FINAL REPORT

Phase 1: May 2018 - Apr 2020
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ABOUT

meetMED is a two-year project funded by the European Commission and jointly carried out by the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Management (MEDENER) and by the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE). Its main goal is to reinforce regional cooperation aimed at fostering the energy transition in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia under the umbrella of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency platform.
VISION – Together We Switch to Clean Energy

meetMED countries aspire to implement concrete EE and RE solutions that enhance their energy security while fostering their transition to low carbon and climate resilient national economies. meetMED partners and experts share the vision to join forces and share knowledge in order to build more stable, efficient and competitive energy systems.

The meetMED activities strengthen the implementation of the measures enabling the energy transition at national, regional and local level. While EE and RE strategies and action plans are clearly designed across the Mediterranean, public authorities and private actors demand for concrete instruments to implement them.
Mission

The meetMED activities respond to the project vision in two interrelated ways: by **improving governance** (monitoring and assessment of policies) and by **strengthening market confidence** (activation of inclusive jobs and mobilization of sustainable investments).

**Good governance** is a key component for implementing the energy transition and it means securing sound design for energy strategies, accurate monitoring and evaluation, and their comprehensive assessment in relation to the achievement of the objectives for the integration of RE and of EE in the energy systems.

**Stronger market confidence** in the field of EE and RE means the enhancement of legislative and regulatory frameworks, the training of technical capacity, the facilitation of the private sector involvement and the multiplication of the job creation effect in the EE and RE markets.

meetMED strives to strengthen local and national technical capacity in order to help integrate EE and RE solutions for developing and deploying more sustainable policies around the Mediterranean.
CONSISTENT WITH THE Mediterranean Energy Transition Scenario 2040 and with the Pan-Arab Renewable Energy Strategy 2030, most meetMED target countries have their energy efficiency and renewable energy national action plans or national strategies in place to carry out energy transition measures by 2030.

Implementation is hard to assess because it is early still, but structural changes have not occurred yet and overall progress is slow. Growing energy demand linked to urbanization is a recurrent challenge across the region, and national responses depend on political stability and economic systems.

Subsidies, fuel and electricity prices, pilot projects, fiscal incentives as well as dedicated funds are activated to integrate more renewable energy sources in national energy systems – including in oil-producing countries as a security against price volatility and import dependence.

Energy efficiency measures are in place in key sectors, minimum standards are adopted, building codes are being developed - even though on a voluntary basis, and energy audits for industries are widespread to reduce energy intensity across all sectors.

The mobilization of the private sector creates small but promising markets in power generation, water heating and manufacturing of electrical devices. Regional cooperation has an important role to play towards the harmonization of national markets for EE and RE products and services.
CONTEXT

The context for the meetMED project is to advance regional cooperation under the umbrella of the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency (REEE) Platform of Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). Since 2016, all EU Member States and 15 countries from the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean meet and promote the deployment of RE and EE measures in order to foster sustainable development, to promote job creation, to ensure energy access, and to support mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

meetMED is a project funded by the European Commission as part of the EU climate and energy diplomacy in the Southern Neighbourhood to more efficient, secure and better integrated energy markets. The meetMED project brings together 11 project partners (MEDENER + RCREEE + 9 Energy Agencies, members of MEDENER) to exploit the massive potential of untapped sustainable energy sources and for reducing carbon emissions together with reaping the opportunities for investments and creating jobs.

meetMED results benefit a large audience of stakeholders, starting from citizens of the target countries, EU institutions and EU delegations around the Mediterranean, as well as EU-funded cooperation projects, regional and international cooperation initiatives, development cooperation agencies, international financial institutions, public and private investors in sustainable energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate action, think tanks, networks and academia.

Links of Interest:
- EU ENER
  - ec.europa.eu/info/departments/energy_en
- EU ENER
  - ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/organisation/dg-near-dg-neighbourhood-enlargement-negotiations_en
- EU Neighborhood South
  - euneighbours.eu/en/south/eu-in-action
- UfM REEE Platform
  - www.ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-reee-platform
SECRETARIAT

Coordinated jointly by the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Management (MEDENER) and by the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), the meetMED Secretariat of four persons was based between Brussels and Cairo.

The meetMED team assisted the project partners in all activities, from establishing the network of national experts to the financial accounting and reporting of the EU-funded budget of €1.5 million. Over the two years of phase 1, the meetMED team accompanied the 11 project partners in 14 activities resulting in 26 events and 20 reports in 10 countries.

The Secretariat helped plan, prepare and carry out workshops and conferences as well as design, draft and publish regional papers and country reports. A strong foundation was created between national energy agencies and departments and their national experts, the EU, the UfM and other regional and international initiatives in the eight target countries.

Into a large and successful network of public and private initiatives accelerating energy transition in the Mediterranean region for the benefit of the public authorities, of the civil society and of the private sector.

MEDENER is an international non-profit organization gathering agencies from the northern and southern Mediterranean countries in charge of implementing public policies on energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources, by implementing regional projects facilitating the sharing of know-how and best practices among its members and international partners, as well as accelerating the transfer of skills, methods and technologies in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

RCREEE is an intergovernmental organization aiming at enabling the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency practices in the Arab region. RCREEE brings together regional governments and global organizations to initiate and lead clean energy policy dialogues, strategies, technologies and capacity development in order to increase Arab states’ share of tomorrow’s energy. Its key work areas are capacity development and learning, policies and regulations, research and statistics, and technical assistance.
11 PARTNERS

meetMED activities were jointly carried out by MEDENER and RCREEE, together with nine national energy agencies from the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.

The unique partnership between MEDENER and RCREEE brings together the network of the national energy agencies and of the national energy departments, the key players in the implementation of the national EE and RE strategies and the national level and key actors in regional cooperation.
The meetMED Regional Expert Network (REN) helped accelerate the implementation of the energy transition at the national and regional levels by bringing their expertise and knowledge to the table.

meetMED REN reached more than 70 governmental experts from national energy agencies and departments of 13 Mediterranean countries. The meetMED REN consisted of four thematic task forces, with a focus on: EE and RE strategies and policies; EE and RE monitoring tools; EE in buildings; EE for appliances. meetMED REN experts come from the ADEME (France), ADENE (Portugal), ALMEE (Lebanon), AMEE (Morocco) ANME (Tunisia), APRUE (Algeria), CRES (Greece), ENEA (Italy), IDAE (Spain), NERC/RSS (Jordan), NREA (Egypt), PENRA (Palestine), REAOL (Libya) and RCREEE.

The experts from the meetMED REN strengthened and multiplied technical expertise to support national governments to implement EE and RE policies and measures. Together, they created instruments shared at regional level, such as policy recommendations, monitoring tools, training packages, investments reports, that facilitate the transition to cleaner energy at national and regional levels. The experts regularly met during regional workshops and elaborated country policy papers and regional reports published on meetMED website.
FOCUS AREAS

The 4 Focus Areas reinforce the 4 Working Streams of the meetMED project by providing thematic depth to the strategic operational structure with specific peer-to-peer exchange workshops and more detailed reports on the following topics:

Focus Areas:
1. EE & RE Policies
2. Energy Efficiency in Buildings
3. Energy Efficiency for Appliances
4. Markets & Investments

Working Streams:
1. National RE & EE Strategies and Policies
2. Professional and Vocational Training
3. Sustainable Growth and Investments
4. The UfM REEE Platform

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Publications:
(A11) EE and RE Strategies and Policies
(A12) Monitoring National NREAPs and NEEAPs and on extension of MEDENER Observatory

Buildings ....................................................................................................................14
Publication:
(A11) report on EE in buildings

Appliances ....................................................................................................................16
Publications:
(A11) report on EE for appliances
(A22) report on quality infrastructures
(A33) report on regional program for energy efficient appliances

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Publications:
(A31) Palestine and Algeria
(A32) (A35) reports on job creation
(A34) report on industrial association

EE and RE Strategies and Policies

Southern and eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs) involved in meetMED have improved their EE and RE policies by establishing long-term national energy strategies, implementing action plans and setting targets for energy savings and renewables. The implementation of these policies differs between countries: while Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia have clear EE regulatory frameworks, Libya is evolving at a much slower pace. For renewables, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Palestine show more advanced regulatory frameworks.

Our group of experts identified additional actions to promote EE and RE integration in different national economies. The energy transition requires action at institutional levels by strengthening and enforcing existing frameworks, creating market supply of EE and RE materials, equipment and services, and by incentivizing public demand through behavioural changes. Raising public awareness on EE and RE benefits is fundamental to enhance the dissemination of good practices.

The report concludes that regional cooperation and knowledge sharing is vital for the Mediterranean energy transition and should be focused on promoting cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder dialogue, on increasing technical and financial capacity of market players, and on raising awareness with civil society actors and through public campaigns.
Monitoring National NREAPs and NEEAPs

Monitoring involves many stakeholders who are often not coordinated, thus leading to duplicates, inconsistent indicators and difficulties in achieving relevant benchmarks for providing reliable guidance to decision-makers. EE indicators are calculated here by sector and end-use, connecting technical parameters at a macro-level (called top-down indicators) and energy intensities (in monetary units) for effective regional comparison. Previously, MED (2010-2013) developed and compiled energy efficiency indicators in four countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Lebanon) with the support of the national energy management agencies; then, it was necessary to update the indicators, to ensure training to the teams, and to study the feasibility of extending this approach to other targeted countries, such as Egypt and Jordan.

In 2019, a dedicated database called MED’observEER with a hundred EE indicators was adjusted for each country with data provided until 2017. A regional task force composed of more than 20 experts was set-up; 2 regional trainings were organized in Beirut and Tunis; 3 country profiles (Algeria, Lebanon and Tunisia) presented trends and positive examples. Finally, a regional report illustrates the trends in Lebanon, Algeria Morocco and Tunisia and a study for extending the MED’ObservEER approach has also been prepared thanks to field visit and interviews with key stakeholders in the 3 countries. Jordan and Palestine are good candidates for participating in the MED’observEER initiative. For Egypt, further investigation needs to be conducted and the project should be better explained to the Egyptian authorities.

Capacity-building should focus not on statistics, but rather on interpreting the indicators to provide better coordination among stakeholders and communication. Data reliability and quality control are keys to success. Sharing regional experiences could be useful to compare situations. Fostering the institutionalization of data collection and strengthening existing systems by integrating the indicators into existing energy management systems in order to make the monitoring of these indicators permanent could be very useful next steps.
FOCUS AREA: Energy Efficiency in Buildings

Energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in buildings offer concrete opportunities (in the planning and the operational phases) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as to save costs for heating, cooling, ventilation and lighting: energy efficient buildings are less expensive to operate, more comfortable to live in, and more environmentally friendly. The meetMED training on EE in buildings, which took place in Tunisia, and the subsequent report on EE in buildings provide guidance for normative frameworks, monitoring, capacity building and regional cooperation.

Legislation Issues and Framework

Despite the improvement in EE levels in the building sector for the meetMED target countries thanks to the implementation of new policies and measures, several actions need to be implemented, including the enforcement of EE building codes, minimum energy performance standards and labelling systems and the development of energy performance certification/rating systems.

Recommended actions include:

> Set restrictive and sustainable rules and legal frameworks as well as detect the costs for energy efficiency measures and for green building standards.

> Reinforce the role of key actors and develop a strict control system to verify regulatory framework application.

> Implement energy prices reforms, financial incentives and improved capacity-building of market players are needed to motivate private owners/users of buildings to implement EE solutions and to overcome the expertise gap in EE construction, renovation, control and inspections.
Measurement and Monitoring

Data collection and monitoring (at national and regional levels) are essential to evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies.

**Recommended actions include:**

> Develop effective mechanisms for measuring, controlling and monitoring the policy measures related to building sector.

Capacity-Building

> Develop an online training platform or e-learning training (having a webinar for the theoretical part and in situ practical lessons for example) with exchange/discussions.

> Support and finance EE and RE projects for the key actors, especially the local public authorities that plays an important role in the implementation and dissemination of RE and EE measures.

Regional Cooperation

> Strengthen and support energy agencies to work together in filling technical capacity gaps at all levels and to enhance the energy transition in the Mediterranean building sector.

> Prepare a regional guide, which illustrates tools for the implementation of EE and RES solutions in the building sector (such as harmonizing the standards as well as regionalizing markets and monitoring procedures).

> Exchange (via website) good practices for financing EE/RE projects for raising awareness and building the capacity needed to disseminate good solutions at the regional level.

> Highlight the importance of national expertise in terms of human capacity on energy efficiency issues and foster constructive exchanges between north-south and south-south cooperation.
FOCUS AREA: Energy Efficiency for Appliances

Energy Efficiency for Appliances

Emanating from the meetMED workshop in Barcelona in December 2019, different topics emerged related to promoting energy efficiency for home appliances programmes in the SEMCs. The analytical outcomes of national surveys implemented by the representatives of the member states about the progress in the field of MEPS and appliances were also presented.

The approach to have a regional endorsement label for efficient appliances was approved by all national representatives, and the need to support the requested quality infrastructure and to harmonize testing and evaluation procedures were also advanced as priority action points.

It was recommended that a specific programme should be designed with the involvement of all relevant bodies and with the objective of creating and deploying this regional label around the Mediterranean. The participants agreed to submit this request to the European Commission for further consideration.

The outcomes of the surveys showed that all countries have taken steps towards the implementation of the MEPS and labelling programs for appliances with different levels of progress to date. A high need was identified to enhance quality infrastructure and monitoring and verification tools to measure the impact on overall energy domestic consumption.
Quality Infrastructures for EE and RES Equipment and Services in the SEMCs

This activity focuses on assessing the level of the quality assurance for defined RE and EE goods and services across the SEMCs in order to screen out the existing quality infrastructure entities, appraise the applicable methods used to assure the quality of the RE-EE products, and propose a course of action to harmonize a regional quality market in the meetMED targeted countries.

An analysis of the interaction between cleantech industries and the manufacturing sector shows that the rate of RE and EE industrial integration in local markets still face problems to support the energy plans, especially for wind and solar. Preliminary findings of national cases show that the overall quality infrastructure in all targeted countries has considerable similarities in terms of institutional capacities, with the whole quality control organization, except for Lebanon, Palestine and Libya in terms of metrology and testing capacities.

The outcomes show that Egypt has very good quality control capabilities for different products. Jordan and Tunisia have the most upgraded testing facilities, followed by Algeria and Morocco, who actively contribute to the development of RE and EE standards. Lebanon has a promising status despite the absence of a national entity responsible for accreditation activities. Despite the unstable situation in Libya and Palestine, significant efforts are needed to set a clear framework for quality control and certification management systems for related RE and EE products and services in favour of the local economy.
meetMED Proposal for Regional Program for Appliances

Assessing the share of total energy consumption of household appliances (with a focus on air conditioning) and reviewing the existing MEPS and labels in the region, as well as the institutional framework and implementation mechanisms related to EE in appliances in the SEM region, meetMED developed a proposal for the design of a regional program for energy efficient household appliances in the targeted SEMCs.

The main objective of the meetMED proposal is to accelerate the adaptation of Standards and Labels (S&L) and MEPS and to improve the effectiveness of national EE programs to deploy adequate and appropriate measures for appliances in the SEMCs. On a regional level, the residential sector consumes around 40% of the total electricity in the targeted countries. In terms of implementation, “Comparative Labelling” is predominant in the region while “Mandatory MEPS” are the most used tools in the targeted SEMCs. The top appliances with authorized MEPS and labels in the region are “AC”, “Refrigerators” and “Lightings” as they have authorized MEPS and Labels in six countries, “Solar Water Heaters” have MEPS in four countries while MEPS for “Washing Machines” are adopted in two countries and labelling is currently under development in one country.

Aligning and harmonizing MEPS and labels for household appliances is imperative for the Mediterranean region. A recommended course of action is to focus on the development of relevant policies and regulations for capacity-building and awareness-raising for policy-makers and communities to help adapt MEPS and labels in the targeted SEM countries. A harmonized testing infrastructure is also recommended to help facilities at regional level with monitoring and surveillance processes for appliances to be successfully implemented.
FOCUS AREA: Markets & Investments

Mapping the investment climate and market structure to mitigate investment risks for pre-defined EE and RES technologies

This meetMED activity addressed policy and regulatory risks and barriers for the financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in two Mediterranean countries (Algeria and the Palestinian Territories) by gathering updated information on the two national economies, their energy market structures and legislative frameworks for EE and RES investments.

The two meetMED Investment Country Reports (MICRs) are the main outcome of the activity and are aimed at giving an overview of the EE and RE markets in Algeria and the Palestinian Territories, while also providing a transparent and comprehensive analysis of the existing legal and regulatory framework applicable to investments in the energy sector.

The main conclusions of these reports should guide policy-makers, public authorities, investors and financial institutions, as well as local communities and final customers to facilitate investment that might increase the penetration of RE and EE in the national energy system of Algeria and Palestinian Territories.

In Algeria, RES and EE can give a significant contribution to overcome the dilemma between a pricing policy that allows investment to be renumerationed and the need to avoid social tensions and energy poverty. This strategy cannot disregard the crucial role that can be played by public investment plans in the sector, accompanied by the creation of market conditions that foster an adequate level of private investment by domestic and foreign companies.

In the Palestinian territories, it is recommended to review and update the existing laws and the instructions mainly net metering, PSI, direct offer, competitive biddings, incentives, etc. so as to generalize the benefits to consumers, investors, and DisCos. Extra incentives should be given towards tax exemptions in EE goods and projects and the energy markets for small and large investments should be opened, provided that small investors cannot implement their projects because large investors cover all the demand. Further awareness campaigns should get started, and the energy sector deeply reformed.
Impact of Investments in EE and RE Projects on Local Economic Growth and Job Creation

The report “Mapping EE and RES Market Potential Areas with Higher Impact on Local Economy and Job Creation – Tunisia, Egypt, and Lebanon” shows the impact on the labor market of RE and EE projects in the selected countries, by identifying the number of jobs created, as well as the employment factor, per technology and all along the value chain.

The meetMED REN elaborated a regional proposal for investigating the possibility to create a regional impact assessment tool to calculate employment for RE and EE projects. This tool could measure the net employment as well as the qualitative and quantitative assessment. According to the data collected, the Input-Output methodology appears to be the best methodology to assess the regional impact, but this only measures the impact on final demand. If more data were available, full economic models can be used since they can evaluate which economic aggregates will be affected by that change and how that change must occur.
Creation of Industrial Association for EE & RES Components’ Manufacturing to Serve Local Markets

The deployment of energy efficient and renewable energy systems involves different sectors so cooperation among different stakeholders is needed to coordinate the efforts. The creation of a solid structure (such as an association of associations) at national and potentially at regional levels could help develop and introduce RE and EE measures, as well as to promote local production of components for RE and EE systems. They could also serve as an industrial and commercial lobby defending and promoting the development of a local market with a clear and efficient public policy for the energy transition, including regulation and financing means.

The concept note defines realistic options for supporting the creation of EE and RES associations at national and/or regional levels to enhance cooperation between different stakeholders with the main objective to assess the potential and feasibility of the creation of EE and RES systems in the SEMCs. The proposed industrial associations will serve the local EE and RES markets and support several other objectives, such as EE & RE promotion, increasing visibility locally, lobbying for national and regional public policy change to improve capacity building and knowledge exchange amongst members and partners.

A recommended action point is to start with the creation of national associations/networks in order to have a strong foundation for the establishment of a regional one (bottom-up approach). Fund-raising agencies and donors would help ensure the sustainability of the association during the first phases. Thereafter, the association would ensure its own resources by establishing a sustainable membership-based business model.
OUTREACH & IMPACT

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Mediterranean High-Level Policy Dialogue (MED-HLPD)

For the last decade, southern Mediterranean countries have worked intensively to upgrade the political and the institutional frameworks to have a more solid sustainable energy mix. Investment enhancement is the top priority to upscaling the deployment of renewable energies and energy efficiency around the region.

The Mediterranean High-Level Policy Dialogue (MED-HLPD) established a network of financial institutions, banks, private sector, governments, as well as national and international organizations. Encouraging the existence and development of such a platform, regional cooperation is facilitated by involving stakeholders to discuss and analyze potential opportunities that could assist in opening more investments in renewables and energy efficiency around the Mediterranean.

The MED-HLPD helped expand RE and EE investments in projects and/or programmes in 8 participating countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia.

A One-Stop-Shop to facilitate investment and access to finance might possibly be established. The OSS would then present different investment options to the market and will provide technical services to different beneficiaries to stimulate investments and markets. This could help the beneficiary countries to achieve their targets announced within their national plans and NDCs.
Training & Workshops

meetMED activities focused on vocational trainings as a key component that concretely builds the technical capacity of the energy managers, planners, manufacturers, installers, and maintainers to implement EE and RE measures and solutions in the public and in the private sector. Acquiring professional qualifications is a key to activate energy markets that integrate the most advanced tools and technologies that foster the energy transition. Under the leadership of CRES (Greece), meetMED experts completed a regional survey on EE and RE professional training and designed and carried out three different professional training courses.

1. the meetMED training on Sustainable Energy Design Toolkit for Public Authorities (hosted by APRUE in Algiers on 7-11 July 2019) provided guidelines to public authorities to use sustainable energy design toolkits and financing solutions for sustainable energy projects.

2. the meetMED training on Energy Audits in Industrial Small to Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) (hosted by RCREEE in Cairo on 8-12 December 2019) provided the necessary skills and knowledge to improve energy efficiency and profitability in the industrial sector and to complete a thorough energy audit.

3. the meetMED training on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources in Buildings (hosted by ANME in Tunis on 24-28 February 2020) provided a rich exchange on best practices for the completion of green buildings equivalent to nearly zero or zero energy.

meetMED Training Courses

Three meetMED training courses were designed and carried out between July 2019 and February 2020:
meetMED Survey on EE and RE Professional Training

The regional market survey of the RES and EE professional training schemes examined the development and number of courses, the status of the training institutions and the quality of the training in Algeria, Egypt, Greece, France, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. The availability of the training infrastructures and courses is unequally distributed in the target countries: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia were highly developed, while Jordan, Libya and Palestine all have little developed professional training schemes and public or private institutions.

Legal frameworks and training infrastructures are essential for the continuous development of the training activities. Qualifications of the trainers contribute to the success of the training and its market relevance. New trends in teaching methods and tools, such as e-learning, can facilitate the training activities where the existing infrastructures are weak.

Professional trainings that are relevant and formative include extensive country studies and practical examples that relate the training activities to the expectations of the EE and RE labor and service market.

Professional trainings in the EE and RE sector should cover a large spectrum of technologies and services and should include all stakeholders if they are to create market players skilled to effectively integrate RE and EE in the national energy systems. meetMED experts have the consolidated competences that are needed to improve vocational training across the target countries and to carry out the training courses that foster the energy transition.
Forums

6th MEDENER International Conference

Organized by MEDENER in cooperation with the Jordanian National Energy Research Centre (NERC), this forum gathered energy experts coming from 16 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region. Linking energy efficiency and energy prices, the forum investigated bottlenecks for energy efficiency and renewable energy investments as prerequisites for effective energy policies. Two paths were advanced to increase energy efficiency where energy prices are not influencing consumers towards responsible energy choices: in the short-term, entrusting the public institutions to lead by example on the benefits of investing in renewables and energy efficiency; while in the mid- and long-term, joining forces towards the harmonization of Mediterranean energy markets.

7th MEDENER International Conference

Hosted by the Municipality of Rhodes and the Greek Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES), participants discussed sustainable energy solutions for islands and remote areas as frontrunners for the energy transition in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Common challenges faced by islands remote areas in relation to energy efficiency include the integration of large amounts of variable renewable energy sources in the power systems, energy storage, demand response systems, low carbon transportation and sustainable water treatment. The forum was organized in partnership with the Clean energy for EU Islands Secretariat, the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE), Greening the Islands and REVOLVE.

Image: Participants at the 7th MEDENER International Conference, Rhodes, Greece, 26 Sep. 2019. meetMED

# Newsletter

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<th>#</th>
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Social Media

The meetMED project uses two social media channels to communicate more about policy via Twitter and to build a professional network of followers via LinkedIn:
Events

meetMED partners and experts contributed to the annual meetings of the UfM REEE platform in 2019 and in 2020 with key messages on the implementation of EE measures in buildings and for appliances and on EE RE strategies and policies.

meetMED and UfM further joined forces and reached out to all UfM countries in the workshop on EE for appliances (Barcelona, December 2019) and in the training on EE in buildings (Tunis, February 2020) and are expected to contribute to the regional dialogue with the preparation of the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy in 2021.

MEDENER and RCREEE, in close coordination with the UfM Co Presidency and with the UfM Secretariat, together with their meetMED partners and experts provide key contributions to the work of the UfM REEEE Platform.

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<td>24-28 Feb 2020</td>
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<td>Training on EE and RE Sources in Buildings</td>
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This publication is a product of the meetMED (Mitigation Enabling Energy Transition in the Mediterranean region) project which is funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Management (MEDENER) and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE). The conclusions of this report result from the analysis of the Country Policy Papers prepared by the meetMED Regional Expert Network (REN) – a network composed by experts coming from 13 Mediterranean countries – the aim of which is to support national governments in the implementation of EE and RE policies enhancing national programmes and frameworks in the region.

Since 2012, most of the eight target countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) have improved their energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors, having put in place long-term national energy strategies that set ambitious targets for energy savings and renewable energy penetration. Nevertheless, several challenges still hinder the development of EE and RE, particularly related to governmental, technical or information aspects. This report identifies a set of recommendations that can be implemented to promote the development of both sectors. Awareness of the population for EE and RE benefits should be one of the main objectives of the countries since the lack of knowledge is a clear barrier to the dissemination of good practices. Regional cooperation should be encouraged to facilitate the energy transition in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMCs) – cooperation will accelerate the implementation of common measures and help overcome shared barriers.