



*Empowering Mediterranean regulators for a common energy future.*

# ACTION PLAN

## 2020-2022



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### **DISCLAIMER**

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## 1. MEDREG's Mission and Objectives

MEDREG started in May 2006 as a voluntary working group to establish cooperation among Mediterranean Energy Regulators and became a permanent regional organisation in November 2007. The European Union (EU) has been a continuous promoter of MEDREG since its creation, through the active involvement notably of the Directorate-General (DG) Energy and DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), which encourages and financially supports its activities.

Through MEDREG, Mediterranean energy agencies and Ministries responsible for regulation can jointly discuss and design a common legal framework for energy regulation, based on equal representation of participants and a bottom-up approach. MEDREG promotes a holistic attitude, which combines market liberalization with investments, environmental protection, and capacity-development activities, as well as a regional approach to improve the stability and transparency of rules related to the energy sector, on which investments are strongly dependent.

MEDREG intends to consolidate its role and mission as a permanent regional organisation for regulators, with the official endorsement of the European Union and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

MEDREG aims to implement a clear, stable and harmonized regulatory energy framework in the Mediterranean.

MEDREG's actions focus on:

- **Providing a greater compatibility of the energy markets and legislations and seeking progressive market integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region.** One of MEDREG's main objectives is to contribute to the creation of independent regulatory authorities responsible for electricity and natural gas in each Mediterranean country. The Association studies the characteristics and needs of Mediterranean energy markets to identify common challenges and best practices. It identifies the role regulators should play and principles governing the mission and competences of Mediterranean national regulatory authorities (NRAs).
- **Providing sustainable development in the energy sector through greater efficiency and integration of energy markets based on secure, safe, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable energy systems.** In the framework of the UfM Energy Platforms, MEDREG is actively contributing through a dedicated task force to the setting up of clear rules for the regional enhancement of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in its capacity of animator of the WG 'Best Practices in Regulatory and Policy Framework'. This role complements MEDREG's studies on the development of smart generation and distributions systems in the region.
- **Providing initiatives of common interest in key areas such as infrastructure investment and development, innovative financing solutions for the Mediterranean area and research in the field of energy regulation.** MEDREG considers that dialogue and technical coordination between regulators and TSOs, both at national and regional level, is becoming pivotal to build an effective and efficient regional energy market. MEDREG is now implementing its cooperation agreement with the Association of the Mediterranean Electricity Transmission System Operators (Med-TSO) and works to support the establishment of an association for the Mediterranean gas TSOs.
- **Providing capacity building activities through working groups, training sessions and seminars.** MEDREG wants to create a common regulatory culture across the different Euro-Mediterranean countries. To this end, it works to share information, expertise and good practices among its members, thus helping them to reinforce their institutional capacities and guarantee appropriate reforms. To reach its objectives, MEDREG promotes a permanent exchange of know-how between European and non-European members, data collection and

dissemination of expertise through comprehensive studies, recommendations, reports as well as specialized training sessions.

- **Providing cooperation, information exchange and assistance among members, providing a permanent discussion framework and cooperation network.** Aiming towards a common, transparent approach of regulatory principles in the Mediterranean region, MEDREG has started to set up a public internet platform for the exchange and publication of data on Mediterranean gas markets (such as structure, actors and responsible entities, flows).

## 2. MEDREG Approach to Mediterranean Cooperation

MEDREG considers that a regional approach is the appropriate starting point for cooperation on energy regulation, in the perspective of an integrated and efficient Mediterranean market requiring functioning and interconnected infrastructures. This approach entails the progressive compatibility of the legislative and regulatory frameworks in the energy field which is a fundamental precondition to attract the necessary investments and contribute to the long-term economic and social development of the Mediterranean region. In particular, it would be necessary to define common consumer protection principles, with a particular focus on the definition of energy poverty.

### ***Involving all MEDREG Members***

MEDREG primarily focuses on promoting exchange of know-how and expertise among its members essentially through its Working Groups, which operate under the umbrella of the Association's General Assembly (GA), Steering Committee (SC) and Presidency. MEDREG means of action also include specialized training courses, capacity building seminars and studies related to energy regulation.

MEDREG will continue to encourage further the involvement of all Mediterranean Energy Regulators in its activities, including representatives of Libya once the situation is stabilized. MEDREG continues to grow and including since November 2019 Lebanon as a full Member and approaching Mauritania to involve their authorities in our work.

### ***Consolidating the dialogue with all Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders***

Following the terms of the framework cooperation protocol between Med-TSO (the Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators for Electricity) and MEDREG (signed in September 2013), cooperation is being developed on specific topics especially as regards the drafting of grid codes, as well as the management and operation of regulated energy infrastructures.

Furthermore, on 19 November 2014 in Rome, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the European Commission (DG ENER), MEDREG and Med-TSO. The parties agree to intensify their institutional cooperation also in the framework of the "Euro-Mediterranean Platform on Regional Electricity Market" that has been established in the context of the UfM process. This platform structures and supports a systematic dialogue of all the concerned public and private stakeholders. The purpose of the platform is to provide a permanent forum for discussing policy objectives and measures, with a view to identifying concrete partnership actions and following-up on their implementation.

As part of its initiatives to intensify regional integration, MEDREG has also established relationships with the main energy stakeholders in the region, such as UfM, Energy Community, CEER, ERRA, PAM, LAS, Med-TSO, OME, RCREEE, RES4MED, MEDENER<sup>1</sup>, aiming to provide the energy regulators' vision and role and is further pursuing active collaboration in this direction.

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<sup>1</sup> PAM: Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean; LAS: League of Arab States; Med-TSO: Mediterranean Transmission System Operators; OME: Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie, RCREEE: Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency; RES4MED: Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean; MEDENER: Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation

Following the success of the first edition of the Mediterranean Forum on Energy Regulation in 2014, organised by MEDREG and supported by the European Commission (EC), a similar event will be also considered for the period 2020, not only in the context of intensifying inter and cross-regional cooperation but also intensifying the engagement of other stakeholders as outlined above.

### 3. MEDREG's Organisation and Strategy

MEDREG's general objective is to contribute to the progressive establishment of an integrated Euro-Mediterranean energy market. MEDREG's specific work towards meeting its general objective involves:

- a) The development of proposals, tools, regulatory standards and good practices that can lead to more efficient and compatible regulatory frameworks to enhance the development of efficient national energy systems and to facilitate the gradual integration of energy systems (including cross-border systems) in the region; and
- b) The establishment of a closer relationship amongst regulators in the region with the aim to enhance their cooperation.

Thus, MEDREG's strategy concentrates its short and longer-term actions geared at:

#### 1) **Developing more efficient and compatible regulatory frameworks which facilitate investment to the benefit of consumers**

By analogy to the 5 main priorities for a future Mediterranean Energy Community identified in the 2020-2030 MEDREG strategy, MEDREG addresses this objective in the context of five distinct outputs as highlighted in the figure in Section below.

#### 2) **Internal organisation and stakeholder engagement**

Actions towards this goal relate to MEDREG's efforts to create a Mediterranean regulatory culture through an advanced level of regional cooperation and to embed a regulatory view in Mediterranean energy sector relations and developments.

MEDREG's Working Groups (WGs) are the main pillars of the Association ensuring the implementation of the Action Plan. They elaborate guidelines, draft reports and studies assessing the status of different aspects of Mediterranean energy sector and develop recommendations to establish a common regulatory framework in the region. The contribution of all members is very important to carry out the analysis and collect data. The WGs are also the place where members exchange experience and know how on regulatory issues.

The MEDREG Secretariat coordinates the implementation of MEDREG's strategy as defined by its General Assembly, enhancing MEDREG accountability and institutional cooperation in the Mediterranean energy sector. Through its experts, the Secretariat provides continuous support to the Working Groups/Task Forces in the implementation of the Action Plan.

The MEDREG Secretariat supervises and contributes to the preparation of studies and recommendations developed by the MEDREG Working Groups, provides technical support to members and supports the drafting of the Association's strategic documents (as defined in the Working Groups Internal Guidelines). The Secretariat also ensures the overall coherence of MEDREG messages through the drafting of speeches, presentations and statements made by Members on behalf of MEDREG and at the same time offers substantial administrative, logistical and technical support to its members.

### **Communication Strategy**

The MEDREG Secretariat fosters information exchange among its members through a Communication Officers (CO) network, which is composed of regulatory staff and promotes MEDREG's messages in each member country. The Secretariat works to coordinate and raise awareness about the organisation through the constant update of MEDREG informational material and the regular release of press statements, newsletters and social media announcements.

Meanwhile, the objectives of the communication strategy are to reinforce and consolidate internal collaboration and relations among MEDREG members and enhance the Association's external relations and accountability. The target audience of MEDREG communication activities includes members and staff of energy regulatory authorities of the Mediterranean countries, EU institutions and international organizations, financial institutions, regional and international associations (such as regulators, companies, consumers, traders), press and media. Communication activities are continuously developed and implemented to support the Association's strategic objectives. These tasks include:

- Management and constant improvement of the MEDREG website, both in terms of content and interaction tools.
- Relations with the media, and periodical release of press statements and newsletters (MEDREG News).
- Publication and diffusion of the Annual Reports and ad-hoc publications and other pedagogical leaflets and videos of the Association to contribute to strengthen its visibility and accountability.
- Reinforcement of MEDREG joint communication activities with other regulators' associations and consolidation of contacts with communication departments of relevant external partners.
- Development of a project for the possible use of social media as part of MEDREG communication tools.

## 4. Trainings and Workshop

One of MEDREG's outcomes is to create a Mediterranean regulatory culture. In this context, exchange programmes and short missions, workshops and ad-hoc training events all provide technical assistance to the members to facilitate integration of their markets in a wider perspective.

MEDREG's training and scientific activities for members take the form of training courses and capacity development workshops, as well as the organization of training activities tailored to the specific needs of interested members and WGs. Training offers may involve different partner organizations and experts, depending on the specific needs of a member.

MEDREG plans to organise 2 basic type of training: in the period 2020-2022;

- **Ad hoc training** tailored to the specific needs of the members and defined in strict cooperation with the WGs. Each training session will require a preparation lead-time between 4 and 6 months, to ensure the proper identification of venue and speakers as well as adequate dissemination of the event to members.
- **Basic training** developing the basic principles of energy regulation. This basic training will be performed every second year in 2020 (and subsequently in 2022) and will target junior staff joining the NRAs. Basic training will be offered on a bi-annual basis and will provide the fundamentals for working in energy sector regulation, whether in a regulatory commission, in a regulatory department within a ministry or as a policy maker. The course will provide the attendees a comprehensive understanding of the main concepts and ideas of energy market regulation from an engineering, economic and regulatory perspective. No specific background is required to follow the training, in fact emphasis on course accessibility to professionals from all backgrounds not only enhances the learning experience, but also encourages knowledge-sharing and creates great opportunities for networking.

Authority receiving the assistance	Year	Description
MEDREG members or a Pool of interested NRAs (in particular LCEC and ANRE)	2020	Training on Unbundling, and TPA in gas and electricity markets. Economic principles, design and effective implementation
MEDREG members (in principle open to other energy stakeholder in the region)	2020	Biannual - Basic Training on Regulatory Principles and Energy Economics
MEDREG members	2021	Training on Digitalisation of Energy markets and New Role of Customers - Regulatory implications
MEDREG members	2021	Training on Climate obligations, Environmental standards and Regulation
MEDREG members	2022	Training on Infrastructure Investments, Network Remuneration and Tariffs
MEDREG members (in principle open to other energy stakeholder in the region)	2022	Biannual - Basic Training on Regulatory Principles and Energy Economics

## 5. Working Groups

The new Grant Contract with the European Commission supports the implementation of a set of specific Outputs and Actions for the one-year period (2020) that the MEDREG Working Groups have identified as priorities for the Mediterranean region for the next year. The figure below outlines the outputs and activities included in this Action Plan.

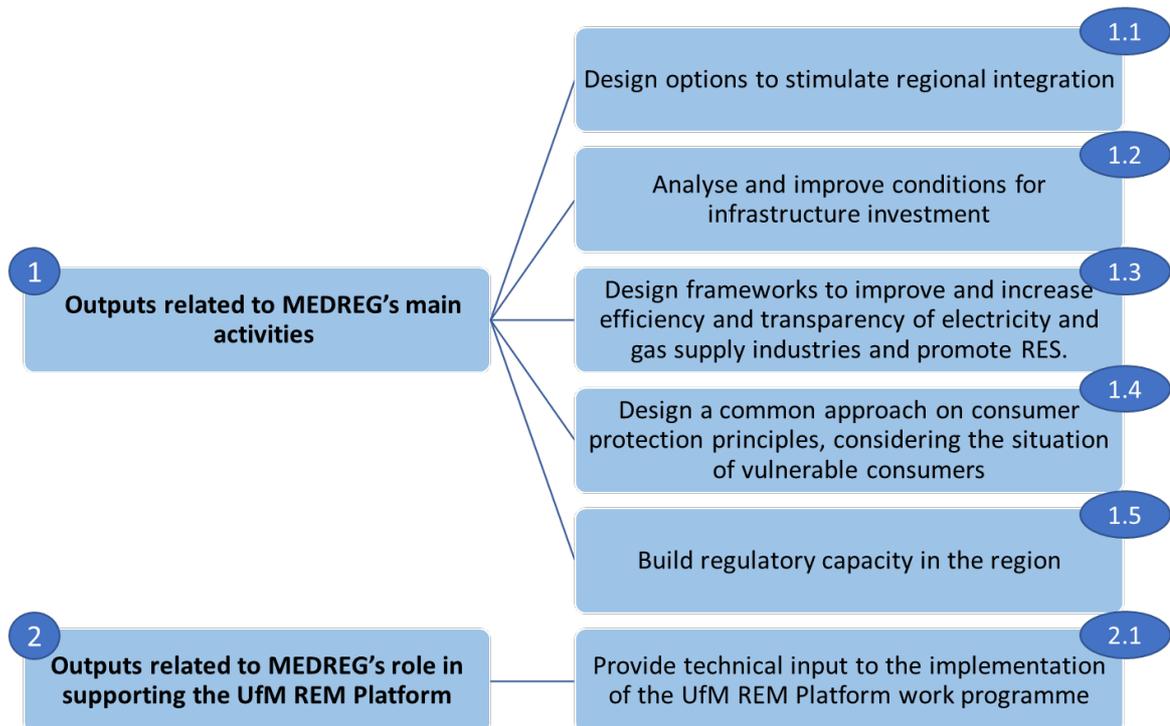


Figure 1: Outputs of the proposed actions

A summary of the main deliverables and activities is given at the end of this report.

### 5.1 Working Group on Institutional Issues (INS)

The INS Working Group has the objective of enhancing closer coordination among MEDREG members through the promotion of the role and competencies of independent energy regulatory authorities. The WG coordinates the dialogue on energy regulation notably with the European Union,

international institutions, regional organisations of regulators and other bodies. The WG also works on the institutional evolution of the association.

• **Objectives**

With a three-year strategy, the INS Working Group will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- Assisting member countries in creation of independent energy regulator for electricity and gas in charge of market monitoring, network regulation, tariff setting and regulation of natural monopolies.
- Assisting member countries in the implementation of national regulatory reforms, through a dedicated and tailor-made support and understanding the impact of national decisions in the energy sector at the regional level
- Guiding MEDREG members in implementation of a common set of principles that should characterize the missions, powers, competences and organisation of independent energy regulatory authorities in the Mediterranean region.
- Supporting other WGs along the process of improvement of the national legal and regulatory frameworks of Mediterranean countries, taking national specificities into account, in order to facilitate the deepening of regional cooperation and energy exchanges.

• **Activities**

In order to achieve the objectives, set for the period 2020-2022, the working group continues to follow his main activities:

- Support the organization bodies within the framework of the dialogue with the European Union, international institutions, regional regulatory associations and their bodies.
- Develop ad-hoc regulatory proposals, technical reports and guidelines of good practice.
- Periodically assess the current status of regulatory frameworks and institutions, their competencies, resources and expertise
- Carry out thematic studies on specific topics, and where relevant prepare position papers upon request of the president
- Support regulators in training and exchange of experiences, as well as other tools of capacity building
- Carry out one peer review per year on the regulatory activities of its members
- Support the institutional development and consolidation of MEDREG

More precisely, the table below describe the main deliverables and activities for the period 2020-2022:

Main deliverables		
Topic	Description	Year
Regulatory Outlook update	The report will assess the status of energy regulation in the Mediterranean Basin providing a complete overview about how the national energy sectors are ruled, ranging from independent entities to governmental bodies. In 2022 a further update of the report shall follow.	2020
Study on the interlink between Good Regulatory principles and the energy transformation challenge	This study will develop a solid governance model by assessing the future characteristics of the energy markets (smart and agile) against the core institutional elements of each regulator. Identifying the requirement for quick adaptation and further improvement.	2021

Model rules against conflict of interest	This report will seek to provide some key points and case studies from energy regulators, that could help Mediterranean regulators develop and implement ways to manage conflicts of interest.	2022
Regulatory Outlook update	Update of the 2020 Regulatory Outlook	2022
Workshop on the Regulatory Outlook	A workshop will present the main results emerging from Regulatory Outlook and discuss it with interested stakeholders and institutional partners	2022

Main activities: Support to national regulatory reforms			
Member	Topic	Description	Year
<b>ANRE (Morocco)</b>	Design and implementation of the NRA	Study visit (including conclusion summary) on the design and implementation of the newly Established NRA	2020
<b>EgyptEra (Egypt)</b>	Guidelines for investment planning	Study visit (including conclusion summary) to two regulators (one European and one Non-European) to gather information on the most effective way to structure guidelines for approving investment planning.	2020
<b>LCEC (Lebanon)</b>	Interconnections with neighboring systems	In coordination with the ELE WG, an expert mission on the different arrangements for interconnections and energy trading with neighboring systems (regional infrastructures and regional markets) will be achieved. The objective of the expert mission is to introduce Lebanese stakeholders to the best European practices related to the different arrangements for interconnections	2020
<b>EMRC (Jordan)</b>	Design and implementation of regulation for gas sector	In coordination with the GAS WG, a report focussing on the best available practice in the Euro Mediterranean area that deal with regulation of the gas market and consequent gradual opening of the gas sector in Jordan will be established.	2021
<b>EgyptEra (Egypt)</b>	Ex-ante regulatory indicators and definition of market design phases	This Study will focus on the efficient definition of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to monitor and assess the evolution for the implementation of market design phases.	2022

## 5.2 Working Group on Electricity (ELE)

The ELE Working Group (ELE WG) is in charge of assessing the current status of electricity markets and regulatory frameworks in MEDREG countries and their possible developments. The ELE WG has the mission to identify and propose basic requirements that will lead to the compatibility of electricity regulation in the MEDREG region, developing a competitive, strengthened and running regional electricity market in the region.

- **Objectives**

In that regards, during the following years, the objectives for the ELEC WG will consist in:

- Monitoring of the electricity market: information exchange on performance indicators and efficient regulatory framework to assess necessary infrastructure investment

- Provide tailor made technical assistance to the MEDREG’s members regarding their needs.
- Regular exchange of data on transmission capacity and improve the quality and quantity of data on electricity transmission capacity.
- Integration of RES including TSO and DSO relationship (ancillary services) to accompany the growing of RES penetration.
- Support MEDREG countries in reaching a properly functioning market, which will allow the efficient use of interconnections by allocating transmission capacity in the most efficient way and at market prices. Development of an efficient cross-border trade, which should be implemented on all interconnections. This will stimulate the competition between different national markets and will increase regional integration, as well as security of supply. At the same time this will harmonize the transmission capacity, the auction mechanisms and common grid codes in a mid-term perspective.
- Analyse of the role of digitalization and its impact on consumer issues, including cybersecurity, data protection and privacy issues.

- **Main activities**

In this perspective, the main activities of the working group will concern the following points:

- Collaborate with Med-TSO to provide technical input to support and develop UfM REM platform, regarding regional integration “sub-regional regulatory convergence”.
- Study operational issues concerning cross-border exchange and congestion management practices; monitor electricity exchange activities among member countries, propose general rules/guidelines for electricity exchange in the Mediterranean.
- Define present and future interconnection needs (for the establishment of an integrated electricity market) from the technical, economic and financial perspectives.

Concretely, the main deliverables and activities planned for the period 2020-2022 are listed in the following table:

Main deliverables		
Topic	Description	Year
Security of supply	This report will give a view on quality and security of supply in the different countries including the availability of networks and critical infrastructures. This report will be performed und the framework of the cooperation agreement with CEER and ECRB. MEDREG will contribute on a voluntary basis to the questionnaire.	2020
Regional integration: sub-regional regulatory convergence	This report will identify “quick-wins” in terms of regulatory gaps reduction and interoperability. This activity will include MEDREG’s contribution to the UfM’s REM platform work on regulatory convergence.	2020

Main activities: Provision of technical support to the members			
Member	Topic	Description	Year
<b>PERC (Palestine) possible joint initiative with the participation of PUA (Israel)</b>	Investment in infrastructure (in transmission and distribution network)	Study to tackle infrastructure investment in electricity transmission and distribution networks in Palestine	2020

<b>LCEC (Lebanon)</b>	Interconnections with neighbouring systems	Expert mission on the different arrangements for interconnections and energy trading with neighboring systems (regional infrastructures and regional markets).	2020
<b>PUA (Israel)</b>	Congestion management and transmission rights	Study organised to identify main the regulatory principles and best practice to assess congestion management and allocation of transmission rights	2021
<b>EgyptEra (Egypt)</b>	Ex-ante regulatory indicators and definition of market design phases	This Study will focus on the efficient definition of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to monitor and assess the evolution for the implementation of market design phases.	2022

### 5.3 Working Group on Gas (GAS)

The GAS Working Group assesses the current status of natural gas and LNG markets in Mediterranean countries, their relevant regulatory frameworks and possible evolutions. The Working Group elaborates Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP) and recommendations that can lead to the development of an integrated, competitive, secure and effective gas market in the region.

#### • Objectives

- Establishment of an integrated gas market framework; development of gas infrastructures plans in MEDREG countries detailing existing infrastructures and new investments needs
- Identify proper means for increasing member countries' security of supply through an increased diversification of gas sources and routes, as well as the development of liquid markets.
- Assess the evolution of cross-border exchange capacities and gas storage, which are the steps for a better market integration. Monitoring of the transparency of market information and services, as well as the quality of supply to consumers
- Promote the creation of a regional cooperation network among Mediterranean gas infrastructure operators on the model of Med-TSO in the gas sector.

#### • Main activities

- Study the present and future infrastructure needs from the technical, economic and financial perspectives, to reach a double objective:
  - the establishment of a regional integrated gas market;
  - the improvement of the security of supply within the region
- Study methodologies for non-discriminatory Third Party Access (TPA) to gas infrastructure (including definition of gas transport/transit services, congestion management, unbundling provisions, operational issues, role, responsibilities and rights of the shippers and system operators)
- Analyse cross-border capacities and gas storage in the context of increasing market integration
- Study on the diversification of supply sources and routes for gas provisions.

Main deliverables		
Topic	Description	Year
Design Mechanism for gas market able to foster energy transition	This report will identify possible market design tools, that can be implemented to provide the required flexibility to the system to accompany the growing RES penetration	2020
Analysis of gas infrastructure to improve flexibility and interoperability of energy systems	This study will evaluate the gas infrastructure and its required to improve flexibility and interoperability if the system has an emission reduction targets and in a climate change vision	2021
Cross-border coordination for interconnection capacity development	This study will define the evolution of the interconnections in the region based on energy transition scenarios	2022
Workshop on cross-border coordination for interconnection capacity development	A workshop will illustrate the main evidence emerging from Activity above and discuss the policy implications with interested stakeholders and Institutional partners.	2022

Main activities: Provision of technical support to the members			
Member	Topic	Description	Year
<b>GASREG (Egypt)</b>	Development and implementation of TPA rules and activities	Study Visit to 1 NRA to identify market monitoring role, activities and processes in the newly opened Egyptian as market	2020
<b>EMRC (Jordan)</b>	Design and implementation of regulation for gas sector	Report focussing on the best available practice in the Euro Mediterranean area that deal with regulation of the gas market and consequent gradual opening of the gas sector in Jordan	2021
<b>ARH (Algeria)</b>	Optimization of the natural gas transportation network and determination of NG wholesale price	Specific study visits to 2 NRAs (1 European and 1 non-European) to illustrate the best practices developed define, remunerate and monitor natural gas transmission network.	2022

#### 5.4 Working Group on Environment, Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency (RES)

The RES Working Group focuses on the legislative and regulatory mechanisms used to promote renewable electricity generation and energy efficiency and RES deployment in the Mediterranean area, with attention to off-grid solutions and independent power producers (IPPs).

- **Objectives**

- Implementation of harmonised regulatory options to promote RES in a cost-effective way; implementation of advanced distributed generation, grid parity and net metering frameworks in Mediterranean electricity systems.
- Evaluation of the costs associated with the fulfilment of national RES targets and Promote the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences
- Assessment of the social impact associated with RES promotion and development in each member country and when required the WG will study the best options to promote RES in isolated systems

- **Main activities**

- Assessment of positive impact of RES on energy access and affordability of supply.
- Analyse of the possibility for the establishment of smart grids in MEDREG countries.
- Analyse the legislative and regulatory mechanisms used to promote renewable electricity generation, energy efficiency and RES deployment in the Mediterranean area, with attention to off-grid solutions and independent power producers (IPPs).
- Study on the main new regulatory options available to integrate RES technologies at the least cost for consumers.
- Study on the future role of Renewable gasses, identifying the common regulatory principles in among MEDREG's members.

Main deliverables		
Topic	Description	Year
Assess the new available Regulatory Options for the Integration of RES also considering flexibility issues and technological change	Traditional support schemes promote the development of RES among the Mediterranean members, however new and important challenges impact on the integration on RES (e.g. digitalisation, smart technologies). This study wants to assess whether traditional schemes are future proof and how they might be adapted to changing circumstances.	2020
Energy efficiency programmes	A report to identify the role and competences of the Regulators in MED Region concerning energy efficiency measures. Relevant data will be gathered through a questionnaire looking also at the green mobility policies developed in the region.	2021
Future role of renewables gases	A report defining basic regulatory principles and common visions on renewable gas	2022

### Main activities: Provision of technical support to the members

Member	Topic	Description	Year
<b>LCEC (Lebanon)</b>	Ensuring transparency and accountability in setting up renewable energy auctions and bids	Peer review and possible study visit to study the following aspects: 1. Ensuring transparency in renewable energy bids; 2. Ensuring accountability in renewable energy bids.	2020
<b>Tunisian Energy Ministry</b>	Determinants of RES investments (Incentives schemes) and Impact of new RES capacity on energy systems	High level workshop to identify and discuss the regulatory tools to attract RES investments Technical workshop on the impact of sustained RES penetration on electricity systems.	2020
<b>Pooling ANRE (Morocco) LCEC (Lebanon) EMRC (Jordan)</b>	Analyse mechanisms to promote low carbon innovation and market design principles to support energy transition	Workshop to discuss different mechanisms in use in the Mediterranean countries and effective market design to promote RES penetration and low carbon transition in a cost-effective way.	2021

PUA (Israel)	Energy storage & demand management	Study Visit to two regulators (one European and one Non-European) to gather information on the most effective way to define the legal framework for energy storage and demand management.	2022
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## 5.5 Working Group on Consumer Issues (CUS)

The Consumer Issues WG works on promoting customer empowerment and spreading best practices and awareness on the important role that the consumer plays. That includes surveys and recommendations on energy billing, consumer protection and information. The CUS WG also identifies and promotes best practices in consumer protection, including vulnerable customers and quality of service for electricity and gas from the point of view of final consumers.

### • Objectives

- Enhance the protection of household consumers in the MEDREG countries.
- Development and diffusion of best practices in the management of final consumers.
- Study on technical and consumer losses to understand how such losses are addressed in MEDEREG countries in a more general framework.
- Support the establishment of an integrated consumer protection framework in the Mediterranean energy sector

### • Main activities

- Identify and promote best practices in consumer protection, including vulnerable customers and quality of service of electricity and gas.
- Analyse possible improvements and set new recommendations in the update of vulnerable consumer's report.
- Workshops on the consumer issues and power losses.
- A study on the role of digitalization ad it's impact on consumers' issues.
- Tailor made technical activities to identify the main driver of the quality of service for gas and electricity sector.

Main deliverables		
Topic	Description	Year
Activity Trilateral workshop with ECRB and CEER on Consumer Issues and Power losses	A trilateral Workshop discussing power losses and their management (or lack thereof) in the Mediterranean countries.	2020
Follow up of MEDREG Workshop on technical and non-technical losses	Update on technical and non-technical losses report. Following the study concluded at the end of 2019, and the follow-up workshop to be organized during 2020	2020
Report on vulnerable consumers	An update of the 2016 report on Vulnerable Consumers.	2020
Report on the role digitalisation and impact on consumer Issues	This Report will explore how digitalization will support the development of smarter energy. Digital solutions will help consumers to better manage their consumption but also tits unintended consequences need, which need to be clearly explored.	2021

Update on technical and non-technical losses report	This study builds on the study concluded at the end of 2019, and the follow-up workshop to be organized during 2020.	2022	
Workshop on regulators' support to consumer protection (gas & electricity)	This event will be organised with a national or regional consumer association (e.g. BEUC) and will discuss this critical dimension.	2022	
<b>Main activities: Provision of technical support to the members</b>			
Member	Topic	Description	Year
<b>EMRC (Jordan)</b>	Improve quality of consumer service	A peer review assessment of the current status of the quality of services and of the regulatory and legislative act in place in Jordan.	2020
<b>CREG (Algeria)</b>	Quality of service monitoring tools and methodology for the regulated electricity and gas distribution activity	Study visit dedicated to identify the main tools to improve the quality of service provided to consumers.	2021

## 5.6 Task Force on Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Energy Platforms

Recognizing the importance of addressing energy challenges, governments of Mediterranean countries and the EU, have decided to work together towards the enhancement of synergies in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency, integration of electricity markets and gas in the Mediterranean region. It is in this spirit that the UfM Senior Official Meeting (SOM) approved the establishment of three UfM high-level Energy Platforms in March 2015:

1. The **UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform** (UfM REM Platform) for promoting integration of energy systems in the Mediterranean region through institutional cooperation.
2. The **UfM Gas Platform** (UfM Gas Platform) for the projects of common interest, and in liaison with MED-TSO, identifying a set of relevant parameters to assess the value of a new project for the countries concerned.
3. The **UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform** (UfM REEE Platform) for assisting the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and projects.

The idea of integrating and providing a compatibility to the approaches in the electricity and gas markets, and deployment of renewable energies of different countries lies in the assumption that a common view on regional basis is more effective than fragmented national ones in delivering benefits in terms of more secure, more stable and more affordable energy supply. In particular, the potential for regional electricity trade among UfM countries and sub regions is considerable, given the great complementarity of supply and demand structure across the region.

Task Force on Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Energy Platforms	
<b>Objectives 2020-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributing to the integration of Mediterranean electricity markets, which fosters enhanced deployment of renewable energies and energy efficiency; and,</li> <li>Contributing to the gradual development of a Euro-Mediterranean gas market</li> <li>Definition and evaluation of projects, identification of institutional procedures and methodology for selection and promotion of projects</li> </ul>
<b>Main Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting the UfM Energy Platforms (electricity, gas, and renewables) process in accordance with the MEDREG Strategy and Action Plan, and in conjunction with relevant working groups;</li> <li>Drafting a joint work program together with Med-TSO for the Integration of the electricity markets, and following deliverables;</li> <li>Providing technical contribution on energy regulatory frameworks to the preparation of reports, work plans, activities, etc. of secretariats and/or animators of UfM Energy Platforms;</li> <li>Identifying additional studies and a timeline for updates along this process.</li> </ul>

Activity and Deliverable	Year	Implementing WG
<b>1. Deliverable:</b> MEDREG Provide technical input to the implementation of the UfM REM Platform work programme and Development of concepts for Projects of Mediterranean interest	2020-2021	Secretariat & ELE WG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Activity:</b> Institutional partnership to provide technical input to support and develop UfM REM platform. Regional integration: sub-regional regulatory convergence. To be carried out with Med-TSO.</li> </ul>	2020-2021	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Activity:</b> Cross-border coordination for interconnection capacity development. Fostering market integration via new investments requires a strong cross-border coordination in terms of project design and long-term planning. This activity will focus on cross-border procedures to implement between regulators for a successful investment process. To be carried out with Med-TSO.</li> </ul>	2021	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Activity:</b> Cross Links Between the UfM Energy Platforms. To be carried out with Med-TSO.</li> </ul>	2022	

## 6. Summary of the main deliverables and activities

### 6.1. Deliverables<sup>2</sup>

Working Group	Topic	Description	Year
<b>INS WG</b>	Regulatory Outlook update	The report will assess the status of energy regulation in the Mediterranean Basin providing a complete overview about how the national energy sectors are ruled, ranging from independent entities to governmental bodies. In 2022 a further update of the report shall follow.	2020
	Study on the interlink between Good Regulatory principles and the energy transformation challenge	This study will develop a solid governance model by assessing the future characteristics of the energy markets (smart and agile) against the core institutional elements of each regulator. Identifying the requirement for quick adaptation and further improvement.	2021
	Model rules against conflict of interest	This report will seek to provide some key points and case studies from energy regulators, that could help Mediterranean regulators develop and implement ways to manage conflicts of interest.	2022
	Regulatory Outlook update	Update of the 2020 Regulatory Outlook	2022
	Workshop on the Regulatory Outlook	A workshop will present the main results emerging from Regulatory Outlook and discuss it with interested stakeholders and institutional partners	2022
<b>ELE WG</b>	Security of supply	This report will give a view on quality and security of supply in the different countries including the availability of networks and critical infrastructures.	2020
	Regional integration: sub-regional regulatory convergence	This report will identify “quick-wins” in terms of regulatory gaps reduction and interoperability. This activity will include MEDREG’s contribution to the UfM’s REM platform work on regulatory convergence.	2020

<sup>2</sup> In green are the deliverables for 2020

Working Group	Topic	Description	Year
<b>GAS WG</b>	Design Mechanism for gas market able to foster energy transition	This report will identify possible market design tools, that can be implemented to provide the required flexibility to the system to accompany the growing RES penetration	2020
	Analysis of gas infrastructure to improve flexibility and interoperability of energy systems	This study will evaluate the gas infrastructure and its required to improve flexibility and interoperability if the system has an emission reduction targets and in a climate change vision	2021
	Cross-border coordination for interconnection capacity development	This study will define the evolution of the interconnections in the region based on energy transition scenarios	2022
	Workshop on cross-border coordination for interconnection capacity development	A workshop will illustrate the main evidence emerging from Activity above and discuss the policy implications with interested stakeholders and Institutional partners.	2022
<b>RES WG</b>	Assess the new available Regulatory Options for the Integration of RES also considering flexibility issues and technological change	Traditional support schemes promote the development of RES among the Mediterranean members, however new and important challenges impact on the integration on RES (e.g. digitalisation, smart technologies). This study wants to assess whether traditional schemes are future proof and how they might be adapted to changing circumstances.	2020
	Energy efficiency programmes	A report to identify the role and competences of the Regulators in MED Region concerning energy efficiency measures. Relevant data will be gathered through a questionnaire looking also at the green mobility policies developed in the region.	2021
	Future role of renewables gases	A report defining basic regulatory principles and common visions on renewable gas	2022
<b>CUS WG</b>	Activity Trilateral workshop with ECRB and CEER on Consumer Issues and Power losses	A trilateral Workshop discussing power losses and their management (or lack thereof) in the Mediterranean countries.	2020
	Follow up of MEDREG Workshop on technical and non-technical losses	Update on technical and non-technical losses report. Following the study concluded at the end of 2019, and the follow-up workshop to be organized during 2020	2020
	Report on vulnerable consumers	An update of the 2016 report on Vulnerable Consumers.	2020

Working Group	Topic	Description	Year
	Report on the role digitalisation and impact on consumer Issues	This Report will explore how digitalization will support the development of smarter energy. Digital solutions will help consumers to better manage their consumption but also tits unintended consequences need, which need to be clearly explored.	2021
	Update on technical and non-technical losses report	This study builds on the study concluded at the end of 2019, and the follow-up workshop to be organized during 2020.	2022
	Workshop on regulators' support to consumer protection (gas & electricity)	This event will be organised with a national or regional consumer association (e.g. BEUC) and will discuss this critical dimension.	2022
<b>UFM (MEDREG Secretariat &amp; ELE WG)</b>	<b>1. Deliverable:</b> MEDREG Provide technical input to the implementation of the UfM REM Platform work programme and Development of concepts for Projects of Mediterranean interest		2020-2021

## 6.2. Activities: Technical support to members<sup>3</sup>

Working Group	Member	Topic	Description	Year
<b>INS WG</b>	<b>ANRE (Morocco)</b>	Design and implementation of the NRA	Study visit (including conclusion summary) on the design and implementation of the newly Established NRA	2020
	<b>EgyptEra (Egypt)</b>	Guidelines for investment planning	Study visit (including conclusion summary) to two regulators (one European and one Non-European) to gather information on the most effective way to structure guidelines for approving investment planning.	2020
	<b>LCEC (Lebanon)</b>	Interconnections with neighboring systems	In coordination with the ELE WG, an expert mission on the different arrangements for interconnections and energy trading with neighboring	2020

<sup>3</sup> In green are the activities for 2020

Working Group	Member	Topic	Description	Year
			systems (regional infrastructures and regional markets) will be achieved. The objective of the expert mission is to introduce Lebanese stakeholders to the best European practices related to the different arrangements for interconnections	
	<b>EMRC (Jordan)</b>	Design and implementation of regulation for gas sector	In coordination with the GAS WG, a report focussing on the best available practice in the Euro Mediterranean area that deal with regulation of the gas market and consequent gradual opening of the gas sector in Jordan will be established.	2021
	<b>EgyptEra (Egypt)</b>	Ex-ante regulatory indicators and definition of market design phases	This Study will focus on the efficient definition of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to monitor and assess the evolution for the implementation of market design phases.	2022
<b>ELE WG</b>	<b>PERC (Palestine) possible joint initiative with the participation of PUA (Israel)</b>	Investment in infrastructure (in transmission and distribution network)	Study to tackle infrastructure investment in electricity transmission and distribution networks in Palestine	2020
	<b>LCEC (Lebanon)</b>	Interconnections with neighboring systems	Expert mission on the different arrangements for interconnections and energy trading with neighboring systems (regional infrastructures and regional markets).	2020
	<b>PUA (Israel)</b>	Congestion management and transmission rights	Study organised to identify main the regulatory principles and best practice to assess congestion management and allocation of transmission rights	2021
	<b>EgyptEra (Egypt)</b>	Ex-ante regulatory indicators and definition of market design phases	This Study will focus on the efficient definition of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to monitor and assess the evolution for the implementation of market design phases.	2022
<b>GAS WG</b>	<b>GASREG (Egypt)</b>	Development and implementation of TPA rules and activities	Study Visit to 2 NRAs (1 EU and 1 Non-EU) to identify market monitoring role, activities and processes in the newly opened Egyptian as market	2020

Working Group	Member	Topic	Description	Year
	<b>EMRC (Jordan)</b>	Design and implementation of regulation for gas sector	Report focussing on the best available practice in the Euro Mediterranean area that deal with regulation of the gas market and consequent gradual opening of the gas sector in Jordan	2021
	<b>ARH (Algeria)</b>	Optimization of the natural gas transportation network and determination of NG wholesale price	Specific study visits to 2 NRAs (1 European and 1 non-European) to illustrate the best practices developed define, remunerate and monitor natural gas transmission network.	2022
<b>RES WG</b>	<b>LCEC (Lebanon)</b>	Ensuring transparency and accountability in setting up renewable energy auctions and bids	Peer review and possible study visit to study the following aspects: 1. Ensuring transparency in renewable energy bids; 2. Ensuring accountability in renewable energy bids.	2020
	<b>Tunisian Energy Ministry</b>	Determinants of RES investments (Incentives schemes) and Impact of new RES capacity on energy systems	High level workshop to identify and discuss the regulatory tools to attract RES investments Technical workshop on the impact of sustained RES penetration on electricity systems.	2020
	<b>Pooling ANRE (Morocco) LCEC (Lebanon) EMRC (Jordan)</b>	Analyse mechanisms to promote low carbon innovation and market design principles to support energy transition	Workshop to discuss different mechanisms in use in the Mediterranean countries and effective market design to promote RES penetration and low carbon transition in a cost-effective way.	2021
	<b>PUA (Israel)</b>	Energy storage & demand management	Study Visit to two regulators (one European and one Non-European) to gather information on the most effective way to define the legal framework for energy storage and demand management.	2022
<b>CUS WG</b>	<b>EMRC (Jordan)</b>	Improve quality of consumer service	A peer review assessment of the current status of the quality of services and of the regulatory and legislative act in place in Jordan.	2020
	<b>CREG (Algeria)</b>	Quality of service monitoring tools and methodology for the regulated electricity and gas distribution activity	Study visit dedicated to identify the main tools to improve the quality of service provided to consumers.	2021

Working Group	Member	Topic	Description	Year
<b>UFM (MEDREG Secretariat &amp; ELE WG)</b>			<b>Activity:</b> Institutional partnership to provide technical input to support and develop UfM REM platform. Regional integration: sub-regional regulatory convergence. To be carried out with Med-TSO.	2020
			<b>Activity:</b> Cross-border coordination for interconnection capacity development. Fostering market integration via new investments requires a strong cross-border coordination in terms of project design and long term planning. This activity will focus on cross-border procedures to implement between regulators for a successful investment process. To be carried out with Med-TSO.	2021
			<b>Activity:</b> Cross Links Between the UfM Energy Platforms. To be carried out with Med-TSO.	2022