

## **STORCITO (Supporting the Transition of Rural Communities toward Inclusive and climate-neuTRal sOLutions) is driving climate-neutral and inclusive innovation in rural Europe**

**Madrid, Spain. 11 September 2025** - A new Horizon Europe project, **STORCITO**, officially started in May 2025 to empower rural communities across Europe with the tools, knowledge, and innovations needed to achieve climate neutrality, increase resilience, and promote social inclusion. Funded under the Horizon Europe programme with a budget of 4.9 million euros, **STORCITO** will run for 36 months, from May 2025 to April 2028, under Grant Agreement No. 101182153. The project is coordinated by the Universidade de Vigo in Spain and brings together a multidisciplinary consortium of 11 partners from **Spain, Norway, Germany, Greece, and the Netherlands**.

European rural areas are diverse in their geography, climate, and socio-economic conditions. Many face increasing pressures from climate change, population decline, energy poverty, and mobility challenges. **STORCITO** addresses these issues by developing technical, social, and organisational innovations adapted to the specific needs of different European biogeographical regions. Through three case studies, the project will explore wildfire prevention and monitoring in Atlantic and Mediterranean areas by combining nature-based solutions with digital monitoring tools; community energy solutions for Boreal, Atlantic, and Continental regions by promoting renewable energy systems and energy communities; and climate-neutral rural mobility for Boreal and Atlantic areas by designing accessible and sustainable transport models for low-density territories. These case studies will serve both as real-world testing grounds and as models for replication in other rural contexts.

By working closely with local communities, policymakers, and other stakeholders, **STORCITO** will co-create solutions that are practical, inclusive, and scalable. The project will not only test and implement new approaches but will also generate guidelines, tools, and evidence to support decision-making at the regional, national, and European levels. In doing so, it will contribute to the European Union's long-term objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050, while ensuring that rural territories remain vibrant, resilient, and connected.

### **Project partners**

The **STORCITO** consortium is composed of 11 partners from 5 different countries:

Universidade de Vigo (Spain, coordinator), Contactica (Spain), Instituto Orensano de Desarrollo Económico (Spain), Innogando (Spain), SINTEF (Norway), Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany), Geoponiko Panepistimion Athinon (Greece), Technische Hochschule Deggendorf (Germany), Universiteit Utrecht (Netherlands), Nimmo (Spain) and Gjesdal Kommune (Norway). Together, these partners bring a wide range of expertise in research, innovation, community engagement, and implementation, enabling the project to address rural challenges from multiple angles and disciplines.

### More information

The **STORCITO** project will run from 2025 to 2029. More information about the project, its case studies, and future results is available on the official website: [www.storcito.eu](http://www.storcito.eu). Stakeholders and citizens can also follow the project's progress on LinkedIn, BlueSky, and YouTube.

### Contact information

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