



Summary note

RES4MED&Africa Executive Seminar to the European Commission

7 November, 2017
Brussels, Belgium

RES4MED&Africa led an Executive Seminar to the European Commission (EC) on concrete recommendations about what it takes to foster renewable energy (RE) investments in the Southern-Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa. Speakers from the RES4MED&Africa member network conveyed their insights based on direct experience in renewables investments in Southern-Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan African countries. The closed-doors seminar gathered participants from the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Energy (DG ENER), Research & Innovation (DG R&I), and European External Action Service (EEAS), providing a first exchange between EC institutional representatives and RES4MED&Africa.

The 1-day Executive Seminar included more than 10 presentations by RES4MED&Africa members who highlighted their experience on RE investments in emerging markets. The aim of the seminar was to foster a knowledge exchange with up-to-date insights from real private sector cases on renewables deployment in Southern-Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan African countries that can contribute to ongoing policy dialogue as well as to the European Commission's RE support mechanisms and programs in emerging markets.

Opening remarks were made by Roberto Ridolfi, Director for Planet & Prosperity at DG DEVCO, and Michael Köhler, Director Neighbourhood South at DG NEAR, who both underlined the relevance of the seminar as an example of dialogue between institutional representatives and private sector on the promotion of renewables in Southern-Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan African countries. The seminar was welcomed as a valuable attempt to enable a public-private exchange on challenges and opportunities to the roll-out of renewables investments in emerging markets.

The agenda included a general update of RE market developments, latest trends on policy & regulatory frameworks, financing RE projects, industrialization & job creation, grid integration & access to energy and micro-grids, as well as the role of innovation in RE. The discussions reflected a fruitful exchange between institutional and private sector representatives, whereas the varied DG attendance showed the growing relevance of renewables across regions and sectors. Through its Executive Seminars and capacity building activities, RES4MED&Africa aims to create a platform for public-private dialogue on fostering renewables investments in emerging markets so as to enable the RE transition in the Mediterranean and Africa.

Seminar proceedings can be found [online](#).

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Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean & Africa

RES4MED&Africa

Who we are: RES4MED&Africa promotes the deployment of large-scale and decentralized renewable energy and energy efficiency in Southern-Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan African countries to meet local energy needs. Since its inception in 2012, the association gathers the perspectives and expertise of a member network from across the sustainable energy value chain.

Our work: RES4MED&Africa functions as a platform for members and partners of emerging markets to foster dialogue and partnerships, share knowledge and build capacity to advance sustainable energy investments in Southern-Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan African countries.

Our mission: RES4MED&Africa aims to create an enabling environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments in emerging markets through on 3 work streams:

- *Acting as a connecting platform for **dialogue & strategic partnerships** between members and partners to exchange perspectives and foster cooperation;*
- *Providing **technical support & market intelligence** through dedicated studies and recommendations based on members' know-how to advance sustainable energy markets;*
- *Leading **capacity building & training** efforts based on members' expertise to enable skills and knowledge transfer that supports long-term sustainable energy market creation;*

At the end of 2015, RES4MED members decided to expand the geographic focus to Sub-Saharan Africa in light of the potentials and growth opportunities for Africa's renewable energy sector.

Members: RES4MED&Africa gathers a network of 38 members from across the sustainable energy value chain including industries, agencies, utilities, manufacturers, financing institutions, consultancies, legal and technical services providers, research institutes, and academia.

Partners: RES4MED&Africa works with local, regional and international partners, agencies and organizations to pursue its mission and promote RE & EE deployment in the region of focus.

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