

Press Release

Launch of the MEETMED project at the Union for the Mediterranean headquarters

Barcelona, 18 May 2018 - The launch event of the Mitigation Enabling Energy Transition in the Mediterranean Region (MEETMED) project has been hosted on Friday 18 May 2018 at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in Barcelona, Spain.

MEETMED is an EU-funded project developed by the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Management (MEDENER), to foster energy transition in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. MEETMED activities will support the UfM high-level Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform (UfM REEE platform).

The event gathered representatives from the European Commission, MEDENER, RCREEE, UfM, Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) and national energy agencies from Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Mr Jorge Borrego, acting Secretary General of the UfM, Mr Cyril Dewaleyne, Programme Officer at DG NEAR - European Commission, Mr Ahmed Badr, Executive Director of RCREEE, Mr Dario Chello, President of MEDENER, and Ms Houda Allal, General Director of OME, expressed their appreciation for the official start of the MEETMED project. They shared their commitment to enhance energy cooperation and sector governance among all the Mediterranean countries, to facilitate and mobilise investment that would generate new job opportunities, and to increase the outreach to investors, consumers and donors.

Mr Matteo Barra, MEETMED project manager, emphasized that the project will coordinate with existing EU projects in the field of energy transition and with UN initiatives for the achievement of the SDG 7 for universal access to energy. Mrs Tsitsikalis from ADEME (France) presented the activities for the implementation and harmonisation of national RE and EE policies. Mr Damasiotis from CRES (Greece) illustrated the activities reinforcing public awareness and capacity building of local stakeholders. Mr Mahmoud (RCREEE) explained the measures to assess and support economic growth and job creation. Mrs Gamal (RCREEE) gave an overview of events supporting the UfM REEE platform.

The UfM REEE Platform was launched at COP 22 in Marrakesh in 2016 in order to promote the progressive deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures with a view to ensure that all citizens and businesses of the region have access to secure, affordable and reliable modern energy services, as well as to support mitigation and adaptation to climate change in the Euro-Mediterranean region.