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PRESS RELEASE

BARI HOSTS MED-DESIRE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOLAR ENERGY

The project on energy policies for the Southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea is coordinated by Puglia Region. The Conference will also present to companies, institutions and associations cooperation and investment opportunities offered by the country Partners.

On Monday, March 31 the Palace Hotel (Messapia hall) will host the International Conference named “**A solar future in the Mediterranean**” to officially present to the public audience MED-DESIRE (MEDiterranean DEvelopment of Support schemes for solar Initiatives and Renewable Energies).

The project, co-funded by the European Union under the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2007-2013 with an amount of 4.192.000 Euro, aims at spreading energy efficiency, and in particular, solar energy across the Mediterranean area through the definition of innovative financial schemes and market stimulation tools.

MED-DESIRE is implemented by a consortium of nine partners from five countries (**Italy, Spain, Tunisia, Lebanon and Egypt**) under the coordination of the **Puglia Region – Economic Development, Employment and Innovation Policy Area - Industrial Research and Innovation**: the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea; the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development; the Andalusian Energy Agency; the Andalusian Institute of Technology; the Center of Energetic, Environmental And Technological Investigations - Solar Platform of Almeria; the Tunisian National Agency for Energy Conservation; the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation; the Egyptian New and Renewable Energy Authority. **ARTI** - Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation is co-actuator of the project.

The President of Puglia Region Nichi **Vendola**, the Regional Minister for Economic Development Loredana **Capone**, the President of ARTI Eva **Milella** and the President of the National Committee ENPI CBC-MED Bernardo **Notarangelo** will attend the Conference.

All project Partners will take part to the International Conference in Bari. The event will provide the opportunity to discuss the national and international energy policies, the project goals – specifically those related to the removal of existing technical barriers and the implementation of innovative financial schemes for supporting the development of renewable energies – and the business opportunities for solar technologies in the Mediterranean Sea Basin.

MED-DESIRE
Communication Manager
Francesca Tondi
f.tondi@arti.puglia.it
Anna Liberti
a.liberti@arti.puglia.it

The Conference will be the opportunity for companies, institutions and national association to exchange information on experiences of cooperation and good practices in the solar energy sector. Finally, it will give to Italian firms the chance to have an insight on the solar market in Mediterranean Partner Countries and to participants from the Partners' member countries to get in touch with Italian potential investors and operators.

Bari, March 26, 2014

MED-DESIRE
Communication Manager
Francesca Tondi
f.tondi@arti.puglia.it
Anna Liberti
a.liberti@arti.puglia.it

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