

Gentili signore e signori, cari colleghi e amici della Regione Abruzzo,

Mi è particolarmente gradita l'occasione per salutarVi a nome della FEDARENE – Federazione Europea delle Agenzie e delle Regioni per l' Energia e l'Ambiente

Mi fa molto piacere essere qui con Voi e Vi ringrazio per l'invito e per l'opportunità di rivolgerVi qualche parola ...

The Energiochi contest is now a well know initiative promoting knowledge about energy savings, renewable energy sources and environment protection. This initiative is bringing together the most important issues of today – knowledge, young people and sustainability. In one word – THE FUTURE!

As a president of FEDARENE, I am especially glad to be here. We believe that regions form the building blocks of Europe, co-operating one with another across national boundaries, implementing joint projects and identifying common solutions to shared problems. REGIONS often make that critical step to disseminate European information to the citizens, translating it into a language that citizens can understand. They bring European policy alive by providing practical, local examples of how European policies and programmes relate to citizens in their own regions.

REGION OF ABRUZZO is the real example in this respect. YOU are a pioneer, demonstrating in a tangible way that the future of the Europe as a whole lies in the delivery of sustainable energy.

It is a well known fact that the region of Abruzzo is the Covenant Territorial Coordinator since May 2010. The four provinces - Provinces of Chieti, Teramo, Pescara and L'Aquila are also Covenant Territorial Coordinators and ALL municipalities of Abruzzo (more than 300!) have signed the Covenant of Mayors Agreement.

In 2011, the Region earmarked 35 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to promote sustainable energy on its territory. The budget is set to serve the implementation of Covenant of Mayors objectives in the region and it was one of the FIRST regions in Europe to specifically mention the Covenant of Mayors in the allocation of ERDF funds. Also, the Province of Chieti (energy agency ALESA – our FEDARENE Member, has got a running ELENA, Province of Teramo (energy agency AGENA) has one of the first MLEI projects running (PARIDE on public lighting) which clearly demonstrate Abruzzo VISION, HARD WORK and EXCELLENT RESULTS.

We in Europe must and can work together - as partners! Sustainable energy also creates more jobs than other sources of energy - most of these are created in the precious manufacturing sector, which should pioneer the new energy future. The fundamental transformation of the current, mostly fossil fuel energy economy, to a sustainable energy economy is just one critical and grand challenge facing Europe today. European regions, with the precious support of their energy agencies, are ready to take this challenge and to support clean, reliable, renewable, safe, secure, and economically viable energy strategies and solutions. This is what region ABRUZZO recognised long time ago and The Energiochi contest is JUST ONE example.

I congratulate you for another edition of Energiochi contest this year and looking forward to cooperate even more with partners from Abruzzo region in the future!

Julije Domac
Fedarene President