



**THEME [INCO.2012-1.3]**

**INCONET – Mediterranean Partner Countries**

**Deliverable N.: D3.2**

**Title: Second Knowledge Base report**

**Funding scheme:** Coordination and support action

**Project Acronym:** MED-SPRING

**Project Coordinator:** CIHEAM-IAMB, Claudio Bogliotti

**Grant Agreement n°:** 311780

**Authors:** CSIC

**Dissemination level:** PU (Public)

**Coding:** MEDSPRING/WP3/D3.2/Second Knowledge Base progress report

**Official delivery date:** M48

**Project start:** 1 February 2013

**Project duration:** 48 months

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## 1. Introduction

This is the second part of the deliverable “311780 - MED-SPRING - D3.2 - Knowledge Base progress reports”, coming at the end of the project life. This document exposes the MED-SPRING Knowledge base progress report in the project website in the last two years of project.

The Knowledge base progress reports will focus on selected societal challenges, focusing on cooperation, policy and thematic aspects. The report will describe the repository of thematic and scientific news and documents as well as policy documents, communications, project reports and other relevant documents, especially information and documents in the project website. The knowledge base is being developed on the base of the aggregation and review of the information and documents placed in the repository in order to provide a comprehensive vision regarding specific themes, including forecasting, scenarios, actions and suggestions for actions.

## 2. Knowledge news on RDI

### 1. ERANETMED Third Call Pre-Announcement

This is a pre-announcement of the third joint transnational research call that will be co-funded by the following ERANETMED partners: ANR (France), ASRT (Egypt), BMBF (Germany), CIHEAM Bari (Int. Org.), CNRS-L (Lebanon), DGRSDT (Algeria), HCST (Jordan), MESRSFC (Morocco), MESRST (Tunisia), MIUR (Italy), MINECO (Spain), RPF (Cyprus), STDF (Egypt), TUBITAK (Turkey). It aims at informing research teams about the imminent publication of the joint transnational research call in May 2017.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/eranetmed-third-call-pre-announcement>.

### 2. 7th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment

Integrating Arab e-infrastructure in a Global Environment, e-AGE, is an annual international conference organized by the Arab States Research and Education Network, ASREN. Since the launch of ASREN in December 2010 at the League of Arab States, it was decided to organize e-AGE every year in an Arab country. e-AGE is in line with ASREN’s major objectives that are related to dissemination and awareness, promotion of research collaboration and joint activities, and establishment of research networks in the Arab region and worldwide.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/7th-international-platform-integrating-arab-e-infrastructure-global-environment>.

### **3. 1st Euro-Mediterranean Conference for Environmental Integration**

The conference aimed to gather new research contributions from all disciplines of environmental sciences by many Euro-Mediterranean scientists from diverse backgrounds, in particular from the geo- and bio-environmental sciences and engineering, and thus make an essential contribution towards ensuring that science and knowledge can contribute to promoting a more sustainable environment for the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Read more: <http://www.emcei.net/>.

### **4. 5TOI\_4EWAS Innovation Week**

The first 5TOI\_4EWAS Innovation Week will take place in Casablanca from 23 to 26 January 2017 at the Hotel Idou Anfa, Casablanca - Morocco. The Euro-Mediterranean innovators, researchers, policy makers, international companies and investors are very welcome. This week is organized in several tracks to offer a wide range of opportunities as well as to bring together ideas, knowledge and people from the energy, water and food sectors. The idea is to refine and to address the future trends on R&I policies. Take part in 5TOI\_4EWAS public events and share with us your view.

Read more: [http://www.5toi.eu/events/5toi\\_4ewas-innovation-week/](http://www.5toi.eu/events/5toi_4ewas-innovation-week/).

### **5. Call for grants DIPLOMAzia2**

Italian CNR offers a Public Call for the granting of 30 Training Scholarships for Graduates and graduated Administrators (graduated professionals and officials) from extra-EU countries, having citizenship and permanent residence in one of the following countries: Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania. The training will have to be carried out at selected Institutes of the National Research Council based in Italy, and financed by the Multi-Disciplinary Training Program "Sciences for DIPLOMAzia2".

Read more: [https://www.cnr.it/sites/default/files/public/media/internazionale/bando\\_IT-EN\\_DIPLOmazia2-2016.pdf](https://www.cnr.it/sites/default/files/public/media/internazionale/bando_IT-EN_DIPLOmazia2-2016.pdf) .

### **6. Athens Declaration**

Mediterranean Ministers recently adopted the Athens Declaration, in which they pledged to implement the instruments, programs, action plans and guidelines adopted at Barcelona Convention CoP19 - to prevent pollution from maritime transport, marine exploration, and land-based activities, protect biodiversity, manage coastal zones, and increase the resilience of the Mediterranean to the impacts of climate change - as crucial means for the achievement of the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

Read more: <http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?module=news&action=detail&id=200>.

## 7. EuroScience Open Forum 2016

The EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) is a biennial, pan-European, general science conference dedicated to scientific research and innovation. Each conference aims to deliver stimulating content and lively debate around the latest advancements and discoveries in the sciences, humanities and social sciences.

ESOF brings together over 4,500 leading thinkers, innovators, policy makers, journalists and educators from more than 90 countries, to discuss current and future breakthroughs in contemporary science. Now in its seventh iteration, ESOF attracts thousands of delegates to the host city during the week of the conference, which, in 2016, will be held between 23 and 27 July in Manchester. ESOF is one of the best opportunities for everyone from leading scientists, early careers researchers, business people, policy makers, science and technology communicators to the general public to come together to find out more about how science is helping us advance today.

Read more: <http://www.esof.eu/home.html>.

## 8. Commission seeks views on research partnership in the Mediterranean

The European Commission has opened a public consultation on a new research and innovation initiative for sustainable food production and improved water management in the Mediterranean area. PRIMA, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area, will involve both EU and non-EU Mediterranean states. It will reinforce international cooperation in research and innovation to address the food and water-related challenges that are critical to the region's sustainable development. Anybody and any organization from Mediterranean countries can and should participate to the consultation.

Read more: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2016&na=na-010216>.

## 9. Report from World Economic Forum on Global Risks 2016

From the refugee crisis to economic slowdowns in emerging markets, from ever-rising numbers of terrorist and cyber-attacks to water shortages, global risks have been in the headlines in the last year. Yet so have initiatives to address them, such as the COP21 meeting on reducing greenhouse gas emissions or European Union (EU) summits to address the refugee crisis. The Global Risks Report exists to raise awareness about global risks and their potential interconnections, and to provide a platform for discussion and action to mitigate, adapt and strengthen resilience.

Read more: <http://reports.weforum.org/global-risks-2016/part-1-title-tba/#hide/fn-2>.



## 10. Tunisia joins H2020

Researchers and innovators from Tunisia will now be able to participate in Horizon 2020, the EU's framework programme for research and innovation, under the same conditions as their counterparts from EU Member States and other 13 associated countries. The Association Agreement allows for enhanced cooperation in research and innovation between the EU and Tunisia, vital for successful and modern economies. It also represents another step towards reaching the EU goal of opening research and innovation to the world. Tunisian research institutes, universities and individual researchers will now have access to all opportunities offered by Horizon 2020 that funds diverse scientific areas, from blue sky research to demonstration projects. Tunisian SMEs and businesses will also be able to benefit from increased support to develop new ideas and bring products and services to the market.

Read more: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2015&na=na-011215>.

## 11. Integrated solutions for a circular economy and resilient cities

The AIWW conference on “Integrated solutions for a circular economy and resilient cities” was held in Amsterdam from 2nd to 6th November 2015. The Amsterdam International Water Week (AIWW) is the platform for new alliances and fresh ideas: connecting industry, science, business, policy and technology. The event crosses borders between water and sanitation, delta technology, food, agriculture, finance and governance. Thus bringing together a unique mix of professionals conducive to the transition to a circular economy and resilient cities.

Inspiring Track Specials: The Amsterdam International Water Week (AIWW) combines three inspiring conference tracks:

- Track 1 - Urban resilience & adaptation to climate change (resilient cities)
- Track 2 - Urban utilities & the circular economy (urban utilities)
- Track 3 - Sustainable production & industrial response: reduce, reuse and recover (industry)

Read more: <http://internationalwaterweek.com/uploads/2014/12/140254-01-flyer-aiww-2015-12-los.pdf>.

## 12. International Conference on “Collaboration for Innovation - Linking GCC and EU”

The IncoNet for the Arab Gulf Countries (IncoNet GCC2) organized an International Conference on “Collaboration for Innovation - Linking GCC and EU” from 6th to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in Muscat, Oman. This international conference gathered STI actors from both the EU and GCC and had as its main aim to explore synergies for further cooperation in STI between the two regions. The thematic focus will be on Energy/Smart Cities and Health which have been identified as sectors of mutual benefit between EU and GCC.

For more information please visit: <http://www.inconet-gcc.eu/news/inconet-gcc2-international-conference-on-collaboration-for-innovation-linking-gcc-and-eu-muscat-6-8-december-2015/>.

### **13. Regional NGO Master Plan for Sustainable Development in the Jordan Valley**

EcoPeace Middle East/WEDO, together with consortium partners at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and Global Nature Fund (GNF), and lead consultant Royal Haskoning DHV, released the first ever Regional NGO Master Plan for Sustainable Development in the Jordan Valley at a conference on June 9, 2015 on the Jordanian shores of the Dead Sea.

127 specific regional and national projects (“interventions”) have been identified in the framework of the Master Plan, with a total investment value of 4.58 billion USD until the year 2050. The interventions are grouped around the strategic planning objectives: Pollution Control, Sustainable Water Management and River Rehabilitation, Sustainable Agriculture, Jordan River Basin Governance, Ecological Rehabilitation, Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Heritage Development, and Urban and Infrastructure Development.

EcoPeace will continue to use the Master Plan to advocate for regional integration in the Jordan Valley and for increasing political will for the adoption in full, or in part, of the study's recommendations by the national authorities in the region.

Read more: [http://foeme.org/uploads/Regional\\_NGO\\_Master\\_Plan\\_Final.pdf](http://foeme.org/uploads/Regional_NGO_Master_Plan_Final.pdf).

### **14. Mediterranean Youth Responses towards sustainable development and current crisis**

The UNESCO Chair of Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean (University of Athens), together with MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES are organizing the Mediterranean survey, under the political guidance of the Secretariat of the Union of the Mediterranean (UfM) entitled: “Mediterranean Youth Responses towards sustainable development and current crisis”.

The survey kindly invites the youth (15-35 yrs old) from the Mediterranean to devote 20 min in order to share their thoughts about sustainability, the current economic and sociopolitical crisis in many parts of the region as well as their ideas for the future. The collected data will be used for scientific purposes and to inform international/regional policies and strategies such as the Action Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP).

Please find the link to the survey: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kvNh1IGDHP2-O4udAAEzAcQ1ayy55902n2Su9qcnmNg/viewform>.

## **15. Global challenges, Mediterranean solutions - Decision making and concrete actions**

The Kick-off event for the INTERREG MED Programme 2014-2020 took place on Tuesday 23rd June 2015 in Marseilles. The MED Kick-Off is part of a joint event entitled “Global challenges, Mediterranean solutions. Decision making and concrete actions” starting on 22nd June. The conference will offer an occasion to discuss and exchange on cooperation strategies for challenges that Europe and the world are facing.

The programme and further information for the events on 22nd and 23rd June are available at: <http://www.programmemed.eu/>.

## **16. MED-SPRING project call for contributions**

In the framework of the Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway - MED-SPRING project - UNIMED launches a call for contributions to collect research stories and working papers on the project themes: Resource Efficiency (particularly Water), High Quality Affordable Food and Energy. The call for contributions is addressed to young researcher, from southern Mediterranean countries, with a research focus on the Nexus among Energy; High Quality Affordable Food and Scarcity of resources (mainly water) and how it satisfies the sustainability dimensions (economic, environmental, social and considering the institutional/governance dimension as cross-cutting). The better and innovative contributions will be selected through peer-review and published in the Med-Spring project and UNIMED websites.

Read more: <http://www.uni-med.net/en/medspring-project-call-for-contributions/>.

## **17. Research and civil society dialogue towards a low carbon society**

The R&Dialogue workshop on European stakeholders perspectives on the development of a low carbon society was held on 27 May, 2015, from 10.00 to 13.00 at Rue d’Egmont 15, Brussels, with the stakeholders involved in Europe’s low-carbon energy transition. The objective was the exchange on European level energy dialogue issues and on strategic input coming from the participants. This will be included in the R&Dialogue vision and action plan for a low carbon society, which will be presented to the European Commission and other stakeholders in November 2015.

The R&Dialogue project has conducted interviews with about 20 energy sector stakeholders. This has provided input to Dialogue project partners in organizing their low-carbon dialogue activities in 10 different European countries. This input was also used for the production of the report “Energy dialogue: the story so far”.

Read more: <http://www.rndialogue.eu/uploads/doc/Energy%20Dialogue%20-%20the%20story%20so%20far.pdf>.

## **18. UNIMED General Assembly**

The UNIMED General Assembly will be held in Rome on 21 and 22 October 2015. UNIMED General Assembly will be an important event to which all the rectors of our universities associated, their delegates together with the staff of international relations offices can join.

Read more: <http://www.uni-med.net/en/unimed-general-assembly-in-rome-on-october/>.

### **19. Integrating Arab e-infrastructure in a Global Environment, e-AGE 2015**

Integrating Arab e-infrastructure in a Global Environment, e-AGE, is the annual international conference organized by the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), moving from one Arab country to another. e-AGE is in line with ASRENs major objectives related to creating awareness, promoting R&E collaboration and joint activities and establishing human networks in order to facilitate collaboration and cooperation among researchers and academicians in the Arab region and the rest of the world.

e-AGE platform had established itself as an important venue for networking among experts and scientists from all over the world.

Read more: <http://asrenorg.net/eage2015/>.

### **20. Focus on regional cooperation in the Mediterranean: five new projects labeled by the UfM**

The Senior Officials of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) member states met for the sixth time in December 2014 in Barcelona. Five new projects promoting young people employability, job opportunities, entrepreneurship, urban sustainable development and water management transparency were approved, in particular “Water Integrity in MENA”.

Promoted by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), this project aims to improve transparency and accountability practices in water management in the MENA region by addressing poor governance structures; high water demand and low levels of trust among different parties sharing the same water resource; and limited institutional mechanisms for applying integrated water resources management principles, which is leading to chronic water stress in the region. The first phase will be implemented over a 4-year period in Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has supported this project with a financial contribution of 2.3 million Euro.

Read more: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/focus-on-regional-cooperation-in-the-mediterranean-five-new-projects-labelled-by-the-ufm/>.

### **21. 11th Annual Erasmus Congress and Exhibition ERACON 2015**

The 11th annual Erasmus Congress and Exhibition - ERACON 2015 organized by the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators (EAEC) will be held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at the Polytechnic of Porto, Portugal. The congress is addressed to Erasmus Coordinators, Placement and Internship Managers, Career Officers, Researchers and Professionals with an interest in the ERASMUS+ Programme and belong either to the academic or business world.

Read more:

[http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=916&Itemid=93](http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=916&Itemid=93).

## **22. 1st International Congress "Green Business and Sustainable Development"**

The Technology Park of Borj-Cdria in collaboration with the ECOTEC Cagliari (Italy) and the University of Carthage organize the 1st International Congress "Green Business and Sustainable Development" that will take place in Hammamet from 14 to 16 May 2015.

The aim of this Congress is to strengthen the dynamics of research and development in the fields of sustainable development and green jobs. This congress will be an opportunity and a space for exchange and contact between the different actors of the two shores of the Mediterranean: manufacturers, researchers, technical managers, investors, experts, students, business leaders, representatives of associations and administrative officials.

Read more:

[http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=925&Itemid=93](http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=925&Itemid=93).

## **23. HOMERe project launching session**

The UFP-Labeled HOMERe (High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executives Recruitment) project was officially launched on 17th March in Marseille, with a round table on the benefits the project will bring and a second round table on the added value that the international internships will bring to the companies and to the companies development in the Mediterranean region. Company representatives, stakeholders, project partners and representatives from the UpM participated in this Kick-off meeting.

Launching meetings will also be organized in different countries involved in the programme. Next events are scheduled in Marrakesh (Morocco) 27th March 2015, and Rome (Italy) 10th April 2015.

Read more:

[http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=922&Itemid=93](http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=922&Itemid=93).

## **24. Med-Mobil Capitalization Network**

In the framework of the Med-Mobil (Supportive international approach to increase and improve the mobility and exchange) project, a Capitalization Network integrated by policy makers, business associations, research centers, networks and associations, and think-tanks is being developed as a platform for information and exchange on mobility initiatives, funding opportunities and sustainability initiatives.

UNIMED is pleased to invite all interested organisations to be part of the Med-Mobil Capitalisation Network. In order to confirm interest in joining the network, interested institutions are kindly requested you to fill-out the letter of adhesion and to send it back to [unimed@uni-med.net](mailto:unimed@uni-med.net), if possible before April 15th, 2015.

Read more:

[http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=930&Itemid=93](http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=930&Itemid=93).

## 25. Open Day eMEDia Project

The eMEDia consortium will meet at the University of Tampere on April 28-29, 2015 and organise an Open Day on Wednesday 29 April from 9.00 to 13.00 to advance working on cross-media journalism education on an Euro-Mediterranean perspective. The Open Day meeting will take place at the building Pinni A, in Paavo Koli lecture hall (A2100), University of Tampere, Finland.

The eMEDia Open Day is a public event open to academics, practitioners, students, professionals and everyone interested in journalism higher education.

Read more:

[http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=924&Itemid=93](http://www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=924&Itemid=93).

## 26. Cell Model Systems Summer School

CNR organizes a summer school on "Cell Model Systems" in Rome, Italy, from 16th to 20th June 2015. Their main objectives are to facilitate an effective sharing and dissemination of new and innovative research ideas, strategies, focal points on cell model systems to promote genomic research and bioinformatics that are starting points for instance of the system biology and future research in this field and to promote communication between scientists and allow a network development between scientists and students from several world countries.

Read more: [www.cms3.cnr.it](http://www.cms3.cnr.it).

## 27. Seminar on HORIZON 2020

MENFRI organizes a training on H2020 programme on the 4th March 2015 at the Kenzi Tower Hotel, Twin Center, bd Zerkouni, 20 100 Casablanca. The overall objective of the training day is to give an overview of the Horizon 2020 EU programme (how it works, the participations rules, project life cycle etc.) with a focus on the possibilities available for the Mediterranean Partner Countries. The target groups are Public and private research institutions (Universities, Research Centres, Scientific Parks etc.), Industries (Large companies and SMEs).

The main objective is to provide the researchers, R&D managers and project managers with the basic knowledge about H2020 to achieve the following:

- To know more about the programme, the specific areas that are funded by Horizon 2020, financial and legal issues and the new rules of participation
- To enhance the participation in H2020 as well as to increase the proposals success rate
- To know the opportunities for collaboration under H2020
- To know useful tools for the preparation and planning of projects proposals

The seminar will be held in French and the expected number of participants is over 40 researchers, R&D managers and project managers from the Maghreb.

Read more: [http://www.menfri.eu/page/discover-the-trainings\\_p18/](http://www.menfri.eu/page/discover-the-trainings_p18/).

## **28. MAGHRENOV project application call 2015 is open**

Beginning 1st February 2015 and until April 10, the MAGHRENOV consortium is officially opening its first call for innovation project for Euro-Mediterranean consortia who wish to develop innovative products or services in the field of RE&EE. A brokerage event will be held in Casablanca on March 13.

Launched in 2013, the MAGHRENOV project aims to establish a common Euro-Mediterranean innovation network by addressing the energy challenges and opportunities in the Mediterranean basin.

The objective of the MAGHRENOV call is to provide support to R&D in applied sciences in the field of renewable energy in order to foster innovation and to favour convergence between EU and MPCs initiatives for the development of sustainable energies adapted to regional specificities. The Call for Innovation Projects is co-financed by two partners of MAGHRENOV project, IRESEN and KIC InnoEnergy SE.

Read more: <http://maghrenov.eu/news>.

## **2. Knowledge news on energy**

### **1. Energy revolution in post-revolutionary Tunisia**

Among northern-African countries, Tunisia has been a forerunner in terms of environmental awareness. During the Ben Ali era, it has been the first Arab state to set up a ministry for the environment (in 1991); after the 2010 revolution, the National Constituent Assembly inserted a reference to the commitment against climate change in the new 2014 Constitution.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/energy-revolution-post-revolutionary-tunisia>

### **2. Increasing gas export in a troubled semi-rentier state: the case of Egypt**

Since the beginning of the 2011 revolution and the deposition of President Mubarak, Egypt has entered a new phase of political and social unrest. In 2014 Marshal Abdel Fattah el-Sisi won the general elections by an overwhelming majority yet without experiencing an internal social pacification. In this context Egypt participated in the 2015 COP21 and committed itself to both mitigation and adaptation efforts. To date, however, the country has not ratified the Paris Agreement.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/increasing-gas-export-troubled-semi-rentier-state-case-egypt>

### **3. Energy made to export - the case of Algeria**

A rentier state with a national GDP almost entirely dependent on hydrocarbons revenues, Algeria is a strategic geopolitical actor for the Mediterranean and Northern African area, and also a likely green energy exports leader in the near future, if policy pledges are to be fulfilled. The country's economy mostly relies on revenues on the exports of oil and gas. In 2012 Algeria was considered the third largest oil producer in Africa after Nigeria and Libya, and the sixth largest natural gas producer in the world.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/energy-made-export-case-algeria>

### **4. Morocco chase for energy security - from net importer to green energy leader**

Morocco is hosting the second UNFCCC climate talks in the country's history. With the Paris agreement already into force before the Marrakech conference, the Moroccan government has the opportunity to lead a COP focused on means and strategies to actually implement the agreement, rather than on the ratification process. Morocco is a strategic actor of the MENA and South-Mediterranean region, despite its status of lower middle-income economy with a per-capita GDP among the lowest in North Africa.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/morocco-chase-energy-security-net-importer-green-energy-leader>

### **5. New round of loans for renewable energy projects in developing countries**

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) have officially opened a new round of USD 50 million in loans for renewable energy projects in developing countries. This is the fifth round of loans offered through the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility, which will allocate a total of \$350 million of concessional loans over seven annual cycles to government-driven renewable energy projects in developing countries.

Read more: <http://adfd.irena.org/Highlights.aspx> .

### **6. European Conference on Operational Research**

The next European Conference on Operational Research will take place at the Poznan University of Technology on July 3-6, 2016. It is the place to present your work and find out about cutting edge ideas emerging from the Operational Research community. One of the main areas of the conference is devoted to "Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate", where the following streams and sessions have been announced: Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate (contributed), Optimization in Renewable Energy Systems, OR and Climate Change, Optimization for Smart Electric and Thermal Grids, Stochastic



Models in Renewably Generated Electricity, OR in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, OR for Energy and Resource Efficiency, Long Term Planning in Energy, Environment and Climate, Energy/Environment and Climate, Biomass-Based Supply Chains.

Read more: <http://www.euro2016.poznan.pl>.

## **7. Sustainable Cities: Low-Carbon Policy for the Urban Energy Transition**

The 13th annual international Summer Academy “Energy and the Environment” will focus on the policy, social, health, economic and mobility challenges that climate change presents to today's cities, evaluating the impact of climate change on a global and then urban level, offering in-depth insights into low-carbon policy solutions for major urban sectors like transport and buildings, case studies on sustainability strategies from major cities around the world, and visits to a wind energy farm and a renewable electricity storage plant.

Read more:

[http://ikemsummeracademy.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Program\\_SA2016\\_Digital.pdf](http://ikemsummeracademy.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Program_SA2016_Digital.pdf).

## **8. Report on the energy needs of refugees and displaced people worldwide**

The Moving Energy Initiative (MEI) is a collaboration project between GVEP International, Chatham House, Practical Action Consulting, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The consortium has released a report on the energy needs of refugees and displaced people worldwide. The report presents the first ever estimates of the volume and costs of their energy consumption.

Read more:

[https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/publications/research/20151117HeatLightPowerRefugeesMEILahnGrafhamEmbargoed.pdf?dm\\_t=0,0,0,0,0](https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/publications/research/20151117HeatLightPowerRefugeesMEILahnGrafhamEmbargoed.pdf?dm_t=0,0,0,0,0).

## **9. Enabling Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technologies**

The increased deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies (RE&EET) in the South Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) region and in the Early Transition Countries (ETC) could bring a host of benefits, including enhanced energy security, increased national revenues and environmental gains. A new IEA Insights paper considers policy options for supporting the deployment of RE&EET, as well as the surrounding factors that can enable - or indeed impede - the successful implementation of such support policies in both regions.

Drawing on a wealth of IEA analyses and policy experiences globally, the paper: provides a summary of the energy profiles of the ETC and SEMED regions; highlights over-arching, enabling factors that can help to set the necessary foundations for the successful implementation of policy to support RE&EET deployment; analyses policy options for both RE and EE, drawing on practical examples and highlighting indicative policies that correspond with varying levels of market maturity; and provides a checklist for assessing the level of

supportiveness of national policy frameworks for RE&EET. The paper concludes by pointing to the significant potential for energy efficiency and renewable energy gains in both regions.

The publication is available to download for free here:

<http://www.iea.org/publications/insights/insightpublications/EnablingRenewableEnergyandEnergyEfficiencyTechnologiespdf>.

## **10. The EU 2030 Framework for Renewables - Effective Effort Sharing through Public Benchmarks**

Towards2030-dialogue project has the pleasure to announce the publication of the 4th Issue Paper. The aim of the 4th Towards2030-dialogue Issue Paper is to investigate public benchmarks of how the EU target for 2030 could be broken down into individual contributions from each Member State. The current Issue Paper presents and assesses various benchmark setting options taking into account the potential availability of renewable resources and related costs.

Read more: <http://towards2030.eu/>.

## **11. 4th DIA-CORE-CEPS Policy Workshop - Renewables in the 2030 context: Unlocking the full potential**

The 4th DIA-CORE-CEPS Policy Workshop was successfully implemented on 25th June 2015 in Brussels, Belgium hosted by Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). The main aim of this Workshop was to address the key issues of costs and benefits of deploying RES and provide a fruitful stakeholder dialogue about the role of coordination and compliance of national policies on the reduction of costs and increase of related benefits.

Read more:

<http://www.diacore.eu/news-events/events/item/4th-dia-core-ceps-policy-workshop-brussels-belgium>.

## **12. The Arab Worlds Transition to Sustainable Energy Pathway: A Look from Inside**

On the Occasion of the Second Annual United Nations Sustainable Energy for All Forum, the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites you to the Expert Session: "The Arab Worlds Transition to Sustainable Energy Pathway: A Look from Inside" on 19 May 2015 at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel.

In the last few years, Arab countries have taken a number of initiatives to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency investments. The session aims to present these key developments and highlight hot energy markets in the region. In particular, the session will focus on private sector investment opportunities, highlight developments in energy subsidy reforms and present newly launched renewable energy and energy efficiency supporting policies. The presentation will be based on the recently released 2015 edition of the Arab

Future Energy Index (AFEX) developed by the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) with support of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Arab Climate Resilience Initiative.

AFEX 2015 assesses the sustainable energy investment climate in 17 countries of the Arab region and is a key analytical benchmarking tool for gauging progress on national energy goals. As the region embarks on the implementation of the expected post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AFEX provides a practical analytical tool that is expected to play a critical role tracking progress of the expected future SDG on energy.

Read more: <http://www.rcreee.org/>.

### **13. MARE Match-Making event**

Organized on June 3rd 2015 within the framework of the project MARE, Mediterranean Activities for Research and Innovation in the Energy sector, and one day ahead of the Mediterranean conference on the climate change which will take place in Marseille as well, this event will provide an executive workshop for SMEs, researchers and EU projects on the technology pillars of RES Microgrids, RES Desalination and Energy Efficiency in Buildings. The aim is to generate new cross Mediterranean projects of research, development, demonstration or innovation in the MED area based on exchanges of good practices on Transfer Technology. MARE is supported by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7-INCO-2013-9).

Read more: <http://www.mare-euromed.eu>.

### **14. Arab Region Launches UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All**

The UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) was launched in the Arab region on 23 March 2015, in Amman, Jordan, during a week of events organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). Hosted by the Jordanian Government, the launch ceremony included speeches by Jordanian Minister of Energy and Mines Resources Ibrahim Seif and representatives of UN-ESCWA and SE4ALL, and was followed by a high-level ministerial panel. Abdalla Al-Dardary, UN-ESCWA Deputy Executive Secretary, stressed that formulating a balanced energy equation in the region “requires efforts to achieve a rapid transition toward just and sustainable energy systems”.

Read more: <http://water-l.iisd.org/news/arab-region-launches-un-decade-of-sustainable-energy-for-all/>.

### **15. MAGHRENOV project brokerage event on Euro-Moroccan innovative ideas and business concepts in the area of Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency**

In the framework of the MAGHRENOV project, KIC InnoEnergy SE (the EU) and IRESEN (Morocco) launched a joint call for Innovation projects on Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency, targeting Euro-Moroccan consortia. To contribute to consolidation of Euro-Moroccan consortia and provide all necessary information on the call, IRESEN and KIC InnoEnergy organize one-day brokerage event.

During one day, they make sure that you have all keys to understating the call, meet interesting people to build international consortia between European and Moroccan companies, and started writing an innovation project with the best partners.

Find the registration website: <https://www.eventbrite.fr/e/brokerage-event-joint-call-for-euro-moroccan-innovative-ideas-and-business-concepts-in-the-area-of-tickets-16080919463>.

### **3. Knowledge news on water**

#### **1. MEP Water Group Public session on Water Reuse – an effective tool to address water scarcity**

In collaboration with the EU Maltese presidency, the MEP Water Group convened a successful public session on "Water Reuse - an effective tool to address water scarcity" on the 7th of March at the European Parliament. The session was chaired by Esther de Lange, President of the MEP Water Group and hosted five high-level panelists, who presented their own perspectives on why water-reuse is a valuable solution to address water scarcity, adaptation to climate change and implement circular economy.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/mep-water-group-public-session-%E2%80%98water-reuse-%E2%80%93-effective-tool-address-water-scarcity%E2%80%99>

#### **2. 11th General Assembly of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO)**

The 11th General Assembly of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) will take place 22-24 March 2017 in Malta, at the invitation of the Maltese authorities, and coinciding with the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Assembly will be organised around three thematic blocks on: Water and adaptation to climate change, Water and agriculture in the Mediterranean and Non-conventional water resources: reuse and desalination.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/11th-general-assembly-mediterranean-network-basin-organisations-menbo>

#### **3. 21 projects selected for funding in the ERA-NET Cofund with Water JPI**

The WaterWorks 2015 Call, which is a joint ERA-NET Cofund between FACCE-JPI and Water JPI, has shortlisted and recommended for funding 21 top research projects for a total Grant amount of over 17 million euros, with the projects' total costs being over 21 million euros. The

21 projects are covering a wide range of disciplines from social and economic sciences to nature sciences, and addressing a range of societal challenges related to Water and Agriculture.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/21-projects-selected-funding-era-net-cofund-water-jpi>

#### **4. Annual Conference of the Arab-Euro Organization for Environment, Water and Desert Research**

The website of the annual conference of the Arab-Euro Organization for Environment, Water and Desert Researches has been created. The conference will be held in Aqba, Jordan, next April 3-6, 2017.

Read more: <http://www.ewdr.org/>

#### **5. The role of water in adaptation to climate change**

The MEP Water Group is organising a public session dedicated to "The role of water in adaptation to climate change" on 6th of December 2016 from 17h30 to 19h30 at the European Parliament, József Antall Building, Room 2Q2. The session will feature as keynote speaker, Mr. Jos Delbeke, Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action.

Read more: <http://wsstp.eu/> .

#### **6. MENA focus in the Stockholm World Water Week**

The Stockholm World Water Week 2016 was held from 28 August to 2 September under the overarching theme of "Water for Sustainable Growth". Among the Week's more than 140 events covering a range of subjects, the "MENA Focus" took place on 30 and 31 August consisting of 4 targeted 90-minute sessions ensuring that the region's priorities are duly reflected in the programme, aligned with the Week's annual theme.

Read more: <http://www.gwp.org/GWP-Mediterranean/GwpMed-in-action/News-List-Page/MENA-Focus-Regional-Event-dedicated-to-the-Middle-East--North-Africa-launched--at-the-Stockholm-World-Water-Week/> .

#### **7. Celebrating 40 Years of Cooperation for a Healthy Mediterranean**

During the high level event of the Barcelona Convention CoP 19 meeting, hosted by the Greek Government in Athens last 11th February 2016, Mediterranean ministers and parties contracted to the Convention, renewed their commitment to enhance measures to reduce pressures on their marine and coastal environment.

With the theme "Forty Years of Cooperation for Healthy and Productive Mediterranean Sea and Coast: A Collective Journey Towards Sustainable Development", participants to the meeting celebrated with pride the 40th anniversary of the Barcelona Convention, which,

together with the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), represents one of the most advanced legal regimes worldwide for the protection of marine and coastal environment.

Read more: <http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?module=news&action=detail&id=199>.

## **8. New video on the “Water for Life Decade”**

The United Nations program “Water for Life” presented a video on the “Water for Life Decade”. Find it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLV2NeLmRrw>. UN goal during the Water for Life Decade was to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments in the water sphere by 2015. They have tried to raise the profile of water in the global agenda, and to focus the world’s attention on the groundbreaking, lifesaving, empowering work done by those implementing water programs and projects.

They’ve tried to be a bridge, to further cooperation between governments and other stakeholders, between nations and diverse communities, between economic interests and the needs of ecosystems and the poor, and promoted efforts to ensure the participation of women in water and sanitation. They’ve done all this to contribute to achieving the water goals of the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development and Agenda 21.

Read more: <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/>.

## **9. OECD Inventory of Water Governance Indicators and Measurement Frameworks**

Following the recent adoption of OECD Principles on Water Governance, the OECD is currently working towards the development of Water Governance Indicators, with the objective to identify and scale up best practices and to provide a systemic framework to evaluate the effectiveness of water-related institutions and governance instruments.

A first step to this three-year project consisted in taking stock of what exists through a detailed Inventory of Water Governance Indicators and Measurement Frameworks, which maps more than 60 sets of indicators, databases, guidelines, maps, and assessment frameworks that can feed discussions on measuring water governance.

This Inventory was designed as an evolutionary tool to be complemented and updated on a regular basis. Comments and suggestions are welcome by 8 September 2015, including to flag water governance indicators or databases that may have been overlooked.

Read more: <http://www.emwis.org/thematicdirs/news/2015/07/oecd-inventory-water-governance-indicators-and-measurement-frameworks>.

## **10. Socio-economic benefits of coastal and marine protected spaces in the Mediterranean Conference**

This conference brought together decision makers, economic stakeholders, protected areas managers, representatives of civil society and scientists from several countries around the Mediterranean. It was held on Wednesday 24 June 2015 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Villa

Mediterranee in Marseille. The conference was preceded by a sea trip in the Calanques National Park on Tuesday 23 June in the morning.

This two-day meeting will bring to light the socio-economic benefits of coastal and marine protected spaces (Marine Protected Areas and Wetlands in particular), to ensure that they are better integrated into public and private decision making for the sustainable development of territories. Testimonies, case studies, panel discussions, group discussions and exhibitions will highlight different knowledge, experiences, tools, perspectives and common challenges.

Read more: <http://www.medpan.org/en/benefits>.

### **11. EU Water Sector meets with the cabinet of EU Commissioner Cretu for Regional policy**

This week, a delegation of the European water sector met with the cabinet of Commissioner Cretu for Regional policy to discuss the importance of regional policy for sustainable water management. The variability of water challenges in different European regions and urban areas creates the need for tailor-made innovative solutions, smart specialization, and encouragement of best-practice cases between regional and local authorities to facilitate optimal results.

The “Key priorities for water under the Juncker Commission”, released in September last year, provided the basis of the discussion between the Water Alliance delegates and the cabinet of Commissioner Cretu.

Read more: <http://wsstp.eu/>.

### **12. International conference on “Impact of Human and Climate on water quality in arid and semi-arid areas”**

The Laboratory of Radio-Analysis and Environment (LRAE) of the National Engineering School of Sfax (ENIS) is honoured invite you the international colloquium Impact of Human and Climate on water quality in arid and semi-arid areas which will be held from 3 to 5 December 2015 in Sousse, Tunisia.

The event will offer the opportunity to bring together the community of Tunisian and International researchers, practitioners, institution and government agencies concerned with water quality monitoring, assessment and management in arid and semi-arid regions. This colloquium will provide a forum for networking and discussion, while also presenting new advances on scientific research related to the implication of water pollution in rural and urban areas.

Read more: <http://eauaride2015.wix.com/eauaride2015>.

### **13. Water and Development Congress and Exhibition**

The Water and Development Congress and Exhibition is the biennial global event on water solutions for developing and emerging countries. You are invited to contribute to this event by sharing your knowledge and expertise with fellow professionals working on water resource, water supply and sanitation with a focus on emerging economies. You will join over 1000



water professionals from government, research institutes, consultancies, technology companies, NGOs, service providers, and other key stakeholders from within and outside of the water sector. The Congress focus will be on key topics that catalyze transformational change and support transition to new ways of managing water resources and delivering water services.

Read more: <http://www.iwa-network.org/WDCE2015/>.

#### **14. Providing solutions to water challenges in developing and emerging economies**

The Water and Development Congress & Exhibition is the biennial global event on water solutions for developing and emerging countries. Stakeholders are invited to contribute to this event by sharing your organizations knowledge and expertise with leading professionals working on water resource, water supply and sanitation with a focus on emerging economies. Stakeholders will join over 80 organizations from government, research institutes, consultancies, technology companies, NGOs, service providers, and other key stakeholders from within and outside of the water sector.

Read more: <http://www.iwa-network.org/WDCE2015/>.

#### **15. Stakeholder Engagement for Inclusive Water Governance**

On Monday 13 April 2015, the report "Stakeholder Engagement for Inclusive Water Governance was launched in Daegu, Korea during the session "Stakeholder Engagement in the Water Sector: How to Get There?" of the 7th World Water Forum.

The report assesses the current trends, drivers, obstacles, mechanisms, impacts, costs and benefits of stakeholder engagement in the water sector. It builds on empirical data collected through an extensive survey across 215 water-related stakeholders and 69 case studies collected worldwide. The report stems from a 18-month policy dialogue within the working group on Stakeholder Engagement of the OECD Water Governance Initiative.

Read more: [http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/stakeholder-engagement-for-inclusive-water-governance\\_9789264231122-en](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/stakeholder-engagement-for-inclusive-water-governance_9789264231122-en).

#### **16. Common Water Strategy of 5+5 Dialogue Countries Adopted in Algiers**

Water Ministers of the countries of Western Mediterranean (5+5) and their representatives adopted last March 31th, 2015 in Algiers, the common strategy of water, marking the effective start of the Euro-Maghreb dialogue in this sector. This strategy, intended to implement a common approach in terms of addressing water-related concerns, was adopted by all the ten countries of the northern and southern shores of the western Mediterranean attending the ministerial conference of 5+5 Dialogue, held in Algiers. The works of this ministerial conference were held under the joint chairmanship of Algeria and Spain which initiated the 5+5 Dialogue.

Read more: <http://www.emwis.org/initiatives/5et5/water-ministerial-conference-western-mediterranean-5-5-algiers-algeria-31-march/common-water-strategy-5-5-dialogue-countries-adopted-algiers>.



## **17. Speech of the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation at the European Parliament on the Water sector**

Last 20th April 2015, the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, presented a speech on the “Key challenges for the water sector” at the European Parliament.

Find the complete speech at:

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/moedas/announcements/key-challenges-water-sector\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/moedas/announcements/key-challenges-water-sector_en).

## **18. EuroMED-IMWC**

Under the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and with the kind support of the European Commission, the National Research Council of Italy organized the conference “EuroMED Cooperation. Inland and Marine Water Challenges”, aimed at enhancing the international cooperation on research and innovation.

The event was designed as a two day conference - four parallel thematic workshop and a plenary session - embracing present scientific and political debate for the identification of urgent challenges related to the proper management of the inland and marine waters, with special emphasis to their link, and the impacts on society and sustainable economic growth.

Read more: <http://www.euromed-imwc.eu/index.html>.

## **19. Water Integrity Capacity Building Programme in MENA**

SIWI is implementing a regional Water Integrity Capacity Building Programme for the Middle East and North Africa region in collaboration with regional and local partners from 2014 to 2017. The programme is funded by Sida and builds on extensive experience gained from similar capacity building programmes in other regions.

The programme has the political endorsement in the five target countries and on December 4, 2014 it was officially labelled by the 43 member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Five Rapid Assessments of the Water Integrity Risks and Capacity Needs for each of the target groups have been carried out in all five pilot countries by the national partners. The results have informed the adaptation of the training materials and a report will be present the main findings on the regional level.

Read more: <http://www.watergovernance.org/integrity/MENA>.

# **4. Knowledge news on water and energy**

## **1. Water-Energy Nexus: Resource Efficiency - Capacity Building Workshop for ESCWA Region**

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Beirut, Lebanon, in cooperation with the National Oil and Gas Authority in Bahrain under the patronage of the Minister of Oil, will organize a regional capacity-building workshop on "Water-Energy Nexus:

Resource Efficiency". The event will be under the auspices of the Minister of Oil in Bahrain, on 19-20 February 2017. The workshop will be followed by a regional workshop on Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS) on 21 February.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/water-energy-nexus-resource-efficiency-capacity-building-workshop-escwa-region>

## **2. Applications for Summer 2015 Online Joint/Dual Professional Diploma in Green Technologies are open**

UNIMED has the pleasure to inform that in the framework of the TEMPUS PRO-GREEN project, the American University of Beirut, the Lebanese American University and the American University in Cairo have introduced for the first time an Online Joint/Dual Professional Diploma in Green Technologies in three specializations: Energy, Buildings, and Water. Applications for Summer 2015 are now open Apply Now! Deadline - May 13, 2015.

Read more:

[http://www.unimed.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=928&Itemid=93](http://www.unimed.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=928&Itemid=93).

## **5. Knowledge news on food**

### **1. MED-SPRING will participate in the Seeds&Chips Global Food Innovation Summit**

The MED-SPRING project will participate in the "Seeds&Chips Global Food Innovation Summit", to be held from 8 to 11 May ,2017 in Milano, Italy. This is one of the top food innovation events worldwide. It's dedicated to showcasing national and international talent and cutting-edge solutions from around the world.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/med-spring-will-participate-seedschips-global-food-innovation-summit>.

### **2. FACCE-JPI involved in three new proposals for H2020 funding**

On February 14th, 2017, three proposals for H2020 funding were submitted to the European Commission, with strong involvement from FACCE-JPI. Among the proposals are a new FACCE-JPI joint action ERA-NET Cofund SusCrop; the Coordination of International Research Cooperation on soil Carbon Sequestration in Agriculture CIRCASA; and the FIT4FOOD2030 Coordination and Support Action proposal. All proposals address key thematic priorities in the FACCE-JPI Strategic Research Agenda.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/facce-jpi-involved-three-new-proposals-h2020-funding>

### 3. Focus About OK-Net Arable project

OK-Net Arable promotes exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers and scientists with the aim to increase productivity and quality in organic arable cropping all over Europe. OK-Net Arable is coordinated by IFOAM EU and involves 17 partners from 13 countries all over Europe. The project is financed by Horizon 2020, the EU's main funding instrument for research and innovation. OK-Net Arable is proud to be one of the first four so-called thematic networks funded under the umbrella of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI).

Read more: <http://www.ok-net-arable.eu/>.

### 4. Global Forum for Food and Agriculture

The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) is an international conference that focuses on central questions concerning the future of the global agri-food industry. It gives representatives from the worlds of politics, business, science and civil society an opportunity to share ideas and enhance understanding on a selected topic of current agricultural policy. The GFFA 2017 will be held on the subject "Agriculture and Water - Key to Feeding the World" in Berlin from 19 to 21 January 2017.

Read more: <http://www.gffa-berlin.de/en/>.

### 5. FACCE-JPI adopts new priorities to solve the challenges of sustainable agriculture

Solutions, methods and tools developed in and for Europe are, therefore, relevant at a global scale. The Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI) identifies innovative solutions applicable at the European scale down to the local level and supports European policies and initiatives.

To advance this support, FACCE-JPI has updated its Strategic Research Agenda (SRA), setting out clear policy-relevant research priorities on agriculture, food security and climate change in Europe, and listing the strategic actions involved to achieve these goals and align current and future national research programmes. In the SRA, FACCE-JPI incorporates new knowledge and emerging European and global issues, and takes into account the international agendas on Sustainable Development Goals and Climate.

To achieve these priorities, FACCE has adopted an Implementation Plan with joint actions for the period 2016-2018.

Read more: <http://www.faccejpi.com/Press-Events/Press/Revised-SRA-and-IP-press-release>.

## 6. FAO International Symposium on the Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition

The international symposium was held in FAO headquarters in Rome from 15 to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016. It explored how the application of science and technology, particularly agricultural biotechnologies, can benefit smallholders in developing sustainable food systems and improving nutrition in the context of climate change. The symposium took a multi-sectoral approach, covering the crop, livestock, forestry and fishery sectors. It also aimed to cover the wide spectrum of available biotechnologies, including microbial food fermentation, tissue culture in plants, reproductive technologies in livestock, use of molecular markers, genetic modification and other technologies.

Read more: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/agribiotechs-symposium/about-the-symposium/en/>.

## 7. CIHEAM activity reports on agriculture and food

The CIHEAM Country Activities Reports (CAR) are summary documents that are proposed in the frame of CIHEAM communication policy, aiming to improve the circulation of information on the actions developed in each of their thirteen Member States. The CARs are updated on a yearly basis and released each January.

Read more: <http://ciheam.org/index.php/en/about-ciheam/activities-reports>.

## 8. 2015 World Day to Combat Desertification - WDCD

Various Heads of UN institutions and other international organizations published messages to mark the 2015 World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) on 17 June, which was commemorated under the slogan, “No such thing as a free lunch: Invest in healthy soils”.

In his WDCD message, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted land is a renewable resource, but only if investments are made in land degradation neutrality, which has been proposed as an element of the post-2015 development agenda. He called for “a change of course” aimed at “securing every hectare of land that can provide food or freshwater”, further noting that rehabilitation of degraded land will help to accelerate the control of climate change. WDCD is observed worldwide on 17 June every year. The 2015 Global Observance Event took place in Milan, Italy, as part of the ongoing UN EXPO Milano 2015.

Read more: <http://nr.iisd.org/news/world-desertification-day-highlights-slm-food-security-links/>.

## 9. Climate change and food systems

FAO published the book “Climate change and food systems”. This book is the outcome of an expert consultation organized by FAO in November 2013 which gathered acknowledged experts in climate impact research.

The 11 chapters cover the latest scientific and economic evidence on climate impact assessments of crop and livestock systems. The chapters cover methodological overviews of global climate impact assessments (biophysical and economic) of food systems, as well as specific model-based analyses focusing on a particular region (Africa, Europe, Asia, Eastern

Europe and Central Asia, South East Asia) and food systems (small grains, rice, livestock, bananas). Each chapter starts with take-home messages for non-specialist readers.

Read more: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4332e.pdf>.

## **10. Mediterranean Footprints & Foodprints: Who should go on a diet?**

Dr. Alessandro Galli, Global Footprint Networks Director of Mediterranean and MENA Regions, will speak at the Expo Milano on May, 23rd, 24th, and 25th about his recent research on food resources in the Mediterranean. Food is a basic need, so how does the food sector contribute to the overall demand that Mediterranean countries place on our planets natural resources? Attend this session to learn more about the Ecological Footprint, a widely used data-driven metric, and how it informs food resource access and utilization in Mediterranean countries. Over 140 participating countries at the Expo Milano will show the best of their technology that offers a concrete answer to a vital need: being able to guarantee healthy, safe and sufficient food for everyone, while respecting the Planet and its equilibrium.

Read more: [http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/upcoming\\_events/](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/upcoming_events/).

## **11. FAO, EBRD and UFM seek to boost food security in the Mediterranean region**

Boosting sustainable agricultural production and trade is one of the main priorities for the southern and eastern rim of the Mediterranean, where most countries produce insufficient quantities of food staples. For this reason, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have co-organized the “Private Sector Forum on Food Security in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region”, a two-day conference (5-6 May) to deepen relationships between the public and private sector - from farmers and their organizations to small, medium and large agribusiness enterprises - and to develop initiatives to increase investment in agricultural and food systems.

Read more: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/285430/icode/>.

## **12. Mediterranean Sustainable Food Systems - Towards the Expo Milan 2015**

On April 23rd, The CIHEAM-Bari organized the International Workshop Mediterranean Sustainable Food Systems - Towards the Expo Milan 2015; From Theory to Practice: Linking Territory, Food Quality Production, Food Consumption and Dietary Patterns for Improving the Sustainability of the Mediterranean Diet. The Apulia Case Study: the international workshop was organized with technical collaboration of FAO in the framework of Agriculture and Quality project whose objective is the qualification and enhancement of typical food products of Apulia region.

Read more: <http://www.iamb.it/news,452,452,976,international-workshop-23-april-2015-ciheam-bari.htm>.

## **6. Knowledge news on water and food**

### **1. COST Connect: Water for Food and Agriculture in the Mediterranean Area**

Water for food and agriculture is an important topic on the agenda. COST supports more than 20 Actions in this area and European stakeholders intensively discuss the issue with a strong focus on the Mediterranean area. COST aims to provide networking opportunities to structure this important field, to link the active researchers with policy stakeholders and thus connect the dots in the European Research Area.

Read more: <http://www.cost.eu/events/cost-connect-water>.

### **2. Water JPI 2016 - Joint Call for Transnational Collaborative Research Projects on water and agriculture**

The Water and FACCE JPIs announced the upcoming call for transnational collaborative research projects. The indicative total available budget amounts to 26M, subject to the successful negotiation of the WaterWorks2015 ERA-NET Co-fund with the European Commission. The call opened on 16.02.2016 and closed on 19.04.2016. A two-step application procedure is used in this call. Proposals (in English language) must be submitted electronically.

Read more: <http://www.waterjpi.eu/>.

### **3. FAO Presents NENA Water Scarcity Initiative**

At a technical briefing on the water-food nexus held at UN Headquarters in New York, US, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) presented the FAO-NENA (Near East and North Africa) Water Scarcity Initiative. The Initiative provides a comprehensive framework to ensure the sustainable use and preservation of scarce water resources in the region.

The FAO Regional Water Scarcity Initiative was formulated in response to a request of the FAO NENA Regional Conference, which identified the issue as a central priority for Member States.

Read more: <http://www.medspring.eu/article/fao-presents-nena-water-scarcity-initiative>

### **4. FAO Report on Water for Food Security and Nutrition**

The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is pleased to announce the publication of the HLPE "Report on Water for Food Security and Nutrition". The HLPE report was launched in FAO/Rome on 15 May 2015. Presenters included Per Pinstrup-Andersen, HLPE Steering Committee Chair; Maryam Rahmanian, HLPE Steering Committee Vice-Chair and Lyla Mehta, HLPE Project Team leader. The HLPE is the science-policy interface of the UN Committee on World Food Security. HLPE reports are requested by CFS and serve as the starting point of CFSs multi-stakeholder

discussions for policy convergence and coordination of actions around critical food security issues.

The report provides a state-of-the-art review on water for food security and nutrition. Water (availability, quality, stability and access) has an essential role in food security through its multiple contributions to health and nutrition, rain fed and irrigated agriculture, and food processing, with important gender-related aspects. The HLPE report explores ways for improved water management in agriculture and food systems, as well as for improved water governance for food security and nutrition. It provides recommendations to strengthen water policies for food security and better nutrition, as well as coordination among the different fields and actors at all levels, with a long-term perspective.

Read more: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/en/>.

## **5. FAO white paper on water and food security**

This new White paper, prepared by FAO and the World Water Council, aims to provide policy-makers with a helpful overview of the technical and economic aspects of water use in agriculture, with particular emphasis on crop and livestock production. Through 2050, in many countries, agriculture will remain an important determinant of economic growth, poverty reduction, and food security, even as, over time, the proportion of agricultural revenue in national gross income declines.

Read more: [http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/FAO\\_WWC\\_white\\_paper\\_web.pdf](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/FAO_WWC_white_paper_web.pdf).

## **7. Knowledge news on food and energy**

### **1. Removing Barriers for Biogas in a Circular Agro-economy**

The conference on "Removing Barriers for Biogas in a Circular economy" was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at the "Representation of Lower Saxony to the EU", Rue Montoyer 61 Bruxelles.

The agricultural sector is an excellent testing bed for the Circular Economy, traditionally open to the culture of cascading use and cost-effective solutions. A more circular agro-economy entails more efficient use of natural resources, while reducing the environmental impacts to a minimum level. While cost-effective technological solutions are available to combine the production of biogas with the production of organic fertilizers, and with that the recycling of valuable soil components, the market and policy conditions in the EU are not always fostering such activities.

Key findings from a number of BIOTEAM case study countries were presented (i.e. Finland, Italy, Lithuania, Germany and The Netherlands). Barriers in market and policy environments were discussed. Various options were explored, with the help of a qualified platform discussion (European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform, European Biogas Association and COPA\*COGECA, among others) in the second part of the seminar, on how to overcome such obstacles.

The ambition of this event was to better embed biogas production in the Circular Economy in the EU Agro-economy.

Read more: <http://www.sustainable-biomass.eu/>.

## **8. Knowledge news on Nexus**

### **1. The Energy-Water-Food Nexus at Decentralized Scales**

Practical Action is pleased to announce the launch of the latest edition of our poor people energy briefing series on The Energy-Water-Food Nexus at Decentralized Scales. This paper uses Practical Actions experiences with micro-hydro schemes to connect global nexus debates to the experiences of and solutions for remote off-grid communities and small-holder farmers. Through examples in Peru, Nepal, and Zimbabwe we exemplify the need for an integrated approach to energy, water, and food security. We show that decentralized energy provision has a huge potential to deliver the services that communities need and have a right to, while balancing the constraints of an increasingly resource-scarce environment.

Read more:

<http://infohub.practicalaction.org/oknowledge/bitstream/11283/552658/1/PPEBP3+ONLINE.pdf>.

### **2. An Introduction to the Water-Energy-Food Nexus in Arabic Language**

The Nexus plays a crucial role in the Middle East. A nexus approach - specifically, to water and energy planning can lead to smarter, more resilient development solutions. This article gives an introduction to the present nexus debate in Arabic language.

Read more: [http://www.water-energy-food.org/en/news/view\\_2339/an-introduction-to-the-water-energy-food-nexus-in-arabic-language.html](http://www.water-energy-food.org/en/news/view_2339/an-introduction-to-the-water-energy-food-nexus-in-arabic-language.html).