

Press Release



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New Project Launched to Support Innovative and Cost-Effective Energy Rehabilitation in Public Buildings

A project coordinated by the FOSS Research Centre for Sustainable Energy of the University of Cyprus



A new partnership that brings together four Mediterranean countries, Cyprus, Greece, Israel and Italy has been launched for the implementation of a new project entitled “**Cost-effective rehabilitation of public buildings into smart and resilient nano-grids using storage (Acronym: BERLIN)**”. The project is funded by the

European Union under the **ENI CBC Med Programme**, the largest Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) initiative funded under the European Neighbourhood Instrument bringing together the coastal territories of 14 countries in view of fostering fair, equitable development on both sides of the Mediterranean (Med).

The project is coordinated by FOSS, Research Centre for Sustainable Energy of the University of Cyprus and the partners are the University of Western Macedonia, Municipality of Eilat, University of Cagliari, Ben Gurion University, Deloitte Limited and Hevel Eilat Regional Council. Associated partners to the project are The Municipality of Kozani, Regione Autonoma della Sardegna and Municipality of Ussaramanna. The total project funding is €2.868.267 with EU to finance the amount of €2.581.440 (90% funding level).

BERLIN aims to implement cross-border pilot measures to support innovative and cost-effective energy rehabilitations in public buildings based on the nanogrid concept, the building block for smart micro-grids. The project focuses on increasing grid penetration, combined with energy storage and demand-side management, along with enhancement of energy efficiency in buildings. The goal is to reach high levels of self-resilience in public buildings and to make them greener, smarter, more innovative and sustainable. The project will implement eight energy rehabilitation pilots, which bring effectively together photovoltaic, energy storage, smart grid elements, home automation, etc. to achieve a self-sufficient nano-grid.

The outcomes of the project are expected to be multifold. Firstly, the energy consumption and CO₂ emissions at the pilot sites is expected to be reduced. Secondly, the project aspires to foster replication in other Mediterranean/EU regions and to enhance interest and capacity of public authorities in building energy retrofits. Further, the project aims to encourage a widespread policy adoption for high photovoltaic grid penetration and high levels of self-sufficiency in buildings. It will boost SMEs competitiveness, R&D

growth, and investments in photovoltaic grid integration, as well as interest from local building professionals to train in new innovations for high efficient buildings, and business and job opportunities in building retrofitting.

The project's kick off meeting was successfully held on the 24th of October 2019 in Limassol, Cyprus. A press conference followed on the 25th of October at the University of Cyprus in Nicosia, Cyprus. The aim of the press conference was to announce the project's kick-off and to communicate its objectives, expected achievements, and opportunities. The Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of Cyprus Shmuel (Sammy) Revel, the Head of the Greek Embassy's Office for Economic and Commercial Affairs Mrs Yiouli Boyatzopoulou, a representative of the Italian Embassy's Cultural and Commercial Office Mr Rocco Pace and representatives from the local media attended the press conference.

For more information, you may contact the project coordinator Professor George E. Georghiou, Director of FOSS Research Centre for Sustainable Energy, on +357 22 892272 or navigate to the project webpage <http://www.enicbmed.eu/projects/berlin>.

Stay tuned with all the upcoming activities of the project by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the ENI CBC Med Programme

ENI CBC Med Programme is the largest multilateral initiative for cross-border cooperation (CBC) in the Mediterranean area. The Programme has a budget of €209 million and is funded by the European Union under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

The Programme aims to finance cooperation projects jointly implemented by public and private organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean in fields such as business development, sustainable tourism, technology transfer and innovation, social inclusion, water and waste management, energy efficiency, etc.

ENI CBC Med is managed the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy) on behalf the European Commission and the 14 participating countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia).



Disclaimer: This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union under the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of University of Cyprus and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or the Programme management structure.

End of announcement