

## MEDREG OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AWARD “MEDORA”

### Call for papers

#### Background

As a part of the pillars which constitute its mission, MEDREG is tasked with *“helping Mediterranean energy regulators to adopt converging regulatory practices that result in a greater compatibility of the energy markets. In the long run, this emerging common regulatory culture will contribute to the progressive market integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region.”*<sup>1</sup>

With this in mind, the Institutional Working Group (INS WG), one of the five working groups in MEDREG, considers that it would be important that MEDREG gives visibility to the work done within Member Regulators and by think-tanks and academic centres of the Mediterranean region in order to advance research on energy regulatory culture that can increase compatibility of Euro-Mediterranean gas and electricity markets. Therefore, an award could constitute an important message towards Members and stakeholders to recognize outstanding work that can benefit MEDREG’s objectives and enrich the debate on Mediterranean energy regulation, together with innovations and solutions for energy transition.

#### Objectives of the award

The overarching objective of the award is to support, recognize and widen theoretical and practical research on energy regulation in the Euro-Mediterranean region as well as contribute to improve concepts and practices related to the working priorities of MEDREG.

Winners of the award will be offered a place in one MEDREG training event of their choice, either as a speaker or a trainee (depending on their seniority level and expertise). In addition, they will be invited to present their research in front of high-level representatives of MEDREG during an event organized by the Association. This will allow to use their findings to enrich MEDREG’s internal debate as well as maximise the exposure of their research within the MEDREG community and beyond. Finally, a scholarship of 1500 euros (all taxes included) will be reimbursed by MEDREG to complete and improve the winner’s work.

Winning papers would be published on the MEDREG website and promoted on social media, supporting the collection and spread of updated and relevant information.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.medreg-regulators.org/Aboutus/Mission.aspx>

## Identification of topics

During these challenging times, energy transition emerges as a constant point of discussion that is always tackled from a multitude of perspectives. Numerous topics constitute main pillars for energy transition, such as the fastest ways to achieve it and the role of digitalization and cybersecurity in developing it.

However, the role of nuclear power and gas and their effects on the energy transition paths have been rapidly becoming a subject of interest. Hence, the INS WG has decided along with the Steering Committee, to direct this year's award to papers tackling "The Role of Nuclear and/or Gas in the Energy Transition".

Energy transition refers to structural changes in the energy system, to switch from a fossil-based to zero-carbon system. In that regard, many countries have adopted several mechanisms and new strategies to meet their clean energy objectives in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and minimizing the use of fossil fuels.

The main method to succeed in this transition looks at an increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy consumption along with using natural gas and nuclear power as transition fuels for a totally decarbonized energy market in the long run. In addition, hydrogen can be used as a feedstock, a fuel or an energy carrier and storage, and has many possible applications across industry, transport, power, and buildings sectors. Therefore, hydrogen should be considered as another important fuel along with natural gas for a fully decarbonized Mediterranean energy market. Nuclear can also be seen as a transitional source of power as it is an important factor to ensure the security of supply while avoiding the production of greenhouse gases.

In that regard, it must be considered that the Mediterranean region have the particularity to have important natural gas producers and consumers, therefore, there are the conditions to realize a well-developed gas market in the region with a crucial role in the energy sector.

Topics and thoughts that may present engaging points of views that may complement and/or challenge regulators' stances are highly appreciated as they would help enhance and build regulations that are reliable and resilient and that can lead to big improvements for all stakeholders in the energy sector.

Researchers having drafted papers discussing the possibilities of nuclear energy and/or gas to support the energy transition to reach a 0-carbon power system in the Mediterranean region are invited to submit their work to increase the visibility of this topic and enhance the awareness of regulators on the available alternatives.

## Target

This award aims to be as inclusive as possible, in order to attract the interest of the many different professional figures that have a competence in the Euro-Mediterranean energy sector and who can benefit from the exposure that this award will provide.

To this end, the target recipients for this award are the following:

1. professionals working in a Member Regulator;
2. professionals, academicians and researchers originating from the MEDREG geographic area and EU area (including Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom);

3. a combination of both categories.

### **Methodology to apply to the award**

Applicants will need to submit an original piece of work respecting the following section requirements:

1. Abstract
2. Executive summary and introduction including the main findings and message of the report
3. List of acronyms and keywords
4. Chapters including:
  - a. methodology chapter where the research technique is well described;
  - b. clear presentation of data/case studies used;
  - c. recommendations
5. References in Harvard style

Papers will have to be written and proofread in English and have a length between 2500 and 6000 words, with the possibility to add one annex of maximum 5 pages. Figures and tables shall be embedded in the papers.

Applicants should submit the proposed paper in PDF or Word format according to the guidelines above and a short version of their CVs to the MEDREG Secretariat at the following email address: [info@medreg-regulators.org](mailto:info@medreg-regulators.org). This address can also be used in case of questions.

Winners will be asked to expand their study to become a flagship MEDREG report, working in cooperation with the relevant MEDREG Working Groups.

*The new extended deadline to apply is on the 15 of September 2022*

### **Evaluation process and award ceremony**

An Evaluation committee will define the criteria to award the prize and will select the winners. The Secretariat will provide an anonymous evaluation sheet to compute the Scientific Committee's preferences.

The criteria to be used to evaluate submitted papers could be the following:

- Relevance of the information presented in relation to the selected topic, the Mediterranean region and the role of regulation – *20 points*;
- Practical applicability of the analysis presented for the work of Euro-Med regulators – *10 points*;
- Originality of the information presented – *10 points*;
- Clarity of the argumentation and the data provided – *10 points*
- Inclusiveness of a relevant number of Mediterranean countries and/or subregions – *10 points*



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The award ceremony and the presentation of the winning paper will take place during MEDREG's General Assembly, that will occur in November at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, during the COP 27. Winners will be invited to attend at MEDREG's expenses.