



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
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## 2nd UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum

*Supporting local authorities in their efforts towards the energy transition*

*18 July 2019, Lisbon, Portugal*

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### 1. Background

In the declaration of the UfM Ministerial Conference on Energy held in Rome on 1 December 2016, Ministers expressed their willingness to *“foster sustainable development by ensuring that all consumers and industry have access to a secure, sustainable, affordable and reliable energy supply and to modern energy services”*. To do so, they established the three UfM Energy Platforms (Gas, Regional Electricity Market, and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency) aiming, inter alia, at promoting *“private investment through the engagement of the private sector and financial institutions in demonstrating business models in variable national contexts.”*

Ministers also emphasized the support to local authorities: *“for those countries where structures make it relevant and who are willing to, supporting the involvement of 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.”*

In line with the UfM roadmap aiming at *“fostering regional cooperation in the energy sector (interconnections, interdependency, efficiency, renewable energy, energy mix) and ensuring the involvement of the local and regional authorities, the private sector and the IFIs”*, and the UfM Strategy for the private sector, the **Second UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum: Supporting local authorities in their efforts towards the energy transition** will be a milestone in the promotion of the private sector role regarding local authorities' efforts in the energy transition and in facing climate change challenges. It will also be an opportunity to follow-up on the UfM capacity-building actions towards Local Authorities.

The event is organised under the auspices of the Portuguese Ministry of the Environment and Energy Transition and the local organization is coordinated by the Portuguese Energy Agency (ADENE), in cooperation with several UfMS stakeholders, and with the financial support of Sweden.

#### 2. Context : UfM “ Energy Transition @ Local” Initiative

The Mediterranean region is nowadays facing significant energy and climate challenges. It is home to an increasing population of over 500 million inhabitants with growing energy demands. According to the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME), per capita energy demand is estimated to increase by 62% in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries by 2040 (taking 2018 as reference year). The Mediterranean region is also experiencing an intensive industrialization and tourism growth that is also putting pressure on the available energy resources. On top of that, the average rise of temperature by 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels – the lower limit not to be surpassed as agreed through the Paris Agreement – is already



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being exceeded in the Mediterranean region, according to IPCC's Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C.

These regional challenges, however, if properly addressed, can become business opportunities that can contribute to a sustainable energy transition. Our 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 allowing energy saving and storage, for instance.

Presented during the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform meeting in January 2019, the UfM Energy Transition @ Local Initiative deals with how to support local authorities in their efforts in energy efficiency renewable energy and climate change at the age of ultra-urbanization.

In the UM region, the energy transition, while an economic necessity, represents also an opportunity to attract investments. While raising the price of energy services can play a crucial role in creating incentives to stimulate energy transitions, few actions exist to raise awareness or to provide support for local authorities in their energy transition. However, a visible group of active local authorities has emerged that is interested in undertaking actions. International donors have started to consider the area as a priority and are now dedicating support for those local authorities willing to undertake pilot solutions. In these circumstances, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), aims to capitalize on the existing efforts, give visibility to effective actions, explore their replicability in different conditions, identify difficulties faced, report results to member states and advocate for regional policies.

In this frame, the UfM Secretariat has already started the process of "UfM Peer to Peer Dialogues for LAs Efforts in Energy Transition" where a group of projects, efforts and project implementation models have been identified and a network of experts has been built. The 2nd UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum will build on the conclusions of this process and stands in the frame of UfM Initiative of Energy Transition @ Local as well as the recently UfM/labelled Clima MED project which is the continuation of the EU programmes Cleaner Energy Saving Mediterranean Cities (CES-MED), ClimaSouth and Sustainable Urban Demonstration Projects (SUDEP) achievements.

### 3. Objectives of the 2nd UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum

The objective of the **Second UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum: Supporting local authorities in their efforts towards the energy transition** is to enhance cooperation, to provide a networking space and to promote innovative and tangible financing solutions, private investment and public-private partnerships in the Euro-Mediterranean region oriented to local authorities' efforts in achieving a sustainable energy transition and in facing climate change challenges.



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The objective of the Second UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum is to offer high level and highly representative platform for solution developers from public and private sectors and academia working for local authorities' challenges in energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change.

The event will bring together high-level government representatives, stakeholders, private sector investors, international financial institutions and successful investment cases, with the aim of identifying business and networking opportunities and enhancing exchanges on regional best practices.

#### **4. Date and Venue**

18 July 2019

Auditório António Domingues de Azevedo (Avenida Defensores de Chaves 85-B) – Ao Campo Pequeno, Lisbon, Portugal.



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### 5. Structure of Agenda

#### Opening Session

##### **Session 1- Setting the scene: regional framework**

*This session aims to provide a general framework on the state of play of local authorities actions regarding energy efficiency and climate change, with a special focus on shared regional challenges and opportunities.*

##### **Session 2- Financing Local Authorities' efforts in Energy Efficiency and Climate Action**

*This session aims to provide appropriate information to institutional and market players about existing opportunities and gaps from the financing perspective and to contribute to the development of innovative and replicable financing models. Also, it aims to shed some light on the need of specific finance for small-scale projects which are not usually among the priorities for the usual IFIs and major players that invest in the region.*

##### **Session 3- Innovative Solutions**

*This session aims to showcase and promote innovative solutions implemented in the region at the local and community levels (in different areas such as cooling, heating, transport, lightening,...) and to evaluate the perspective of replicability around the region.*



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