Abstract Title: CIVIC PARTICIPATION AS A LEVER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR A CLIMATE-FRIENDLY FUTURE

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Abstract

In an economy burdened by the constantly increasing scarce in oil and natural gas and a planet already feeling the impact of fossil fuel driven climate change, the renewable energy has to be part of the solution to strive against these environmental strains. In fact, renewable energy underpins a climate-friendly future. The world witnessed a great momentum for climate action, culminating in historic and ambitious agreements to cut carbon emissions and contain global warming by upping the share of renewable sources in the energy mix, and particularly going further with solar and wind power. Nevertheless, the argument for the development of renewable energy gets challenged when the issue of social acceptance comes up. Indeed, while there are ambitious government' targets to increase renewable energy deployment, public acceptance is recognized as an important barrier that holds back the growth of renewable energy. This social controversy in the mainstream public is, therefore, one of the different factors that determine a renewable energy project success or failure. This implies that the opposition and support for renewable energy is of a broader theoretical interest, as it raises larger questions about how to involve citizens and local civil society when it comes to the decisions to be made during the planning phase of a renewable energy project. Hence, it is commonly assumed that civic participation is crucial to foster the development of renewable energy.

Keywords—*Civic participation, climate change, renewable energy, social acceptance.*

Professional Biography

Raja Akermi has completed her PhD at the age of 30 years from Institut Supérieur de Gestion-University of Tunis and plans to pursue postdoctoral studies at a high scientific research institution. Her research and teaching interests focus on marketing, sustainable development, civic participation and renewable energy. She is a member of the *Association Tunisienne des Energies Renouvelables*, which advocates for the promotion of renewable energies in Tunisia. She has participated in International Conferences and published her papers in reputed journals. She was among the program committee as a reviewer for the 28th IBIMA 2016 Conference on Vision 2020: Innovation Management, Development Sustainability, and Competitive Economic Growth, held in Seville, Spain.



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