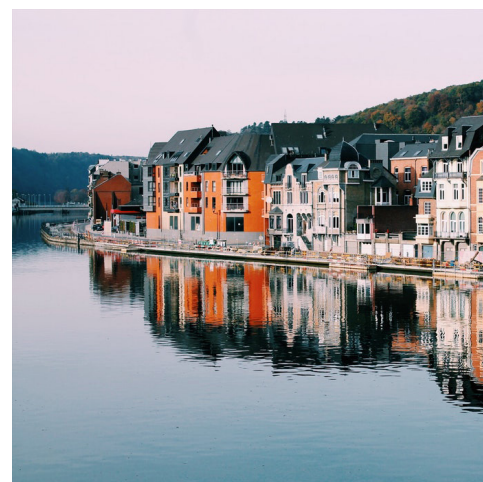
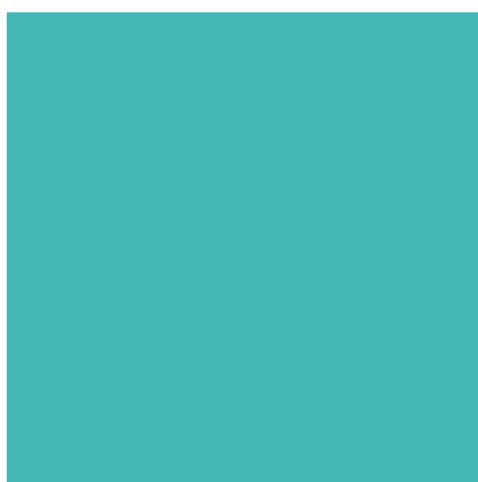
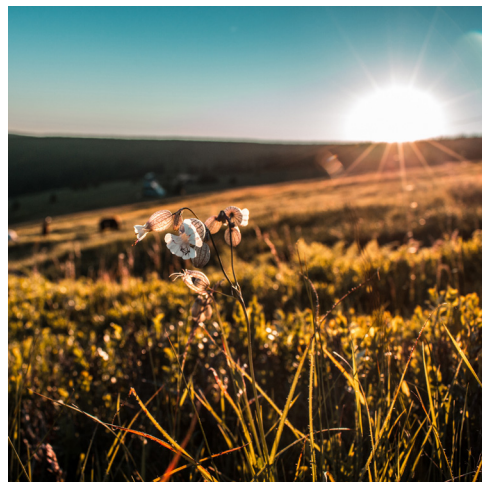


# FEDARENE'S MANIFESTO



## EUROPE AND ITS REGIONS A Partnership for Energy Transition





# OUR VISION



Since 1990, FEDARENE has been bringing Europe and its regions closer together in their common transition towards clean and efficient energy. As a federation of regions, energy agencies and islands, we have witnessed how energy transition unites territories and citizens and believe it is the driver Europe needs to overcome disunity and achieve sustainable solidarity.

Since the European Coal and Steel Community, energy has been the cornerstone of European integration, changing the destinies of citizens across the continent. Now, in partnership with local and regional authorities, Europe must take the next step towards a Union of Sustainable Energy based on 3 main drivers:



The **CREATIVITY** of local and regional initiatives.



The **COURAGE** to become frontrunner of positive change.



The **RESPONSIBILITY** to stand up for real climate action.

# A New European Parliament, a new European Commission

## A NEW BEGINNING



The new representatives of the European Parliament and European Commission have the chance to make 2020-2030 be remembered in history as a decade of European rediscovery. Their ambition can set the European Union on the right track for the economic and social transformations needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

2020 has been considered the finishing line for this decade of EU policies, holding the promise of a smarter, more sustainable and inclusive Europe. Efforts have been concentrated on economic recovery, social inclusion and climate action, yet the trust of citizens in the European Union has not increased. Economic inequalities between regions and citizens deepen, climate impacts are being quantified in human lives, unemployment and health remain key concerns for Europeans, all the while populist and nationalist rhetoric fill our daily lives.

The next years will be decisive in demonstrating Europe's capacity to re-discover its purpose and revive the European project by facing head-on common challenges and setting ambitious goals for 2030.



# A EUROPEAN RESPONSE TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS

**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY** addresses the most basic yet central aspects of our daily lives: the quality of the air we breathe, the comfort of our homes and work environments, access to affordable heating and electricity, better street lighting, clean and affordable transport, new job openings, new community led initiatives, intelligent urban planning and environmentally friendly agriculture. It must be seen as an investment opportunity as well as a social policy that responds to fundamental needs across multiple sectors and levels of society.



Responding to common needs was the method of European Union's Founding Fathers to make concrete achievements and reach a de facto solidarity. Regions and cities see today how the energy transition brings vitality to their communities and their local/regional energy agencies are critical enablers to stimulate local economic development, foster employment, create demand and supply for energy efficiency services and products, implement and upscale renewable energy projects, develop adaptation strategies, alleviate energy poverty, improve air quality and truly inform and empower citizens and community initiatives. The focus must be across all sectors, as a multi-sectoral approach is vital if climate action targets are to be achieved.

The people of Europe ask for ambitious climate action now. Thousands of young citizens march every week in cities across Europe to call for immediate and bold climate policies. Public surveys show that more than four in five Europeans agree that fighting climate change and using energy more efficiently can create economic growth and jobs in the EU (85%), and that promoting EU expertise in clean technologies to countries outside the EU can benefit the EU economically (83%) (Special Eurobarometer 479, Report "Future of Europe – Climate Change").

***Addressing climate action is no longer just a scientific recommendation, it is a democratic duty as much as it is an opportunity.***

# HOW TO MAKE ENERGY TRANSITION AN OPPORTUNITY - OUR PROPOSALS

1

**MULTILEVEL** climate and energy dialogue must become a reality by including regions, municipalities and their energy agencies in decision-making at the highest-level. Municipalities and regions are driving the energy transition. The effectiveness of climate and energy policies depends on the involvement of their implementers in their design. The partnership principle should therefore become a binding rule for all European decision-making across sectors.

2

**ENERGY AGENCIES** at local and regional level are breaking the barriers of clean energy transformation, changing mentalities, finding new financing options, aggregating investments and forever changing the face of our cities and regions. The European Parliament and Commission should make the most of the expertise and knowledge of energy agencies and rely on their support to advise Europe's policies on local sustainable development.

3

**ISLANDS** experience the effects of climate change at disproportionate levels. Their energy supply depends heavily on fossil fuels, which represents a burden for the environment and economy. This gives islands a real incentive to kick-start their clean energy transition now and act as an example for mainland Europe. The European Union should increase its support to islands to unlock their creativity and resourcefulness and leverage it so as to accelerate progress towards climate and energy objectives.

4

**MARKET UPTAKE** of clean energy solutions must be the main focus of the next decade of European policies. Europeans may already reap the benefits of clean energy research if proper support is provided to local and regional market facilitators. Support programmes must enable the up-scaling, aggregation and replication of existing successful energy efficiency and renewable projects across Europe. The digitalisation of the energy system must increasingly rely on a thorough assessment of local needs.

5

**SOCIAL TRANSITION** will fuel Europe's energy transformation. European climate and energy policies must leave nobody behind and should concentrate on alleviating energy poverty, sustainable reskilling, support to citizen-led initiatives and strategic support to coal regions in transition. Citizens are not only beneficiaries of our clean energy movement, they must become its main drivers and delivery agents by means of distributed energy self-generation and energy efficiency.

6

**EDUCATION** on climate mitigation and adaption must target all ages and all segments of society with a tailored approach. Transforming our values and norms will drive the change of practices in all areas of activity and help counter rebound effects.



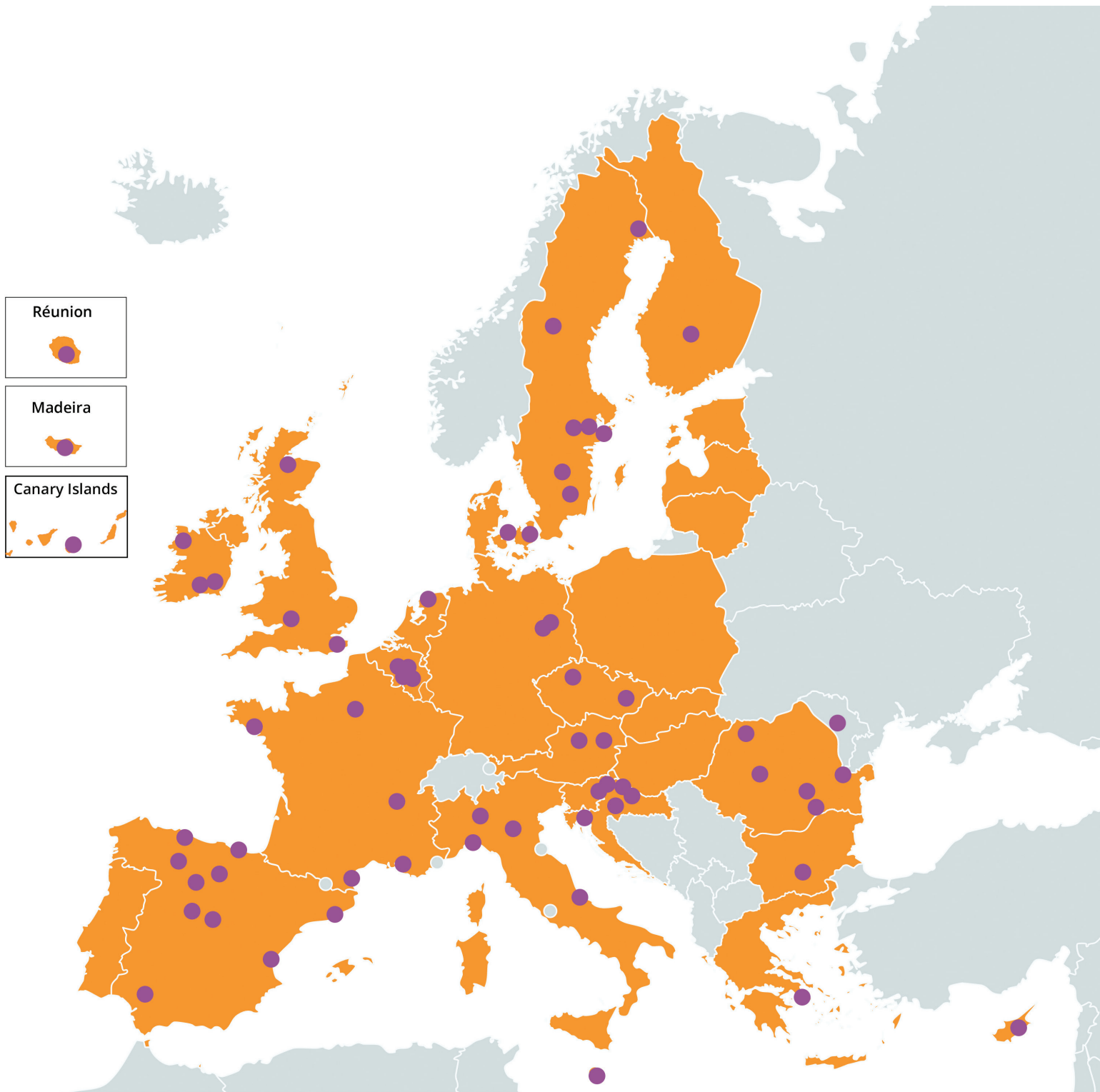
# YOUR PARTNERS IN THIS ENDEAVOUR

Making our societies more sustainable is a road we must walk together. We, the regions, islands and energy agencies of FEDARENE commit to:

- 1 Offer to the European Union Institutions our local knowledge and expertise to make climate action a reality in all of Europe's territories.
- 2 Make people aware and confident of Europe's policies and their unique benefits.
- 3 Uphold sustainable development as a European value as recognised by article 3 of the Treaty on European Union.
- 4 Demonstrate the concrete added value of Europe through its successfully co-funded projects and initiatives at local and regional level.
- 5 Continue to act as market facilitators and stimulators of investments in sustainable energy actions, with the ambition of increasing the scale and quantity of such investments.
- 6 Stimulate local citizen-led initiatives taking ownership of their energy transition.
- 7 Continue to strengthen our trans-European partnerships between regions and energy agencies, thus contributing to Europe's continuous integration.
- 8 Increasingly link our cities and regions with the European project, thus strengthening EU's legitimacy at local and regional levels.



## OUR MEMBERS



“

In our view, the European Union is crucial for a successful and sustainable common future. All of us are called upon to build this future together, and the members of FEDARENE commit themselves to jointly contributing to this goal.

*Stand Together for a United Europe Declaration of FEDARENE, Berlin, 1 June 2017*

”



## European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment

FEDARENE is the premier European network of agencies and regions at regional and local levels. It was established in 1990 to represent and promote the local and regional dimensions to the European institutions. FEDARENE organises exchanges of experience and partnerships between its members. It now has 80 members in 22 countries in the European Union.

### Contact

#### FEDARENE

Rue de Stassart 131  
1050 Brussels  
Tel. + 32 2 646 82 10  
[fedarene@fedarene.org](mailto:fedarene@fedarene.org)



@Fedarene



FEDARENE



Fedarene