The European Union and the Mediterranean partners rely on each other to guarantee energy security, prosperity and a healthy environment, while also fighting climate change together.

Jean-Marie Frentz, Programme Manager at the EU Delegation in Damascus

Renewable energy

Energy efficiency in the construction sector in the Mediterranean

MED-ENEC Programme

Context

Reducing energy consumption is a key objective in the battle against climate change. Best practices in energy efficiency construction must therefore be established. Strengthening business services and supporting markets, improving institutional capacities and establishing favourable institutional structures as well as fiscal and economic instruments would also lead to more efficient energy use and consumption.

Objective

- Encourage energy efficiency and the use of solar energy in the construction sector
- Raise public awareness and involve civil society in climate-oriented building techniques, energy efficiency and renewable energy use in buildings
- Design and implement cooperation efforts between the EU and its Mediterranean Partners and among the Partners themselves

Impact

- Integration of energy efficient techniques in small residential buildings in Souidania (Algeria), Aqaba (Jordan), and Rabat (Morocco).
- Large residential buildings in Ramallah (Palestinian National Authority), Damascus (Syria), Gebze (Turkey), Sakhim (Israel), Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt), Zgharta (Lebanon) and Tunisia.
- Agreements with public and private bodies with the aim of developing energy efficiency schemes.

For more information: http://www.med-enec.com
Youth housing project in Damascus: a combined inspiration from the past in a visionary project

“What could be better than saving money on heating, cooling and hot water bills? It’s like a dream comes true when you compare with what we used to pay, especially given the cost of living today.” As she speaks, Yara Abdo, a young engineer, looks up towards a new building of the EU-backed Youth Housing Project in a Damascus suburb. 30 low-income young Syrian people will have the opportunity to settle in this model building. Savings of 80% on the energy used to heat water, and 50% of the energy consumed in heating and cooling systems are the direct benefits.

“"The overall energy concept is based on passive building design measures combined with new energy efficient technologies and the use of renewable energies"”, explained Dr Safwan Al Assaf, General Director of the General Company for Engineering Studies and Consulting (GCEC), which carried out the project study.

“We’re all in the same boat, that is why we need to keep up our efforts in saving energy and reducing energy inefficiency,” said Jean-Marie Frentz, Programme Manager at the European Union Delegation in Damascus, explaining the EU’s support to the project.