

meetMED professional training on Sustainable Energy Design for Public Authorities

Training report

7-11 July 2019 – Algiers, Algeria

On 7 July 2019, at the presence of Mr Vincenzo Randazzo, First Secretary of the EU delegation to Algeria, Mr Mohamed Salah Bouzeriba, Director General of the Algerian National Agency for the Promotion and Rationalisation of Energy Use (APRUE), opened the first meetMED professional training addressed to public authorities in charge of improving sustainable energy planning.

Participants were trained to design and implement a full and practical sustainable energy design toolkit, including specific training modules on: 1) the role of public authorities; 2) the EU and national energy policy; 3) energy policy indicators; 4) energy planning; 5) Covenant of Mayors; 6) the role of energy managers; 7) financing instruments and funding mechanisms; 8) energy intensive areas in municipalities; 9) smart cities; 10) energy communities. The training materials are available on meetMED website [here](#).

Participants from the energy agencies and energy ministries of 6 Mediterranean countries – namely, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia - shared their experiences with the trainers, contributing to the elaboration of the final key messages and conclusions addressing the following working questions:

- How could national energy agencies and authorities support RE and EE planning and implementation, taking into account also the local entities?
- How can public authorities be encouraged to improve their energy planning?
- What can public authorities do in order to improve their energy planning?
- What tools (national, bilateral, regional) are available or should be developed to overcome existing challenges?

This meetMED activity was jointly led by CRES (Greece), together with ANME (Tunisia) and RCREEE.

Key messages:

The role of public authorities

- Central authorities are in the best position to measure and verify (monitoring) the progress in the deployment of RE and EE measures;
- Regional programs can concretely encourage local authorities to engage in energy planning (see [European Energy Awards](#), [ACTE - Alliance des Communes pour la Transition Energétique](#));
- Regional programs, such as [CESMED](#) - Cleaner Energy Saving Mediterranean Cities, [SUDEP](#) - SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, are complementary.

EU and national energy policy

- It is important to set specific targets, both quantitative and qualitative (e.g. EU 20-20-20 targets for the year 2020, then targets for 2030 and 2050);
- Central authorities should be flexible and adjust their policies (including subsidies) to make them effective according to the specific situation and progress;
- Both public and local authorities have a central role in leading by example by investing in EE and RE measures, especially when market conditions are difficult (monopolies, prices).

Energy policy indicators

- The results and the tools of the ODYSEE-MURE project (measure EE indicators and EE policies) shall be made available to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMCs);
- In this respect, meetMED activity on monitoring EE and RE indicators includes:
 - meetMED country reports on EE and RE monitoring tools in Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia;
 - meetMED report on harmonising RE and EE monitoring tools in Egypt, Jordan, Palestine;
 - meetMED report on monitoring national RE and EE action plans.

Energy planning

Elements for an effective energy planning:

- Availability of information on energy behaviours and monitoring of the impact of EE actions at the local and national level (measurement reporting and verification - MRV);
- Involvement and coordination of stakeholders (including energy utilities) in the energy planning;
- Facilitated access to green/climate funds and creation of national expert groups;
- Simplified administrative procedures and access to finance for small scale projects.

Energy intensive areas in municipalities

Municipalities should consider focus on planning and taking action in energy intensive areas:

- Focus on public roads and buildings for both national and local authorities;
- Focus on procurement tenders based on life-cycle cost analysis (possible small pilot tenders to test procedures and implementation);
- Regular monitoring and verification of energy performance of adopted actions (difficult and expensive; overperformance leaving space to further savings: possible regional solution?);
- Focus on (renewable) energy generation, batteries and storage.

Role of energy managers

Energy managers play a key role in implementing sustainable energy measures:

- Focus on training and qualification of energy managers, including legislative frameworks;

- Widening the scope of their action from planning, management, implementation, and verification;
- Focus on measurement of energy uses: baseline scenarios, benchmarking and indicators;
- Elaborating and implementing a method for evaluating results for energy efficiency investments (International Performance Measure and Verification Protocol - IPMVP - as a tool).

Financing instruments and funding mechanisms

Improving local and international financial solutions should consider:

- Disseminating European and international financing instruments for realizing energy efficiency projects;
- Designing financial mechanism for municipalities – i.e. the cities climate finance leadership alliance - including property tax as an economical tool to finance energy efficiency projects in municipalities;
- Secondary market on providing financing for initiating projects;
- Crowd funding allowing stakeholders to invest in low budget projects;
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPP);
- Energy Performance Contracting (EPC), contract issues and tendering procedures;
- Voluntary agreements for industries (cement sector in Algeria as an example);
- The price of energy in Algeria as a constrain;
- Mobilization of funds;
- Criteria for selecting Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) for energy efficiency investments;
- Funding guidelines for Algeria.

Way forward towards the meetMED report on EE in buildings

Next meetMED professional training will focus on energy audits in SMEs and will take place in Cairo next December 2019, followed by the meetMED professional training on energy efficiency in the building sector that will take place in Tunis on February 2020.

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