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## PRESS RELEASE

### BARI HOSTED MED-DESIRE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOLAR ENERGY

***The project coordinated by Puglia Region can be an excellent tool to promote and develop smart energy policies in the Mediterranean Sea Basin Countries***

On March 31 Puglia Region and ARTI organized the International Conference “**A solar future in the Mediterranean**”, for presenting to a wide audience the MED-DESIRE project. The event provided the opportunity for companies, technicians, researchers, institutions and associations to discuss about the national and international energy policies, the project goals, the business opportunities for solar technologies in the Mediterranean Sea Basin, but also to exchange information on experiences of cooperation and good practices in the solar energy sector.

According to the Puglia Region Minister for Economic Development Loredana **Capone**, «MED-DESIRE is an intelligent platform for solar issues we have to build starting both from the strengths of all the partners countries involved - especially Puglia Region because of the considerable investments on renewable energy - and from the problems that emerged from the experiences already made». Puglia, in fact, «has acquired a strong experience in the field of renewable energy, said ARTI President, Eva **Milella**. This knowledge can turn into a great opportunity to concentrate both public and private efforts and investments in research and innovation on the production and improvement of technologies, but also on the related environmental problems».

On the MPC partners side, LCEC director Pierre **El Khoury** explained that «Arab countries lag the world in the renewable energy sector, despite having superior resources for solar power and, in some regions, wind. The supporting policies in most Arab countries are still absent or ineffective and less than half of them provide policy instruments ensuring long term power purchase agreements to private developers». However, almost all countries have adopted long term technology-specific renewable energy targets, more than half have established dedicated agencies to promote renewable and some governments have made proactive policy choices and attracted interest from external participants.

«The role of the EU – continued El Khoury - ensures that both shores of the Mediterranean can interact and develop a better future. The platform that the MED-DESIRE project is offering could be an excellent tool to promote and develop smart energy policies in our countries. MED-DESIRE can have a great impact in the transfer of know-how among the different participating countries».

Bari, April 2, 2014

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This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union under the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Puglia Region/ARTI and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or of the Programme's management structures.

The project MED-DESIRE is implemented under the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme ([www.enpicbcmcd.eu](http://www.enpicbcmcd.eu)). Its total budget is 4.470.463,70 Euro and it is financed, for an amount of 4.023.417,24 Euro, by the European Union through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The ENPI CBC Med Programme aims at reinforcing cooperation between the European Union and partner countries regions placed along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.