



News from the Africa-EU Energy Partnership

June 2017

Dear readers,

The energy and development sector in Africa is currently in an exciting time! Increased international attention to sustainable energy has brought with it a myriad of new discussions, new partners and a renewed impetus for existing programmes to continue on the important work to develop sustainable energy systems in Africa. Given this dynamic landscape, the AEEP Secretariat is happy to present to you the first of a series of newsletters featuring highlights and information on the most important developments in the cooperation between EU and Africa in the energy and development sector.

We hope that this will keep you informed and engaged in the vibrancy of energy discussions and engagement between Africa and Europe!

Kind regards

David Otieno, Head of AEEP Secretariat

Overarching Topics:

International Community Focuses in on Energy in Africa: In 2016/2017 many international political leaders have sent a strong message that securing a sustainable energy future, particularly in Africa, is a key priority from both the development and climate viewpoints. The AEEP actively contributed to both the [G7 Energy Ministerial](#) as well as the [G20 Africa Partnership Conference](#), which similarly concluded that increasing investment in sustainable energy systems in Africa is a development priority. We are further looking forward to the COP23, where important African-led initiatives (e.g. [AREI](#)) and key partners will continue discussions towards expediting investments in the sustainable energy sector.

Revision of the AEEP 2020 Targets: In acknowledgement of the progress and even achievement of some of the AEEP's 2020 political Targets, the Partnership is in the process of reviewing its targets to align them with other major initiatives and commitments such as the SDGs, SEforALL and commitments under the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative. To read more about the AEEP 2020 Targets, click [here](#).

Upcoming AU-EU Summit: Planned to take place in Abidjan on the 29th and 30th of November 2017, the AU-EU Summits of Heads of State and Governments take place every three years alternately in Africa and Europe. These Summits take stock of the progress made in the implementation of commitments made and provide political guidance for further work. The central theme for this year's Summit will be 'Youth', which has become key priority for Europe as well as Africa, in a context of African demographic trends creating major challenges for young people in terms of migration, security and employment. Energy will play a central role in addressing the challenges facing the Youth via increased investments in the energy sector leading to enhanced job creation. To read more about the AU-EU Summit, click [here](#).

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African Union Commission Welcomes New Commissioner of Infrastructure and Energy: The AEEP warmly welcomes H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid as the new Commissioner of Infrastructure and Energy. To read the full press release from the AUC, click [here](#).

Reference Group on Infrastructure Meeting in Brussels: The European Commission in partnership with the AUC hosted the annual Reference Group on Infrastructure (RGI) meeting in Brussels April 24th and 25th. The RGI provided an opportunity for all partnerships on the topics of energy, water, transport and ICT to come together to discuss strategic directions for the coming year. Click [here](#) to read more details and the outcome of the event.

Conclusions from the SEforALL Africa Hub Forum: Held in Abidjan from the 29th to 30th of March, the theme for the workshop was *Joining forces for universal energy access in Africa*. Over 100 stakeholders gathered to take stock of current progress towards SEforALL objectives, share best practices and implementation structures at the national level, and discuss how to coordinate various energy sector initiatives to improve efficacy and complementarity. To read the full workshop summary, click [here](#).

News from the AEEP Secretariat

Highlights

AEEP at the G7 Energy Ministerial: In the framework of the G7 Energy Ministerial Meeting and under the auspices of the Italian G7 Presidency, Enel Foundation, RES4Africa and the AEEP hosted a side-event focusing specifically on accelerating sustainable energy access in Africa. The Communique of the event was then brought to the Energy Ministers of the G7, urging for an increase in investment and focus on capacity building in order to facilitate the transition to a clean energy economy in Africa. Click [here](#) to learn more about the event and read the [Communique](#).

AEEP's Youth Programme Gaining Momentum: In line with the [African Union Commission's Year of Youth](#), the AEEP continues to engage with African and European Youth to bring their voices to high-level policy makers in order to ensure a sustainable energy future for both continents. Most recently, the AEEP's Energy Access Work Stream awarded five Young Leaders for their outstanding contributions to improving sustainable energy access in their communities. To meet the Young Leaders, click [here](#).

Next Steps for AEEP and SEforALL Africa Hub's "Mapping of Energy Initiatives and Programmes in Africa" Report: Following the release of the AEEP's [Mapping of Energy Initiatives and Programmes](#) report in 2016 in Milan at the [Second Stakeholder Forum](#), sector stakeholders gathered at the [SEforALL Africa Workshop](#) to discuss next steps of the mapping exercise as a key input to coordination in the energy and development sector in Africa. Stakeholders agreed that the AEEP in coordination with AREI and SEforALL should continue this exercise by digitizing the data in a user-friendly interface, as well as including bilateral and national country data, making use of SEforALL data and country focal points.

Activities Update

Progress from the AEEP's Work Streams: The AEEP's Work Streams have exciting new activities that they are working on under the guidance of the AEEP Secretariat: The Energy Access Work Stream is currently planning a training at the CLUB ER General Assembly in September, while the Energy Efficiency Work Stream is making significant progress on developing a resource for multi-sector stakeholders to engage in energy efficiency in Africa. For more information on the AEEP's Work Streams, click [here](#).

Study on Energy at the Regional Economic Communities: In collaboration with the AUC, the AEEP is currently conducting a survey of energy at the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their subsidiary organizations such as power pools, regulator associations and energy centres of excellence. The resulting report is expected to feed in to a platform for knowledge exchange between the RECs and their energy organizations.

News from the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP)

RECP's Finance Catalyst Service Taking Off: Out of more than 180 applicants, 35 renewable energy projects are currently receiving advisory services from the Finance Catalyst, representing a broad mix of business models including on-grid RE power generation, commercial and industrial clients, mini-grids, and solar home system / PAYGO. If only 50% of the projects materialise, they would represent approximately 517 million € investment volume and an estimated 300 MW installed capacity, 2,700,000 million energy end-users with improved access to energy, as well as more than 675,000 tCO₂e in greenhouse gas emission reduction annually. To learn more about the Finance Catalyst Service and how you can apply, click [here](#).

Lively Discussions at the Energy Access Investment Forum: The RECP supported the [Alliance for Rural Electrification](#) in organising the Forum which included a structured match-making session, focused investment pitches for specific market opportunities and lively discussions triggered by more than 500 B2B meetings. Participants indicated that the Forum provided an ideal framework for creating new business partnerships and investment opportunities, and plan to follow up on these engagements. For more information on the event, click [here](#).

RECP Hosts Trade Missions to Rwanda, Uganda and Nigeria: 283 participants from European and African companies participated in the RECP trade missions focusing on solar energy and small-scale hydro power in Rwanda and Uganda, and on solar and biomass energy in Nigeria. The programme consisted of exchanges with government representatives, match-making between European and African entrepreneurs, thematic sessions, as well as site visits. To learn more about the programme and opportunities to attend future trade missions, click [here](#).

Learn More About Doing Business in Africa: The RECP is currently compiling a set of doing-business guides which will analyse specific market segments and opportunities, including model business cases, for several of its focus countries. More information is accessible [here](#).

Science & Business Slam at the African Network for Solar Energy (ANSOLE) Days 2017: The RECP organised on this occasion the third RECP and UniPID Science and Business Slam, where six young and upcoming African and European professionals were invited to pitch their ideas on solar energy

applications to an expert audience and committee. More information on the event can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events

- ▶ Congress on "New Energy for Africa: Cooperative – Decentralized – Renewable", 27 June in Berlin, Germany | [Event link](#)
- ▶ High Level Conference of the Global Geothermal Alliance, 11-12 September in Florence, Italy | [Event link](#)
- ▶ RES4Africa Programme Launch in Ethiopia, 3-4 October, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | [Event link](#)
- ▶ Sustainable Energy for Africa, 23–25 October in Brussels, Belgium | [Event link](#)
- ▶ COP23, 6–17 November in Bonn, Germany | [Event link](#)
- ▶ AU-EU Summit, 29–30 November in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire | [Event link](#)
- ▶ RES4Africa RES-EXPO 2017, 4–9 December in Nairobi, Kenya | [Event link](#)
- ▶ Africa-EU Renewable Energy Research & Innovation Symposium (RERIS), 23–26 January 2018 in Maseru, Lesotho | [Event link](#)

The work of the AEEP Secretariat is steered by the AEEP co-chairs, the European Commission (EC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Egypt, Italy, Germany, and the African Union Commission (AUC).

