

“the exchange of knowledge between both programmes can contribute to propose a solution for energy efficiency adapted to the Mediterranean climate”. Anna Mestre.



Date of the Interview: 17th of December 2012

Interview to: Anna Mestre, Marta Arrufi and Cristina Cardenete (RELS Project-ENPI CBC MED) and Xavier Martí (MARIE Project-MED).

Interviewer: Mercedes Acitores (Liaison Office MED-ENPI CBC MED)

*Liaison Office MED:* RELS, an ENPI CBC MED project related to energy efficiency in buildings also participated in the MEDBEE forum held in Brussels last November. What did it mean for RELS to participate in the MEDBEE Forum? What did you learn?

*Marta Arrufi (RELS-ENPI CBC MED project):* MEDBEE Forum is a platform for Mediterranean building rethinking for energy efficiency improvement and it was organized by two MED Strategic projects very much related to RELS. It was particularly important to participate in the debate between the different DG's of EU Commission, EIB, EU regions, member states and municipalities concerning Energy Efficiency in buildings. Indeed, learning about other projects and having the opportunity to share experiences and their experiences is very valuable. This added value is increased due to the direct participation of the Housing Agency of Catalonia in MARIE projects meetings and the presentation of RELS activities in one of the MARIEs pilot projects meetings. The inputs of MEDFORUM and synergies with MARIE- ELIHMED projects have contributed to the enrichment of RELS tasks implementation, and it will also contribute to the improvement of RELS products and results.

*Liaison Office MED:* Since both projects MARIE and RELS are working very closely, could you tell me the benefits of in cooperating MED and ENPI projects? DO you find it necessary?

*Anna Mestre (RELS-ENPI CBC MED project):* Of course, the exchange of knowledge between both programmes can contribute to propose a solution for energy efficiency adapted to the Mediterranean climate. Working together, will help to develop new techniques more adapted to local and traditional knowhow. In what energy efficiency in residential buildings concerns, the climate approach (Mediterranean countries) is more accurate than the European EU approach. The climate factor is the main element to improve energy efficiency in buildings. It is also important other factors like construction practices and cultural specifications. RELS pilot projects are taking advantage from the strategic point of view of MARIE project, for instance: RELS is testing public-private partnership strategies in its pilots (ESCOs model). This is one of the financial mechanisms that MARIE propose to solve financial barriers of energy renovation in buildings, due to lack investment capacity of public sector.



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*Liaison Office MED:* RELS, MARIE and ELIH MED are working very closely, are there any actions overlapping? Which are your complementarities?

*Xavier Marti (MARIE-MED project):* All these 3 projects are complementary. While MARIE is more strategic, as it is a project which rethinks to improve the current energy efficiency in Mediterranean buildings, analyzing this sector from different points of view, legal, entrepreneurial, technical. ELIH MED and RELS are more focused on social and low income housing, ELIH MED is carrying out pilot actions in private homes and seeking for new financing formats while RELS analyses the state of the art in energy efficiency in an Euromediterranean basis, developing networks, sharing best practices among Mediterranean countries (EU and participating) training experiences...What do we all have in common, together with PROFIRBIOMED, another MED strategic project in biomass? Making a sustainable and efficient use of energy in buildings

*Liaison Office MED:* Have RELS project planned any event together with the MED Strategic projects?

RELS will participate in the first capitalization meeting with Spanish partners of ELIH-MED, MARIE and PROFORBIOMED. This meeting will be held in Valencia the 1st march 2013 and is included in a common capitalization process that will be concluded in a general meeting foreseen September -October 2013 in Slovenia. This final capitalization meeting will be very useful to prepare a 2nd draft of the common policy paper prepared by MARIE and ELIHMED “Improving MED transnational cooperation answers to energy efficiency challenge in buildings”. This second draft will include all the experiences achieved in the development of pilot activities of MARIE, ELIH-MED, PROFORBIOMED and RELS.

