



*I have been working on the implementation of Med-EcoSuRe project since its start, and I have been facing ever-increasing challenges, because I have been discovering everything for the first time. However, if you are not challenged, you will not grow... I believe that I am working as a part of a process that will make a difference, and this is a very rewarding experience.*

*As women in business, we need to be persistent, because a persistent mind, does not give up fighting.*

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**SOUHA FERCHICHI**

*Technical Expert – MEDREC*



**#IWD2021**  
**#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE**



*The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old generations, but on building the new ones.*

*Since the day I joined the Med-EcoSuRe Team, I knew that it's going to be a mind blowing experience.*

*It's not a simple feeling of being active and making a change, it's about a whole mindset, it's about responsibilities and group management and it's about relations you establish.*

*However, I am sure that I still have a long way to go in order to prove women's worth in society.*

*This is why I consider that Med-EcoSuRe showcases the successful experience of women's leadership in projects, and strengthen their positions in order to hold more important roles within their communities.*



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**AICHA BEN SMIDA**

*Technical Expert – MEDREC*



**#IWD2021**

**#CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE**



*There is still a long way to go for women equality in business environment. In my experience, there are not so many CEO women in solar energy world. But the few women I have met holding this position are fierce and fearless, live fully lives and are an inspiration for others.*

*There is still a long way to go but I have no doubt we are going in the right direction.*



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**ALBA ÁLVAREZ MARTÍNEZ**

Cluster Manager – SOLARTYS



#IWD2021

#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE



*The emotional bond "woman and energy" has deep cultural and social roots: female sensitivity has more intuition of the value of comfort and well-being in living spaces, strengthening the holistic and multisensory vision.*

*The Med EcoSuRe project was shaped by an innovative feminine approach, a deep qualitative imprint and a broad and attentive look at people's behavior and awareness.*

*Sustainability acquires scientific depth and humanity through the eyes of women.*



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**ANTONELLA TROMBADORE**

Professor – University of Florence



**#IWD2021**

**#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE**



I worked on the design and implementation of the Workshop "Energy Efficiency Action Plan in the Higher Education Building Sector" with Monica, Gigliola, Martina and Marica: an all-female team. *Enthusiasm, passion, creativity, professionalism and motivation were the key words that guided our work.* What was the greatest satisfaction? The final statement of the students who thanked us not only for what they had learned, but for the human warmth, personal participation and friendship they had experienced.

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**ANTONELLA VIOLANO**

Professor – University of Campania "L. Vanvitelli"



#IWD2021

#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE



*The project has given me so many opportunities to learn, grow, and bond alongside incredibly powerful women and to improve my own professional skills.*

*Developing energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions is an important area for university buildings which have a variety of energy-heavy equipment running for long hours, like air conditioning, machines, and lighting. We set our target of 20% savings in university buildings if we could beat it, we would go for a national rollout.*



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**FADIA HASHAIKA**

*Electrical engineer – An-Najah National University*



#IWD2021

#CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE



*Being involved in the Med-EcoSuRe project gave me the possibility to directly observe that eventually women are playing a leading role in research and development across the interdisciplinary field of energy efficiency.*

*This is inspiring me, and many other young researchers/women, to give the best contribution in the common global race towards a more sustainable built environment.*



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**GISELLA CALCAGNO**

Researcher – University of Florence



**#IWD2021**  
**#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE**



*If a woman by her own can make an impact in society, imagine what many from different cultures, working together and supporting each other can accomplish...*

*I believe Med-EcoSuRe has great potential to achieve not only its goals as a project, but to create a scenario where our personal and professional achievements may be for all women out there.*



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**YEIMY OSPINA**

Project Manager – SOLARTYS



#IWD2021

#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE



*Med-EcoSuRe initiative originated from an spontaneous idea, inspired from my scientific work at my research lab. I was determined to concretize this idea, and to contribute, through my work, to make a better environment within the university while highlighting the contribution of academics. Perhaps the idea originated from an innate altruism, women in general have.*

*However, I was certainly inspired by my supervisor, a talented and competent woman who had gained respect and created a notable place in a man-dominated engineering work field.*

*Besides maintaining a good relationship with her, I have the chance to be surrounded by a group of very dynamic and devoted women.*

*I am proud of being part of Med-EcoSuRe adventure and team.*



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**INES KHALIFA**

*Technical Manager – MEDREC*



**#IWD2021**

**#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE**



*I believe, as a woman, if I want to be successful, I must not dream of success, but work to achieve it. If I want to be successful, **I have to lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown in my path.** If I want to be successful, I must not let the pressure of society force me to play a role that is not genuine. If I want to be successful, I must defy gender bias in our society in order to change the environment in which we live, forever hopefully.*

*Finally, **the success of MedEcoSuRe will not serve only the women of the project, but also all women in the whole Mediterranean.***



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**AIDA FEHRI**

*Financial expert – MEDREC*



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**#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE**



*II participated, with MEDREC Team, on Med-EcoSuRe Setup and I have been working on this challenging project since its inception.*

*Through this project, where new power technologies are addressed and future renewable and sustainable energy systems are managed, I have had the chance to help promoting women engineers and scientists when conducting engineering courses and within my research team.*

*I believe that female network in technical disciplines facilitates the recruitment of women in engineering fields, and pushes forward female students to face barriers in pursuit of a notable and successful career in engineering and science disciplines!*

*Innovation and talents of women and men in engineering field are needed for global humanity to shape a powerful common path and build a sustainable future*



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**AFEF BEN ABDELGHANI-BENNANI**

*Professor and senior researcher  
ENIT/INSAT*



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**#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE**