PRESS RELEASE

Climate Change in the Mediterranean Region (MEDCOP21): Financing, Resilience and Youth Involvement

The Center for Mediterranean Integration convenes Governments, development agencies, private sector and youth networks to discuss joint agendas for adapting to and combating climate change

Marseille, France, 5 June 2015 – The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) organized a high level roundtable and a technical workshop on climate change financing and resilience, and highlighted the role and dedication of youth engagement. Governments, local authorities, development agencies, associations, enterprises and youth networks all gathered to discuss joint agendas for adapting to and combating climate change.

These three events were organized in the framework of the MedCOP21, the forum of the Mediterranean civil society for climate, a Mediterranean-focused event preceding the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which will take place in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015. Organized by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region under the high patronage of the President of the Republic Mr. François Hollande, MEDCOP21 event aimed to gather Mediterranean stakeholders to seek concrete joint proposals for a “Mediterranean Scope of Projects” and position combating climate change as a key factor in Mediterranean integration.

The debate on climate change is essential to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It is one of the world’s most climate vulnerable regions. A recent World Bank study has projected that the MENA region will be severely affected at both 2°C and 4°C warming, particularly because of the large increase in projected heat extremes, the substantial reduction in water availability, and expected consequences for regional food security. [The World Bank, Turn Down the Heat: Confronting the New Climate Normal, 2014]

“Adapting to climate change and mitigating its effect are global public goods. They will be under-supplied if each country and development institution acts on its own” says Mourad Ezzine, Center for Mediterranean Integration Manager. “Our aim at the CMI is to foster a dialogue between countries of the region, development institutions, academia and civil society on how we can collectively address climate change issues and reduce its effects on the Mediterranean region.”

The first event consisted of a high-level roundtable on “Development and Climate Change: Financing and Engineering Mediterranean Projects.” It was organized by the CMI in partnership with the Group Renewable Energies, Environment and Solidarities (GERES). The objective of this roundtable was to initiate an informed debate between stakeholders about the means to fund and to engineer a climate-smart development. About 20 participants including government officials, civil society, development agencies, the private sector and youth associations from Mediterranean countries took part in the roundtable panels. Discussions evolved around identifying the level of funding required to end global warming and ways to promote a climate-resilient economy in the Mediterranean, as well as what capacity reinforcement measures are needed to sustain climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

The second event consisted of a workshop on “Enhancing Resilience towards Climate Change” and was organized by the CMI in partnership with the Pôle de Compétitivité Risque and the Center for Studies and Expertise on Risks, Environment, Mobility and Urban and Country Planning (CEREMA). It addressed the risks associated with climate change and emphasized the notion of resilience as an adaptation strategy. It presented examples of concrete measures from the North and South of the Mediterranean and explored ways to scale up efforts and engage stakeholders to develop resilience-oriented integrated policies.

As part of the ‘Solutions Village’ – a parallel event targeting a wider public-, the CMI showcased youth involvement in combatting climate change. Activities included featuring contributions by youth through photo exhibits and an animated panel that gave voice to several young people from the Mediterranean to present their initiatives on climate change.

The CMI organized these three events with support from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and in partnership with France Media Monde (FMM).

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The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a space where development agencies, Governments, local authorities and civil society from around the Mediterranean convene in order to exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify the solutions needed to address key challenges facing the Mediterranean region. Through innovative solutions, the CMI aims to help countries achieve transformative reforms and enhance integration in the Mediterranean region. Members of CMI are Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, the City of Marseille, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank Group. More on our platforms: Web: www.cmimarseille.org; Facebook: /cmimarseille; Twitter: @cmimarseille; Follow the conversation: #MedCOP21; #MyClimateMySolution
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