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BEYOND TECHNOLOGY: THE HUMAN SIDE OF THE HYDROGEN TRANSITION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Across the Mediterranean, the momentum around green hydrogen is growing.

From large-scale renewable projects to emerging export corridors, countries are positioning themselves at the forefront of a new energy landscape. The promise is clear: cleaner industries, new economic opportunities and stronger regional cooperation.

But behind this transformation lies a quieter, often overlooked question:

Who will make it work?

A new report from the MED-GEM Network, funded by the European Union, brings this question into focus. Titled *“Green Hydrogen Skills for the Digital Era – Jobs, Workforce Readiness and AI in MED-GEM Partner Countries”*, it highlights a challenge that cuts across the region: the shortage of skilled professionals needed to operate hydrogen systems.

This is what experts refer to as the “missing middle” — technicians, operators and mid-level professionals who play a crucial role between strategy and implementation.

Without them, even the most ambitious projects risk remaining on paper.

At the same time, the nature of these jobs is evolving. Hydrogen systems are becoming increasingly digital, relying on data, automation and advanced control technologies. This means that future professionals will need to combine traditional energy expertise with new digital skills.

For many countries in the Southern Mediterranean, this represents both a challenge and an opportunity.

By investing early in education, vocational training and workforce development, they can not only address current gaps, but also position themselves as competitive players in the global hydrogen economy.

The MED-GEM report offers practical insights and a roadmap to support this transition, encouraging closer cooperation between policymakers, industry and training institutions.

It also reflects a broader message at the heart of the European Union’s engagement in the region:

the energy transition is not only about infrastructure and investment.

It is also about people.

Read the full report:

<https://drive.med-gem.eu/drive/s/d8w5ewAhCSSMnEtFW2yc1o8fPDf89Q>

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