

OPEN DAYS 2013 – THE ABRUZZO REGION AT THE CORE OF THE DEBATE ON YOUTH, ENERGY AND THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN STRATEGY

For the **eighth consecutive year**, the **Abruzzo region** was selected to take part in the **Open Days**, which are the annual landmark event in EU Regional Policy.

After the great success of the last edition (**10th anniversary**), the Abruzzo region will be, for the **4th consecutive year**, at the core of the debate on the **macro-regional strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region**. Furthermore, last year, **as the leader of the event**, the region itself did its utmost to approve the strategy, with the support of all the institutional partners.

This year, the event will involve **17 administrations** coming from **seven different Member States**.

Besides the **Abruzzo region**, will be involved : the **Republic of Slovenia, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna, the Marches, Molise and Basilicata** (Italy), **Carinthia** (Austria), **Istria** and **the Dubrovnik-Neretva County** (Croatia), **the Bosnian Serb Republic, the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, West Herzegovina and Sarajevo** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), **Eastern Serbia** and **Central Serbian** municipalities (the Republic of Serbia)

The « **European Week of Regions and Cities** » is the most significant annual event, organized in Brussels, dedicated to the regional policies and the exchange of good practices.

The 2013 edition will take place **from the 7th to the 10th October**. As usual, it will address a series of **decentralized events** organized by the partner regions **on their own territories**.

Under the general heading “**Regions and Cities taking off for 2020**”, the issues addressed this year will include :

- 1) “**Managing change 2014-2020**”
- 2) “**Synergies and cooperation**”
- 3) “**Challenges and solutions**”

Regional exhibitions as well as **two institutional exhibitions** (Committee of the Regions and the European Commission) dedicated to local and regional **solutions for the cities** will be **launched this year**.

Let’s remind that, last year, the idea - the first of its kind - of creating a **regional exhibition** dedicated to the various themes of the macro-regional strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region was precisely launched by the **Abruzzo region itself**.

This year, the common theme of the exhibitions is “**100 Urban Solutions**” and deals with the **most efficient sustainable urban policies at the European level**.

In this context, the Abruzzo region will present the activities through which it received various prizes. It was qualified, for instance, as the “**European model of excellence**” in the setting up of the “**Covenant of Mayors**”.

Through this project, which involves all the municipalities and provinces of the territory, **EUR 34 million** were paid to the Abruzzo region, enabling it to set up an efficient **institutional network** with a common “**management cell**” that has allowed all of the actors to express themselves and decide together on the **measures to be taken to promote energy efficiency**.

Various technical and institutional actors of the “**Covenant of Mayors for the Abruzzo region**” will take part, as representatives of the region, to the conference entitled “**A new step for the Covenant of Mayors: Multilevel dialogue and innovative governance**”. They will illustrate the experience of the Abruzzo region, especially through the concrete example of the **governance of the territory**.

A series of meetings and dissemination activities dedicated to the European projects in the sector of the **biomethane** and **renewable energies** will complete the theme of sustainability policies launched by the **Abruzzo region** in order to pursue the objectives of the “**Europe 2020**” strategy.

Moreover, throughout the event, the **Committee of the regions** will ensure the permanent dissemination of information about the **P.O.W.E.R.E.D project**.

Finally, “**We, the Youth of Europe, in the heart of our Municipalities**” will be the theme of the **photo exhibition** dedicated to youth and, more specifically, to the **Erasmus generation**.

Pictures were taken by **Bruno Mariani**, from **Pineto** in the Abruzzo region, who worked in **Brussels** for a long time, and were collected in a book promoted by the **European Commission**.

Bruno Mariani took pictures of **28 young people** coming from all European countries. They are accompanied by a short interview, made by the journalist **Maria Laura Franciosi** and translated into **three languages**, which highlights **what is common to those various experiences**.

The exhibition, realized at the beginning of 2013, has already been suggested in **different institutional frameworks** such as **I'Info Point** of the European Commission, at the Schuman roundabout, the **Brussels Press Club** in the Froissart street, and more recently, **the Abruzzo region** whose seat is located in Louise Avenue.

Official Open Days 2013 website:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2013/index.cfm

Link to the exhibition “100 Urban Solutions”:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2013/exhibitions.cfm

Official website of the European “Covenant of Mayors”:

http://www.pattodeisindaci.eu/index_it.html

**For further information about the “Covenant of Mayors” for the
Abruzzo region :**

<http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/xAraen/>

Involvement of the Abruzzo region in the Open Days 2012:

[http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/xEuropa/index.asp?
modello=notizieSing&servizio=LE&stileDiv=sequence&b=notizia337&tom=337](http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/xEuropa/index.asp?modello=notizieSing&servizio=LE&stileDiv=sequence&b=notizia337&tom=337)

(Directorate for Presidency Affairs-Liaison activities with E.U. - 26/09/2013)