

Mednet Project Newsletter

N°3



MEDNET: "Possibilities for co-operation in the field of innovative energy technologies in the Mediterranean basin"



The enforcement of the Mediterranean cooperation was the major scope of the final MEDNET dissemination event "Possibilities for co-operation in the field of innovative energy technologies in the Mediterranean basin" which was held in Athens on 31st of March, following the MEDENER meeting.

About sixty participants attended the event, including project partners and MEDENER representatives from the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

During the event, subjects related to technical barriers for the penetration of the new energy technologies in local markets, dissemination of new energy technologies in south Mediterranean countries were presented, while special emphasis was given to financing mechanisms and incentives for energy investments.

The relevant presentations will be available on the MEDNET website



The MEDENER Board of Directors n°10 & General Assembly n°8 Athens, March 29th & 30th, 2004

The MEDENER reunion took place in Athens on March 29th and 30th, 2004 under the presidency of CRES that holds the current seat of the Association.

The meeting involved the organization of the 10th Board of Directors, the 8th General Assembly, and an extraordinary General Assembly for the adaptation of MEDENER statutes to the new Spanish Association Law, as MEDENER has been established with a domicile in Spain.

The main focus of the reunion agenda was to review the progress over the last years and to discuss issues related to the strengthening of the membership, the promotion of the Association and the involvement in common actions.

A. The strengthening of MEDENER

This activity involves the enhancement of contacts between MEDENER and agencies from Mediterranean countries not yet members. The MEDENER has established contacts with agencies from Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, Malta and Lebanon in order to inform them about the Association and to invite them to join

B. Promotion of MEDENER

This activity involves the promotion of the MEDENER Association to:

- a) *the E.U. (through the Mediterranean Energy Cooperation, OPET, Projects etc.), and*
- b) *outside the E.U. (through the UN Environment Programme, the Mediterranean Action Programme, and the*

Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development)

More specifically:

Promotion activities to the E.U.:

the most recent ones involved the participation to the "Athens Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Energy" (May 2003), the OPET meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia (Oct. 2003) and also two projects under the MEDA Regional where MEDENER is involved: the "Energy & Urban Environment in Mediterranean Countries" and the "Application of Solar-Thermal Energy in the Mediterranean Basin".

Promotion activities outside the E.U.:

These involved contacts with the UNEP-MAP Mediterranean Action Programme (MAP) in Athens for the participation of the MEDENER presidency in the forthcoming 9th Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) in June 2004 in Genoa, Italy.

Also, the participation of MEDENER in the Type II Initiative by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory in the framework of MEDREP (Mediterranean renewable Energy programme) concerning RES investment projects in Mediterranean countries.

C. MEDENER Common Actions 2003-2004

This involves the updating of the MEDENER website and all the information and data pertaining to its members' electronic profiles. Such an updating through the electronic media was deemed as useful and more convenient than printed publications.



The Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP)

The Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP) was launched as a Type II Initiative by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Main Objectives and Actions

The MEDREP's main objectives are the following:

- 1. To provide modern energy services, especially to rural populations*
- 2. To increase the share of renewable energy technologies in the Mediterranean region's energy market and thus contribute to the efforts against climate change*

Within such a context, the MEDREP in order to materialize its objectives will entangle in the following three actions:

- Employment of various financial schemes in such a way as to facilitate and support the various projects*
- Amelioration and improvement of the various policy frameworks while at the same time removing the barriers to project development*
- Strengthening of the private sector considering the positive role of the so-called "Tradable Renewable Certificates" and "Certificate Emission Reductions"*

Organizational Structure

The organizational structure of MEDREP comprises a Steering Committee and a Secretariat, which is responsible for the implementation of the aforementioned actions. The Steering Committee, chaired by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory (IMET) oversees the activities carried-out by the Secretariat and monitors and coordinates the various actions of the partners.

The Partners

The participant partners to the MEDREP Programme are the Agence de L'Environnement et de la Maitrise de l'Energie (ADEME), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Solar Energy Society Italy (ISES Italy), the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER), the Observatoire Mediterranen de l'Energie (OME), the Regional Environmental centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank.

The latest new members of the MEDREP are the Ministry of Industry and Energy of Tunisia alongside with the Tunisian National Agency for Renewable Energies (ANER), the Ministry of Electricity and Energy of Egypt and the Centre for Renewable Energy Development (CDER) of Morocco.

Future Projects and Activities

The MEDREP renewable energy related projects between IMET, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia will be primarily focusing on:



- ✓ Delivering electricity to isolated rural areas through small-scale grids
- ✓ Accelerating the integration of RES on the national electricity grids
- ✓ The buildings sector as to introduce energy efficiency policies (based on previous experiences through the MEDA/Solar thermal technologies dissemination programme)
- ✓ Water desalination and irrigation
- ✓ Food cooling and conservation systems powered by RES
- ✓ Agricultural water pumping using RES-powered pumps
- ✓ The use of renewable energy technologies for addressing possible energy/electricity shortages in main urban and tourist areas
- ✓ Creating joint ventures, for industrial and technological transfer of know-how in developing countries in order to reap as many benefits from the initiative as possible. This would also help promote certification and standardization programmes for renewable energy equipment

The main pilot projects will be part of a best-practice catalogue available for replication in order to increase the share of RES option available.

The Mediterranean Renewable Energy Centre (MEDREC) in Tunis

In the framework of the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP), the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory (IMET), the Tunisian Ministry for Industry and Energy (TMIE) and the Agence Nationale des Energies Renouvelables (ANER) signed on 26th January, 2004 a Memorandum of Understanding for establishing a Centre for training, information dissemination, networking and development of pilot projects in the field of renewable energies, the MEDREC, in Tunis.

The MEDREC will primarily focus on the wind and solar energy sectors, as well as to sectors pertaining to small-hydro installations, geothermal and fossil fuels.

In the framework of the MEDREP, the MEDREC will play a very important role

in the implementation of the various actions carried-out by the partners.

The Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory (IMET) finances the entire initiative with some € 1,000,000 for the year 2004, while for the following years the contribution to human resources on an annual level will be € 205,000 for the entire duration of the agreement.

The main objectives of the MEDREC are the deployment of the necessary financial schemes and instruments that would facilitate and support the various RES projects, the development of regional competencies in the field of renewables, technology transfer in respect to new energy technologies, dissemination of information of all sectors and the efficiency of renewable energy systems.



Seminar: "The Solar-Thermal Energy in the Mediterranean Basin" Paris, March 2nd, 2004

The Seminar was attended by representatives from the European Union's Cooperation Bureau Europe-Aid of the DG for Energy and Transport which supported the event, as well as by representatives of public agencies, financial institutions, professionals etc, who could play a very important role during the follow-up steps of this programme.

The participating Mediterranean countries in the programme were the following: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, Italy, France, Spain and Portugal.

Apart from the presentation of the workings and actions having taken place in the framework of solar-thermal energy, the seminar provided the opportunity for pondering and reflecting on the steps to be taken in respect to the energy future of the Mediterranean region in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The Seminar took also into consideration the dynamics emanating from the International Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The main points discussed during the seminar and in which special emphasis was placed were the following:

The demography of the Mediterranean region and that of the southern Mediterranean countries in particular was stressed. Currently some 240 million people live in the south Mediterranean countries, but their population growth is such that will swell to approximately 350 million by the year 2020 and the urban population is expected to rise from 60% to 75% during that same period; mainly

concentrating along the Mediterranean shores.

Such demographic developments will greatly have a direct impact upon the energy sector in those countries and on their efforts for sustainable development.

It would be very simplistic to consider that all the south Mediterranean countries face the same exact problems and challenges since there also exist great diversities and differences in the social and energy structures from country to country. As such, while all northern Mediterranean countries are importers, the southern ones are different since some are importers while others are exporters.

For the northern Mediterranean countries it is very important that they diversify their energy sources and accomplish a level of energy security, whereas for the southern Mediterranean countries, the greatest task is to find solutions and to respond successfully to the challenges of high population growth and an ever-increasing energy demand.

During the Seminar special references were made on the International Energy Agency, The Mediterranean Energy Observatory and the Action Plan for the Mediterranean. According to them, the energy demand in the entire Mediterranean basin is expected to have an annual growth of about 2%. It will thus pass from 820 Mtep (2000) to 1350 Mtep in 2025, a 65% increase. The share of the southern Mediterranean countries in this demand is somewhere between 30-40% and it has been assessed that, in respect to electricity, the demand growth is going to be even



more spectacular in the southern countries.

In respect to the use of fossil fuels for the production of energy, they'll still be dominant in the long run and the southern Mediterranean countries could multiply their emissions by two and a half times by the year 2025.

On the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation

The ADEME stressed its interest in the importance of a Mediterranean partnership in which the energy agencies of all the Mediterranean countries together with the MEDENER Association should work together for dealing with the aforementioned issues. The current project has been a part of such a partnership thus reflecting the possibilities that could be accomplished by working jointly on the various and diverse issues at stake. According to ADEME, it has worked in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Energy, organised by the European Commission. France's dedication to this direction has been confirmed by a national strategy for sustainable development which was adopted in June 2003.

In this framework, an informal meeting is expected to take place on May 17-18, 2004 in Marseille that will be attended by experts from all Mediterranean countries.

The aim of this meeting will be to design operational proposals for a common approach on the Action Plan for the Mediterranean and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Conclusions

In reference to the energy and socio-economic challenges all countries of the Mediterranean basin have to consider the importance of the development of the renewable energy sources (RES) as imperative, particularly as far as the northern Mediterranean E.U. countries are concerned. According to a directive, RES should reach 22% of the electricity production by the year 2010 from the current 13%.

The task will not be an easy one and coupled with the population and energy demand increase expected to take place in the southern Mediterranean countries, the only way of facing the challenges is to act jointly.

New Handbook for Energy Saving in Urban Areas

The Technion Israel Institute for Technology, with the cooperation of The Ministry of National Infrastructure published a new handbook for energy efficiency in urban planning in Israel.

Professor Edna Shaviv and Dr. Guedi Capeluto wrote the new handbook. It includes architectural guidelines for single streets as well as the overall city and planning accordingly with the wet and warm climate conditions. Such climate conditions characterize most of

Israel is geography the authors concentrate on the climate conditions that characterize most of the populated areas in Israel. They find that there are ways to save significant amount of energy not only by single building, but also at the national level.

The handbook is a result of three years research, using computerized models, developed in the Architecture Department at the Technion. The aim of the book is to concentrate the large



Israeli and international knowledge in a simple book, which can be used by planners and builders.

The book includes three parts: First, a survey of factors that determine climate comfort of Israel, and the strategy that should be adopted to maximize the thermal comfort and energy saving. The second part of the book includes recommendations and simple rules for building design to optimize energy conservation. This chapter also

accounts for sun and wind exposure in the street design. The last part of the book includes recommendations for plazas design, sun and wind exposure in open areas and design of the urban center.

The main subject of the book, were presented last September in the workshop

Energy saving legislations in Buildings, EU and Israel organized by OPET Israel (ICTAF) at Tel Aviv University

The MEDNET WEB SITE: New Entries

The MEDNET SITE consists of a 'Mediterranean Web-Discussion Area', discussion forums, news and announcements, carries out documentation on policy and financial issues, case studies for the technologies applicable in the region, electronic newsletters and electronic publications.

In respect to above, the new entries to the website entails are the following:

- ✓ *5 new case studies from IDAE and ICTAF*
- ✓ *New templates for the country profiles. The profiles of Jordan and Portugal are already on the web site*
- ✓ *Discussion forum available for the members of the mednet network*
- ✓ *Second and third newsletter on a pdf format*



EVENTS

MAY

25-26 May 2004

**Co-Opet Conference on: Energy Issues in Transport
Brussels**

JUNE

9-11 June 2004

**Aalborg+10: Fourth European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns
Aalborg
Further info: www.aalborgplus10.dk**

JULY

1-2 July 2004

**European Conference for Municipal Energy Managers
Stuttgart**

**Further info: City of Stuttgart, Office for Environmental Protection Department
for Energy Management Phone +49 711 216 2241**

Telefax +49 711 216 2413

Email: u360500@stuttgart.de

6 July 2004

**Local Cultural Context for New Energy Technologies
Genoa**

Further information: <http://www.managenergy.net/conference/genoa0704.html>

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