BACKGROUND

Despite a rise in installed generation capacity worldwide, the deployment of renewable energy can at times be challenging because some projects may not meet certain required standards to obtain the necessary financial support.

Added to this, there is a perception of high technology risk, cumbersome administrative procedures, insufficient transparency in the project cycle, as well as limited access to institutional and commercial financing instruments. As a result, some renewable energy projects stall during the development phase.

HOW DOES THE PROJECT NAVIGATOR SUPPORT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT?

The ‘Navigator’ supports the development of renewable energy projects from inception up to operations by providing users with technical guidelines, knowledge products and tools that cover the complete lifecycle of a project. In addition, it offers practical resources such as financial models, checklists and evaluation forms to assist developers at different stages of the process. With these features, the platform supports its users in gathering strategic information, addressing risks, taking informed decisions and using resources efficiently towards successful project financing and implementation.

“This tool makes it easier for developers to initiate, develop, fund and complete renewable energy projects around the globe”

Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA
THE PLATFORM OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

» **Self-learning space:** A section which contains technical guidelines for various renewable energy technologies, including bioenergy, geothermal, renewable energy mini-grids, small hydropower, utility-scale solar PV and solar home systems (small scale solar PV), and on-shore wind.

» **Start a project:** A workspace where developers can access tools to prepare projects online, keep track of their progress, identify gaps, and export their work with dedicated templates for further processing.

» **Financial Navigator:** A search engine that provides detailed information on some of the most important renewable energy funding sources worldwide to assist developers in the realisation of their projects.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

» **How to develop a project using the platform?** Use the Navigator’s dedicated workspace to start a project and take advantage of its online resources and tools.

» **Who uses the platform?** The Navigator contains information relevant to developers, government officials, investors, and other stakeholders involved in the development of a renewable energy project.

» **How many users are registered?** Since its launch in spring 2015, the platform has registered over 1,800 unique users from more than 100 countries from all over the world.

» **Are all the materials available for any user?** Every registered user can access the content and start developing projects on the platform free of charge. To register, please visit [www.irena.org/navigator](http://www.irena.org/navigator).

HOW DOES THE PROJECT NAVIGATOR LINK TO OTHER IRENA INITIATIVES AND TOOLS?
The Navigator interlinks closely with other IRENA initiatives and tools at the different stages of project development. These include the Global Atlas for Renewable Energy for resource assessment, the Sustainable Energy Marketplace for project and investor identification, the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility to obtain concessional debt financing, as well as the Clean Energy Corridor and the SIDS Lighthouses initiatives for resource pooling.

In addition, the platform development process relies on data and information obtained through Renewable Energy Zoning and Renewables Readiness Assessment activities, as well as from REMap 2030, INSPIRE, the online platform for standards and patents on renewable energy, and the renewable energy costs publications.
LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT NAVIGATOR:

Project Navigator webinars are scheduled on a regular basis. The sessions provide insights on the resources and tools available on the platform. Experts from the field are invited to present on the technologies covered. Members interested in participating in these webinars can contact navigator@irena.org.

GOOD PRACTICE: THE PROJECT NAVIGATOR GOES TO THE FIELD

In collaboration with the Government of Djibouti, IRENA organised a workshop to strengthen local capacities for the development of bankable renewable energy projects, as well as to better understand the country’s potential and needs in this area. The 5-day training, held in July 2016, saw the active participation of around 40 representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, national public agencies and private sector entities.

During the training, IRENA provided an overview of the requirements for local project development in geothermal, solar and wind energy while guiding participants on how to apply the tools available in the Navigator and the Global Atlas for Renewable Energy to advance renewable energy projects. The training also served to identify common challenges faced by local developers and to disseminate guidelines that can improve the bankability of their projects.

Participants discussed the idea of setting up a national renewable energy project incubator, based on the Navigator, to mobilize and engage additional local capacities. The participants also expressed their support to the idea of translating the content of the platform into other languages to ensure a more comprehensive dissemination across Africa.

HOW CAN MEMBERS SUPPORT THE PROJECT NAVIGATOR?

- Supporting capacity building on renewable energy: Members interested in building capacity on renewable energy project development in developing countries can provide financial support to organise national or regional learning activities such as workshops, “train the trainers” sessions and webinars. These activities are ideal to bring together developers, financiers and government officials to assess the current conditions of the region/country in terms of renewable energy opportunities.

- Translating the Navigator into languages other than English: The platform is currently available in English only. Members are welcome to support the translation of its content into other languages.

- Spreading the word: Members can support the Navigator by promoting its benefits and actively inviting different stakeholders to join the platform. Furthermore, they can host or support training workshops on the use of the Navigator.

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information, please send an email to: navigator@irena.org

www.irena.org/navigator