



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

### Achieving Net Zero needs a global revolution in training, skills and education

*Fondazione MAIRE publishes global research study calling for a new approach to developing people's skills and competencies as a critical means to deliver net zero*

- Study finds that delivering net zero by the UN's agreed target of 2050 requires a step change in professional and vocational training to equip people to design, build and use technology and infrastructures for a decarbonised economy
- Report says equipping workers for the net zero transition is a huge growth opportunity
- Foundation arm of leading technology and engineering group MAIRE commissioned IPSOS to deliver a global research study across ten countries and with 1,700 interviews and insights from 15 opinion leaders among sustainability and energy transition experts
- The full report will be presented at COP28 with a panel event taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Dubai, 7<sup>th</sup> December:** At COP28, Fondazione MAIRE is presenting a report which finds that *delivering net zero by 2050 requires an energy transition that is as much about training people to design, build and use products and services differently as it is about decarbonising infrastructure to meet UN climate change targets.*

The report says **the energy transition will see new businesses and jobs created in the renewable energy, technology and industrial sectors and in administration and civil society**, which will need new workers with specific skills and competences and existing workers to reskill. It will also need **strong leadership and commitment from governments**, accompanied by effective policies, regulations and collaboration between countries, as energy systems become increasingly interconnected.

That process of investment, reskilling and collaboration will also present significant **economic opportunity particularly for those countries that are early movers** and understand the need to develop a workforce for the decarbonised future.

The study suggests that G7 countries have not embraced the need for reskilling and education as much as emerging economies and if that disconnect plays out into the wider economy it

could see **developing countries capitalise on the energy transition more effectively than established economic powers.**

The whitepaper is based on global research among a sample group of highly educated people and key opinion leaders from 10 countries across four continents, together with analysis from *MAIRE Foundation* and Group. Among the key findings were:

- **90% had heard of the energy transition** with around two-in-three respondents seeing it as a priority in their country with broad understanding that delivering this transition will create new roles and jobs
- Around **two-fifths said companies should prioritise** the innovation of sustainable products and services
- Around a third **said businesses need to adopt new production processes**
- In this context, **both hard and soft skills are pivotal in education.** Soft skills include creativity and problem-solving and hard skills are expected to include elements such as environmental impact analysis and the knowledge of alternative raw materials and renewable energy sources

The study highlights that the **importance of education and training is particularly recognized in Middle Eastern countries** (Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Turkey), Algeria, and Chile, where a substantial portion of individuals stress its importance and urgency. However, there's a concern that educational progress is still too slow.

The required skills for future energy transition professionals vary across countries, but it's evident that **both technical and soft skills are crucial:** something MAIRE refers to as creating Humanist Engineers – training people in technical and humanistic disciplines, providing them with knowledge on sustainability, and teaching critical thinking and creative soft skills. The emphasis on creativity (in UK, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, India and UAE), problem-solving (in Italy, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, China, the USA, and Chile), critical thinking (in UK), and analytical skills signals the need for new professionals with a different mindset.

At the same time, technical knowledge on environmental impact analysis (in the UK, the UAE, and the USA), alternative materials (in China), renewable energy sources (in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Algeria), and circular economy principles (in India), is seen as pivotal. This reflects these countries' awareness of the educational gaps that need to be addressed.

**Fondazione MAIRE** concludes that **using existing technology is as important as developing new solutions** and that requires a wider technical response to climate change, one that is equally focused on **how people use technology, products and infrastructures** as it is on designing new generations of low-carbon technology, products and services. Fondazione MAIRE believes that **without a revolution in the way we train and equip millions of people needed to deliver net zero, we will fall short** in building the infrastructure, products and services needed for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

**Commenting on the study, Fabrizio Di Amato, MAIRE Group and Fondazione MAIRE Chairman, said:** “Addressing the energy and net zero transition needs us to embrace the concept of the ‘humanist engineer’ as a new type of transformation agent. These people will navigate complexity and find solutions that include technological innovation, attention to economic, environmental and social needs and cultural aspects. Our Group has set the contribution to climate goals as a priority in its strategic plan. We want to invest on the society evolution on a long-term basis and to create impact both through our technologies and through the social activity of our foundation. The skills that we can create today will make the real difference in twenty-five years.”

MAIRE Foundation and IPSOS study *Winning the challenge of climate goals through the creation of skills and competences worldwide* can be found at this link [cop28 | Fondazione \(mairetecnimont.com\)](https://www.cop28.org/2023/09/20/fondazione-maire-ipsos-study-wins-the-challenge-of-climate-goals-through-the-creation-of-skills-and-competences-worldwide)

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

According to the IEA’s World Energy Employment Report, the energy sector employs over 65 million people in total, around 2% of global employment in 2019. To reach the net zero emissions goal, the transition could create 14 million clean energy technology-related new jobs, shift around 5 million workers from fossil fuels, and require additional skills and training for an estimated 30 million employees, according to the IEA’s landmark report Net Zero by 2050. In most cases, this will require developing both upskilling or reskilling.

MAIRE is the founder company of the Fondazione MAIRE. It leads a technology and engineering group that develops and implements innovative solutions to enable the energy transition, be that through solutions in nitrogen fertilizers, hydrogen, circular carbon, fuels, chemicals, and polymers. The company is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange and operates in 45 countries with 7,000 employees, supported by over 20,000 contractors. More information can be found [here](#). Fondazione MAIRE’s report ‘Winning the challenge of climate goals through the creation of skills and competences worldwide’ is based on global research conducted by IPSOS which interviewed 1,700 people across eight countries (Italy, UK, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE, China, India and the USA). Respondents were selected as Key Opinion Leaders on sustainability and the energy transition and held roles in sectors including academia, civic institutions, and as top managers within private companies.

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