Capacity building on renewables: a tool to strengthen the dialogue in the Mediterranean

Two weeks of lessons, more than fifty participants and thirty lecturers, four days dedicated to site visits and the participation of representatives from organisations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie (OME) and MediReg; these are just some of the numbers of the Advanced Training Course 2015 organized by RES4MED, in partnership with Enel Foundation, in collaboration with the Politecnico di Milano and under the patronage of the Union for the Mediterranean.

In the opening day Paolo Frankl, Head of the Renewable Energies Division at the IEA, followed, discussed the global energy trends, and the role of renewables in the future. Francesco Venturini, CEO of Enel Green Power and President of RES4MED, and Giovanni Azzone, Rector of the Politecnico of Milano, participated instead to the final conference. The course saw the involvement of 27 representatives of SEM countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) selected among Energy Regulatory Authorities, Ministries, Energy Agencies and Electric Companies, 10 Ph.D. from the most relevant Italian universities and 20 professionals from the RES4MED members. The objective has been the promotion of a continuous dialogue between the Northern and the Southern shore of the Mediterranean, enhancing the public-private partnership by the creation of an international network of experts.

The course, at Politecnico di Milano, Bovisa campus, was focused on the solutions for an effective integration of renewables in the Mediterranean electricity market, a topic which is central to different sectors, from regulation to finance and technological development. The lectures aimed at covering this great variety: the themes discussed included technological novelties in PV, CSP, wind, hydro, energy storage, mini grids and biogas. The speakers discussed the challenges in the distribution and transmission of energy, in the development of related Mediterranean infrastructures, the social impact of utility scale renewable energy power plants, and in the development of adequate market rules. A part of the course has been dedicated to the deployment of investments, the related financial tools for renewable energy plants and the main dynamics of the major utilities in the sector. A series of lessons which was presented by professors and experts from Politecnico di Milano, Politecnico di Torino, Bocconi University, Enel Green Power, E2i, PwC, Italgas, Terna, TerniEnergia, Poyry, GSE, Althiesys, Aleright Energy, Asja, CESI, D’Appolonia, FRIEM, MegaCell, RSE, 3SUN, Enel Distribuzione, Energy Glass, Menares, NEC, Siemens and Unicredit Leasing.

Participants had also a chance to have a direct experience of the topics discussed by the course during the site visits to the Politecnico di Milano’s Solar Tech Lab and Wind Tunnel, to the Italgen hydropower plant of Vaprio D’Adda and the Lab Italcimenti Research & Innovation center, to the Asja landfill biogas and PV power plant at Pianese, whose headquarters have been included in the visits, together with those of Edison, the Training Center of PwC, and the CESI and RSE laboratories.

The network between participants will continue thanks to the creation of RES4MED’s advance training course alumni network platform to support friendship and interactions among different professionals in the energy sector and the cooperation between different cultures.

Download All Presentations

"Integration of renewable energy solutions in the Mediterranean electricity markets"