

EXPERT WORKSHOP: Supporting deployment of low-carbon technologies in the ETC and SEMED regions

15-16 June 2015

Dedeman Istanbul Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey

Workshop material: www.iea.org/workshop/low-carbon-technologies-in-the-etc-and-sem-ed-regions-istanbul-15-16-june.html

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

Accelerating the deployment of low-carbon technologies can bring a range of valuable co-benefits but is contingent on policies that facilitate innovation and overcome barriers to implementation. Furthermore, without tools to assess the market penetration and potential of low-carbon technologies, it can be difficult to attract finance to support technological deployments because investors require evidence on markets potential to reduce the risks of investment.

The International Low-Carbon Energy Technology Platform of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Finance and Technology Transfer Centre for Climate Change (FINTECC) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are collaborating on a set of activities aimed at supporting the market penetration of climate technologies in the Central Asian, Caspian and Black Sea (ETC) regions, as well as in the Middle East and North African (MENA/SEMED) regions. This collaboration is supplemented by key technical contributions from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on climate technologies in the agrifood and water sectors. A key product of the collaboration will be methodologies for assessing the market presentation of low-carbon technologies for renewable energy, energy efficiency and the agrifood sector.

Under this collaboration, a workshop on supporting deployment of low-carbon technologies was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 15-16 June 2015, hosted by the Turkish Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. The workshop was organised into eight sessions over two days, with day one focussing on policies and day two focussing on means for assessing the market penetration of low-carbon technologies. In addition, day one of the workshop provided an occasion for release of an [IEA Insights Paper](#), *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technologies: Opportunities in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean*. On day two, the IEA and the FAO presented draft methodologies for assessing the market penetration of low-carbon technologies for renewable energy and energy efficiency, and for agrifood respectively.

The event was attended by over 75 participants representing Turkey and 13 target countries in the SEMED (Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia) and ETC (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine) regions, seven international organisations (IEA, FAO, IRENA, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCWA, and UNFCCC) three multilateral development banks (EBRD, EIB and IFC) and two bilateral aid agencies (GIZ and USAid).

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Workshop participants met the conclusions of the Insights Paper with interest. In the panel-led discussions that followed, participants focussed on a number of key issues related to policy implementation in the two regions. Delegates noted the challenges of data collection and policy makers' skills deficits, for example in energy modelling. Institutional factors affecting policy implementation were also raised by several participants, such as issues associated with having multiple government agencies responsible for renewable energy and energy efficiency policy.

Participants responded positively to the presentations of the methodologies for assessing market penetration of low-carbon technologies for renewable energy, energy efficiency and the agrifoods sector. The IEA and FAO received valuable feedback on the draft methodologies, which will help to shape further development of these methodologies in the coming months, before being piloted and developed further in selected SEMED countries and ETCs later in 2015.

Representatives from SEMED and ETC countries also provided valuable information on the market penetration of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in their countries. The drivers for increasing the use of these technologies in the two regions included energy security concerns, improving air quality, and correcting trade imbalances from fossil fuel imports. In several countries, the penetration of renewable energy technologies has recently increased, however barriers, such as subsidised fossil fuels, continue to hinder their wider deployment. One interesting idea to emerge from discussions was that regional trading of low-carbon energy could be an important step in unlocking significant renewable energy deployment. A regional approach, incorporating energy trading through transnational electricity networks, would allow each country to maximise the exploitation of its renewable energy resources and potentially overcome barriers such as seasonal variability.

The results of the workshop will inform the development of methodologies for assessing the market penetration of low-carbon energy technologies. Detailed information on the methodologies will be published in an IEA *Insights Paper* and the methodologies will be tested and further developed in pilot country studies, to be conducted in 2015-2016. All publications produced in the framework of the IEA-EBRD collaboration will be made freely available on the IEA [website](#).

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