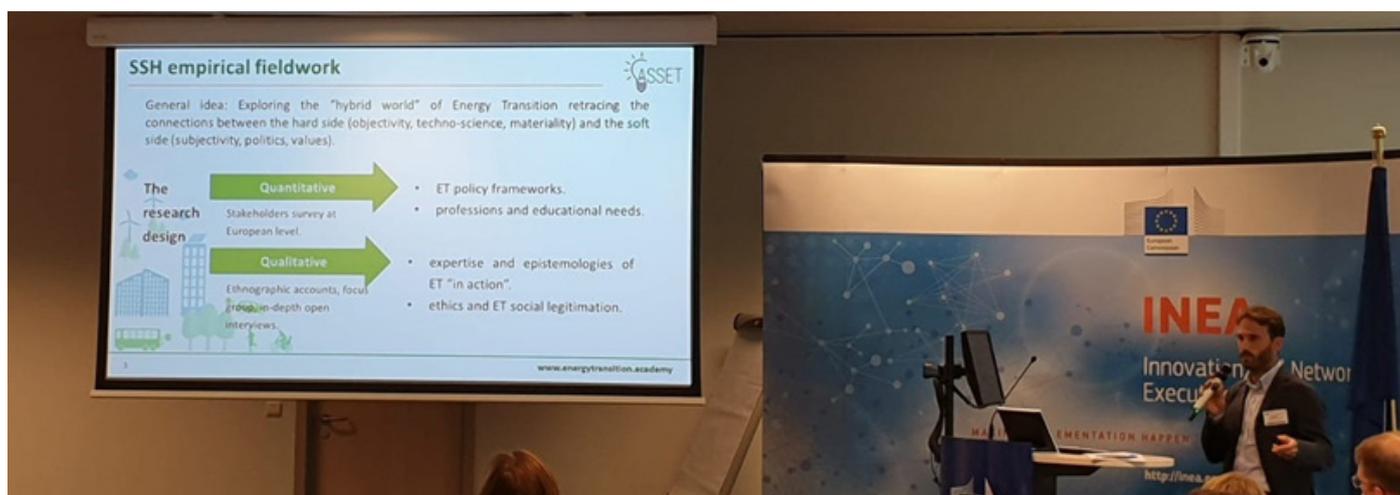


and evaluation is required. They also highlighted the need of an increasing cross-disciplinary dialogue involving both SSH and STEM areas, as well as the need of focusing on the energy consumer, who is not directly interested in the

The Innovation and Network Executive Agency (INEA) in Brussels held last September 27th a workshop on the role of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in the different H2020 projects dealing with the Energy Transition. Dario Minervini and Ana de la Varga presented ASSET in this cluster event and took part in the lively discussions about the scope of the common challenges and the possibilities of cooperation.

The participant EU Commissioners pointed out that SSH have been mainstreamed in most areas in H2020 including energy, especially at a conceptual level, but more progress in implementation, monitoring

energy transition system itself, but in the services that it provides. Challenging co-creation models that involve different societal actors should be further explored. Active consumers, more and more informed and empowered, are considered the core of a full-adaptable and efficient energy system. In order to foster this scenario, researches and educational projects are wished for a closer interaction between the contractors and the EU commissioners. In particular, an emphasis is given to the adoption of a behavioural approach that will enhance a better understanding of citizens energy consumption paths within the energy transition policies.





In the discussions following the different project presentations, the need for a change of consumers' behaviour in the energy system was underlined. The infrastructure should be conceived and developed together with the citizen in order to take their needs and expectations into account. However, public involvement in the early stages does not always guarantee technology acceptance. Social innovation and a better information and training system are required. The participants were quite optimistic about how the connection between different projects can help to explore synergies, exchange methodological strategies and stakeholders' reach could contribute to a more effective dissemination and to a greater social impact.

Common actions points were agreed upon like the linking of websites of related projects, a mutual connection in the different social media, a shared virtual space to identify and explore key topics, the organisation of common events to address different stakeholders, and especially, to work towards a common concise message for Horizon EU. The related "sister-projects" dealing with social sciences and humanities in the energy transition that participated in the INEA event were: SMAGRINET (also educational), SMARTEES, PROSEU, SONNET, NEWCOMMERS, COMETS, SOCIALRES, ENERGY\_SHIFTS, ENERGISE, ENABLE.EU, ECHOES and TRACER.

## ASSET Project as a part of round table in Bari (Italy)



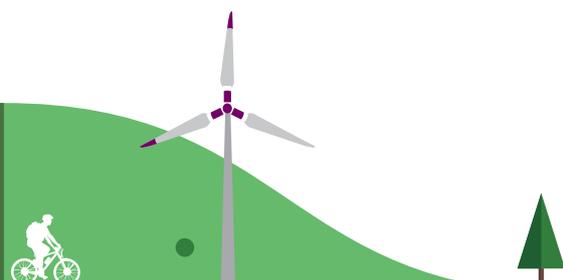
On 26th of October 2019 a Round Table has been organized by LS within the international fair SAIE (Salone Internazionale dell'Edilizia), one of main international fairs on building construction sector organized in Italy, Bari. The expected participants at the RT are: policy-makers at regional level, representatives from different industrial associations and economic operators from the building sector.

### The main objectives of the event are:

- promoting ASSET Project;
- understanding from the side of policy-makers and industrials what are the knowledge, skills and competences needs related to energy transition.

The debate confirmed that there are skill gaps between current educational programs of professional figures and market needs in terms of energy transition; very high specialized profiles are requested; social aspects have to be taken into consideration by technical professional figures.

Mr. Dario Minervini, the representative of ASSET partner UNINA (University of Naples Dpt. Social Sciences) presented the societal aspects addressed by ASSET, tested with round-table participants the questionnaire for identifying societal aspects related to energy transition.



## ASSET Roadshows: 1st Event in Italy (Milan, 18th November 2019)



### I Event in Milan (Italy)

18th November 2019



A key tool of the ASSET engagement strategy are 3 events which will be organised respectively in **Italy (Milan), Spain (Madrid) and Belgium (Brussels)**, by the consortium's local partners, as stages of a sole ideal path.

The overall objective of the 3 roadshows is to raise awareness of the added-value of engaging with the ASSET Community and to put the bases for the future sustainability of the project.

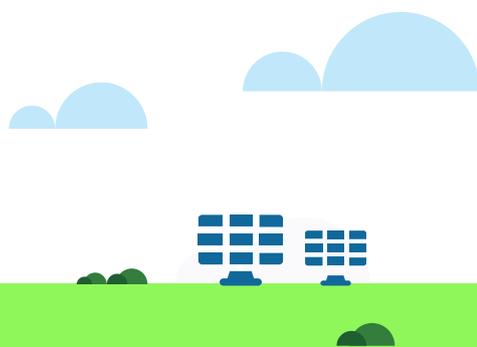
The first event will take place in Milan, in November.

Ènostra, together with Logical Soft and the University of Naples Federico II and in collaboration with the Energy Department of

the Politecnico of Milan, is organizing a whole day workshop entitled "Energy transition knowhow: map your needs, track your route, empower yourself".

The aim of this first event is to involve key representatives of the main stakeholder groups (companies, policy makers, universities and training actors, associations), to exchange views and collect feedback on the way forward to prepare the ASSET services and e-learning contents.

The agenda of the meeting envisages an opening speech by a representative of the EU Commission on "Energy transition and emerging challenges": the regulative framework, the EU targets, the research



trends and the societal challenges will be presented, to show the participants the overall framework around the energy transition process.

Then a presentation of ASSET project main goals and activities will be held, where the potential benefits and added-values for each stakeholder category will be presented. In the afternoon, the participants will be divided in two parallel working groups, in order to discuss and analyze two different topics:

- Market role and policy rules for a top-down approach to energy transition
- The empowerment of energy citizens for abottom-up energy transition

A final panel debate will follow, to share feedback from each of the 2 working groups.

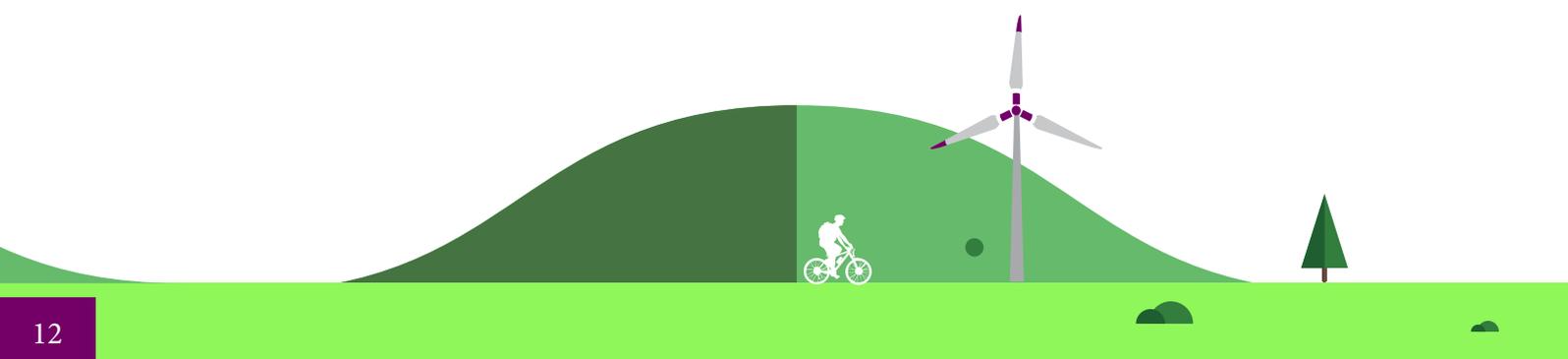
The outcomes of the event will consist in outlining some key policy recommendations and in defining how the ASSET project can meet the emerged KSC (knowledge-competences-skills) needs, deliver useful e-learning contents and facilitate the collaboration between academia and industry.

Representatives of the following companies and institutions already accepted to participate to the event: Comune di Milano, ISPRA, Gruppo Professione Energia, ARERA, Legacoop Basilicata, Adiconsum, IPSOS, Politecnico di Milano, ENEA, Provincia Monza e Brianza, Genera Spa, Regione Lombardia, Italia Solare, Unione Geotermica Italiana, Green Jobs Hub, Azzeroco2, Università degli Studi di Torino (progetto COMETS), Università degli Studi di Milano, Wartsila, Ambiente Italia, EF Solare Italia.

The event in by invitation only, to allow for organizing an effective and fruitful debate among the participants.

In case you are interested to participate to the event, please write an email to [sara.gollessi\(at\)enostra.it](mailto:sara.gollessi@enostra.it), specifying which entity you represent and how are you involved in the energy transition process.

However, a report with the main outcomes and recommendations will be made available after the event: don't miss the next ASSET newsletter!



## **Stay tuned for more news!!**

*Do you want to be part of the ASSET ecosystem, a community able to identify the competences needed for the energy transition and to deliver educational programmes?*

*Dates, locations, and agendas are coming soon*

## **Don't forget to subscribe to receive first our newsletter!**

*Below, at the end of this newsletter, you can find the links to our pages on the respective channels...!*



## About us

ASSET team is a well-balanced consortium, consisting of eleven partners from six European countries.



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ASSET EnergyTransition



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