

Public event: Green and Efficient Cities for a Sustainable Mediterranean

Date & Time: 08 March 2023 at 08:30 (Local Time)

Venue: Hotel Golden Tulip El Mechtel, Tunis

Event Report



Elaborated by

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1. Scope

Territories surrounding the “Mediterranean sea” face several major challenges, such as the fight against climate change and the green energy transition especially in the building sector. Besides, the region is characterized by a lack of infrastructure, a poorly-educated workforce and high unemployment rate. This justifies the need for a Sector-based cooperation and integration which can provide an opportunity to strengthen the economic governance of the entire region. Therefore, a bottom-up approach of local cooperation initiatives and projects should be applied to promote innovative solutions and the implementation of pilot actions that will serve as showcases for decision makers as well as the general public and which would address climate change mitigation and adaptation, while insuring sustainable economic growth.

It is against this background that the SEACAP 4SDGproject was proposed to contribute to fighting climate change by reducing energy consumption in public buildings across the Mediterranean, and by promoting the development of SE(A)CAP through an innovative financial mechanism and a capitalization process. The project will capitalize on the outputs and outcomes of a number of selected reference projects(SRP) financed within different EU Initiatives (ENI CBCMED, INTERREG MED, UfM), while identifying characteristics to be generalized, and by adapting gained knowledge to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of building energy refurbishment strategies adapted to local Med specificities, notably energy poverty.

In this framework, nine cities/municipalities and four public buildings within them will receive the necessary support and accompaniment to plan and implement efficiently energy renovation actions using the solutions capitalized on by the Project. The capacity building and training mechanism will be implemented by adopting a collaborative approach between the key players involved, within a "Living Laboratory". This approach will support the municipalities in adopting the results of the project.

In this context, the Mediterranean Renewable Energies Centre (MEDREC), project partner, organized a public event on "Green and Efficient Cities for a Sustainable Mediterranean" in Tunis on the 08th of March 2023.

The event aimed at disseminating the results of the support mechanism, proposed by the project, for Mediterranean municipalities to plan and implement energy conservation measures in public buildings, and at capitalizing on good practices from cooperation projects in the Mediterranean region. The event was also an opportunity to present the experience of Tunisian municipalities in the implementation of Energy Climate action plans.

A round table "Towards green and sustainable Tunisian cities" was held, with the participation of national authorities and Tunisian municipalities, to discuss the opportunities, public initiatives, strategies, policies, and the involvement of the Civil Society towards green and sustainable cities in Tunisia.

2. Participants

The public event gathered around 60 participants brought together around sixty participants, present physically and online, including:

- The partners of the "SEACAP 4 SDG" project, namely: Euromed Cities Network / Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis (France), the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT- Egypt), the University of Patras (Greece), Naples Agency for Energy and Environment (ANEA - Italy), the Royal Scientific Society (RSS - Jordan), the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC-Lebanon), the Energy Research Institute of Catalonia (IREC - Spain), Valencia Institute of Building (IVE - Spain) and the Mediterranean Renewable Energies centre (MEDREC - Tunisia);
- The national authorities as governmental stakeholders in sustainable development in Tunisia, notably: The Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Economy and Planning and the National Agency for Energy Management (ANME);
- Tunisian municipalities that are engaged in sustainable development initiatives/programs/projects, in particular: Bizerte, Nabeul, Sousse and Tunis;
- Tunisian institutions of higher education and research, in particular: The National School of Architecture (ENAU), the National Engineering School of Bizerte (ENIB), the National Engineering School of Tunis (ENIT);
- Civil society in Tunisia, in particular: Tunisian Association of Urban Planners (ATU), the Tunisian Council for Green Buildings (TGBC), the National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities (FNCT);
- And the United Nations in Tunisia, in particular: UN-Habitat.

3. Session 1: SEACAP 4SDG project achievements

The first session started with overviews on the European Union delegation in Tunisia role in the cooperation projects on environment, climate change and mitigation, the Tunisian Ministry of Economy and Planning role in the coordination of cooperation programs, and the ENI CBC MED program opportunities in the Mediterranean with an emphasis on capitalization projects.

Following, the main achievements of the project SEACAP4SDG so far were shared with the participants including:

- A support mechanism setup for municipalities and cities across the Mediterranean for the planning and implementation of Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan based on an innovative toolkit proposed by the project. The mechanism is implemented at two levels: the first, to promote the engagement of at least 9 municipalities or group of municipalities in the Mediterranean to use selected reference project (SRP) outcomes in their day-to-day work, and the second, to support at least 4 of these entities or group of entities in the Southern shore of the Mediterranean to use the sources for analyzing detail measures in specific educational and health buildings

- A Living Lab/participatory approach proposed by the project to provide user oriented and needs driven solution for the beneficiary municipalities/cities across the Mediterranean. The innovative idea is to capitalize on physical and virtual tools to stimulate participatory processes, supporting Municipalities/cities across the Mediterranean and enhancing their capacity to plan and implement sustainable energy mix strategies and technologies in the different Mediterranean climatic contexts.

4. Session 2: Programs and initiatives for the implementation of Climate Action Energy plans in Tunisia

This session included:

- A presentation by the Ministry of Environment on the implementation of the National Program Sustainable Cities in Tunisia (phases of implementation, results of the diagnostic study launched by this Program, future phases...)
- A presentation by the National Agency for Energy Management on the program Alliance of Local Councils for Energy Transition aiming at strengthening the capacity of Tunisian local authorities to contribute to the national energy transition.
- Presentations by the Tunisian Municipalities of Bizerte (beneficiary of SEACAP4SDG support mechanism in Tunisia,), Nabeul, Sousse on the Sustainable Energy Action Plans implemented in the framework of National/International Programs, projects initiatives...

5. Session 3: Round Table

The round table was dedicated to discussions and exchanges on the development of sustainable and green cities in Tunisia. It gathered representatives of a set of key players in the sector - namely, the Ministry of the Environment, UN-Habitat Tunisia, the National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities (FNCT), the Tunisian Association of Town Planners (ATU), and the Municipality of Tunis, and with the participation of SEACAP 4 SDG project partners, Tunisian municipalities as well as representatives of Tunisian stakeholders fostering sustainable development.

The round table focused on the current situation of Tunisian cities (existing policies, strategies and programs; initiatives for the development of sustainable cities in Tunisia undertaken by municipalities, etc.), on highlighting the barriers / gaps encountered and on proposing recommendations to accelerate the transition of Tunisian cities to sustainable and green cities.

The **full report** summarizing the discussion of the Round table is available.

6. International Women's day 2023

Alongside the public event, the project team celebrated the International Women's Day with the participation of female members of the project including partners and beneficiaries (experts and municipalities representatives).

Interviews were conducted for the members on the day of the event while addressing the theme of this year which is "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality".

Videos will be created including the intervention of each member which will be published in the project webpage and social media channels.

ANNEXES

Agenda

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| 08:30-09:00 | Registration |
| 09:00 -09:05 | Mediterranean Renewable Energy Centre- MEDREC Hassen El Agrebi and Marco Polverari- Directors <i>Launch of the event</i> |
| 09:05- 09:15 | National Agency for Energy Management Fethi Hanchi - General Director <i>Welcome address</i> |
| 09:15 - 09:25 | European Union delegation in Tunisia Paolo Scialla- Environment and climate change programme officer Dario Trombetta - Energy programme officer <i>Overview on the European Union intervention on cooperation projects "on environment, climate change and energy"</i> |
| 09:25 - 09:35 | ENI CBC MED Programme Fadi Karam/Aida Dargouth Asli - Experts "Environment and climate change" - Joint Technical Secretariat (online) <i>ENI CBC MED Programme opportunities in the Mediterranean - emphasis on capitalization projects</i> |
| 09:35 - 09:45 | Tunisian Ministry of Economy and Planning Fethi Ben Mimoun - General Director of Cross-border cooperation <i>Role of the Ministry in the coordination of cooperation programs</i> |
| 09:45 - 09:55 | Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis / Euromed Cities Network Bernard Massabo-Project Coordinator <i>Presentation of SEACAP4SDG Project and its findings</i> |
| 09:55 -10:05 | Institut de Rererca en Energia de Catalunya Jordi Pascual -Senior Researcher in Building Physics <i>Support mechanism and toolkit of SEACAP4SDG for cost-effective energy rehabilitations</i> |
| 10:05 -10:15 | Mediterranean Renewable Energy Centre & University of Patras Souha Ferchichi - Technical expert Panagiota Saranti - EU Project Manager and Researcher <i>SEACAP4SDG Living Lab to support the user-oriented cost-effective energy rehabilitations</i> |
| 10:15 - 10:45 | Coffee Break |



Participants list:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jAVA3hy4PYBWd0jNciGktrBGfPzQ3jx/view?usp=sharing>

Photos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UudqJcCcWl_dWtWim3wvnC23tGjiED6n

Round Table Report: attached