



Capacity building, a key resource for a real development of renewables in the Mediterranean

RES4MED, Enel Foundation and Politecnico di Milano are launching the second edition of their Advanced Training Course, which will discuss technologies, regulatory frameworks and investments.

Milan, 23 November– Today, RES4MED will launch the second edition of the Advanced Training Course (ATC), in partnership with Enel Foundation, in cooperation with the Politecnico di Milano and under the patronage of the Union for the Mediterranean. The course will host more than fifty representatives of electric companies and institutions operating in the renewables sector from the main Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, Ph.D. from the most relevant Italian universities, and professionals from the RES4MED stakeholders.

The target of the two weeks of lectures at the Politecnico di Milano, site visits and events, is to create a network of experts in the Mediterranean. It will offer an occasion for dialogue, dedicate to high profile middle managers, selected among the most important players in the Mediterranean renewable energies sector.

Indeed, the participants come from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon and Turkey, from, among the others, the Egyptian NREA and EgyptERA, from electric utilities, as the Algerian Sonelgaz, the Tunisian STEG and the Moroccan ONEE, from research centers, as the RCEE, representative of the Arabian League, and from several ministries. The aim is to offer a complete picture of the renewable energies sector in the different countries, studying the integration of these resources in electricity markets.

This is why the course program foresees lectures and site visits on topics of great relevance, all focused on the theme of the integration of renewable energies in the Mediterranean electricity markets, to which the course is dedicated. Thus, this will analyse topics such as storage, the most innovative technological solutions for wind, CSP and PV, mini grids and different aspects of the required regulatory and financial framework and investments' deployment.

The 2015 edition builds on the precedent experience, thanks also to a significantly growing interest: RES4MED received more than twice the number of applications than the past year. RES4MED and Enel Foundation allocated 24 full scholarships (+60% than the previous edition), which will cover all costs bore by the candidates from the SEMC to whom it was awarded. In addition, RES4MED launched two new initiatives for the course: an Alumni online platform, to strengthen the network, and a Journal, to gather the knowledge spread with the course.

The course contributes to the growing involvement of local players in the development of renewables by

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RES4MED members, such as Enel Green Power, Edison, italgen, Terna, Asja, and to the growing relevance of these resources in the energy policies of countries such as Algeria, Jordan, Morocco and Egypt. This, in particular, is a country which alone intends to investment more than 13 billion dollars in renewables by 2022, while tenders are ongoing in Morocco to invest more than 10 billion dollars in solar PV, CSP and wind energy by 2020.

“The idea of the course begins from the bottom-up approach of the association” stated Roberto Vigotti, Secretary General of RES4MED. “Capacity building favors the spread of know-how and creates an important and borderless occasion for dialogue, thus being a fundamental component for the diffusion of renewables in the Mediterranean, which are some of the most important resources for the economic and political stability of the area.” “Indeed, renewables have a cross sectoral impact and, unlike traditional generation systems, they can satisfy the rapid growth of energy demand of the Mediterranean countries”, added Vigotti. “Renewable energies act as a catalyst for the energy transition of the countries which have already taken that path, and for those still intensively dependent on fossil fuels. Also, compared to these, renewable energies are more labour-intensive, a significant opportunity to create jobs in the area” concluded Vigotti.