



With the project entering its final phase, CO2PACMAN continues to deliver key results, strengthen collaboration across Mediterranean territories, and move closer to its goal of supporting climate neutrality in island and coastal regions.

In this newsletter edition, we highlight the outcomes of the first and the second "The Island I Would Like Lab", present two key digital platforms supporting innovation and planning for decarbonization strategies and invite you to join us at the CO2 PACMAN final conference in Athens.

Co-designing Climate Neutrality in Elba Island

The Living Lab of the CO2PACMAN project, titled "*The Island I Would Like – L'Elba che vorrei,*" successfully took place on the Island of Elba, bringing together local authorities, mayors of the island's municipalities, representatives of the Region of Tuscany, European partners, and the local community.

Over three days of intensive collaboration, participants co-designed pathways toward climate neutrality, focusing on key challenges such as greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), sustainable mobility, renewable energy potential, and integrated water and waste management.

An open and experiential journey, designed to bring participants directly into the context of climate neutrality has been organized the first day of the lab. This immersive walk in the former mining area of Capoliveri involved 80 participants, including citizens, local stakeholders, and public authorities, of which 55 were citizens, families, and local stakeholders. The territory was transformed into a living laboratory through a structured yet exploratory format. Participants were first guided along the mining landscape by a local tour guide, who provided historical insights and contextualised the environmental and socio-economic evolution of the area.



Particular attention was given to integrating technical evidence, such as GHG inventories and scenario modelling, with local knowledge, perceptions, and priorities emerging from citizens and stakeholders. With an estimated GHG emissions of approximately 135,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, Elba presents both

significant challenges and strong opportunities for transition. The Living Lab marked a major milestone for the project, serving as the culmination of a participatory process that combined data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and scenario development. Discussions led to the identification of concrete actions and the development of a shared roadmap for sustainable development.

The strong engagement of local administrations, the active involvement of mayors, and the commitment of regional authorities demonstrated the island's readiness to act. The Region of Tuscany reaffirmed its support, positioning Elba as a living laboratory for sustainability in the Mediterranean "The Elba Living Lab is not only an opportunity to present the results, but also an important chance to foster collaboration between all stakeholders in the energy transition" said David Barontini, Tuscany Regional Councilor for Environment, Circular Economy and Climate.

[Read more](#)



The Island I Would Like Lab in Crete, Greece

The CO2 PACMAN "*The Island I Would Like*" Lab in Rethymno, Crete, brought together local authorities, academia, businesses, students, and citizens to co-design pathways toward climate neutrality.

Building on strong collaboration, the Lab moved from vision to action, focusing on how island territories can translate climate ambition into concrete and locally adapted solutions. Contributions from the Municipality of Rethymno, the Region of Crete, and the Technical University of Crete highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts and shared responsibility.

A key highlight was the active engagement of youth, with high school and university students presenting innovative ideas for a carbon-neutral future and engaging in dialogue with experts and stakeholders.

Discussions addressed key sectors such as energy, mobility, tourism, circular economy, and the blue economy, while interactive tools, including landscape visualisations and Virtual Reality offered a tangible view of future scenarios and supported informed decision-making.

The Lab concluded with the open event *“Together for Climate Neutrality: Crete, Rethymno 2040”*, bringing together strategic priorities, collaboration, and youth perspectives in a shared vision for the future.

This Living Lab marks an important step forward for CO2 PACMAN, reinforcing the role of participation, innovation, and collaboration in building climate-neutral island communities.

[Read More](#)



Discover our New Platforms


Climate Challenges, Real Solutions: Open Innovation in Action

The CO2 PACMAN Open Innovation [Repository Platform](#) has been created as a key virtual space to connect the climate challenges faced during CO2 PACMAN by Mediterranean pilot island with innovative and collaborative solutions around Europe. The website aimed at accelerating the transition towards sustainable and climate-neutral communities.

On the one hand, the platform showcases the challenges identified by local stakeholders and, on the other, the proposals developed by companies, SMEs and innovation actors to address them. In this way, it becomes a useful tool for highlighting solutions, fostering cooperation and supporting planning processes tailored to the specific needs of each territory.

Through the Collaborative Open Innovation Action, this repository includes targeted searches for solutions across different sectors and organise all the information in a systematic database. Its purpose is to support integrated transition strategies and strengthen the role of CO2 PACMAN in building Mediterranean territories that are more resilient in the face of climate change.


Explore the platform: <https://openinnovationcolab.com>

Interreg  Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
Mediterranean
BLUE DEAL

BLUE DEAL: Promoting Blue Energy in the Mediterranean

BLUE DEAL was an Interreg MED project aimed at promoting the development of Blue Energy technologies in the Mediterranean region and supporting their inclusion in regional energy plans.

[GO TO THE PROJECT](#)

CO2 PACMAN **Interreg**  Co-financed by the European Union
EURO-MED

CO2 PACMAN: Advancing Climate Neutrality on Mediterranean Islands

CO2 PACMAN (COoperation and CO-designing PArtnership for CliMAtE Neutrality) is an Interreg Euro-MED project focused on transforming Mediterranean Islands into climate-neutral territories.

[GO TO THE PROJECT](#)


CO2PACMAN INTERACTIVE PLATFORM, From Data to Decisions: A Tool for Climate Neutrality Planning

The CO2 PACMAN Interactive Platform represents a key achievement of the project, supporting territories in their transition toward climate neutrality through data-driven decision-making.

The platform allows users to explore all the ingredients of CO2 PACMAN decarbonisation recipe. By combining scientific assessment with intuitive visualisation, it enables stakeholders to better understand complex data and evaluate the impact of different policy and technical solutions.

. The platform also supports collaboration between public authorities, experts, and communities, strengthening participatory planning processes.

Explore the platform: <https://www.co2pacman.eu>



Interreg Euro-MED - CO2 PACMAN

**COoperation and CO-designing
PARTnership for
CLiMAte Neutrality**

The CO2 Pacman project transitions Mediterranean islands towards climate neutrality through innovative tools and collaborative efforts with local stakeholders.

The Mediterranean is **one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change**, with rising temperatures and extreme events such as droughts and floods. These events threaten not only the ecosystem and biodiversity, but also food and energy security.

CO2 PACMAN is committed to making territories climate neutral and promoting sustainable and resilient communities.

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"CO2 PACMAN empowers Mediterranean communities to achieve climate neutrality through innovative planning tools, collaborative scenario development, and inclusive engagement of citizens, businesses, and institutions in the decarbonisation journey."

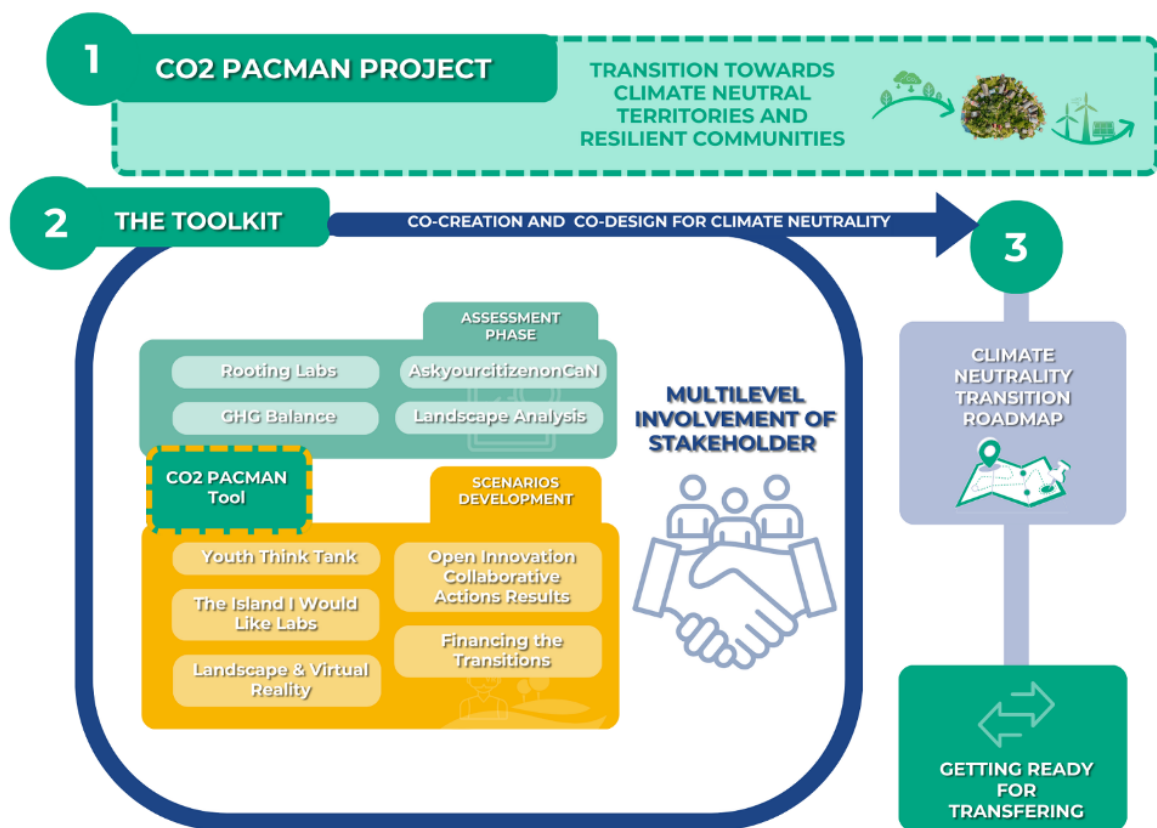
OUTPUT 1.1 – TOOLKIT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLIMATE NEUTRALITY SCENARIOS

The CO2 PACMAN Toolkit for the Development of Climate Neutrality Scenarios is a practical guide designed to support island territories in their transition toward climate neutrality.

Bringing together greenhouse gas data, local knowledge, and participatory approaches, the Toolkit helps communities understand their GHG emissions and identify effective solutions. Developed and tested in Brač, Crete, and Elba, it combines scientific analysis with interactive Living Labs, citizen engagement, and scenario development.

Through workshops, surveys, youth involvement, landscape analysis and visual tools, the Toolkit enables public authorities and stakeholders to explore different transition pathways and select realistic and feasible actions. Its flexible and replicable approach makes it a valuable resource for other islands and territories aiming to design their own climate neutrality strategies.

[Read more and explore the Toolkit](#)



CO2 PACMAN IMPACT FORUM

Co-Designing Pathways to Climate Neutrality: From Island Experience to Wider Change

Join Us in Athens

We are pleased to invite all partners, stakeholders, and interested participants to the **CO2 PACMAN Impact Forum**, which will take place at the **Divani Acropolis Hotel in Athens, Greece**, on **21–22 May 2026**.

This milestone event will bring together consortium members, policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to present key results, exchange insights, and explore

how the CO2 PACMAN approach can support the transition toward climate neutrality across Mediterranean territories. The forum will highlight how experiences from island contexts can be translated into broader strategies, fostering collaboration and the transfer of innovative solutions.

[Register here](#)

