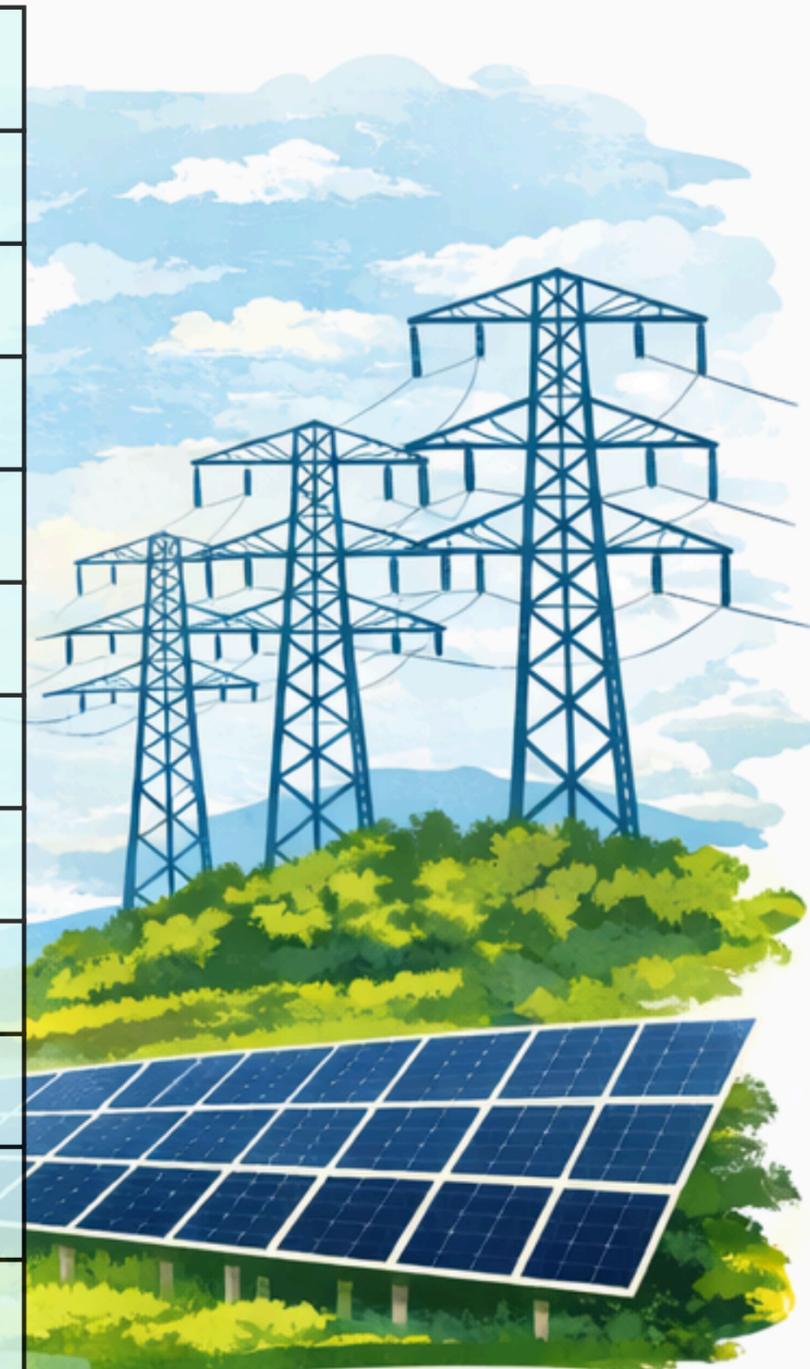


RENEWABLE ACCELERATION AREAS

How are countries translating EU rules to promote renewables?

	Transposition into national law	RAAs designation
CROATIA		
CZECHIA		
FRANCE		
GERMANY		
GREECE		
ITALY		
LITHUANIA		
POLAND		
PORTUGAL		
ROMANIA		
SPAIN		



EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

CROATIA



Transposition



Designation



- Croatia has **not yet transposed the RED III rules on RAA designation**, but most provisions **will be transposed** through the new Law on Renewable Energy Sources, which is currently under preparation but still far from being finalised and adopted.
- Croatia's mapping has some **positive elements**: e.g. availability of high-quality biodiversity and sensitivity mapping through tools such as the Biportal GIS. Thanks to these efforts, it's now clear which areas could qualify as RAAs from the perspective of nature protection. However, it remains unclear how the RAA designation process will take the sensitivity mapping and other expert sources into account in practice; as of yet there is not much information available as to how these resources are being used.
- There is limited clarity on political commitment, legal certainty, and the necessary mobilisation of human and financial resources for RAA designation. It will also be important to establish which authority will be responsible for RAA development.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

CZECHIA



Transposition



Designation



- Czechia has **transposed the Article 15c RAA rules into law** (Act on Accelerating the Use of Renewable Energy Sources) and into its spatial planning framework, in force since 1 August 2025. **RAA designation has not yet begun**; national-level acceleration areas will first be proposed in the amendment to the Spatial Development Plan, due 31 July 2026.
- The transposition is **well-integrated into existing spatial planning tools**, supported by official methodology and specialised mapping consulted with experts and environmental stakeholders. However, **public participation opportunities remain limited** within the current planning system. Political support for renewables is uncertain after national elections, with signs of opposition to wind energy and growing calls for reassessing the need for RAAs.
- These pressures risk delaying RAA implementation and creating uncertainty for regions due to an unclear future regulatory framework.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

FRANCE



Transposition



Designation



- France has not yet transposed the provisions for RAAs into national legislation, which create delays in the RAAs designation.
- The Energy Code provides the legal basis for identifying zones suitable for renewable energy, including generation, grid connections and storage. The APER law (2023) introduced municipal-level renewable acceleration zones (ZAER) to speed up deployment, but these zones were defined rapidly and do not fully comply with RED III requirements, notably on strategic planning, governance and environmental safeguards.
- The upcoming government bill seeks to align France with RED III by adapting these zones and introducing “strengthened” RAAs under Article 15c, to be debated in Parliament from February 2026.
- The current technology scope of the government bill is wind, solar and other technologies excluding biomass combustion and hydroelectric power generation facilities.
- France has strong environmental and spatial data, but environmental safeguards at zoning stage remain weak. Protection is mostly addressed project by project. Furthermore, coordination between renewables and grid acceleration zones is still unclear.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

GERMANY



Transposition



Designation



- Germany has largely completed the legal transposition of RED III provisions on RAAs by adapting existing legislation.
- RAAs are mainly designated for wind energy, both onshore and offshore. It also includes solar, grid and storage infrastructures under specific planning context.
- The designation of RAAs is largely built on pre-existing spatial planning decisions. Most designated wind energy areas are now automatically considered RAAs, unless they fall within legally defined exclusion zones (including Natura 2000 and protected areas).

Germany is among the frontrunners in implementing RAAs. However, this approach raises serious environmental and governance concerns. Because RAAs largely mirror existing plans, there is very limited additional environmental screening (incl. no SEA) and very little public participation in the designation process.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

GREECE



Transposition



Designation



- Greece has so far transposed **only one element of Article 15c, defining “first choice areas” for renewables**, but **without further rules or criteria**. A new bill updating the spatial planning framework – including the missing RED III provisions – has been announced but not yet published. The European Commission has opened infringement proceedings against Greece for failing to transpose the RED III on time.
- RAA development remains at an early stage, with limited progress on effective spatial planning and insufficient accessible data to support designation. Potential responsibilities for RAA designation are still unclear. Some sensitivity maps exist (e.g., Griffon Vulture, Brown Bear, seabirds), but they have not yet been integrated into renewable spatial planning.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

ITALY



Transposition



Designation



- Italy has transposed Article 15c of RED III through Legislative Decree No. 190/2024, which has been amended several times, most recently by Decree-Law No. 175/2025, converted into Law No. 4/2026.
- The transposition covers solar, onshore and offshore wind, as well as grid and storage infrastructure.
- The designation of RAAs remains at an early and fragmented stage. While certain areas – mostly industrial sites – have already been identified at national level as mandatory RAAs, their confirmation is still subject to ongoing regional SEA procedures.
- The overlap with the issue of “suitable areas”, combined with the fragmented regional process for identifying RAAs and the limited publicly available information on the scope, size and typology of potential areas, reduces transparency. This makes it difficult for stakeholders to assess whether the forthcoming designations will meaningfully contribute to accelerating renewable energy deployment.
- Finally, the division of competences between national and regional authorities, together with the tensions that have led to court appeals and region-by-region SEA procedures for RAAs, makes it difficult at this stage to form a clear, country-wide picture of overall progress.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

LITHUANIA



Transposition



Designation



- Lithuania transposed the provisions to the designation of RAAs through amendments to its Renewable Energy Sources law (initially published in 2011 and consolidated in January 2026).
- RAAs have not yet been formally designated.
- While the legal framework suggests that future RAAs may cover wind and solar energy technologies as well as grid and related infrastructure, there is currently no publicly available information on their potential size or geographical distribution, whether they will rely on newly designated areas or existing zones (such as industrial or degraded land), or how different technologies will be treated within RAAs.
- Moreover, key implementation elements are still largely undeveloped – such as spatial criteria, environmental sensitivity mapping, and public participation procedures.
- Moving from legal intention to a coherent, transparent and environmentally robust RAA framework will be critical in the coming months.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

POLAND



Transposition



Designation



- Poland has partially transposed RAAs provisions through the Act of 9 October 2025 amending the Act on the Promotion of Electricity Generation in Offshore Wind Farms (November 2025).
- Additional legislation covering remaining RAAs provisions, including grids and storage, is expected in 2026 (draft law UC-118).
- The approach builds on a highly decentralised spatial planning system, giving regional authorities (voivodeships) a central role in RAA designation.
- The designation of the first RAAs is not expected before the end of 2026.
- The RAA process has opened up important discussions on structural bottlenecks (incl. permitting capacity, staffing constraints and access to high-quality spatial data) which could support broader system improvements in the medium term.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

PORTUGAL



Transposition



Designation



- Transposition of the RAA rules are ongoing in Portugal. The RAA approach in Portugal features a genuine effort and positive aspects, but is constrained by a late start and a very tight timeframe, which risks undermining the quality of implementation.
- The draft Decree-Law (under public consultation in October 2025) included promising elements, explicitly excluding Natura 2000 and protected areas. The prioritisation of artificial areas is rightly identified as a key principle in line with the RED III, but it remains unclear how this priority will be implemented in practice.
- Portugal's open stakeholder engagement platform is a promising tool (<https://renovaveisparticipa.pt/>), but the platform is not yet fully operational. Significant risks persist for environmental protection in Portugal, including insufficient availability of scientific assessments, outdated or incomplete data, and the prioritisation of technical criteria such as grid proximity over environmental sensitivity, gaps in sensitivity mapping, particularly for birds and technology-specific impacts.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

ROMANIA



Transposition



Designation



- Romania has completed the legal transposition of RAAs provision through the Government Emergency Ordinance No. 59/2025 (November 2025) that amends and complements the existing renewable energy framework established under GEO 163/2022.
- The legal framework does not explicitly designate RAAs by technology, but requires identifying terrestrial, underground, marine and inland water areas suitable for renewable energy generation, implying coverage of onshore and offshore wind, solar, and potentially geothermal.
- RAAs have not yet been designated, and no quantitative targets or surface areas have been made public.
- Romania's overall approach shows positive signals on governance and strategic intent, notably through cooperation between the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, and the General Secretariat of the Government.
- At the same time, the process remains highly centralised and at an early stage of implementation. Key elements still need to be clarified in practice, including local-level involvement, the operationalisation of environmental safeguards, and structured public participation.

EU Renewables Energy Directive Implementation Progress

SPAIN



Transposition



Designation



- Spain is expected to transpose Article 15c in 2026, but is already implementing RAAs ahead of transposition. RAAs has begun in 3 out of 17 regions: the Canary Islands region, Catalonia (approval expected in 2026 for Catalonia), and Andalusia (opened a public consultation for RAA designation in January, expected to be published in 2026).
- In designating RAAs, its decentralised governance model gives autonomous regions responsibility, meaning RAA progress will depend on regional political support.
- Decentralisation can streamline planning in complex territories but carries risks: pressure on unprotected high-value land and inconsistent environmental standards across regions. The absence of a national RED III Article 16 transposition creates some governance uncertainty. Public engagement remains limited beyond institutional coordination, with few early participation opportunities, posing risks for social acceptance.