



The Maghreb

Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Solar Thermal Energy

Objective	The project's objectives are to further develop the quality infrastructure for solar thermal energy in the Maghreb countries and to improve its cooperation with training institutes. Consequently, quality assurance services for solar thermal energy systems will be provided to institutes responsible for the implementation of promotion programmes and to the companies of this sector.	
Approach	<p>The partner countries of the project are Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. The project is composed of four intervention fields: supporting the improvement of conformity tests for solar water heating systems according to international standards; improving the metrological traceability in this field; supporting the selection of a certification system for solar water heaters; and supporting university institutes with regard to education of quality infrastructure in the solar energy sector.</p> <p>The project's activities include the training of personnel and management staff at the participating institutes (technology centres, calibration and testing facilities, standardization bodies) and the provision of technical advice by regional and international experts. In this way, the practical knowledge is transmitted and the partners supported in its practical implementation.</p> <p>Involving all partners in the specialized measures organized at the regional level allows not only knowledge to be gained but also links established within the scope of the previous project to be reinforced in order to strengthen regional exchange.</p>	
Impact	Due to the availability of competent experts, as well as reliable measuring instruments and approved testing services, customers' confidence in solar thermal energy will be increased. In addition, by choosing a certification system – ideally, one harmonized at the regional level – the basis for an increased market transparency regarding the quality of solar water heating systems will be formed. As a result, more will make use of support programmes for solar water heaters, and the demand for those systems will increase. The replacement of conventional systems with solar water heaters will help to reduce CO ₂ emissions and increase the percentage of renewable energy sources in this region. The strengthening of infrastructure and quality assurance will help to increase the durability of solar water heating systems, also improving their environmental balance to a greater extent. University graduates who have specialized in this sector will have improved their chances of successfully holding a skilled job. At the same time, they will integrate the aspects of quality assurance even further into their work, thus contributing to higher product and service quality. The strengthening of the quality infrastructure will also help to improve the competitiveness of the solar energy sector in this region and increase salaries.	
Cooperation	The project is being realized in close cooperation with other institutes of German technical cooperation, especially with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).	
Financing	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	
Term	2016 – 2020	
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