

## News from the Africa-EU Energy Partnership

January-February 2018

*Dear readers,*

*As the New Year 2018 begins, the Africa-EU Energy Partnership reflects on an eventful and successful year 2017, and looks ahead for an eventful year ahead. Last year remained a significant year to the partnership as it marked a decade of successful cooperation and significant achievements in the energy sector between Africa and Europe.*

*Although there is evidence that good progress has been made in the last 10 years, still lots of work remains to be done in order to keep pace with the growing economies and populations of both Europe and Africa, as well as the ever-changing landscape.*

*In this edition of the newsletter, we will focus on the achievements before the year-end, particularly the 6<sup>th</sup> Europe-Africa Business Forum (EABF) held in the sidelines of the 5<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. We would like to thank all those who participated and made the event a success, and hope to continue to engage with more stakeholders in the energy and development sectors in the New Year 2018!*

*Finally, after close to 6 years in EUEI PDF and the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, I have announced to our [Steering Group members](#) that I will be stepping down as Head of the Secretariat to pursue further career perspectives. This newsletter offers me the opportunity to say goodbye and to thank you very much for the excellent cooperation throughout the years. Since it is a small world and the sector not so big, I am confident we shall meet in one of the occasions!*

*Sincerely,*

*David Otieno, Head of AEEP Secretariat*

### Overarching Topics:

**AU-EU Summit:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Union-European Union Summit was held on the 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. African and European Heads of States and Governments representatives from the European Council, European Commission, African Union and the African Union Commission were present to dialogue under the broad topic ‘*Investing in youth for accelerated inclusive growth and sustainable development*’. To show commitment, the leaders adopted a [joint declaration](#) with the objective of bringing concrete benefits to young populations and future generations.

**AEEP at the EU Africa Business Forum:** In the sidelines of the AU-EU summit, the 6<sup>th</sup> EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) concluded a series of business-related events held across Africa and Europe in preparation of the 5<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit in late November. In the sidelines of the EABF’s Sustainable Energy track, the Africa-EU Energy Partnership presented 10 years of successful cooperation on energy development in Africa. Besides the anniversary celebration, the audience engaged in



discussions on “How to Enable and Leverage Investments in Sustainable Energy in Africa” and “Unlocking Investment for Regional Infrastructure to Accelerate Job Creation” under the auspices of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). More information and conclusions of the Sustainable Energy track is available on this [link](#).

## News from the AEEP Secretariat

### Highlights

**Launch of the AEEP Success Stories:** AEEP has continued her agenda setter role by contributing to the continued dialogue on advancing sustainable energy development in Africa. To highlight the AEEPs contribution, a success story publication has been launched featuring areas such as role played in ensuring regional momentum, private sector engagement, harmonisation and coordination of energy initiatives in Africa, Youth programme, as well as looking ahead at future opportunities for the Partnership. A copy of the success story publication is available [here](#).

**AEEP Status report 2017-2018 and future perspective:** In order to focus on harmonising the various targets on energy in Africa (eg SDG7, SEforAll, AREI, among others), AEEP concluded the series of monitoring reports of the achievement of the 2020 political targets by releasing the 2017-2018 status report at the sidelines of the AU-EU Summit in Abidjan. In the report, AEEP provides a final update on the progress made towards achieving the set targets as well as future perspectives in terms of harmonisation, but also innovative next steps. A copy of the status report 2017-2018 is available [here](#).

**AEEP Youth Programme:** Youth agenda remains at the center of EU and Africa cooperation. Since the inception of the AEEP youth programme, young enthusiastic stakeholders have sustained AEEP activities. Present at the EABF were some of the AEEP’s Young Journalists who covered the event and reported back in their home capitals. We also showcased the work of AEEP’s Young Leaders by giving them a chance on a high level panel session. As the voice of the future, AEEP works to ensure the inclusion of youth in all its activities. For more details on the youth programme, click [here](#).

**Launch of the AEEP mapping website:** Following the launch of the Mapping report and based on the positive feedback, AEEP and SEforALL Africa Hub at the African Development Bank are moving a step higher by digitalising the mapping energy initiatives and programmes in Africa. This has been made possible by setting up a user-friendly mapping portal (website); hence ensure a continuously updated database that is easily accessible information to contribute to the coordination agenda in the sector thereby leverage synergies and address key gaps in the market. For more details, click [here](#).

### Activities Update

**Fostering the promotion of AEEP through social media:** Social media serves an increasing mechanism in which to reach out to a vast audience. To further promote the AEEP activities, the secretariat continues to disseminate information through its social media channels (twitter, web, YouTube, etc.). To celebrate the 10 years of AEEP, a series of testimonials and voices of our stakeholders videos were released on YouTube to highlight the achievements of the partnership so far and the journey AEEP has made so far. The videos are available [here](#).



**RES4Africa conference in Kenya:** On January 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2018 the RES4Africa Conference “*Renewable Energy in East-Africa: New Frontiers*” took place at the Strathmore University in Nairobi, Kenya. The regional conference was organised in collaboration with the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP). In addition to intensifying the EU-Africa dialogue on renewable energies, RES4Africa presented the renewable grid integration study and launched the Micro-Grid Academy, two concrete outcomes from the 2016 RES4Africa launch. For more information about the event, click [here](#).

**Progress from the AEEP’s Energy Efficiency Work Stream:** Thematic workstreams of the AEEP have continued to engage and activate the non-state actors to action. The actors under the AEEP’s Energy Efficiency work stream have been closely working together on an interactive matrix and segmentation to better define and understand the sector. This is expected to allow expanding networks and outreach on the topic of energy efficiency and further cooperation between Africa and Europe. The final version was presented at the RES4Africa event held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> January in Nairobi, Kenya. For details on AEEPs Thematic Work Streams, follow the [link](#).

**AFREC Training workshop:** The African Energy Commission (AFREC) in partnership with the African Union and the International Energy Agency (IEA) organised a training workshop on the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in Morocco. The workshop covered the regional training on data collection and creation of the African energy efficiency indicators database, evaluating data from Morocco, Gambia, Namibia, South Sudan and Egypt. Present at the workshop were representatives from the public sector, the private sector and AEEP. For more about the training workshop, click [here](#).

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

**RECP Finance Catalyst reopens for business:** After having selected 35 projects out of over 240 applications, the RECP Finance Catalyst had reached its capacity limit in November 2017. Based on additional funding RECP received from the European Commission and the German Federal Government, the Finance Catalyst has officially opened for business again in January 2018. We therefore welcome all interested parties to submit corresponding applications for support. More information on the Finance Catalyst can be accessed [here](#).

**RECP, ARE & RES4Africa are convening the off-grid sector:** Following the very successful cooperation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ARE Energy Access Investment Forum in 2016 and 2017, ARE and RECP are once again joining forces to organize the 4<sup>th</sup> ARE Energy Access Investment Forum 2018 in Sicily, Italy. In addition, ARE has collaborated with RES4Africa to co-host the event, thereby further elevating the profile of the conference. RECP will again contribute to the conference with a matchmaking session as well as various sessions during day 2 of the conference. More information can be found [here](#).

**RECP promoting research cooperation on renewable energy:** RECP and the National University of Lesotho (NUL) have jointly organised the second Africa-EU Symposium on Renewable Energy Research and Innovation (RERIS 2018) from the 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Maseru, Lesotho. Leading scientists and experts presented ongoing research and innovations, highlighting opportunities for cooperation between the two continents. On this occasion, a new Master’s Programme in Sustainable Energy, which was developed with support from RECP. More information on the event can be found [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

- ▶ Africa–EU Renewable Energy Research and Innovation Symposium (RERIS). 23-26 January 2018, Maseru, Lesotho | [Event link](#)
- ▶ Regional Energy Co-operation Summit. 24-25 January 2018, Abidjan, Ivory Coast | [Event link](#)
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Energy Forum: Off the Grid. 6-8 February 2018, Kampala, Uganda | [Event link](#)
- ▶ Making Solar Bankable. 15-16 February 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands | [Event link](#)
- ▶ Solutions for Africa and Exhibition. 20-21 February 2018, Johannesburg, South Africa | [Event link](#)
- ▶ Global SDG 7 Conference. 21-23 February 2018, Bangkok, Thailand | [Event link](#)
- ▶ The 5<sup>th</sup> Independent Power Producers and Power Purchase Agreements Conference, 22 February 2018. Johannesburg, South Africa | [Event link](#)
- ▶ Powering Africa: Summit. 28 February-2 March 2018, Washington, D.C, USA | [Event link](#)
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> ARE Energy Access Investment Forum. 13-15 March 2018, Viagrande–Catania, Sicily, Italy | [Event link](#)
- ▶ UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development: Voice of the Global South. 27-29 June 2018, Lausanne, Switzerland | [Event link](#)



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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).