Supporting local authorities’ efforts towards the energy transition and climate action
The Mediterranean municipalities face multiple challenges...

...that can turn into opportunities if properly addressed.

The Mediterranean local communities have a central role to play in the energy transition. The region is rich in renewable energy sources, such as wind, sun and water, having therefore the potential to promote the shift towards more sustainable, low carbon energy systems. There is also a potential to increase energy efficiency through the development of new technologies in areas such as cooling and heating, building construction and renovation, public lighting, urban transportation, etc. Investments on renewable energies and energy efficiency will develop local jobs and local qualifications as well as reduce the financial burden for importing fossil energies.

“Cooperation between cities is now at the core of regional strategies against climate change in the Mediterranean.”

Mohamed Idaomar, Mayor of Tetouan and President of MedCities

Why local authorities? A bottom-up approach

In order to address these pressing issues affecting the Mediterranean region, cities are in the best position to identify actions that best meet their local needs and to carry them out on the ground, as they can design and implement policies that take the local context into account.
The UfM mandate

The Ministers of Energy of the UfM countries emphasised the support to local authorities “in the promotion, deployment, and scaling up of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions that are compatible with securing a high quality of life for their citizens.”

Declaration of the UfM Ministerial Conference on Energy (2016)

The Union for the Mediterranean recognises the significant role local authorities play in achieving environmental and climate-related objectives and supports them in their efforts towards the energy transition, through the Energy Transition @ Local Initiative.

UfM Peer to Peer Dialogues for Local Authorities’ Efforts in Energy Transition

The UfM organizes UfM Peer to Peer Dialogues for Local Authorities’ Efforts in Energy Transition, focusing on issues such as public-private partnerships (PPPs), technical assistance to LAs, project financing, project bankability, and policies, among others.

UfM Capacity Building Programme for Supporting LAs Efforts in Energy Transition and Climate Change

This programme consists of vocational training sessions and technical study visits focusing on topics such as efficiency in urban mobility, buildings and street lighting.

2nd UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum: Supporting Local Authorities in their efforts towards the energy transition

The second edition of the UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum gathered, in 2019, local authorities, stakeholders, private sector investors, international financial institutions, and government representatives with the aim of:

- Identifying business opportunities and innovative solutions with potential of replication
- Highlighting and exchanging regional best practices
- Enhancing cooperation and networking
- Promoting tangible and innovative financing solutions, private investment and public private partnerships in the Euro-Mediterranean region

Clima-Med project

One of the major objectives of the UfM labelled project Clima-Med is to increase the numbers of local Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAPs), including greenhouse gases inventories and climate vulnerability and risk assessments, developed and implemented in line with the Global Covenant of Mayors principles, leading to concrete actions implemented by local authorities in the Southern Neighbourhood.
UfM in short

Mission

To enhance regional cooperation and dialogue through the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives addressing human development, stability and integration.

43 Members
28 EU members and 15 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Their Senior Officials meet regularly to oversee and coordinate the activities of the UfM.

2 Co-Presidents
The EU and Jordan have assumed the Northern and Southern co-presidency since 2012, embodying the UfM principle of co-ownership.

1 Secretariat
Based in Barcelona, the Secretariat is the operational platform of the UfM.

Milestones

1995
Barcelona Process

2008
Launch of the Union for the Mediterranean

2010
Creation of the UfM Secretariat

2011 - to date

• 50+ projects labelled
• UfM Regional Forum
• UfM Roadmap
• UfM-EU Neighbourhood policy
• UfM-UN Observer Status

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