



Centro per la Cooperazione  
Euromediterranea



## REPORT

### **Thematic Workshop Value of the Territory and New Training and Work Opportunities in the Mediterranean Bari, 18-19 October 2010**

The first Thematic Workshop on the “Value of the Territory and New Training and Work Opportunities in the Mediterranean”, promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and by ISFOL, in partnership with the Puglia Region Mediterranean Service, was held in Bari on 18 and 19 October 2010 within the framework of the “Centre for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation” project.

The event was a chance for institutional actors from Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon to discuss training and employment issues, essential for the sustainable and innovative development of the Mediterranean area, with officials and experts from the Italian regions. The workshop took place over two days and was organized to foster an exchange of experiences for a mutual learning process.

The first day was introduced by **Silvia Godelli**, Councillor Responsible for the Mediterranean, Culture and Tourism of the Puglia Region, who stressed the importance for Mediterranean countries of the management of tourist flows, the development of renewable energies and the protection of the sea, the coasts and the environment in general.

**Antonella Attanasio**, ISFOL manager (International Activities and Relations Unit) welcomed the foreign guests as well as the representatives of the Campania, Puglia and Sardegna Regions and local managers and officials.

A round table followed on “Training and Innovation for Rural Development in the Mediterranean Countries”, moderated by **Claudio Polignano** of the Puglia Region’s Mediterranean Department, who pointed out the region’s strong Mediterranean vocation.

**Filippo Del Ninno** from the European Training Foundation (ETF) of Torino opened the meeting, highlighting the challenges and opportunities encountered when promoting development initiatives in Mediterranean countries. In particular, he stressed the importance of strengthening the role of the social partners as well as actively involving all the local stakeholders - such as enterprises and chambers of commerce - with the aim of enhancing key actors’ capacity building skills.

Numerous papers were presented, including those from the **Campania** Region (Interventions on Agricultural Land, Reclamation and Irrigation Sector), the **Puglia** Region (Cooperation Working Group – INEA, LAG Meridaunia – Foggia, CNA), the **Sardegna** Region (Regional Labour Agency), and by delegates from **Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia**.

In conclusion, the Pro-Chancellor of Bari Politecnico, **Nicola Martinelli**, spoke about the urban regeneration of Bari’s historic centre.

**Alessandra Tomai**, Manager Div. I DG POF – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, closed the meeting, stating that the contributions on topics of great relevance for the Mediterranean area – such as microcredit, environment, tourism, sustainable agriculture and rural development - had offered an opportunity for exchanging ideas and creating new partnerships and projects. From this perspective, vocational training can help to bring cultures closer together with the aim of creating new jobs, also through female entrepreneurship pathways.

The second day was taken up with a visit to **IAMB**, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, a centre for post-graduate training, applied scientific research and international cooperation programmes in thematic areas such as land and water resources management, integrated pest management of Mediterranean fruit tree crops, Mediterranean organic farming and sustainable agriculture and rural development.

In conclusion, the workshop was an initial opportunity for those involved in the “Centre for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation” project to reflect on possible work outlets and new prospects of cooperation between the Italian regions and the countries on the Mediterranean’s southern shore. The aim is to integrate the area’s systems and actors, bringing in new skills or rediscovering ancient crafts to boost their economic, social and occupational development.