

Energy and climate in the MENA: Youth perspective to a sustainable future

Amman: 17th of November 2019

Through a joint effort between the Climate and Energy regional project at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and Germanwatch gathered together young people from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and encouraged them to engage in climate and energy policy issues. These young participants presented a policy paper reflecting their perspective to a sustainable future.

Thanks to several training programs, young participants from 10 countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) were able to learn about energy issues and develop a common policy paper on their visions for their region's energy future. FES brought those young participants with experts from the energy sector in Jordan in an interactive panel to share the vision of youth and the plans of policymakers on the socially just "*Energiewende*" or energy transition.

The policy paper titled: "Energy & Climate in the MENA Region Youth Perspective to a Sustainable Future" is not only an opportunity for its young authors to present their views but also a chance for decision-makers to learn firsthand about the energy future their young citizens envision for the region.

"This is part of a new generation being aware of the boundaries of our planet, but also the local problems of clean energy and droughts in the community"

(Franziska Wehinger, Director of the Regional Climate and Energy Project)

The panel discussed how the MENA region is where climate impacts are most severe. Limiting global warming and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, a priority for the majority of states worldwide, requires that almost all facets of our daily life must be restructured: water, food, buildings, transportation, global trade, etc.

The energy sector is the largest source of global GHG emissions, which causes temperatures to rise and climate change to worsen. In these circumstances, renewable energy (RE) is emerging as an alternative to traditional fossil fuels, with these sorts of technologies rapidly improving and becoming more affordable. Thus, the promotion of RE and energy efficiency (EE) is a crucial aspect of the international climate debate and many countries' national energy policies.

"Policies are the key pillar that we should rely on to improve the Jordanian energy and climate situation - and policies can only be improved with advocacy"

(Dr. Rasmi Hamzeh, CEO of the Jordan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund)

MENA region is blessed with the huge natural potential for solar and wind energy. Furthermore, this region has another important resource: a young population. To achieve a successful, fair, and complete energy transition, countries need agents of change. Moreover, a project gathering people from the entire region could enhance energy cooperation and dialogue between MENA countries.

"Energy and climate is currently one of the most important and urgent topics in the world, and through this paper we as youth work to build a better future for us, and we advocate for the importance of youth inclusion at a policy making level in energy and climate"

(Abdallah Shamali, Author of the Study)

<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/amman/15777.pdf>

About the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung:

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung is the oldest political foundation in Germany with a rich tradition dating back to its foundation in 1925, with over 100 offices around the world. Today, it remains loyal to the legacy of its namesake and campaigns for the core ideas and values of social democracy: freedom, justice and solidarity. It has a close connection to social democracy and free trade unions. The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung has 11 offices that run projects in 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region.

For more information please contact:

Ronja Schiffer, Program Manager

Email: ronja@fes-jordan.org

Phone number: 0791198505