



The Association of Environmental Justice in Israel (AEJI)
المنظمة للعدل البيئي العمومية לצדק סביבתי (ע"ר)

New Initiative

Young Climate Ambassadors in the Mediterranean Region

August 2019

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For any further info please write to office@aeji.org.il



Organization Preface

Association of Environmental Justice in Israel (AEJI) has launched new initiative for "Young Climate Ambassadors in the Mediterranean region". The initiative came up following running for 10 years Climate Justice project aimed for Research, Policy advocacy, and integrated innovative field projects.

Our Work aimed to reducing environmental gaps in shared geographical region, and this project is integrated into AEJI vision and strategy for building capacity of resilient communities to be active engaged on environment and climate crisis, and developing educational materials for establishing Climate and Environmental Leadership, specifically among peripheral society and Arab minority.

Our work is targeted 2 other frameworks:

- 1) Cross border collaboration with Palestinian and Jordanian
- 2) Mediterranean scale activity, with emphasis on North-South.

AEJI is member in few international climate working groups including gender perspective and this new platform of "Young climate Ambassadors in the Mediterranean" will present different voices, field project and share with updated scientific publications.

The initiative provides stage for local young generation in Mediterranean communities, and creating regional network for Mediterranean Climate group.

Carmit Lubanov

AEJI' Executive Director, 10th August, 2019



New Initiative

Young Climate Ambassadors in the Mediterranean Region

A. Climate Change in the Middle East and Mediterranean Region

Reviewing vast of international climate reports and climate action plans lead us to raise the following three points concerns the climate change in our region, central in conceptualizing the "Climate Ambassadors" initiative:

Climate Risks-Security - Hundreds of Millions of people live in the Middle East and South Mediterranean. As the recent IPCC report (2018)¹ has focused on the threshold of global warming to the point where irreversible catastrophic climatic changes could be prevented in our region, in a different report indicated that at the end of the summer season, where the temperature during summer is already very hot, will increase more than two times faster compared to the average global warming². In combination with increasing air pollution by desert dust as prevailing in the region, the environmental conditions could become intolerable with implications on many aspects of economy and society, especially in the field of agriculture, water shortages, food security. The Need to adjust to climate security is real and is already here.

Climate Leadership - Although the real Need to implement an ambitious climate national plan in each of the countries, and although the differences between the states, the countries in our region identified with lack of 'Climate Leadership' on the state political level and by low level of awareness by the wide public to the risks of climate change for our health and everyday life.

Climate policy and changing via behavior (behavioral economy) - Interesting to learn that although the differences between the countries in our region, there are similarities between South Mediterranean countries behave in similar economically patterns, with significant gap compared to North European countries. Please see Figure 1 below³ presents climate policy towards low carbon economy as reflected by energy performance indicators on national level. Unfortunately, the data regarding Palestine is very limited, therefore the new initiative will address the strategic Need in reducing the gap about

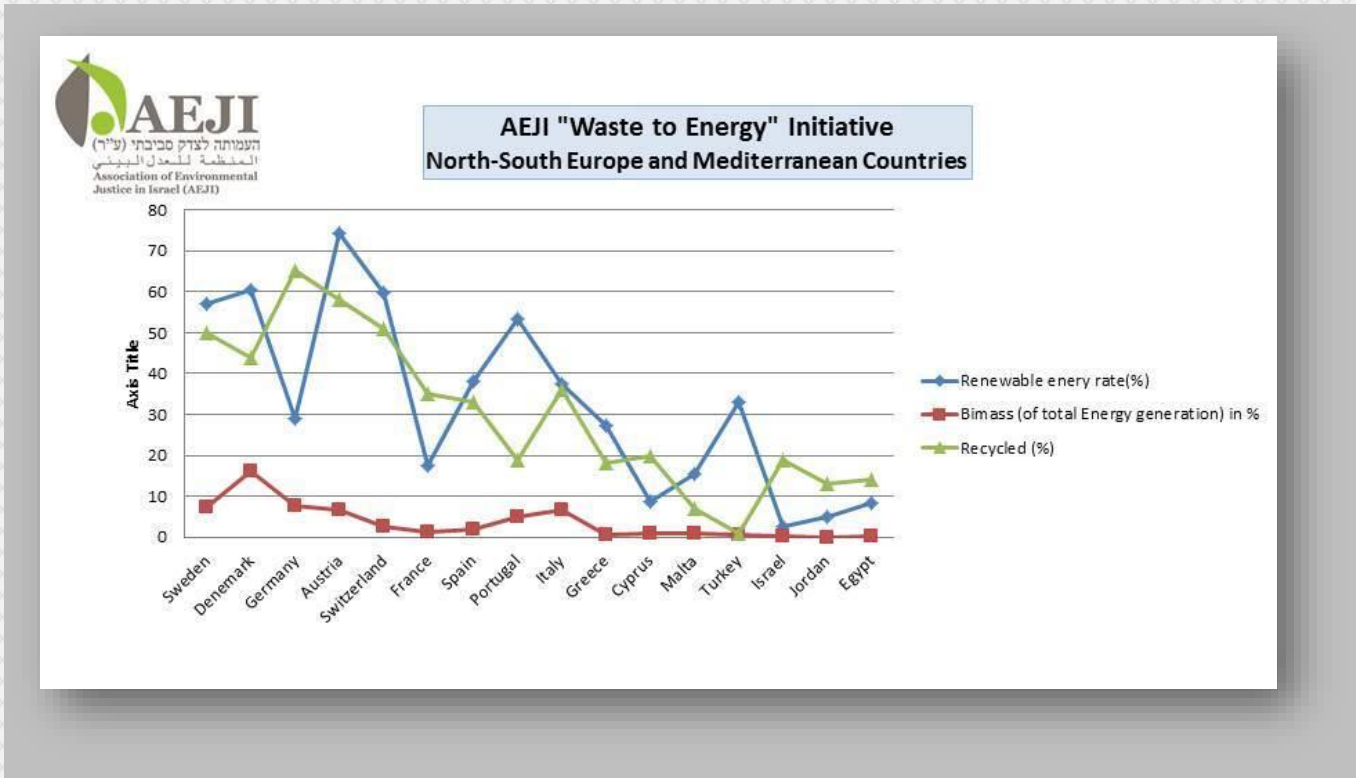
¹ IPCC report, September 2018

² Jos Lelieveld, (2016) <https://www.mpg.de/10481936/climate-change-middle-east-north-africa>

³ AEJI, 2019 (based on OECD data and of World Bank data).



Fig. 1: North- South Europe and Mediterranean countries in Renewable Energy, Biomass of total energy generation and recycling rate on national level.



In this context, the work plan includes training course and personal/group climate tasks to establish data base and raise awareness for climate change, climate risks and climate responsibility – part of the work to be implementing in frame of “Climate Ambassadors” AEJI' Initiative.

B. The Initiative of Climate Ambassadors in the Mediterranean Region - how is going to work?

The Work Plan in consisted of training young generation to be “Climate Ambassadors” in different communities in Med countries, with emphasis on South Mediterranean.



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In frame of the programme AEJI will launch an open call on "Climate Ambassadors" for applications. Among the applicants will be selected around 20 young activists/scholars/policy advocators with diverse background of studies and community affiliation.

The young participants will learn on climate change policy, meet with different stakeholders and with experts on the international process of climate change. The participants will conduct personal climate tasks – with our supervising – aimed to shaping their **Voice** in raising and advance climate responsibility in the community.

The detailed work plan including dates will be published and circulated to partners, participants, local institutions, international community with affiliation to Mediterranean Climate action.

Update relating the initiative will be shared on AEJI website and on Facebook pages of AEJI and ClimateJustice.ME

For further information please contact us at: office@aeji.org.il