
RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES REGARDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MEDITERRANEAN BUILDINGS

The Mediterranean area is drastically lagging with regard to moving towards the objective of the Nearly-Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) by 2020¹. According to latest studies², if performances on energy efficiency in the residential sector should pursue the current trend, in 2020 a gap close to 9.6 % will be recorded between the EU targets (e.g. 20% on energy saving) and the real energy reduction³ in the Mediterranean area. This is especially noticeable for low-income housing, which represents a significant share (about 40%) of the total housing stock in the area, with important energy saving potential.

In terms of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, the Mediterranean area faces some specific barriers, such as: climatic conditions leading to a traditional low emphasis on insulation; ageing building stock, especially in urban centres; lack of well-structured operators of social housing. In this context:

Investing in low-carbon transition in buildings in the Mediterranean area is a necessary condition to build a more sustainable Europe and enhance economy recovery. Indeed, low-carbon transition in buildings has been boosting the sector of building rehabilitation, creating new jobs and encouraging new professional education and training. Last but not least, low-carbon transition in buildings contributes to the adoption of new energy consumption behaviour patterns and to the improvement of Mediterranean citizens' living conditions and comfort.

The [ELIH-MED](#), [MARIE](#) and [PROFORBIOMED](#) projects represent three examples of how and to what extent the EU financial support can encourage the low-carbon transition in buildings in the Mediterranean area by promoting growth and jobs.

Co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the framework of the [MED Programme](#), ELIH-MED, MARIE and PROFORBIOMED bring together close to 60 partners, including regional authorities, cities, territorial energy agencies, universities and international organisations. After two years of work, the ELIH-Med and MARIE projects have produced a joint Policy Paper with [strategic recommendations](#).

According to the request recently raised by the European Parliament⁴ and aiming to contribute to the creation of a strategy for the energy efficiency improvement in Mediterranean buildings, the declaration below delivers the main messages of the ELIH-Med and MARIE Policy Paper, which are also shared by the PROFORBIOMED project.

It is addressed to the European Institutions, Managing Authorities of European Programmes and to national, regional and local representatives.

¹ 2018 for public buildings.

² See the ELIH-Med study « Trend-Setting Scenario: Impact of existing policies and financial resources available on EU2020 Objectives », available on www.elih-med.eu.

³ Achieved by the proper implementation of measures scheduled in each National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP).

⁴ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/regi/pr/935/935743/935743en.pdf

LJUBLJANA DECLARATION

Having regard to the main analysis and outcomes delivered in the framework of the implementation of our pilot and capitalisation initiatives,

We, representing the Regions of Catalonia, Valencia, Murcia, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Languedoc-Roussillon, Piedmont, Basilicata, Umbria, Sicily, East Macedonia and Thrace and Western Macedonia,

We, representing the municipalities of Malaga, Genoa, Frattamaggiore, Larnaca and Bar,

We, representing the Local Councils' Association (LCA) of Malta,

We, representing the energy agencies: Regional Agency for Energy of Liguria, Local Energy Agency GOLEA and Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje in Slovenia, the Cyprus Energy Agency (CEA), and the Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency (MIEMA),

We, representing the public bodies: Agency for solid wastes treatment in Algarve (ALGAR), Housing and refurbishment Agency of Andalusia (AVRA), Regional Agency of Development (INFO) in Murcia, Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories (AVITEM), Regional Skilled Crafts Chamber of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (CRMA PACA), Scientific and Technical Centre for Building (CSTB) in France, National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA), Science and Technological Park 'AREA Science Park' in Italy, Regional Agency for Development in Agriculture of Sardinia (LAORE Sardinia), Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES) in Greece,

We, representing the institutes: Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (ICNF), Valencia Institute of Building, Catalonia Institute for Energy Research (IREC), Forest Sciences Center of Catalonia (CTFC), Forest Ownership Regional Centre of the Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Institute for the Promotion of Technological innovation (ISNOVA) and ISPRA Institute for Environmental Protection and Research in Italy, Jožef Stefan Institute and Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI) in Slovenia, Institute of Accelerating Systems and Applications (IASA) in Greece,

We, representing the associations: Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR), Low Impact Mediterranean Architecture Association (LIMA) in Spain, Collectif EFFINERGIE and Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity (GERES) in France and the Lombardy Foundation for the Environment (FLA),

We, representing the social landlord 13 Habitat in France, the West Macedonia Development Company (ANKO) in Greece,

We, representing the universities: University of Evora and University Afonso III (CICAE) in Portugal, University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, Democritus University of Thrace and University of Western Macedonia in Greece,

We, representing the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) and the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM),

Partners of the ELIH-MED, MARIE and PROFORBIOMED projects:

1. Commit to creating a **new model of multi-level governance** for the implementation of policies for energy renovation and renewable energy in buildings. In such a new governance model, the Regions and Cities will play a key role politically and financially. This new model would be implemented

through the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission and should aim to: coordinate the use of financial instruments, achieve a better harmonisation of administrative procedures for accessing fund and encourage public-private alliances for innovative solutions.

2. Commit to adopting **regional strategies on energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings** – which should be included within integrated sustainable urban strategies – and coordinating the implementation of these strategies, by developing initiatives and creating tools to cooperate in the Mediterranean area, such as:
 - an information system;
 - an investment programme including private and public partnership;
 - a monitoring system for energy savings;
 - an awareness campaign for the capitalisation of a selected group of high performance European projects – flagship projects;
 - an office in charge of the promotion of the most interesting products and services, including incentives for the use of prefabricated standard elements for house refurbishment.

3. Call on **European Institutions** to increase the use of Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in the energy renovation of buildings by changing regulation to facilitate the absorption of funds and use of structural funds by the private sector (e.g. rules on State Aids).

4. Call on the **European Commission** to enhance specific initiatives in the MED area aiming to:
 - support a better coordination of European, national and regional funds for energy efficiency and renewable energies in buildings;
 - develop innovative EU guarantee schemes systems along with legal and financial facilities, in collaboration with Mediterranean Countries, Regions and Cities;
 - encourage life-long training for existing and new professional profiles dealing with the energy renovation of buildings;
 - establish private-public alliances with the objective to adapt, develop, market and disseminate energy design and planning tools which should support regional and local governments to develop projects for both new and existing areas;
 - support the development of a network of universities, research centres and technical institutions aiming to assess the implementation and integration of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions to improve energy systems in Mediterranean buildings and, above all, in low-income buildings.

5. Call on the **Mediterranean Countries, Regions and Cities** to:
 - support the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012), the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010) and the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009) by:
 - ensuring a high percentage of the ERDF envelopes allocated to low carbon economy to energy efficiency in buildings;
 - mainstreaming energy renovation measures in the next Mediterranean transnational and cross border programmes;
 - reducing the red tap and facilitating the access for public and private stakeholders to structural investment funds, in order to enhance energy renovation in buildings and, above all, in low-income housing.
 - promote the industrialisation of processes and construction techniques and the better use of prefabricated elements to improve the energy efficiency of houses in order to reduce the cost and the time for the refurbishment;
 - support public energy efficiency awareness campaigns and energy-efficient behaviour programs;
 - develop interconnected and harmonized intelligent energy management systems.



6. Call on **Managing Authorities of European funding programmes** (ERDF, ESF, ENI, HORIZON 2020, MED, etc.), in the perspective of the next programming period 2014-2020, to:
 - give wider visibility and higher investments for the energy renovation of buildings and renewable energy sources in their Operational Programmes. Strategic lines identified in ELIH-MED and MARIE Policy Paper, supported by PROFORBIOMED, could be chosen as investment priorities;
 - include specific priority axes in the energy renovation of buildings and renewable energy in future calls for projects;
 - foster concrete experimentations related to the energy renovation of buildings and renewable energy instead of research studies in future calls for projects.

This Declaration has been approved by the Steering Committee of MARIE and hereby I sign it as the Project Leader

Name: F. Xavier Martí Ragué

Entity: Housing and Urban Improvement Secretary. Department of Territory and Sustainability. Generalitat of Catalonia

Date and place:



This Declaration has been approved by the Steering Committee of ELIH-MED and hereby I sign it as the Project Leader

Name: Anna Moreno

Entity: Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development

Date and place:



This Declaration has been approved by the Steering Committee of PROFORBIOMED and hereby I sign it as the Project Leader.

Name: Roque Pérez Palazón

Entity: General Directorate of the Environment. Region of Murcia

Date and place:

