



**UNIVERSITY OF CAMERINO**  
**SCHOOL OF LAW**

# **CROSS-BORDER ENERGY FUTURES: TERRITORIES, COMMUNITIES AND LEGAL PATHWAYS**

**FROM LOCAL ACTION TO EUROPEAN  
IMPACT: EMPOWERING LEGAL  
FRAMEWORKS AND TERRITORIAL  
COOPERATION FOR THE CLEAN  
TRANSITION**

**European Commission**  
Directorate  
General Regional and Urban  
Policies  
Bruxelles, Belgium

**12 JUNE 2025**



## CROSS-BORDER ENERGY FUTURES: TERRITORIES, COMMUNITIES AND LEGAL PATHWAYS

At a pivotal moment for Europe's energy transformation, this high-level seminar brings together legal, institutional, and territorial perspectives to address one of the continent's most pressing challenges: the creation of a truly cross-border, sustainable, and inclusive clean energy future.

With a focus on legal and policy innovation, the event will examine the evolving principle of energy solidarity—a foundational value of EU energy law—and its implications for both Member States and Candidate Countries. Strategic instruments such as Interreg and the Energy Community will be explored as vehicles for deepening cooperation across borders and aligning national frameworks with European climate objectives.

Panelists will delve into the legal architecture needed to support cross-border governance, the promotion of port energy efficiency in the Upper Adriatic and the design and financing of transnational energy communities. The discussion will highlight the crucial role of institutional leadership and social engagement in embedding energy transition at the local level. The event will culminate in forward-looking reflections on strategic carbon storage as a pillar of Europe's industrial decarbonisation strategy—underscoring the urgency of integrating legal tools, multilevel governance, and EU funding in support of climate neutrality.

Anchored by a keynote from **Prof. Lucia Ruggeri** and enriched by the strategic insight of **DG REGIO** representatives, this seminar offers a unique forum to advance the dialogue on how law, policy, and territorial cooperation can converge to power Europe's clean energy transition beyond borders.



# LUCIA RUGGERI



**Lucia Ruggeri** is an Italian legal scholar who combines academic rigor with a global perspective and has long been a leading voice in the dialogue between law, innovation, and human rights. A Full Professor and current Director of the School of Law at the University of Camerino, she has dedicated her career to advancing civil law, with a focus on family, sustainability, and the digital and energy transitions.

Her research tackles some of today's most pressing legal challenges—from personal rights and bioethics to technology regulation and environmental protection—making a significant contribution to the evolution of European legal thought. She has led major international projects such as PSEFS, EU-FamPro, ECPE, and ESCOP4Green, promoting innovative legal frameworks in family law, energy, and sustainable production and consumption.

With over thirty years of academic experience and a wide-ranging portfolio of internationally recognized publications, she has built strong connections across legal systems, cultures, and generations of scholars. A prolific author and distinguished speaker at global forums, Lucia Ruggeri is a key figure for those who envision a legal system that not only governs the present but helps shape a future with the human person at its center.

# NARDA KRNETIĆ BLEČIĆ



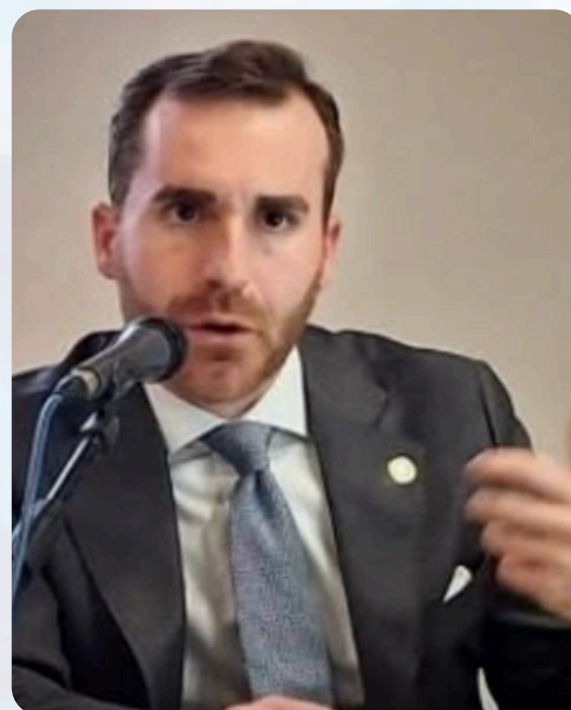
**Narda Krnetić Blečić** is a second-year PhD candidate at the University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law, Croatia and research and teaching assistant at the same faculty. Her research interest is the intersection between EU energy law, environmental law and sustainable development, with a particular focus on the EU constitutional framework. She received funding from the Croatian Science Foundation to conduct part of her research at the University of Maribor, Faculty of Law, with institutional support from Full Professor Aleš Ferčič, whose expertise includes energy law and sustainable development. Additionally, she is involved in a project funded by the University of Rijeka, focusing specifically on AI and sustainability.

## ***Energy Solidarity Beyond Borders: Legal and Strategic Dimensions in Supporting Energy Transition in Member States and EU Candidate Countries***

Energy solidarity is a cornerstone of European Union energy law and policy, aimed at ensuring the security and resilience of the energy supply within the EU's internal market. While this principle is legally enshrined for EU Member States, its application extends to EU candidate countries, such as Ukraine and the Western Balkans, through various legal frameworks and agreements that align their energy sectors with EU standards during the pre-accession phase. With the expansion of Interreg to include new countries, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine, this research focuses on the role of energy solidarity as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the European Union. The study further investigates the potential legal consequences this interpretation could have on EU candidate countries, particularly as the internal energy market extends to these regions. By leveraging Energy Community, Interreg, and other legal and strategic instruments, the expansion of the EU's energy framework highlights the growing importance of understanding the legal implications of energy solidarity in these countries. This research aims to provide insights into the evolving.



# GUIDO BEFANI



**Guido Befani** is a PhD in Enterprise, State and Market. Researcher in administrative law at the University of Trieste for the three-year period PON 2022-2024. Professor of ecological transition law. His main research interests concern the port sector, fintech and public intervention in the economy. He is the author of numerous publications in scientific journals and contributions in collective works, including those of international importance. Among his latest publications, the monograph "Poteri pubblici e sicurezza energetica. Strumenti, misure e garanzie di sostenibilità oltre il mercato", Giappichelli, Torino, 2024.

## ***Cross-border Governance for Sustainability: Towards an Integrated Administrative Authority for Port Energy Efficiency in the Upper Adriatic Hydrogen Valley***

This contribution explores the possibilities of elucidating a legal and spatial dimension of a "cross-border administrative area", to verify the feasibility of establishing, within the framework of Directive (EU) 2021/1187 on streamlining measures to promote the realisation of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T), a "common administrative authority": established by common agreement between several Member States to facilitate permitting procedures for projects Cross border.

With a specific and targeted interest in the promotion of environmental sustainability and the promotion of port energy efficiency in the Upper Adriatic maritime area, the establishment of the Upper Adriatic Hydrogen Valley between Italy, Slovenia and Croatia, has made it possible to identify a possible institutional synthesis of a cross-border "port area", bringing out the need to coordinate the respective national actions and link the various administrative authorizations through a cross-border plan for environmental sustainability and port energy efficiency in the upper-Adriatic maritime area, declined in each port (Trieste-Koper-Rijeka) through an ad hoc plan, which also takes into account the possibility of using digital technologies in the study, design and monitoring phases of public works, so-called digital twin and building information modelling, as part of the new EU Action Plan "Digitising the energy system" launched by the European Commission on 18.10.2022.

# GIANNA GIARDINI



**Gianna Giardini** is a third-year PhD candidate in the National Doctoral Programme in Sustainable Development and Climate Change at IUSS Pavia and at University of Camerino, Italy. Her research explores the intersection of energy, sustainability, and private law, with a particular focus on energy communities. She is the author of several publications on electricity market design and has been a speaker at national and international conferences. She was a visiting researcher at the European Commission's DG ENER – Unit for Renewables and Energy System Integration Policies – where she supported the legal team responsible for overseeing the transposition of the Renewable Energy Directive across EU Member States. Alongside her academic work, she also practices as an energy lawyer.

## ***From Regulation to Design: Legal Models for Cross-Border Energy Communities in the Internal Electricity Market***

Starting from the recent Handbook on Cross-border Energy Communities published by DG REGIO, this contribution explores legal models for the establishment of cross-border energy communities from the perspective of European private law. It investigates how legal instruments such as contracts, associations, and corporate forms can be employed to structure decentralized and cooperative energy initiatives operating across national borders. The analysis aims to identify both the opportunities and limitations of current regulatory frameworks and to propose normative pathways for fostering legally sound and functionally effective cross-border energy communities within the EU internal electricity market.



# ADELE SCOPELLITI



**Adele Scopelliti** is a PhD candidate in Civil Law and Constitutional Legality at the University of Camerino, where she researches contractual innovation in the energy sector, focusing on traditional contracts, blockchain, and smart contracts for energy production, consumption, and sharing, with a particular interest in Energy Communities. She is also a student at the Postgraduate School of Civil Law at the same university. She graduated in Law from LUISS Guido Carli University under the Chair of European Taxation. Alongside her academic work, she also practices as a trainee lawyer.

## ***Financial support for Cross-Border Energy Communities: a regulatory and fiscal challenge for Italy***

Cross-Border Energy Communities (CBEC) face a persistent and multifaceted challenge: accessing financial support and incentives within a highly fragmented regulatory environment. While EU directives, including programmes like CEF Energy, promote cross-border cooperation in energy production and sharing, most national legal frameworks still lack specific mechanisms to support such initiatives. Some countries, like Italy, are showing growing openness. The disparity in support schemes between Member States, combined with complex administrative requirements and the absence of harmonized financial instruments, severely limits the viability of CBECs. In many cases, financial advantages granted to domestic energy communities, such as funding for shared energy or reductions in grid tariffs, are not made available to transnational counterparts. This creates a systemic exclusion of CBECs from crucial economic benefits. The discussion will explore this issue through the lens of Italian legislation, analysing both regulatory gaps and fiscal implications.

# ALESSANDRO SALVETTI



**Adele Scopelliti** is a PhD candidate in Civil Law and Constitutional Legality at the University of Camerino, where she researches contractual innovation in the energy sector, focusing on traditional contracts, blockchain, and smart contracts for energy production, consumption, and sharing, with a particular interest in Energy Communities. She is also a student at the Postgraduate School of Civil Law at the same university. She graduated in Law from LUISS Guido Carli University under the Chair of European Taxation. Alongside her academic work, she also practices as a trainee lawyer.

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# GIUSEPPE ROSANOVA



**Giuseppe Rosanova** is a lawyer and PhD at the University of Naples Federico II. Specialised in civil law, he has been interested for many years in the issues of the dual energy and digital transition as an external researcher of the European project Escop4green of the University of Camerino. He is the author of numerous essays, articles and commentaries in international scientific journals on various aspects of energy matters, such as contracts with an electrical object, the regulation of the smart grid and the development of ADR in this field.

## ***The last frontiers of decarbonisation: strategic carbon storage projects***

The introduction of a climate-responsive electricity system cannot be dissociated from an effective consumption and carbon dioxide reduction policy. The ultimate goal is to create a circular and climate-neutral economy, increasing the commercial attractiveness of industrial decarbonisation in the Union in terms of both the supply of critical materials (EU Reg. 1252/24) and the end products, specific components and machinery for their production (Reg. 1735/24). This Regulation has ruled on Carbon Capture, which represents one of the expressions of the dual transition, energy and technology, as it allows the reduction of pollution through the use of innovative technological tools for carbon capture, in the absence of release into the atmosphere.

The need to spread these systems for the capture, storage and re-use of CO<sub>2</sub> has encouraged the Community legislator to deal with the subject, addressing the various aspects connected with initial investments, the conversion of industrial plants, transport infrastructures and the availability of operational sites, involving the oil and gas industry in projects for the conversion of plants and the promotion of storage sites in proportion to their oil and gas production capacity.

A number of questions remain concerning the extension of operational capacity to capture systems for subsequent carbon utilisation (so-called CCUs), the provision of a cross-border network, and the possibility of cushioning the considerable investment and costs associated with long-distance transport.

The sustainability of these projects can be ensured by the provision of territorial funds to encourage the designation of clusters in less developed and transition regions as well as in assisted areas. Examples are the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council (20), the Just Transition Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council (21) and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council.



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