



**meetMED**

Mitigation Enabling Energy Transition in the MEDiterranean region  
Together We Switch to Clean Energy



## 7<sup>th</sup> MEDENER International Conference on Energy Transition in the Euro–Mediterranean Region

# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR ISLANDS AND REMOTE AREAS: FRONTRUNNERS FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE EURO- MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Thursday, 26 September 2019 - Rhodes, Greece

Venue: **Museum of Modern Greek Art – New Wing of the Nestoridion  
Melathron**, Ioannis and Paola Nestoridou Street (formerly Ko street), Rhodes  
(Greece)

An event organized by MEDENER (the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Management) in cooperation with CRES (the Greek Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving) as part of the activities of the meetMED (Mitigation Enabling Energy Transition in the Mediterranean Region) project, funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by MEDENER and RCREEE.

The 7<sup>th</sup> MEDENER International Conference is organized in partnership with:



**REVOLVE**



**Get in touch with meetMED:**



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## Background

Islands in the Mediterranean region are frontrunners in the energy transition and showcase innovative solutions to the constraints of lacking infrastructure to the energy, water, communication and transport networks.<sup>1</sup>

The energy transition in islands reflects the challenges and opportunities of insularity. On the one hand, power generation and transport systems rely on imported fossil fuels and this strong dependency on fossil fuels also impacts on water and waste management, already affected by scarce natural resources and by limited territory. On the other hand, island communities are well placed to reap the benefits of technological innovation and to lead by example in the transition towards renewable energy production and storage, intelligent micro-grids, energy efficient buildings and industries, digitalisation and demand side management, low-carbon transportation as well as integrated water and waste systems.

Renewable energy sources and innovative EE and transport solutions are among the most viable technological and financial solutions to reduce dependency of islands on energy imports and protect their fragile, isolated ecosystems. In this sense, insular territories and communities simultaneously boost innovation for energy transition as well as circular economy plans for waste and primary resources including water and energy.<sup>2</sup>

While an island is defined as “a naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide”,<sup>3</sup> any other remote area could learn from the solutions implemented in an island.

Energy systems in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries and in their remote areas share common challenges with energy systems in islands: Among others, fossil fuel dependency, insufficient transportation networks, inefficient water and waste management. Certainly, both need to tackle without delay the challenges related to energy transition, to improve resilience to climate change and to implement circular economy solutions; at the same time both can immediately benefit from technological innovation, including the maximization of RES penetration, energy storage and smart grids, energy efficiency, demand side management, low-carbon transportation, integrated water and waste systems.

Could the progress towards energy independence in insular energy systems - by reducing their dependency on expensive imported fossil fuels and by using the best available clean technologies – be a showcase for clean energy transition in all Mediterranean countries?

The 7<sup>th</sup> MEDENER International Conference focuses on the latest solutions for energy efficiency, renewable energy production, energy storage facilities, demand response systems, low carbon transport and sustainable water and waste treatment. It also emphasizes the role of circular economy investments boosting economic self-sufficiency and inclusive growth in isolated territories and in the Mediterranean region.

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<sup>1</sup> EU Political Declaration on Clean Energy for EU Islands, Valletta 18 May 2017.

<sup>2</sup> European Technology & Innovation Platforms (ETIP) Smart Networks for Energy Transition (SNET), Vision 2050 Integrating Smart Networks for the Energy Transition: Serving Society and Protecting the Environment (2018). See also the EU Commission, Report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan (2019).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - Part VIII, Article 121.



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## AGENDA

Moderator: **Stuart REIGELUTH**, Founder, REVOLVE

08:30 - 09:00	<b>Registration of participants</b>
09:00 - 09:20	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vassilis KILIAS</b>, CRES representative</li> <li>• <b>Giorgio GRADITI</b>, President, MEDENER</li> </ul>
09:20 - 10:45 incl. Q&A	<p><b>Overview of the challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Leonidas KIOUSSIS</b>, Senior Expert, DG ENERGY, EU Commission</li> <li>• <b>Ashraf KRAIDY</b>, Planning Director, RCREEE</li> <li>• <b>Antonia PROKA</b>, Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat</li> </ul> <p><i>Key issues: Challenges in supporting the energy transition in the Mediterranean region taking into account the experience of insular territories and communities.</i></p>
10:45 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break and family photo</i>
11:00 – 12.30 incl. Q&A	<p><b>Keynote speeches: Innovation for sustainable energy in islands &amp; remote areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Status of sustainable technologies for islands</i> - <b>Arthouros ZERVOS</b>, Chair, REN21</li> <li>• <b>Carlo DRAGO</b>, GTI Observatory Coordinator, Greening the Islands</li> <li>• <b>Manuel SAPIANO</b>, CEO, Energy Water Agency of Malta</li> </ul> <p><i>Key issues: Innovative solutions for energy transition, including energy production and storage, mini- and off-grids, energy efficient buildings and industries, digitalisation and demand side management, low-carbon transportation and integrated water and waste systems</i></p>
12.30 – 13.45	<i>Lunch break</i>



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<p>13:45 – 15:30 incl. Q&amp;A</p>	<p><b>Session 1: Case Studies from the Islands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Innovative solutions for energy transition in the Tunisian island of Djerba</i> - <b>Hassen EL-AGREBI</b>, Head of International Cooperation, ANME</li> <li>• <i>Energy Transition Agenda in the Italian small island of Salina</i> – <b>Roberta BONIOTTI</b>, Advisor on European Affairs, ENEA &amp; MEDENER Secretary General.</li> <li>• <i>Energy transition and circular economy technologies in the virtual island of Heliosthana 2030</i> - <b>Adel MOURTADA</b>, Senior Expert Energy &amp; Climate change, ALMEE</li> <li>• <i>The challenge of the energy transition for the Greek islands</i> – <b>Markos DAMASIOTIS</b>, Head of the Development Programmes Division, CRES</li> <li>• <i>Islands in the Spanish Energy Strategy</i> - <b>Santiago GONZÁLEZ</b>, Head of Projects, Department of Regulatory Affairs for Energy Transition, IDAE</li> <li>• <i>Smart Islands Initiative – An Integrated Territorial Investment approach to enable EU islands’ clean energy transition: The case of Kythnos Smart Island</i> - <b>Kostas KOMNINOS</b>, General Director, DAFNI Network of Sustainable Greek Islands</li> <li>• <i>Azores: Goals, Challenges and Needs for Energy</i> - <b>Guilherme SILVA</b>, Azorean Directorate for Energy</li> </ul>
<p>15:30 - 15:45</p>	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
<p>15:45 - 17:00 incl. Q&amp;A</p>	<p><b>Session 2: Technology solutions for power generation, storage, mini- and off-grid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Energy security and climate adaptation in islands: the CLIMAMED experience</i> – <b>Amel MAKHLOUF</b>, Key expert for the Maghreb region, CLIMA-MED</li> <li>• <i>New projects and studies on Non-Interconnected Areas (ZNI) in France</i> – <b>Alicia TSITSIKALIS</b>, Regional Mediterranean and African Cooperation, ADEME</li> <li>• <i>Nexus Water and Energy in Lebanon or the Region</i> - <b>Fadi COMAIR</b>, General Director, Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water</li> <li>• <i>Building Innovative Green Hydrogen Systems in Isolated Territories (BigHit)</i> - <b>Guillermo FIGUERUELO</b>, Head of Business Development Department, Aragon Hydrogen Foundation</li> <li>• <i>Key industry and technology trends to foster the integration of remote communities</i> – <b>David LECOQUE</b>, Senior Manager Policy &amp; Business Development, Alliance for Rural Electrification</li> </ul>
<p>17:00 - 17:30</p>	<p><b>Conclusions &amp; closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Markos DAMASIOTIS</b>, Head of Development Programmes Division, CRES</li> <li>• <b>Dario CHELLO</b>, former President, MEDENER</li> </ul>

For any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact **Ms Alice Giallombardo**, meetMED Communication Officer, at [alice.giallombardo@medener.org](mailto:alice.giallombardo@medener.org).