

The MUCONEM¹ project of the HOMERE² program depend on the French CNRS³

Contemporary Changes of Energy in Mediterranean

Is managed at the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme in Aix-en-Provence by

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Maison
méditerranéenne
des sciences
de l'homme



Objective:

Create a network to build the basis of a multidisciplinary and multiannual research program, connecting the partners on the both sides of the Mediterranean, and develop international relations by considering the energy transition as a global challenge, with a scientific, environmental and social dimension.

Abstract:

The project “Contemporary changes of energy in Mediterranean” refers to the concept of energy transition. It intends to study the changes of the Mediterranean energy system, by connecting technological, socioeconomic and territorial challenges to sustainability challenges. The energy question is a major concern of sustainable development within a Mediterranean Basin where societies and ecosystems interact. If in all parts of the world, development, energy and climate are closely connected, the specific modalities of their overalls within the “Mediterranean system” will be investigated from a wide multidisciplinary approach. This approach will associate human and social sciences with environmental and hard sciences.

Keywords:

Sustainable development; Energy; Renewable Energy; Environment; Mediterranean; Mediterranean Solar Plan; Public Utilities; Energy Transition.

¹ MUTations CONtemporaines de l'Energie en Méditerranée

² HOMmes-Milieus-Environnements-cultuREs

³ Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

Research issues:

- 1) Inventory of energies in Mediterranean (sources, productions, distribution, consumption, management methods).
- 2) Environmental impacts of energies in Mediterranean: report of current systems and environmental prospective.
- 3) Changes of energy public utilities: privatizations, outsourcing public utilities, new public-private partnerships.
- 4) Renewable energy development: technological and political choices, investments, new companies, territory changes.
- 5) Social representations, manners, practices, evolutions of the consumer status, acceptability of new energies and landscapes.

Context and scientific challenges:

The works of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) have established the reality of an anthropological global warming which has major economic and social consequences. In order to adapt to this new deal, international institutions, states and supranational groups have introduced new energy policies, including the diversification of energy mix, energy efficiency, a possible development of carbon capture and storage and moreover nuclear energy. Accordingly, the resulting structural changes are creating new economic, social and territorial challenges, while valuing new resources. In a context of deregulation, the actors deploy new institutional and industrial mechanisms, with consequences on equilibrium between the “North” and the “South”, on companies, on the living conditions and the habits of civil society.

The emergent concept of energy transition (which defines the change from a system dominated by the fossil fuels towards a system dominated by the renewable and not carbon energies) is major in our reflexion which underlines the relations between decisive technological choices with society challenges. Within a context of devolution and change of new energy mechanisms, territories could be considered as places of confrontation, negotiation and regulation for this transition.

The Mediterranean is a whole, still dominated by the fossil fuels, where the interdependences are strong between the “North” side and the “South” side. The South Mediterranean countries contribute largely to the security of hydrocarbons supplies of the “North” side. Big industrial-port complex and various infrastructures are connecting the both sides (pipelines). Trans-Mediterranean electricity networks begin to be interconnected. Since the end of 1980s, the cooperation of border Mediterranean countries is at work through associations between energy producers (OME), electricity producers (MEDELEC), and energy agencies (MEDENER). More recently, in 2008 and 2009, big projects were born to value the Mediterranean renewable energies potential, in particular the solar energy. These projects result from intergovernmental initiatives (Mediterranean Solar Plan) or private initiatives

(DESERTEC Foundation); they consolidate and renew the dynamic of energy Mediterranean system, underlining the necessity of studying the macro-region as a reference space.

Current contacts and partnerships:

1) On the regional scale of Aix-Marseille University and the PACA region:

- Social sciences: IDEMEC, TELEMME, LAMES, LEST, IAUR, Norbert ELIAS Center
- Environmental sciences: OHM, ECCOREV federation
- Hard sciences: IUSTI, UMR 7281, IM2NP, CEA
- Others contacts: the PACA Regional Council, Plan Bleu, and ADEME

2) On a national scale:

- LIED (Paris 7); UMR DS-IEDES-IRD (Paris 1), UMR EVS (Lyon)
- Others contacts: IPEMED, OME, RTE

3) International relations:

IMRC (Tunis); SYFACTE research laboratory (Sfax); university network DESERTEC (Tunis); CREAD (Algiers); CDER (Algiers), economy research laboratory GRED (Tangier); IMIST (Tangier); PNUD (Rabat); Humboldt University (Mediterranean Institute of Berlin); Wisconsin university (Energy Institute)

Events calendar:

- November 12th, 2010: MUCONEM 1, first international workshop, MMSH (Aix), mainly around the works produced in human and social sciences.
- February 10th, 2012: MUCONEM 2, second international workshop, MMSH (Aix), focused on a large multidisciplinary and an important extension of the network.
- April, 2012: in the framework of the international year of sustainable energy, series of lectures *“Towards a sustainable energy transition in Mediterranean”* (Tunis). Organization: IFT, IRMC, MUCONEM-MMSH.

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Name of the academic and research institutions mentioned

In Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region

CEA Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives
Centre Norbert Elias (UMR 8562) EHESS
ECCOREV (FR 3098) Ecosystèmes Continentaux et Risques Environnementaux
IAUR Institut d'Aménagement et d'Urbanisme Régional
IDEMEC (UMR 6591) Institut D'Ethnologie européenne Méditerranéenne et Comparative
IM2NP (UMR 7334) Institut Matériaux Microélectronique Nanosciences de Provence
IUSTI-Polytech-Marseille Institut Universitaire des Systèmes Thermiques Industriels
LAMES (UMR 6127 CNRS) Laboratoire Méditerranéen de Sociologie
LEST (UMR 6165) Laboratoire d'économie et de sociologie du travail
OHM-BMP Observatoire-Hommes-Milieux du Bassin Minier de Provence (CNRS-INEE)
TELEMME (UMR 6570 CNRS) Temps Espace Langage Europe Méridionale Méditerranée
UMR 7281 Bioénergétique et Ingénierie des Protéines

In Paris and other regions in France

LIED : Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire des Energies de Demain (Paris 7)
UMR 201 « Développement et société » (Paris 1-IRD)
UMR 5600 Environnement Ville Société (Lyon)

International Relations

CDER : Centre de Développement des Energies Renouvelables (Alger)
CREAD: Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement (Alger)
DESERTEC University Network (Tunis)
GRED : Groupe Recherche et d'Etudes en développement Durable (Tanger)
Humboldt University (Mediterranean Institute of Berlin)
IMIST : Institut Marocain de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (Tanger)
IRMC : Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain (Tunis)
SYFACTE Systèmes d'informations géographiques, formations en aménagement, cartographie, télédétection & environnement (Sfax)
Energy Institute of Wisconsin University (Madison)