

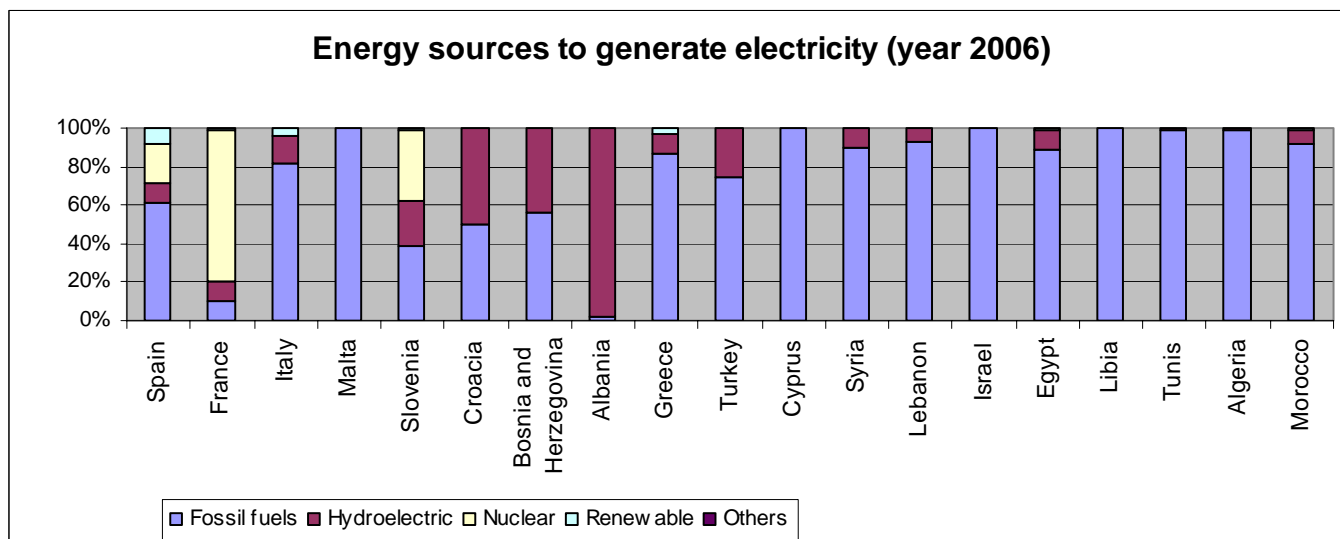
## ELECTRIC ENERGY SOURCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean arch obtains most of the electricity that it uses by burning fossil fuel (coal, oil and gas): 75% doing the average of all countries. As we can see in the graphic below on the production of electricity in the year 2006 (imported electricity is not included), the dependency of fossil fuels can be mainly found in the countries of the East and South shores, which dispose of much less hydric resources than those in the North shore. In the latter there is more variability, especially due to the combination with hydroelectric energy. The case of Albania is worth mentioning, since 98% of the energy comes from hydroelectric sources.

Generating electricity through water flows or falls is renewable, but when obtained from reservoirs of enormous dimensions it implies the flooding of large extensions of land with an important alteration of the ecosystems as well as the territory. Some sectors consider that the main sources of hydroelectric energy are not ecologically desirable, whereas mini hydroelectric energy would be (where the reservoirs are of moderate dimensions).

The proportion of electricity obtained from the rest of renewable sources (wind, solar, biomass combustion and geothermic) is only moderately significant in Spain (8%, mainly wind), Italy (4%, mainly geothermic and biomass) and Greece (3%, mainly wind).

Nuclear energy is only obtained in three countries, among which France is highlighted, where 78% of the electricity comes from a nuclear source.



Source: International Energy Agency, 2006.