2nd Multi-Programme Projects Dialogue on Energy in Alexandria, Egypt, October 7, 2026



Organised by:

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Concept Note

Diverse target audience: Mediterranean institutions, Local & Regional authorities, research centres, and National & EU policy actors.

Background

The Mediterranean region is entering a decisive phase for cooperation, cohesion and shared resilience. The energy transition, accelerating climate and environmental pressures, economic inequalities and geopolitical instability are reshaping the social, economic and territorial landscape of the basin. These interconnected challenges cannot be addressed through isolated interventions. They require **stronger cooperation** across countries, governance levels, sectors and funding programmes.

At the same time, the European cooperation framework is undergoing significant transformation. The Pact for the Mediterranean under the shared vision **"One Sea, One Pact, One Future"**, establishes a renewed framework for relations between the European Union and its Southern Mediterranean partners. Its ambition is to create a **Common Mediterranean Space** that is more connected, prosperous, resilient and secure, based on co-ownership, mutual interests and concrete benefits for citizens, territories and businesses.

In parallel, the European Commission has presented its proposal for the EU **Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028–2034**. The negotiations surrounding the next long-term EU budget will influence future funding priorities, delivery mechanisms, territorial partnerships and the architecture of European territorial cooperation. This creates a timely opportunity to examine how projects can help shape the future direction of the programmes that support them, reinforce their territorial and transnational added value, and contribute more strategically to the achievement of their objectives.

A dedicated **policy analysis session** will identify gaps, opportunities and practical recommendations concerning Mediterranean cooperation governance, programme coordination, funding continuity, project capitalisation and policy uptake. A thematic session on climate mitigation and resilience will explore how energy transition, adaptation, environmental governance and territorial preparedness can be addressed through integrated approaches rather than separate policy silos.

The event will conclude with an **interactive co-creation session** in which participants will formulate priority messages and recommendations for the future of Mediterranean cooperation. These recommendations may contribute to the design of future cooperation programmes and the wider debate on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028–2034.

Over the past years, Mediterranean cooperation programmes **Interreg Euro-MED, Interreg NEXT MED, Interreg NEXT Italy-Tunisia,** together with broader research, development and innovation programmes such as **Interreg IPA ADRION and Horizon Europe** have supported a wide range of initiatives addressing energy transition, climate resilience and marine sustainability, adaptive governance, and innovation ecosystems and maritime sustainability.

Building on the success of the **1st Multi-Programme Projects' Dialogue on Energy**, held in Tunisia on 13 May 2026, this event continues to draw inspiration from the strong cooperation developed among programmes through the Mediterranean Multi-Programme Mechanism (MMM), the collaborative platform established in 2022 to connect more than eight Interreg programmes across the Mediterranean. The first Dialogue demonstrated the added value of this Multi-Programme approach by bringing together more than **100 Mediterranean stakeholders** and representatives from **six European cooperation** frameworks. It created a unique space for projects, programme authorities, policymakers, researchers and practitioners to exchange experience, identify complementarities and discuss how tested project results can inform wider energy and sustainability policies across the Mediterranean.

The **second edition** seeks to build on this momentum by moving from exchange and visibility towards deeper policy dialogue, stronger capitalisation of project results, and more concrete recommendations for future Mediterranean cooperation. It aims to **connect project experiences with emerging policy frameworks**, offering space for dialogue among **policy actors, researchers, project leaders and local authorities**. By transforming project knowledge into shared policy intelligence and actionable recommendations, the Dialogue seeks to support a more **integrated, inclusive, resilient and sustainable cooperation landscape across the Mediterranean**.

Agenda

From Dialogue to Joint Action: Projects and Policies for a Resilient Mediterranean

Duration: 09:00–17:00

VENUE 📌 Abu Kir Campus, Alexandria, Egypt

09:00 – 09:15 Registration and welcome coffee

09:15 – 09:30 Welcome remarks

- **Professor Yasser Gaber DESSOUKY**, Dean of Scientific Research and Innovation,
- Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport, Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport
- **Professor Em. Yorgos STEPHANEDES**, University of Patras

Moderator for the Opening Sessions

Professor Mostafa Ahmed ABDELGELIEL, Vice Dean of postgraduate studies and research at Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport, Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport

09:30 – 09:40 Keynote intervention

H.E. Vasileios ZARMPALIS, Consul General of Greece in Alexandria

09:40 – 10:00 Opening Session 1: Building on the Success of the First Mediterranean Dialogue

Objective: Welcome participants, recall the achievements of the first Multi-Programme Projects' Dialogue on Energy held in Tunisia on 13 May 2026, and introduce the ambition of the second edition.

Introductory presentation/s: From Tunisia to the Wider Mediterranean: Results and Legacy of the First Multi-Programme Projects' Dialogue

- **Representative (tbc),** Interreg NEXT MED Programme
- **Sophie SCARVELI**, Project Unit Manager, Interreg Euro-MED Programme
- **Marina KOUTA**, University of Patras – RESt4GREEN (Interreg NEXT MED), Dialogue4LivingAreas and LOGREENER (Interreg Euro-MED) *"From Tunisia to the*

Wider Mediterranean: Results and Legacy of the First Multi-Programme Projects' Dialogue"

- **Amina LAMOUCHI**, Management Company of Technopark Borj Cedria – RESt4GREEN (Interreg NEXT MED)
  "Advancing the Tunisian Multi-Programme Projects' Dialogue: Key Outcomes and Next Steps"

Highlights

- Participation of more than 100 Mediterranean stakeholders
- Cooperation among different European programme frameworks
- Recognition as a Sustainable Energy Day under EUSEW 2026
- Main energy, governance, financing and sustainability themes addressed
- Lessons for the second edition and for future multi-programme cooperation

10:00 – 10:35 Opening Session 2: Egypt's Energy and Climate Transition in the Mediterranean Context

Objective: Welcome participants, introduce the specific energy, climate and territorial challenges faced by Egypt, and position the second Multi-Programme Projects' Dialogue as a platform for connecting national priorities with Mediterranean cooperation, project experience and emerging policy frameworks.

Introductory presentation/s: Egypt at the Crossroads of Energy Transition and Climate Resilience: Challenges, Priorities and Opportunities for Mediterranean Cooperation

- **Kareem TONBOL**, Professor, Dean of Maritime Postgraduate Studies Institute, AASTMT – GREENMEDPORTS (Interreg NEXT MED)
  "Greening Egypt's Gateways: Mediterranean Ports at the Heart of the Energy and Climate Transition "
- **Dimitris KOKOSIOULIS**, CEO, Dynamic Vision; Director, Circle the Med Forum – INFIRE (Interreg Euro-MED)
  "Building on Trust, Financing the Future: Strengthening Greece–Egypt Dialogue for Climate Resilience"
- **Andreas KAZANTZIDIS,** Professor, University of Patras, Secretary, International Solar Energy Society (ISES) (HYMENSO, ERANET-MED)
  "*Solar Energy in a Changing Climate: Lessons and Partnerships Across the Mediterranean and MENA*"

Expected outcome: A shared understanding of Egypt's main energy, climate and territorial priorities, together with an initial set of themes to guide the policy, technical and interactive sessions of the event.

10:35–10:55 Coffee break

Moderator for the Techical Sessios

Dr. Marina KOUTA, Senior Project Manager & Researcher, University of Patras

Technical Sessions: From Project Results to Policy Change

Objective: Present evidence from different programmes and identify how tested project results can be transferred into policies, strategies, public investment and institutional practice.

10:50–11:15 Governance and multilevel cooperation

- **Bernard MASSABO**, Secretary General of Euromed Cities Network, Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolitan Area – Dialogue4LivingAreas, Green Living Areas Mission (Interreg Euro-MED)
  " Towards a Mediterranean Policy Dialogue for a Better Quality of Life"
- **Hrvoje MARAS**, Chief Financial Officer, REGEA (North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency) – Community4Areas, Green Living Areas Mission (Interreg Euro-MED)
  "Ecosystemic Transition hUb to Inspire and Guide Local Authorities in Developing and Implementing More Integrated and Actionable Local Plans"

Discussion themes: multilevel governance mechanisms; cooperation between local, regional, national and European institutions; participatory and evidence-based policymaking.

11:15–11:40 Financing and implementation

- **Hrvoje MARAS**, Chief Financial Officer, REGEA (North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency) – INFIRE (Interreg Euro-MED) / SMAFIN Expanded (LIFE)
  "From Project-Based Dialogue to Permanent National Financing Hubs: How INFIRE/SMAFIN Roundtables Evolved into National Energy Efficiency Financing Hubs" — insights from Croatia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia
- **Massimo IANNICIELLO**, Project Manager, Terre di Siena LAB – ProcuraMED (Interreg Euro-MED)
  "Unlocking Green Innovation through Public Procurement: The ProcuraMED Approach"

Discussion themes: innovative financing models, investment readiness and project pipelines; green public procurement and energy performance contracting.

11:40 – 12:20 Knowledge transfer and capitalisation

- **Josep Maria GRANOLLERS**, Head of International Projects, Catalan Energy Institute (ICAEN), Generalitat de Catalunya – EESI2020, GUARANTEE, Step2Sport (IEE), New Finance (Interreg MED), ePLANET (H2020), LEADnet (LIFE CET)
  "How to Improve Energy Efficiency in Buildings: A Perspective Based on the Experience of Past EU Projects"
- **Prof. Mostafa Ahmed ABDELGELIEL,** Vice Dean of postgraduate studies and research at Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport, Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport, (AASTMT) – RESt4GREEN (Interreg NEXT MED)
  "Integrating Solar PV, Smart Monitoring and Energy Efficiency in University Buildings: The AASTMT Pilot Experience"
- **Prof. Nahla ZAKZOUK,** Associate Professor, Head of Electrical & Control Department, AASTMT – GREENOLIVE (Interreg NEXT MED)
  "From Pilot to Practice: Adapting Solar Thermal Energy Storage Solutions for Potential Industrial Decarbonization in Egypt"
- **Thelma Salem REDWAN**, Tourism Product Development Head, Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) – RESt4GREEN & GREENMEDPORTS (Interreg NEXT MED)
  "*Energy Efficiency Development in Aqaba*"

Discussion themes: transfer and replication of tested solutions; cross-programme knowledge platforms and communities; capacity building for public authorities.

12:20 – 13:00 Policy uptake

- **Yorgos STEPHANEDES**, Professor Emeritus, University of Patras – URWAN, IDRON (Interreg Euro-MED)
  "How Can Mediterranean Cooperation Turn the Water–Energy Nexus into Practical Territorial Action?"
- **Zivko KOKOLANSKI**, Professor and Vice Dean for Finance and Industry Cooperation, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies – GOTOTWIN (Interreg IPA ADRION)
  "*Towards a Harmonised Policy Framework for Digital Twins and Renewable Energy in the Adriatic-Ionian Region*"
- **Julije DOMAC**, Managing Director, REGEA (North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency); President, FEDARENE – PVMax / NEWLIGHT (EIB ELENA)
  "From Fragmented Projects to Investable Pipelines: Lessons from Two EIB ELENA Projects in Croatia"

Discussion themes: translating pilot evidence into recommendations; integrating project results into territorial strategies; maintaining results beyond project funding periods.

13:00 – 13:30 Policy Dialogue: The Pact for the Mediterranean and the Future EU Cooperation Architecture

Objective: Examine how the **Pact for the Med and the proposed EU MFF 2028–2034** may shape territorial cooperation, investment priorities and EU–Southern Med partnerships.

Proposed keynote inputs and panellists

- **Dr. Mohamed El KHAYAT**, Former Executive Chairman at New and Renewable Energy Authority (NREA)
  Egypt's and the region's energy transition priorities
- *The EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034: opportunities and implications for territorial cooperation*
  - **Sophie SCARVELI**, Project Unit Manager, Interreg Euro-MED Programme
- *The future role of Interreg in the Mediterranean and partnerships between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries* — **Julije DOMAC**, President, FEDARENE

Format: Moderated high-level panel with short interventions and audience questions.

13:30 – 13:40 Next stop and steps

Summary of key messages and next steps towards the 3rd Dialogue.

13:40 – 14:30 Networking Lunch

14:30-16:30 Interactive Session: How do you envision the Future of Mediterranean Cooperation?

Follow the parallel thematic roundtable you find interesting!

Roundtable	Proposed hosts/facilitators
Roundtable 1. Governance and policy uptake: from project results to territorial strategies — multilevel cooperation, local green transition plans, water–energy nexus	Bernard Massabo (Dialogue4LivingAreas), Yorgos Stephanedes (URWAN, IDRON), Andreas Kazantzidis (HYMENSO)

Roundtable 2. Financing and implementation: from pilots to investable pipelines — financing hubs, EPC, PPAs, project aggregation, green public procurement	Hrvoje Maras (REGEA, INFIRE/SMAFIN), Massimo Iannicello (ProcuraMED), Julije DOMAC (PVMax / NEWLIGHT)
Roundtable 3. Knowledge transfer and capitalisation: replicating tested solutions in Egypt and the Mediterranean — energy-efficient and solar-powered buildings, industrial solar thermal storage, green ports	Yasser Gaber Dessouky (RESt4GREEN), Josep Maria Granollers (ICAEN's projects), Rania Assem Ibrahim (GreenOlive), Prof. Kareem Tonbol (GREENMEDPORTS), Zivko Kokolanski (GOTOTWIN)

Common discussion point: Reflect on how project experiences can inform future Mediterranean cooperation frameworks.

Report-back: each host shares key messages and one follow-up action, fed into the Dialogue's recommendations; bilateral meetings.

16:30-17:00 Closing Remarks

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