

Vademecum with results of the Brussels workshop “Innovation for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency solutions in Mediterranean regions and cities. An overview of achieved results and future

PROJECT TITLE: *Enhancing Mediterranean Initiatives Leading SMEs to innovation in building energy technologies*

AXIS: *Strengthening innovation capacities*

OBJECTIVE: Dissemination of innovative technologies and know-how

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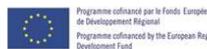


Introduction

Taking advantage of the conclusion of MED Programme 2007 - 2013 and in the frame of the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW 2015), EMILIE along with GRASP project have organized a special workshop in Brussels in conjunction with other relevant MED projects related to energy efficiency .

Under the coordination of the MED JTS, several stakeholders of public administrations and Smes have been invited to attend the event, namely coordinators of projects working on innovation capacities. Policy makers, EU commission officers and stakeholders Innovative methodologies have been used to encourage a participatory approach as panel group (organized by thematic areas oriented to reflections on the improvement and replicability of discussed results) and the networking lunch

The conclusions of the workshop have been summed up in the present document containing the emerged idea and suggestions on how to make the projects results an opportunity of enrichment for all and further capitalization in the next programming period.



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The final workshop in Brussels

Being a side event of the EUSEW week, the final MED programme workshop focused on the contributions to renewable energy and energy efficiency in the MED area during the last programming period. The event was held on June 18th and was hosted at in the premises of the Generalitat de Catalunya in Brussels.

The welcoming session was given by Ms. Ana Repullo, representing DG REGIO, and by Mr. Wolfgang Petzold, representing the Committee of the Regions who reported on the importance of the next INTERREG Programme family for the Mediterranean area and on the importance of the use of virtual channels in the project communication. The introductions were followed by a description of MED's projects and accomplishments in a short presentation titled, "A glimpse of MED Programme contributions in the fields of RES and RE in the period 2007-2014" made by the MED JTS representatives.

Three different project panels gave participants the opportunity to become more familiar with different themes and results funded by the MED Programme. The first panel, "Integrating Innovation in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Mediterranean" was moderated by Ms. Acitores, a MED Programme project officer. Representatives from EMILIE, ENCERTICUS, REPUBLIC-MED and MAIN each shared their progress and answered questions from the audience. Project ENCERTICUS promotes energy awareness and active community participation by providing homeowners with real-time energy usage information and by creating a certification system for energy performance monitors.

The second panel, moderated by Mr. Gomez, gave insight into GRASP, CO-EFFICIENT, GREENBERTH, E2STORMED and SINGERGIA projects. This discussion focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency as drivers of decarbonization in key Mediterranean sectors. GRASP stands for, "Green procurement And Smart city SuPport in the energy sector", and accomplishes this goal by focusing on the creation of a green transnational energy procurement process to meet the needs of MED public administrations and SMEs.

After a brief discussion and a networking/coffee break, the third panel, moderated by Ms. Acitores, discussed "putting forward MED PROGRAMME and projects results at cluster and policy level". SMARTINMED, PVNET, ENERCOAST, and GREENPARTNERSHIPS, as well as MARIE were all represented. MARIE aims to improve building energy efficiency by developing a common policy between Mediterranean countries and stimulating the market for technologies related to building energy efficiency.

A networking lunch served as a good mid-day opportunity to discuss informally past project successful experiences and further improvements. The lunch time also fostered important connections between the representatives of different projects allowing ideas, knowledge, and solutions to be shared freely.

In the afternoon, six focus sessions were held with the purpose of matching existing results in RES and EE with persistent challenges, complementary initiatives, and current funding options for the Mediterranean area.

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The first focus session, presented by Mr. Gomez and Ms. Acitores discussed the Med Programme and current funding opportunities in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable transportation in order to support low carbon initiatives in the Mediterranean.

The second presentation was about the future commitment of the European Cohesion Policy towards the low carbon economy investments. This presentation was led by Ms. Skaringer from DG REGIO, who stressed the fact that the investments in low carbon action will double in the next programming phase.

In the third session, Ms. Sombsthay, policy officer at DG ENERGY, informed participants of the latest developments of European energy policy and highlighted the importance of the European Territorial Cooperation to work concretely at local level.

Then, the head of division at JASPERS, Mr. Almagro, addressed energy investments funding in a session called, “European Investment Bank intervention in the Mediterranean- main synergies for the support of higher investments in RES and EE”.

Afterward, the synergies between H2020 and the MED Programme were shared by Ms. Kotkowska, the head of Sector Buildings, District Heating, and Cooling at EASME.

In the final focus session, Mr. Morcillo, from the Covenant of Mayors, presented the Covenant of Mayors initiative and commitment to support the implementation of the plans and the multi – level governance plan.

The afternoon came to a successful close with a final discussion and final remarks. Participants left with a more in-depth knowledge of the MED projects and their results as well as further requirements and challenges of RES and EE advancement. The most important takeaway of this event is the importance of establishing networks, exchange solutions and capitalize the results reached so far as useful input to draft new project proposals. .

As a result, these gatherings will promote the collective goal of advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency.

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Conclusions

The most important takeaway of this event is the continuing need to come together to network and exchange solutions in order to inspire ideas and capitalize on project results. As a result, these gatherings will promote the collective goal of advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency.

As main conclusions of the projects presented, can be highlighted that there is a strong potential of integration of innovation in renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Mediterranean, what can become a driver of decarbonisation in key sectors of the area.

Another outcome was the importance of put forward the project results at cluster of the energy efficiency sector and at policy level to public authorities and representatives of regional agencies. Thanks to that, it can be achieved that European Energy policies and actions developed by different governments of European Union face the actual needs of the energy efficiency sector and in this way, supporting the growth of the companies and with that, fostering the creation of employment.

In the last part of the event was showed the importance of, on one hand, involving the European Investment Bank for supporting investments in renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, try to find synergies with projects of H2020 in order to use the knowledge created, and on the other hand, the importance of contributing to the Covenant of Majors initiative, since it can be complementary with initiatives of MED Programme related to renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

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