



Funded by:

Middle East North Africa Sustainable Electricity Trajectories - MENA SELECT

Energy Pathways for Sustainable Development in MENA Region

Identifying the optimal electricity pathway that (i) would be cost-effective, (ii) would support multiple development objectives and (iii) is conflict-sensitive at the same time, is a complex task and depends on various context specifics. Despite numerous macro-level studies there is high uncertainty how investments into different electricity pathways would interact with social, economic, political and environmental dimensions at multiple scales. In the aftermath of the Arab Spring it is a particular challenge to frame national electricity policies so as to incorporate societal demands in order to avoid further political destabilization. Against this background, this BMZ- fully funded research project intends to investigate how different electricity pathways can contribute to sustainable development in the MENA region?

With the overall objective of contributing to the advancement of RE in MENA countries, the project aims to improve the understanding of the complex relationships between different electricity pathways and sustainable development in three MENA countries: Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia. By exploring the economic, social, political and environmental effects of different electricity pathways towards year 2050 on the national and the local level, the project will apply an integrated approach. Hereby the project goes beyond previous assessments that usually focused on either singular aspects of sustainable development or specific technologies and covered pathways up to 2020 or 2030.

To evaluate the contribution of different electricity pathways towards sustainable development, the project consists of four work packages (WP):

(1) Pathway and Scenario Modelling: Economic cost-benefit and technical electricity system modelling will provide the quantitative basis for understanding the feasibility of different electricity pathways;

(2) Context Analysis: Sound context analyses on the local and national level will form the qualitative basis for detecting potentials for a transformation of current local and national institutions and agencies. The aim of this transformation is to avoid conflicts and make the use of different electricity pathways socially acceptable;

(3) Multi-Criteria Analysis: The insights gained from the analyses of A and B will be ranked with the participation of MENA stakeholder groups using Multi-Criteria Analysis to select a balanced reference scenario for electricity system transformation in the countries covered by the project.

(4) Dissemination: The results of the project will be translated into applicable best practice guidelines and concrete recommendations for policymakers, industry and civil society to support them in implementing the optimal electricity pathway and build a sustainable future energy system.

In addition to the holistic methodology, throughout the project, a participatory and inclusive stakeholder-based approach will be used to ensure local ownership and buy-in from MENA policymakers and representatives of MENA civil society and industry. Their input will form an integral part of all analyses.