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Advancing skills and capacities to boost energy efficiency in the Mediterranean

Online session

Tuesday 12 December, 11.00-12.00 CET

EUROPEAN UNION SIDE EVENT AT COP28

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Short description

A high level of technical knowledge and specific skills are needed for accelerating the transformation towards a climate-neutral building stock. Strengthening the capacities of public authorities, especially at local scale, is also crucial to prepare and implement good renovation projects. In the context of the European Year of Skills, the session will showcase results of EU-funded projects to empower stakeholders on both sides of the Mediterranean for a sustainable, decarbonized future.

Context and session goals

Buildings account for 40% of energy consumed and 36% of energy-related direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions in the EU. The potential for energy cuts across the EU is huge with an estimated 75% of the building stock considered to be energy inefficient. Renovating the built environment is an essential action and has been singled out in the European Green Deal as a key initiative to drive energy efficiency in the sector and deliver on climate objectives.

As highlighted in the Commission's Communication "A Renovation Wave for Europe", a high level of technical knowledge and specific skills are needed for accelerating the transformation towards a climate-neutral building stock. Strengthening the capacities of public authorities, especially at local scale, is also crucial to prepare and implement good renovation projects: energy monitoring, architecture, materials, technological solutions, regulatory aspects, etc.

To address this challenge, the European Neighbourhood Instrument for Cross Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean Programme (ENI CBC MED, now known as Interreg NEXT MED) has prioritized Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE). Eight projects were funded on this topic, involving more than 50 organisations from 11 Mediterranean countries, with a total budget of 18 million euros invested. The projects approached the topic from different angles, but all of them shared a traversal goal: to increase skills and capacities of different target groups to enhance energy efficiency of buildings.



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In the context of the 2023 European Year of Skills, the proposed session aims to highlight the need for high-level energy skills throughout life and for various groups of beneficiaries. Different ENI CBC Med projects will present how they have improved energy skills and capacities of different target groups, including:

- Schoolkids
- University students and professors
- Professionals and engineers
- Local elected officials and municipal staff

The session aims to highlight training and capacity-building solutions, enhancing skill acquisition and behavioural improvement across various life stages and job positions.

Agenda

Introduction by the moderator: Cooperating to empower energy skills across the Mediterranean – Martin Heibel, Communication Manager, Interreg NEXT MED programme

Keynote address by Moray Gilland, Head of Unit for Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement - DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Sli.do poll on energy efficiency

Project stories: Boosting energy skills for different target groups

- **School students:** the experience of energy teams. Giulia Scichilone. Project coordinator at Institute of University Cooperation (Italy) – ESMES project
- **University students and professors:** living labs for energy refurbishment. Souha Ferchichi. Technical expert at Mediterranean Renewable Energy Centre (Tunisia) – Med-EcoSuRe project
- **Professionals and SMEs:** training for resource-efficient solutions for PV systems design and battery storage. Prof. Dr. Mohamed El-Sobki, Technical Expert at Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations (CEEBA) and Professor Emeritus in Power System Planning, Cairo University (Egypt) - MAIA-TAQA project
- **Local elected officials and municipal staff:** defining new smart energy and climate action plans. Bernard Massabo. Secretary-General of Euromed Cities Network, Metropole of Nice Côte d'Azur (France) - SEACAP 4 SDG project

Panel discussion

Wrap-up and conclusions