

Intermediterranean Commission Working Group on Renewable Energies and Efficiency Energy (REEE) Action Plan for 2013-2014 (update on 24 March 2014)

I - INTRODUCTION – CONTEXT

The energy challenge in the XXI century and the new energy revolution

The global economy is dependent on non-renewable fossil fuels resources (oil, coal) that represent a significant share of the total fuel use in Europe, while using nuclear energy presents risks for the environment and for human beings. On the other hand, there exists an enormous saving energy potential through applying energy efficiency measures, especially in buildings.

The promotion of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency are now among the priorities of the European Union as part of the fight against climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions. Developing measures for renewable energy and energy efficiency responds to the prospect of a downward trend of the availability of fossil fuel resources on which the exceptional growth of the world economy is based.

Governance and the role of regional authorities at the heart of the energy challenge

The transition from a global economy based on fossil fuels to an economy based on renewable energy and energy efficiency implies a deep transformation in the organization of public policies.

The energy revolution requires cultural and organizational changes in our societies as well as coordination between public and private actors at European, national, regional and local levels. Renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures can be designed in a European conventional network view (top-down approach), while a territorial approach in which renewable energies and energy efficiency are developed according to the needs of a territory and its people (bottom-up approach) can be undertaken in parallel.

This approach requires a massive injection of public funds to a new level never reached in the history of technology and energy. The level of technical and commercial maturity reached today by the main sectors of renewable energies and the improvement of the efficiency of buildings and transportations are both dependent on public money and are in competition with "conventional" energy sources.

In the European Union, national and public policies are deployed within the framework defined by different directives. Although there are very heterogeneous levels of regionalization from a Member State to another, regional authorities are playing a leading role in the "territorial translation" of European and national policies including energy policies.

At the EU level, the strategic guidelines adopted in the area of renewable energies and energy efficiency aim to:

- Diversify energy sources and foster the use of renewable energy sources (RES)
- Contribute to sustainable growth (Lisbon, Gothenburg and EU 2020 strategies)

- Develop a high-tech renewable energy sources industry
- Facilitate the achievement of the EU objectives established in the Roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050
- Facilitate the achievement of EU objectives established in the EU Communication “Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe” (COM(2012) 60 final) and in the EU Communication “A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery Industrial Policy Communication Update”(COM(2012) 582 final)
- Facilitate the achievement of EU objectives established in EU Directives related to Energy Efficiency, especially the last one (EED/27/2012).

Moreover on 25 October 2012, the EU adopted the Directive 2012/27/EU on Energy Efficiency.

Concerning Climate Change Strategy it is important to consider:

1. “The Nearly Zero Energy buildings objective through 2010” Directive
2. The Green Paper that was adopted by the Commission in March 2013. In light of the views expressed by Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders, the Commission intends to table the 2030 framework by the end of 2013.
3. That the European Commission is looking at cost-efficient ways to make the European economy more climate-friendly and less energy-consuming. By 2050, the European Union could cut most of its greenhouse gas emissions.

In this frame it is worth underlining that Energy strategies remain a jurisdiction largely driven by national authorities. Consequently, despite the increasing decentralization of governments and the general rise of power from the regions, energy policies often remain a national government competence

Nevertheless, the strong territorial impact of these sectors often results in a significant political weight of local and regional authorities. Municipalities play, in particular, an important and often overlooked role in the governance of renewable energy development. Indeed, local authorities are often the promoters of large installations industrial projects and they have a specific role in the frame of the authorization procedures. The Regions, on their side, are playing an increasingly important role in the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency, but there is still a lack of consistency and coordination between regional policies.

To these are added various public private operators that can be represented by major industrial groups or by a multitude of small players. Civil society and community residents occupy an increasingly important role in the public policy for renewable energy and for the decisions regarding the installation of new production units.

Public policies are only one link in the sequence that leads to the production of renewable energy and energy efficiency. At the other end of the chain, there is a multiplicity of private companies specialized in the production, installation and operation of renewable energy facilities. Within the "private sphere", significant differences were observed between the sectors of generation of electricity, highly globalized and concentrated, and production sectors of heat, often much more decentralized and fragmented. There are therefore a multitude of actors in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector whose actions would need to be better coordinated in order to have a greater impact in the fight against climate change.

The Group activity

The group was constituted in 2009 by IMC Regions (and was initially more focused on the field of Renewable Energies promotion). The aim was to create the conditions for good governance in Mediterranean regional policies, focusing on two axes:

1. Analyse regional renewable energies strategies in order to build up a shared knowledge of each Region’s energy context; Identify the areas in which greater convergence of renewable energy policies is possible; create a joint database in order to work towards greater harmonization between the policies developed by the different partner Regions to promote renewable energies.

2. Provide an operational content for the WG by developing concrete actions in order to: promote renewable energies in the Regions; develop a pan-Mediterranean renewable energies platform; increase the competitiveness of the territories; reconcile the different objectives of the use of renewable energies, competitiveness, and security of supply; sustainable bioenergy and bioeconomy.

The activities have been carried out within the overall objective of pooling and sharing in order to create new "Mediterranean" tools (database, methodologies, etc.) and local partnerships. In order to achieve these objectives, the group started to carry out an initial survey of interested Regions on governance, set up sub groups for the exchange of experiences and good practices among the regions and territories, and defending the Regions' interests. The group organised some seminars and meetings.

Moreover in the last years, three projects have been developed by a consortium formed by some of the IMC partners, members of this group, and the CPMR itself (some are still running in 2013):

- ENERMED, on the improvement of the quality of the regional policies in support of RE, the contribution of RE in the energy production, the economic, social, environmental, landscaped impact of the projects on RE. **Main outputs:**
 1. *First Study in Mediterranean Areas "Condition of the Places"*
 2. *8 Pilot Projects : "Toolkit for the evaluation of RES Investments towards RES Strategy"*
 3. *Collaboration in a lasting framework of regional cooperation (EGTC Archimed) in the field of renewable energies to sustain the achievements of the project*
- ELIHMED on the improvement of energy efficiency and promotion of energy saving in low income housing (LIH) in the MED area. **Main outputs:**
 1. *Identifying and demonstrating through a large scale experimentation the feasibility of cost efficient innovative solutions*
 2. *Financial mechanisms backed with ERDF which could then be extended to all Mediterranean territories.*
 3. *Policy Papers (by Generalitat of Catalunya and AVITEM): Improving MED transnational cooperation answers to Energy Efficiency challenges in buildings*
- MARIE "Towards Energy Efficiency Improvement in the Existing Mediterranean Buildings". **Main outputs:**
 1. *Political commitments to set up the MEDBEES in the regions involved in the project.*
 2. *Mediterranean Building Energy Efficiency Strategy,*
 3. *Facilitating the work of Regions to achieve the EU objectives (20,20,20) in 2020 related to MED buildings*
 4. *Policy Papers (by Generalitat of Catalunya and AVITEM): Improving MED transnational cooperation answers to Energy Efficiency challenges in buildings*

Other projects like SURE "Towards Energy Efficiency Improvement in the Existing Mediterranean Buildings" were developed in the frame of the IMC CPMR and the CIUDAD programme together with partners from Europe, Belarus and Morocco.

In this sense, in 2013, the group felt the need to widen its range of activities also to energy efficiency matters, tackling energy issues in a more comprehensive way, encouraging more partners to actively collaborate in specific matters, to join initiatives, to contribute to the work of the CPMR intergroup on "Energy and Climate Change". Now the results of these and other projects from the IMC members need to be capitalized in order to shape new actions at a political and technical level.

II - OBJECTIVE, PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

In the period 2013-2014, as its main objective, the group intends to **improve the governance of regional policies on renewable energies and energy efficiency in the Euro-Mediterranean context.**

In this sense the group will work within the following **4 priority axes**:

1. CAPITALIZATION AND FOLLOW UP OF THE SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS RESULTS (ENERMED, MARIE, ELIHMED, ETC) TOWARDS NEW POLICY AND PROJECT INITIATIVES.

Main expected outputs:

- ❖ **1.1 Policy paper “Improving MED Transnational Cooperation responses to energy efficiency challenges in buildings” on efficiency energy in buildings issued on the capitalization process of MARIE-ELIHMED** (short-mid term).

Coordinator: Catalunya - PACA, with the support of AVITEM

It is important to develop synergies between the capitalization process agenda of Marie and Elihmed and the IMC and the Group REEE, in order to set up a task force to feed the updated version of the PPP and strongly support the political messages. The Agenda for the preparation of the PPP includes the following meetings: Malaga (20 June 2013), Ljubljana (19 September 2013), Valencia (14 Nov 2013), Malta (March 2014), Barcelona (October 2014), Brussels (December 2014).

Calendar of the capitalization: content of the meetings – annex I to the action plan.

Follow up of the PPP: joint project for the Working group, EE platform? See point 1.3

IMC Commission endorsement of the PPP is needed.

- ❖ **1.2 Inclusion of strong priorities/objectives on REEE within the ENI CBC MED, MED, HORIZON 2020 programs** (short-mid term)

Coordinator: – Murcia, Andalusia

Try to influence the new EU cooperation programs capitalizing the outputs and using political messages from the previous successful projects. Reflect on the future of Energy Intelligent Europe and monitor HORIZON 2020.

- ❖ **1.3 New projects in the frame of the new EU programming period**

Coordinator: Sardinia as the leader of the group and other members that manifested their interests as Andalusia, Balearic Islands, Murcia or the Generalitat Valenciana.

The group will reflect on possible calls (ENI MED CBC, MED, HORIZON 2020, JESSICA, ELENA, CIUDAD etc...) and project Ideas:

A. Strategic/broad projects/initiatives ideas/themes:

Some examples:

- Transnational platform to support low carbon communities' creation (capitalization, pilots, experimentation) in the North-South perspective (CPMR key role).
- Energy smart grids

B. In this context will be studied the possibility to join and collaborate with the EU initiative of the Covenant of Mayors, improving the role of the regions and studying initiatives concerning in particular its ongoing extension in the Southern territories of the Mediterranean.

C. Sectoral specific projects ideas/themes:

Some examples:

- Education in the field of environment and Energy
- Green entrepreneurship-training ESCOs promotion/ dealing with Social Issues? To contribute to growth and job agenda
- Participatory processes in low carbon local communities.
- Energy and Sustainable agriculture: Energy efficiency in the agricultural sector
- Energy smart grids: a pilot project for a smart grid in rural area
- Marine energies?

NB: The idea is not to elaborate an “Enermed 2”, but to diffuse the results of the project, the best practices on energy promotion, and generate a reflection on how to overcome the barriers between Renewable Energy Promotion and Energy Efficiency. In this sense, self-efficiency and low carbon communities development should be considered as important issues to address. Local pilot projects and tools need to be capitalized. But we also need to implement new tools and schemes for low carbon communities. We need to shape a north-south perspective as well. Spread the lesson learned and exchange with southern authorities.

“Near Zero Energy Buildings”, recently proposed by the EC’s directive, should be developed together with the promotion of Renewable Energies in the frame of low local carbon communities. Another important issue to take into account is to develop the RE market within an integrated strategy approach, including the monitoring approach. We also need more security from financial mechanisms in the frame of the collaboration between public-private sectors (ESCOs ...support from the states? The regions, the banking sector..). We need to develop reflection on incentives schemes for Efficiency Energy, and to work as well on information and energy behavior. There is a lack of control between initiatives, projects, policies, capacities, which creates a decision making gap. In this perspective, local-regional authorities should find new mechanisms for coordination, involving local stakeholders in order to create real low carbon communities. We need to “move from the offer side to the demand side”.

Other related themes: monitoring of the MED Spring project - Mediterranean science, policy research and innovation gateway

2. TO SHAPE THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENERGY EFFICENCY AND RE IN THE FRAME OF THE CURRENT EU POLICIES AND THE DEBATE ON MACRO REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Main expected output:

❖ 2.1 IMC policy paper on efficiency energy and renewable energies as a contribution to the macro regional strategies reflection in the Mediterranean (long term)

Coordinator: Sardinia

NB: need to shape the current situation, highlight criticism, link the reflection to EU legislation framework, Euromediterranean policies and initiatives on energy and make clear recommendations. This paper could contribute to shape the energy specific objectives, priorities, and flagship initiatives to be addressed and developed in the frame of the possible future macroregional strategies for the Mediterranean (Adriatic-Ionian, West and East Mediterranean, Integrated Strategy). The group should evaluate the possibility to include reflections on the REEE development in the field of agriculture and the rural development. Coordination with the CPMR Energy group is needed.

3. TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION REFLECTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Main expected output:

❖ 3.1 Contribution to the preparation of a policy paper or “Agenda” on the adaptation to and the fight against climate change (mid-term)

Coordinator: Sardinia – Balearic Islands

NB: need to shape the current situation, highlight criticism, link the reflection to EU legislation framework, Euromediterranean policies and initiatives on the fight against climate change and make clear recommendations. The IMC will try to shape a global framework using the valuable contribution of its WG on Water, Maritime Policy and REEE. A coordination with the CPMR Energy and Climate Change group is paramount. The REEE group will give its contribution considering the fact that the majority of the fight against climate change, and reduction of CO₂, deals with a better energy management. The rest depends on water and waste management and the agriculture and breeding economic chains. The Development of green chemistry both as a producer and user of molecules at low energy and chemical input should be also taken into account.

4. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AND REGIONAL OPERATIVE PROGRAMS OF THE COHESION POLICY

Main expected output:

❖ 4.1 Better coordination of investments and policies at regional level in the frame of the Cohesion Policy and identification of a common language for energy efficiency and renewable energy promotion (short-mid-term).

Coordinator: Sardinia

NB: Possible sharing of ideas about priority investments inside the EU COM Country Strategy Papers, the draft Partnership Agreements, and the draft Regional Operative Programs of the IMC REEE Regions.

III. ORGANIZATION

The **Region of Sardinia**, as leader region of the IMC REEE Working Group, ensures its **promotion and coordination**, by providing the adequate human resources and political and technical support that are necessary to enable the development of the proposed actions.

The group **should assign its main tasks in a coherent way to its members** in order to value its expertise and interests in the frame of the achievement of the above mentioned objectives.

Once the tasks and the working packages are defined, the involved members should coordinate the specific actions, especially through using the Internet and **videoconferences**.

Moreover each group member should try to **establish and develop useful contacts with external experts, lobbyists and representatives of the EU institutions** relevant for REEE issues.

A special relation should be followed with the EU Commission's DGs (ENER, CLIMATE, MARE, MOVE, ENTR, REGIO).

Synergies with the CPMR General Secretariat, its working group on Energy and Climate Change, as well as with the IMC working groups on Maritime Policies, Water, Transport, Territorial Cooperation and MRs Strategies, CPMR Island and Atlantic Arc Geographic Commission, and external, institutions, organizations and institutes as the Energy Agency of the IMC Countries, Union For the Mediterranean, ARLEM, BEI, Plan Bleu and the Institut de la Méditerranée and CRES are also needed.

The **working languages** of the group are English and French.

Participants:

- A coordinator of the Lead Region.

- A member from each participating region of the IMC, in charge of REEE

- IMC Executive Secretary, representatives of CPMR General Secretariat and CPMR Intergroup on Energy and Climate Change

- External expert partners (when it is needed).

IV. CALENDAR

The Group shall meet regularly, according to current EU and the Euro-Med agendas.

The group will try to match, as far as possible, with IMC /CPMR meetings and other energy specific forums (organizing at least two regular meetings per year, subject to special meetings that may be proposed by the lead Region and the partners of the group).

The first meetings of the group in the 2013-2014 period are the followings:

- ❖ 28-29th of May 2013 – Enermed international seminar and first meeting of the new working group
- ❖ 27th of June 2013 – although a meeting of the WG is not forecast the 26th in the frame of the joint meeting of the IMC Working Group, the Energy WG Presidency will present the new action plan in the frame of the General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission.
- ❖ 14th November 2013: in the frame of the enlarged meeting for the preparation of the PPP on EE in buildings in Valencia.

The 2014 agenda will be defined during the second half of 2013.

As a general rule, each member of the group will assume the travel and accommodation expenses arising from the attendance to the scheduled meetings. Exception will be made in case of the synergies made with European running projects.

In the future the group should try to find other financial resources to help the regions co-fund their travel costs.

Proposed priority actions to be developed in 2013:

AXIS 1: CAPITALIZATION AND FOLLOW UP PROJECTS

- Contribute to the elaboration on the policy paper on EE in buildings
- Lobbying activities on MED, ENI Programs (priorities on Energy Efficiency), Horizon 2020.
- Definition of concrete and limited project ideas and partnerships

AXIS 2: POLICY RECOMENDATIONS ON REEE

- Monitoring of EU Legislation (calendar, links)
- Monitoring and contributing to the debate on macroregional strategies from the Energy dimension
- Draft a document to be developed in 2014 and suggestions to be included in IMC CPMR political declarations

AXIS 3: CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMC REFLECTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- Contribution to the context analysis
- Exchange views with the other IMC and CPMR working groups
- Development of reflections in order to draft a document in the second half of 2014.

AXIS 4: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PA AND RO PROGRAMS IN THE FRAME OF THE COHESION POLICY

- Identify the modality and share information
- Work on documents' coherence (priority investments, identify and use a common language)

NB: Responsibilities/tasks to be assigned in the frame of the meetings of the working group

V. ANEXES

Annex I: Capitalization meeting of MARIE and ELIHMED for the elaboration of the PPP on EE in buildings.

MARIE and ELIHMED are developing more than different 10 pilot activities each one during 2012 and 2013. To share these pilot activities and use them to improve the content of PPP is the main objective of the capitalization meeting that will be in Ljubljana 19th September 2013.

The methodology that MARIE and ELIHMED partners are using to prepare the capitalization meeting is based on two main forms. The first one is to organize partner's meetings at State level in order to produce common positions for the PPP review based on sharing results from their Pilot Activities. The second one is the organization of a Peer Review procedure with 3 external experts that can produce comments and contributions to improve and adapt the PPP and the proposals of the MARIE and ELIH MED partners.

In this sense the agenda of the meeting will be structured in 8 presentations from MARIE and ELIH MED partners (one for each country) and 3 presentations from reviewers. As conclusion of the meeting MARIE and ELIH MED partners should agree on the main changes to implement in PPP and also on the procedure to produce the PPP second version at the end of 2013.

Annex II: Capitalization events organized by MARIE and ELIHMED for the elaboration of the PPP on EE in buildings. The key idea of these meetings is to enlarge the consensus and to improve the contents of PPP.

- Malaga 20th June 2013: 3 Main issues: a) To analyze barriers in each country and develop the leverage effect of the ERDF; b) Renovation market (cost-effective renovation projects), most effective measures, market barriers for supply; c) Involvement of users and owners. In this meeting will participate more than 10 projects from several EU Programs (MARIE (Med), ELIH MED, PROFORBIOMED, RELS (Eni), DIDOLIT (Eni), ENCERICUS (Med), SMARTin (Med), POWER HOUSE (Iee), eeWISE (VII FP), E4R (Interreg Sudo), Republic (Med), Emilie (Med).
- Ljubljana 19th September 2013: Presentations from MARIE and ELIH MED partners of each MS involved (9) and 3 peer reviewers. The objective of the technical conference is to establish the basis for the elaboration of the second version of the PPP.
- Valencia (14th November 2013): enlarged meeting for the PPP. Participation of euro-med projects + CIM-CPMR, CIM Regions, MS, National Agencies of Energy + possible meeting of the REEE Group of the IMC. Themes for the debate inside the workshops: Funding Integration, Smart management and R. Energies. The objective of the meeting is to consolidate the network of EU projects and Mediterranean Institutions to generate a wide consensus around the PPP.
- Malta (End of March 2014) open conference with South Mediterranean Countries: steering committee of Marie, Advisory committee
- Final Conference MARIE + World Conference EE (Barcelona, October 2014)
- Last meeting ELIHMED (Brussels, December 2014)
- Dissemination of the PPP, elaboration of projects (2014-2015).