CiROCCO Webinar

Title: Solar Energy Planning and Management in Practice

12 May 2026, 13:00-14:00 CET

Description

Desert solar parks operate under constant pressure from dust, heat, and rapidly changing atmospheric conditions that can reduce solar radiation, affect panel efficiency, and complicate energy planning and maintenance. In Egypt's Benban Solar Park, these challenges are especially critical, which is why the European CiROCCO project is advancing environmental monitoring in an under-sampled desert setting. By combining in-situ sensor observations with remote sensing and modelling, CiROCCO aims to turn environmental complexity into actionable intelligence through early warning and better-informed operational decisions. This webinar will highlight how such an approach can strengthen resilience, improve planning capacity, and unlock wider value for solar infrastructure operating in harsh desert environments.

Webinar Agenda		
Time (CET)	**Topic**	**Speaker**
13:00-13:10	**Introduction to CiROCCO Project**	Chrysoula Papathanasiou (Institute of Communication & Computer Systems, ICCS, Gr), Project Manager
13:10-13:20	**The installed smart sensor network in Egypt**	Omar Elbadawy (Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region & Europe, CEDARE, Egypt), Program manager
13:20-13:30	**Solar Energy Planning and Management in Practice**	Panagiotis Kosmopoulos (National Observatory of Athens, NOA, Gr), Senior Researcher
13:30-13:40	**Decision making, Potential & socio-economic benefits**	Hesham M. El-Askary (Remote Sensing and Earth Systems Science, U.S.A.), Professor
13:40-14:00	**Interactive session: Discussion - Questions**	Eleni Athanasopoulou (National Observatory of Athens, NOA, Gr), Atmospheric scientist

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