

Background

The EU-GCC Clean Energy Network, funded by the European Union, initiated its activities in 2010, as a response to the common EU GCC interest for strategic clean energy cooperation. The Network is designed to act as a catalyst and element of coordination for the development of cooperation on clean energy, including the related policy and technology aspects among various stakeholders in the EU and GCC countries. At this stage, the activities of the Network need to be further developed and should aim to become sustainable over the mid-term.

With these objectives in mind, the European Union launched the "EU GCC Clean Energy Network II" (CENII) project. The overall objective of the project is to enhance EU-GCC energy relations by developing new appropriate structures and instruments and by maintaining existing ones for practical cooperation activities of mutual interest in the area of clean energy. Hence, building on the achievements of the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network since 2010, the project is necessary to further the cooperation opportunities in the energy sector.

An important operational element of the Network is the working groups that are established to examine opportunities and further develop cooperation in the areas of: 1) Renewable Energy Sources; 2) Energy Efficiency & Demand Side Management; 3) Clean Natural Gas & related Clean Technologies; 4) Electricity Interconnections & Market Integration; 5) Carbon Capture & Storage. Climate change aspects will be considered across all 5 topics.

Scope of work

The EU-GCC CEN II will continue to focus on clean energy through:

- ✓ Exchange of experiences and know-how as well as sharing of best practices;
- ✓ Coordination and promotion of joint actions between the EU and GCC stakeholders;
- ✓ Facilitation of joint research, demonstration and development, including through joint projects, of clean energy technologies in the GCC countries;
- ✓ Provision of targeted inputs to the existing and possible future policy dialogues between the EU-GCC in the relevant sectors, and in particular on energy, climate change and environment;
- ✓ The website which will promote discussion, dialogue and collaboration among EU and GCC stakeholders on technology, research and policy aspects of clean energy, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction.



Stakeholders

The stakeholders from both regions participating in the Network include, inter alia, energy-related research entities, universities, administrations, utilities, industry, policy makers and relevant stakeholders from the energy and climate change sectors as appropriate. Even if the dialogue is primarily established at a regional level, the Network will include exchanges at bilateral level in order to share best practices in a better and more efficient way and identify new fields of cooperation in the clean energy domain.

Expected Results

- ✓ A strengthened Network of GCC and EU entities practically promoting cooperation between the two regions in the area of clean energy and the related technologies and supporting ongoing policy dialogues on energy and climate change issues.
- ✓ Increased cooperation and working contacts between EU and GCC entities active in clean energy and climate change.
- ✓ Successful development of joint research activities.
- ✓ Increased knowledge and information exchange between the EU and GCC participants on possibilities for cooperation and joint projects in energy, including through the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020.
- ✓ Active dissemination of information about the Network's activities and achievements in the field of clean energy, including in the context of related climate change policies and efforts.

EU Consortium

KOMIS (Belgium) -Coordinator
ICCS of the National Technical University of Athens (Greece)
FICHTNER (Germany)
Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands ECN
Centre for European Policy Studies CEPS (Belgium)
National Renewable Energy Centre of Spain CENER.

Project Office:

CENII project is establishing its main office in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Project Key Experts Team:

Frank Wouters, Team Leader,
Mustapha Taoumi, Energy Technology Expert,
Ioanna Makarouni, Communication and Events Management Expert