CONCLUSIONS

The meeting dealt with the presentation of the latest on-going or planned projects and initiatives of the working group. Exchange of experiences between experts on energy management models in Mediterranean and European Regions, water issues, strengths and weaknesses, funding, monitoring mechanisms and efficiency in the management and provision of high-quality services for users and tackling the needs of the territory. Of course, the context of the post-pandemic era was also considered in the exchanges.

Elodie Nunes, Executive Secretary of the Intermediterranean Commission, introduces the event and recalls the main lines of the agenda.

**Beginning with energy**

Josep Casas Miralles, Sud-director general de Arquitectura y Vivienda, Departamento de Territorio y Sostenibilidad, Generalitat de Catalunya – *El proyecto SHERPA y el caso práctico de Catalunya respecto a la renovación energética en edificios públicos*

Josep Casas Miralles explains that the main challenge of capitalizing project results is to determine what impact they can have on people’s quality of life. He recalls that SHERPA is a project funded by the ERDF (Interreg MED), that emerged due to necessity to reduce CO₂ emissions and aiming to answer to the following question: “Can we take benefit of projects to improve quality of architecture and hence citizens’ quality of life?”

Indeed, the focus of the project was to identify measures so that public authorities could apply Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EEB) measures in public buildings, while its main objective was to reinforce the capacity of public administrations at regional and sub-regional level to improve energy efficiency in public buildings.

One part of SHERPA’s capitalization is internal, in reference to its Joint Action Plan or Regional Workshops. An external part for capitalization also exists, referring to architectural quality and focusing on the concerns and needs related to the conversion of buildings and CO₂ emissions.

Xavier Árola Pérez, Assessor – *Capitalize on the SHERPA project: opportunities for regional transferring and funding* – reminds about the structure of the project (4 working groups on Governance, Information System, Training, Financing) and its main outcomes (design of 100 projects for Energy Renovation of Buildings (ERB), representing 443 energy efficiency measures, 64 GWh energy savings, €5M economic savings, 24,600 tones CO₂ emissions savings, 156 civil servants participating in the capacity raising regional activities, 9 regional capitalization workshops and 65 local ERB projects, 50 regional and local administrations engaged in developing energy efficiency plans/strategies).
SHERPA’s Joint Action Plan (JAP) is a document elaborated in collaborative way with all regions and has a transnational approach. It has 5 identified axes: Governance, Training and Knowledge, Technical Assistance and Information Systems, Networking and Funding.

Besides, one of its specific components is the Market Place which aims to facilitate integration of all results/work in a single place (digital hub with different areas/functionalities, collecting experience on different aspects).

**Xavier Árola Pérez** concludes reminding that there is a real need to leverage private investors for ERB progress in the Mediterranean, and the JAP represents an opportunity to pull efforts to share knowledge, practices and training for scaling up results, promoting funding mechanisms. He reminds that other calls open in **September this year** in line with these objectives that could be the opportunity for the JAP to be built upon and capitalized by other relevant stakeholders.

**Davide Strangis**, CPMR Executive director – *Opportunities of cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean and beyond* – explains SHERPA’s capitalization potential process with the Union for the Mediterranean and the fact that it is a good opportunity to collaborate with many investors (public and private). This would go through expanding mechanisms of matchmaking, connect private investors to bankable EEB projects. He recalls that Regions that are still not part of SHERPA’s are welcome to join. He concludes specifying there are several ongoing opportunities on the topic, and that more are to come after September (Green Deal calls).

**Aouatif Derrous**, Regional Councilor to the Rabat-Salé-Kénitra Region, Co-presidency of the Water and Energy Working group – *The case of Morocco on Energy efficiency* – greets participants and thanks and congratulates the IMC team for the organisation of the meeting. She presents Morocco’s national energy strategy, recalling that in the framework of COP22 (Marrakesh), Morocco’s new target is to achieve 52% of renewable energy by 2030 and to increase security and preserve the environment. Nevertheless, the energy transition cannot be carried out at State level only, we need to involve territories; this is the reason why the Region implements its Regional Development Plan, including Energy Efficiency projects (public lighting + renewable energy). The role of the Region in the regeneration of public lighting is notably to develop partnerships, to design and manage the aid scheme and to provide financial support to territorial stakeholders.

**Luis Narvarte**, Professor at the Polytechnic University of Madrid and Lead partner of the SolAqua project (H2020) CSA – *Raising awareness about photovoltaic irrigation in the Mediterranean* – introduces the project explaining that there is a need to answer problems of high electricity cost for farmer irrigator communities in the basin (cost increase 627% to 1255% (FENACORE), representing about 40% to 50% of the total production costs).

**Luis Narvarte** adds that the potential market represents for Southern Europe 14 million Ha – 16GW – 24.000M€ and for Northern Africa (Grid + diesel): 1,5GW – 2.250M€, and reminds that the experience for SolAqua comes from the capitalization of the **MASLOWATEN** project, ongoing. The project uses an irrigation system through photovoltaic device only, it has 5 Mediterranean demonstrators in Spain, Portugal and Morocco and its technology is currently being transferred to 27 European SMEs. MASLOWATEN has allowed an important increase in the market and the demonstrators showed not only the technical reliability but also allowed to decrease the PV power when it is cloudy so that it allows it not to stop but only to have a small perturbation instead, avoiding problems like water hammers or electrical surges. Environmental impact is also measurable thanks to it: the 5 demonstrators could measure their carbon and energy payback time.
Nevertheless, the problems of financing are still palpable and still need a high potential investment. Irrigators communities need to trust local SMEs installers one the one hand, but SMEs have no access to reliable financing for developing/installing technologies on the other hand.

As in this context traditional financing is not efficient enough, which is why SolAqua is proposing a new and more secure instrument (approved by the EU Commission) for which irrigation communities do not need to endorse initial investments. For small businesses, this represents a possibility to have direct access to funding to grow. For regional governments, this is an opportunity because regions have small subsidies and these mechanisms do not require subsidies.

SolAqua also intends to inform EARDF authorities on how to mobilize these mechanisms. Its objectives are therefore the market uptake of 100 MW of PV Irrigation Systems in the farming sector, added to the awareness of 100,00 farmers, 100 SMEs and 38 Public Authorities, the implementation of the new financial instrument and the support to implement EAFRD financial instruments.

The Intermediterranean Commission is involved in the project and will do its best to keep its member regions informed and involved in activities to support the project’s objectives.

**Manuel Aldeguer** and **Jordi Marín Abdilla** from the Directorate for Water, Rural development, Climate Emergency and Ecological transition of the Generalitat Valenciana, Co-presidency of the Water and Energy Working group, remind of the opportunities to work on irrigation through photovoltaics but also desalination in the Mediterranean. They also introduce briefly the idea to work together, in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to better anticipate the resurgence of pandemics in the Mediterranean through wastewater analyses.

More precisely, **José Navarro**, Professor-Researcher at the Miguel Hernández University of Elche-Valencia, lectures on the issue of wastewater and COVID-19. He recalls that wastewater is a common use in industry, since microorganisms, living or not and present in this matter, can be analyzed to obtain various very useful information. He reminds us that the analysis of wastewater can be done at any time, and in the complex system of analyses, allows the presence of microorganisms to be quickly identified.

Faced with today’s “enemy”, COVID-19, he underlines that by analyzing urine and faeces, one may be able to follow the evolution of the virus via the analysis of wastewater. This approach is therefore interesting today to counter the pandemic we are facing, but it is an approach that could be applied for any future pandemic; sewage analysis can be very useful for national, regional or local governments. The challenge now is to establish a common methodology, based on good samplings for PCR testing. The idea would be to set up a Mediterranean network to assist our public administrations in the management of crises such as that of COVID-19, to play a warning and prevention role.

**Elodie Nunes** concludes on the idea of sharing a common methodology to better manage health crises, especially in tourist areas.

Finally, **Tayeb Masbahi**, Vice-President of L’Oriental, specifies that his region is facing strong water pressure. They are therefore very interested in everything concerning water management.
La Comisión Intermediterránea de la CRPM reúne a unas 40 Regiones procedentes de 9 Estados miembros de la UE y de otros países (Albania, Chipre, España, Francia, Grecia, Italia, Malta, Marruecos y Túnez). Está abierta a todos los diferentes niveles subnacionales de todos los países mediterráneos.

La unión de las regiones de la Comisión Intermediterránea representa un vínculo de paz, estabilidad y desarrollo entre tres continentes, Europa, África y Asia.

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