RES4MED, in partnership with Enel Foundation and in cooperation with Politecnico di Milano, has coordinated the third edition of the two-weeks Res4med Advanced Training Course in Milan that has taken place from November 14 to November 25. The Training Course has been strongly supported by the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RECREEE) and Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP).

The course has been primarily addressed to participants with an appropriate seniority selected among public institutions, energy companies, energy research agencies and universities operating in the Mediterranean basin. Also, for the first time, Sub-Saharan African professionals have taken part to the course within the new framework provided by RES4MED’s RES4Africa project, that aims to reply the success experience of the previous years to the whole African continent.

In total, 61 participants have taken part to the training. Among those, 24 from South Eastern Mediterranean Countries and 10 from Sub Saharan Africa have been awarded a full scholarship that has covered all the expenses of the course, comprehensive of flights, board and accommodation. Moreover, 12 Phd students and 15 professionals from RES4MED members have attended the classes. The synergy among professionals from different countries and with a different professional and educational background, has greatly contributed to the development of a fruitful and positive debate, that has highlighted different approaches to the further implementation of renewable energy solutions in emerging markets.

The course has been structured around 51 lectures on the main technical, regulatory and financial features given by qualified international and Italian experts, academics and highly skilled technicians, matched with 7 visits to innovative laboratories and power plants. The students had the opportunity to delve into the newest research developments at the European Commission Research Center, at Asia Totem Research facility and at CESI, while taking part to interactive lectures at the headquarter of PWC and within Politecnico di Milano’s laboratories.

The participants, and in particular scholarship recipients, have greatly appreciated the format of the course and the opportunity not just to learn from esteemed academics but to confront themselves with industrial actors and Italian professionals. Many of them have expressed the hope that the format of the course will be exported in their own countries, and have offered to collaborate to build upon their training experience and partnership with RES4MED to implement training activities in partnership with their companies.

The personal connections that have been built among professionals during the two weeks training will be facilitated by RES4MED’s alumni network platform. By means of this professional network, alumni will be able to share information, not just with the 2016 class, but also with all the other professionals that have been involved in RES4MED training activities in the past, thus creating an international experts community.