



## North Adriatic Hydrogen Valley departs from Portorož

Portorož - Portorose, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**A long-awaited start of the North Adriatic Hydrogen Valley (NAHV) is here. The first transnational initiative of this kind under the Horizon Europe programme and supported by Clean Hydrogen Partnership, departs from Portorož – Portorose, Slovenia. More than 100 delegates representing 37 project partners from three countries, Croatia, Italy – Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, and Slovenia, gather there at a project kick-off meeting.**

Starting on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, the NAHV will run for 72 months. It includes 17 pilots to be developed in different locations in all three partner countries. The partnership worth €25 million led by HSE Slovenia's largest electricity producer and trader and the largest producer of electricity from renewable sources, includes 37 organisations: companies, universities, institutes and other public entities from the three countries. The project design covers the **entire value chain of renewable hydrogen use**, from production through storage and distribution to its end use in various sectors, notably industry and land and maritime transport, creating leverage to accelerate the transition to the renewables upon three target pillars: hard to abate, energy and transport sectors. These are the main reasons why the NAHV has received the Seal of Excellence, which is awarded under Horizon Europe to projects that have been highly evaluated.

The key aim of the initiative is to create a market for green hydrogen on both the demand and supply side, making it a competitive energy source of the future. Key industry players from all three countries will develop pilot projects to produce up to **5,000 tonnes of renewable hydrogen** per year from renewable energy sources, destined to energy storage, distribution and use. It is expected that some 20% of the produced renewable hydrogen is going to be exchanged among the participating countries, thus creating a primary regional market for hydrogen. By introducing advanced hydrogen technologies and developing skills and infrastructure, the partnership also pursues other key objectives of the European Green Deal. In particular, the NAHV testbed projects address the decarbonisation of important industrial sectors such as steel, cement and glass production and provides sustainable land and maritime transport solutions linked to reducing the carbon footprint.

It is expected that only the implementation of the planned mature stage innovation activities will unleash further investments in the renewable hydrogen-related technologies in an amount of **more than €300 million** destined to increase the capacity of hydrogen production, storage, transmission and use. Additional investments are expected to be funded on top through the course of the project implementation and afterwards from private and public sources in a form of follow-up investments into the successfully implemented pilots in 17 testbed locations across the three participating countries as well as through new initiatives which will contribute to the evolution of a social and economic ecosystem based renewable hydrogen. The foreseen development creates the need for new competencies and skills, what makes the universities and research institutions who are partners of the initiative important protagonists in designing and disseminating new educational programmes, as the NAHV is destined to become a vehicle for job creation.

It is essential to comprehend the research and innovation character of the initiative and its long-term impact on the countries hosting the initiative, along with its cross-border dimension.

*"The NAHV is launching the creation of a comprehensive ecosystem for the transition to renewable hydrogen, integrating production and service activities and the needs of households and citizens, and creating the jobs of the future through the design of the necessary skills and competences,"* said **Stephen Taylor**, Strategic Coordinator of the NAHV Joint Task Force, whose primary concern is precisely the coherent management of the project and the integration of new projects and partners into this emerging transnational ecosystem.

*"The Clean Hydrogen Partnership is proud to support the creation of the first integrated and transnational green hydrogen ecosystem in the north-Adriatic region with a 25 million grant,"* said



Co-funded by  
the European Union

The project is supported by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership and its members. It has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement No. 101111927.



**Mirela Atanasiu**, Executive Director ad Interim of Clean Hydrogen Partnership. *“The project will contribute to the European Commission’s ambitions of doubling the numbers of Hydrogen Valleys in Europe and advance the decarbonisation of energy, transport and industry sectors whilst contributing to job creation and economic growth in the region. With its impressive collaboration of 37 public and private organisations from Slovenia, Italy and Croatia, the North Adriatic cross-border hydrogen alley reflects the true European and collaborative nature of the project and can serve as a blueprint for similar Hydrogen Valleys across and beyond Europe.”*



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