



CO2 PACMAN

Interreg
Euro-MED



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1st Newsletter / March 2025

Welcome to CO2 PACMAN!

Our journey towards a sustainable and greener future



begins 🌱

What is CO2 PACMAN about?

The Mediterranean region is one of the world's most stunning and culturally rich areas. It is also on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Rising air and water temperatures, severe droughts, scorching heatwaves, and sudden flash floods are becoming the new normal. These environmental changes threaten ecosystems, disrupt biodiversity, and put food and energy security at risk. Clearly, these challenges are all connected, and they demand bold, united action.

Enter CO2 PACMAN (COoperation and CO-designing PArtnership for CliMAtE Neutrality) <https://co2pacman.interreg-euro-med.eu/>, an ambitious initiative designed to tackle these pressing issues head-on. This groundbreaking project is all about helping the Euro-Mediterranean region and the world, transition to climate-neutral economies. By bringing together local expertise, resources, and innovative ideas, CO2 PACMAN aims to build sustainable, resilient communities that thrive in harmony with the planet.

At its core, CO2 PACMAN champions a multi-purpose approach to climate action. This means not only mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change but also promoting inclusive growth, enhancing energy security, and improving everyday life for people across the region. By connecting the dots between climate solutions and community well-being, CO2 PACMAN sets a powerful example of how global challenges can be met with local ingenuity.

Stay tuned to discover the inspiring strategies and transformative actions CO2 PACMAN is implementing.

Together, we can create a greener, more sustainable future for the Mediterranean and beyond!

CO2 PACMAN Partnership



CO2 PACMAN Key Numbers



CO2 PACMAN NEWS & MEETINGS

- ✓ The **Kick-Off Meeting of CO2 PACMAN** was held in **Siena, Italy, from 20 to 22 March 2024**, where project partners gathered to set the challenge of decarbonizing Mediterranean Islands.



- ✓ The **2nd Project Meeting** was held in **Split, Croatia 17-19 September 2024**, where project partners discussed progress, shared insights, and planned the next steps to achieving our mission.



Launch of the Rooting Labs

Crete (Greece), Brač (Croatia), and Elba (Italy) will host two rounds of interactive labs to advance climate neutrality. The first round gathered data and citizen opinions, setting the stage for action. The second round, **“The Island I Would Like”** labs, will bring citizens and public authorities together to co-create solutions. These collaborative efforts aimed to design sustainable, tailored strategies for each island. Together, we are reimagining a greener, climate-resilient future!

- ✓ **1st Rooting Lab on 17-19 September 2024**

The **1st Rooting Lab was held in Brač** and successfully launched CO2 PACMAN activities, achieving key goals across diverse stakeholder groups. The event established a strong network on Brač, fostering cooperation with public service providers and laying the groundwork for effective data collection. Interactions with schools and SMEs provided valuable insights. Enhanced communication and

promotional efforts, particularly on social media, were identified as areas for improvement. Overall, the lab's activities generated significant engagement, creating momentum for the second round of workshops and advancing the island's path toward climate neutrality.



The 2nd day of collaboration, innovation, and community engagement, fostering new pathways toward a climate-neutral future. Featuring immersive 3D simulations and amplifying youth voices, the lab demonstrated the power of collective action and innovative solutions in addressing climate challenges. Special thanks goes to the Municipality of Rethymno, Mayor Giorgis Marinakis, and the dedicated stakeholders, students, and volunteers who contributed to the event's success. As the initiative moves forward, the momentum continues toward the next destination: Elba, Italy. Step by step, the Rooting Labs are transforming challenges into opportunities for sustainable change.



✓ **3rd Rooting lab on 11-13 February 2025**

The **3rd Rooting Lab of the CO2 PACMAN** project, funded by the Interreg Euro-MED program successfully brought together policymakers, academics, entrepreneurs, and citizens from **February 11 to 13, 2025 in Elba and Florence**. The event served as a critical platform for advancing Mediterranean decarbonization efforts, fostering innovative solutions for sustainable energy transition, circular economy practices, and environmental resilience. With a strong focus on collaborative policymaking and knowledge integration, the event featured leading experts, strategic discussions, and interactive experiences aimed at shaping the future of sustainability in the region. The event commenced on February 11-12 in Portoferraio, Elba, where local authorities, environmental organizations, and businesses convened to explore practical decarbonization strategies. Professor Gabriele Paolinelli (University of Florence) and Curzio Cervelli (Coordinator, Interreg Euro-MED Programme Joint Secretariat) emphasized the importance of collaboration between institutions, researchers, and local communities in bridging the gap between knowledge and real-world implementation. A preliminary greenhouse gas emissions report for Elba was presented, analyzing the island's environmental impact and potential decarbonization pathways. Filippo Giabbani (Executive Director and National Contact Point - Italia of Interreg Euro-MED programme) highlighted the necessity of integrating project outcomes into mainstream policies, ensuring that scientific research and technological advancements translate into effective governance strategies.

Key Highlights from the Elba Sessions:

✓ **The CO2 PACMAN Tool** – An innovative instrument for calculating, visualizing, and reducing the carbon footprint of Mediterranean islands, helping local authorities plan effective strategies for climate neutrality. By mapping emissions and simulating decarbonization scenarios, it supports the transition towards a sustainable future. Engaging citizens and stakeholders, it facilitates data-driven decisions for a positive and lasting environmental impact.

✓ **Renewable Energy & Local Development** – The Renewable Energy Community of Elba unveiled plans to install 100 clean energy plants generating 2MW of renewable power to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and support local sustainability efforts.

✔ **Sustainable Winemaking & Innovation** – Participants explored eco-friendly agricultural techniques, including an ancient, chemical-free grape maturation method and an underwater wine maturation initiative, integrating tradition with contemporary environmental goals.

✔ **Marine & Waste Management Initiatives** – A waste separation system on ferries was introduced, reinforcing the importance of marine sustainability within Elba's broader environmental strategy.

✔ **Community Engagement & Education** – Silvia Moroni, a sustainability expert and advocate, led discussions on the role of community-driven initiatives, encouraging active citizen participation in shaping Elba's environmental future.

✔ **Open Innovation Collaborative Action** – Local businesses, including CER-Isola d'Elba, Arrighi, Acqua dell'Elba, and Elba Energie, showcased cutting-edge sustainability solutions designed to support the ecological transition.

✔ **A Virtual Reality (VR)** experience provided attendees with an immersive look at Elba's transformation, offering a firsthand perspective on climate resilience projects, renewable energy innovations, and marine conservation efforts.

The final day of the Rooting Lab, held on February 13 at SalaBlu of Fuligno (Fondazione Montedomini) in Florence, broadened the discussion to regional, national, and European policy integration. Led by Professor Gabriele Paolinelli, the session examined how research-driven strategies can be embedded into broader climate policies. Key Panel Discussions in Florence:

✔ **Simone Bastianoni** (University of Siena) reinforced the significance of applying proven decarbonization methodologies, highlighting CO2 PACMAN's role in providing concrete tools to support the energy transition in Mediterranean islands.

✔ **Simone Borghesi** (President, Mediterranean Association of Environmental and Resource Economists – MEDAERE, and Director, Florence School of Regulation – Climate) emphasized the need for



greater social acceptance of climate policies, stressing that addressing economic disparities and regional challenges is crucial to ensuring equitable sustainability transitions.

✔ **Attilio Piattelli** (President, FREE Coordination) provided an insightful overview of progress in national renewable energy policies, emphasizing the importance of strengthening industrial frameworks and regulatory mechanisms to overcome obstacles in green energy adoption.

✔ A key highlight of the Florence session was the participation of **George Papandreou, President of the Circle the Med Forum and former Prime Minister of Greece**.

As a longstanding advocate for climate action, democracy, and international cooperation, he stressed that transnational collaboration is essential to tackling the climate crisis. Papandreou emphasized that CO2 PACMAN aligns with the European Green Deal, positioning Mediterranean islands as pioneers of climate

resilience through decarbonization, social engagement, and economic innovation.

The 3rd Rooting Lab concluded with a renewed commitment to sustained cooperation, policy integration, and grassroots innovation. The discussions laid the groundwork for future CO2 PACMAN initiatives, including:

🚀 **Open Innovation Workshop** (Valencia, June 2025) – A collaborative space for businesses, policymakers, and researchers to test and scale new climate solutions.

🌍 **"The Island I Would Like" Labs (2025)** – A series of interactive labs across pilot Mediterranean islands, designed to translate research and policy discussions into tangible sustainability actions.

The CO2 PACMAN project continues to drive progress toward a climate-neutral Mediterranean, equipping communities, businesses,



and policymakers with the knowledge and tools needed to achieve decarbonization goals.

Citizen Engagement and Youth Involvement

✓ Youth think Tank on 10 December 2024

The CO2 PACMAN event on Elba Island saw the exciting launch of the **Youth Think Tank Italy!**

from "Raffaello Foresi" High School joined interactive activities and discussions on decarbonization and climate change, showcasing their passion for a sustainable future. This inspiring initiative highlighted the power of youth in driving climate action and building resilience across Mediterranean communities.



✓ Youth think Tank on 11 March 2025

CO2 PACMAN has once again brought its dynamic and engaging approach to sustainability education to Elba Island, where students from I.S.I.S. Foresi participated in the Youth Think Tank activity. This initiative provided a unique learning experience, emphasizing the importance of sustainability through interactive and thought-provoking activities. Unlike traditional lessons, the Youth Think Tank fostered critical thinking and peer-to-peer exchange, allowing students to actively engage in co-creating ideas and solutions for a more sustainable future.

As part of the event, CO2 PACMAN also launched an interactive game designed to transfer key competences on decarbonization in an engaging and accessible way. The tool reinforced the idea that **"Decarbonizing is a COOL GAME,"** making complex sustainability concepts more approachable for students while encouraging active participation and problem-solving.

The key takeaway from the Youth Think Tank was clear: sustainability requires collective action. The future of our planet depends on the informed choices of individuals, communities, and policymakers. By equipping young minds with the knowledge and tools to drive positive change, the ecological transition begins today. CO2 PACMAN remains committed to inspiring the next generation to take meaningful steps toward a sustainable future. Stay tuned for more updates on our initiatives and activities!



Vox Populi:

🎤 As a project partner, **GIITT** is leading *Vox Populi*, a dynamic initiative designed to capture local perspectives on sustainability, climate action, and the future of Mediterranean islands. Through a series of public interviews conducted during the Rooting Labs, *Vox Populi* ensures that the voices of local communities are heard and

integrated into the CO2 PACMAN project. By gathering real stories, concerns, and ideas from those most affected by climate challenges, this initiative helps bridge the gap between policy and lived experience, fostering collaborative solutions for a greener, more sustainable future.



Additionally, CO2 PACMAN Project has also participated in several key events:

1st Policy Dialogue organized by the Dialogue for Green Living Areas at the POLIS premises on 22 October 2024



Sun&Blue Congress in Almeria,

Spain on 22 November 2024



Euro-MED Italian Forum in Florence, Italy on 21st November 2024



A Significant Update Awaits You

  **CO2 PACMAN Podcast: Now on Spotify!**  

We're excited to announce that **“CO2 PACMAN, Decarbonizing the Mediterranean Islands”** is now available on **Spotify!** This podcast,

developed in collaboration with **uRadio** – an associate partner of UNISI, takes listeners on a journey to explore co-creation scenarios and innovative solutions for transitioning Mediterranean islands toward climate neutrality.

How do we involve citizens and stakeholders in co-creating sustainable development pathways toward climate neutrality?

This is the driving question behind the podcast. Through engaging discussions, expert insights, and real-life testimonials, each episode sheds light on key aspects of decarbonization, sustainability, and climate action.

What to expect?

- **12 episodes** in the first year of the project.
- **Bilingual content:** Each episode will be available in **two languages** (English, Italian, Greek, Croatian, Spanish...).
- **A mix of expert and citizen voices:** Featuring interviews with local residents, students, and key stakeholders to showcase diverse perspectives on sustainability challenges and solutions.

Tune in on Spotify and follow the podcast to stay updated on the latest discussions, insights, and strategies for decarbonizing Mediterranean islands.



 Listen now:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4Zh2yY50ZdNhvtVjoHJ3Kl>

 **Announcing the CO2 PACMAN YouTube Channel!**  

We are thrilled to introduce the official CO2 PACMAN YouTube channel, a dedicated platform showcasing our commitment to decarbonizing the Mediterranean islands. Our channel features a variety of content, including project overviews, partner interviews, and event highlights, all aimed at promoting climate neutrality in the region. Featured Video: Kick-off Meeting of CO2 PACMAN Project. We invite you to watch our latest video, which provides an in-depth look at the role of CO2 PACMAN Project. Subscribe and Stay Informed.

 Visit and Subscribe: <https://www.youtube.com/@CO2PACMAN>

How to Get Involved

Visit our website, follow us on social media, contribute to discussions, and share our updates within your networks. Together, we can make a significant impact on a sustainable and greener future. Stay Connected!

Website: [Interreg Euro-MED - CO2 PACMAN](#)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557383186450>

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/102208512/admin/feed/posts/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/co2pacman/>

Thank you for being part of the CO2 PACMAN community!

Together, we can address the challenges of climate change and build a more sustainable future. Be a part of the CO2 PACMAN journey—believe in and work for climate neutrality!

GDPR Notice

We inform you that your contact details were originally collected during the CO2 PACMAN project and are being used in accordance with EU data protection regulations (GDPR). These details will continue to be used exclusively for project-related updates, newsletters, and relevant communications.

If you wish to continue receiving updates from the CO2 PACMAN project, no further action is required. However, if you prefer not to receive these communications, you can unsubscribe at any time by clicking below.

If you have any questions regarding how your data is being used or would like further clarification, feel free to contact us (co2pacman@unisi.it).