

## **Press Release**

### **The Universities of the Region of Rome (CRUL) and IRENA sign a memorandum of understanding to promote joint research on renewable energy**

27.03.22 - The Lazio Region Universities Coordination Committee (CRUL) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) have signed yesterday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing a new partnership aimed at developing joint research on how to boost renewable energy as a key element in energy transition. The research will focus, among others, on bioenergy, geothermal, hydroelectric, ocean, solar and wind energy in pursuit of sustainable development, access to energy, energy security, economic growth and low-carbon prosperity. With its nearly 210.000 students and programs in all fields of knowledge, the CRUL, made up of 13 universities, hosts 13% of the entire student population in Italy, being the second largest in Italy.

Within the framework of this MoU, IRENA and CRUL will work closely on a number of key areas, including i) studying the use of renewable energy sources in different territorial contexts and the research on hydrogen and multi-energy systems; ii) promoting higher education in the field of renewable energy; iii) formulate common policy advice to accelerate the spread of renewable energy and facilitate knowledge sharing and technology transfer to provide clean and

sustainable energy to the growing world population; iv) exchange of academic knowledge, research results and experiences for the development of renewable energies; jointly organize awareness and advocacy activities to raise awareness on viable renewable energy solutions.

The ceremony took place during the Forum "THE UNIVERSITY ECOSYSTEM OF LAZIO REGION: KNOWLEDGE AS A HERITAGE: from Lazio International Higher Education to the Technological District for Culture Excellence Center", held in Dubai at the Expo Italy Pavilion at 4pm (GST), 2pm (CET). The MoU was signed by IRENA Director-General, Francesco La Camera, and Prof. Stefano Ubertini, President of CRUL.

"Through the signing of this protocol, CRUL will be able to become part of the Agency's network to exchange good practices, teaching, training, researchers, students and present joint projects on sustainable energy, renewable energy and data collection. An important opportunity towards the internationalization and attractiveness of our university system which already boasts world-class excellence", said Paolo Orneli, Lazio Region councilor for Economic Development, Commerce and Handicraft, Research, Startup and Innovation.

The IRENA Director-General, Francesco La Camera, added: "A knowledge ecosystem that advances research and creates skilled

human workforce is crucial to scale up renewable energy deployment swiftly and sustainably. I am confident this partnership will bring valuable contribution to the energy transition discourse and the net zero pathway.”

“Energies represent a necessary opportunity to be seized, without further delay, towards which all institutions will have to converge simultaneously by investing on research and knowledge exchange. The memorandum represents the shared path undertaken towards energy transition, as the only goal to be achieved, favoring the transfer of technology for the well-being of the planet and the community”, said Stefano Ubertini, President of CRUL.