



Press release
Jerusalem
June 29, 2022

LAUNCHING EVENT OF THE EU TWINNING PROJECT

“Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA) and of the Palestinian Electricity Regulatory Council (PERC)”

On June 29, 2022, in Carmel Hotel in Ramallah has taken place a **LAUNCHING EVENT OF THE EU TWINNING PROJECT “Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA) and of the Palestinian Electricity Regulatory Council (PERC)”**. The overall objective of the Project, funded by the European Union (EU) with the amount of 2,000,000 EUR, is to support the Palestine energy public sector to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Palestine responding to citizens’ needs, including those of marginalized groups.

Event has been open by H.E. Eng. Zafer Milhem, Chairman of the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority PENRA who stress an importance of the Project in the Palestinian restructuring and developing the energy sector, including the legal, legislative, regulatory, and institutional aspects, through a clear strategic vision to develop the energy sector to the level that responds to the economic and industrial development requirements. This restructure and development provide the needs of the current and future local market through institutional structure of the sector that ensures sustainable development and through providing legislative and regulatory frameworks that define the authorities and responsibilities of institutions operating in this sector. This also ensure the efficient provision of the service with the appropriate quality, however in consistence with the international environmental standards, and ensures the use of the locally available natural resources to reduce dependence on energy import from outside Palestine and providing energy to consumers at competitive prices.

Eng. Hamdi Tahboud/ Chief Executive Officer of the Palestinian Electricity Regulatory Council PERC in his speech strengthens its, technical and legal capacity as regulator to enable the delivery of more efficient and needs based services, like specific objective of this Twinning project. Eng. Hamdi Tahboud provides an overview of the electricity market in Palestine and of the role of the regulator in strengthening competition and preventing the forging of monopolies by working as a key player to stimulate investment in renewable energy. He emphasized the meaning of the Twinning Project provided on policies currently in place to increase investments, which include special tariffs, net metering and the construction of energy substations through direct offers or competitive bids, while highlighting the main challenges related to the implementation of these policies.

H.E. Sven Kuhn von Burgsdorff Head of EU Delegation dedicated his speech to the objectives of this Twinning Project and his importance to Palestinian energy sector, underlined the meaning of Twinning is a European Union instrument for institutional cooperation between Public Administrations of EU Member States and of beneficiary countries. Twinning projects bring together public sector expertise from EU Member States and beneficiary countries with the aim of enhancing peer to peer activities. They must yield concrete mandatory operational results for the beneficiary country. The overall objective is to support the Palestinian energy public sector to 'Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Palestine' responding to citizens' needs, including those of marginalised groups. This project is a result of good cooperation among European and Palestinian public administrations. Will be focussed to reinforce the capacities of PENRA and PERC for them to develop a modern, reliable, accountable, creditworthy and strong sector, capable of developing green transition policies, planning and regulations.

Mr. Sami Peggy, representative of the Slovak Republic, on behalf of Project Leader expressed his conviction that the Consortium team of experts (Slovakia, Italy and Greece) will be able to openly provide Palestine with valuable hints how to improve the energy market in Palestine, how to enhance competencies of the Beneficiary institutions and to ensure their realistic application, and how to avoid unnecessary shortcomings to make the transition faster and smoother.

Consultant for Strategic Affairs of the Prime Minister of Palestine, H.E. Dawood AlDeek appointed an energy problem in Palestine like one of key issues affecting the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people and economic growth. Most of the energy is imported at relatively high prices, placing financial burdens on poor and marginalized people. On the name of Prime Minister, he thanks the European Union for its support to State of Palestine in various political and economic fields, and for its continuous technical and financial support, especially supporting the institutional structure of our institutions and strengthening its capabilities. He expressed his deep conviction that this twinning project is important both within the framework of cooperation and the relationship with the European side, or in the framework of supporting the reform agenda undertaken by the government in various fields, specifically in the field of improving and strengthening the capabilities of government institutions and raising their efficiency. Will contribute to the efforts of the State of Palestine to implement the seventh goal of the sustainable development goals related to energy security and to ensure that everyone has access at an affordable cost to modern, reliable and sustainable energy services.

On behalf of the Consortium JPL Alberto Biancardi dis a short presentation of the Twinning Project with a focus on the methodology how to achieve a goal, main objectives and fulfil project indicators. He acquainted present representants of the progress made in the Project.

Background:

- The Twinning project “Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA) and of the Palestinian Electricity Regulatory Council (PERC)” started on January 11, 2022, for

duration of 24 months with a total allocated budget of EUR 2 million. Project is implemented by Consortium of 3 EU MS Countries: Slovakia, Italy and Greece.

➤ Lead Member State: Slovak Republic.

Lead Member State bodies: Regulatory Office for Network Industries, Slovakia (URSO) & Regional Development Agency Senec- Pezinok, Slovak Republic (RDA SP).

➤ Junior Member State 1: Italy.

Junior Member State 1 bodies: Energy Services Agency (GSE) & Studiare Sviluppo Srl.

➤ Junior Member State 2: Greece.

Junior Member State 2 body: Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE).

- The overall objective is, in line with the SDG 7 objective, to support the Palestinian energy public sector to 'Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Palestine' responding to citizens' needs, including those of marginalised groups.

For more Information:

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<https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine>