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Regions in partnership

**Paweł Samecki on
Open Days 2009 and
why Europe's regions
must work together
to tackle global
challenges**

**"Open Days provides an opportunity
for regions and cities to share ideas on
boosting economic development and other
shared challenges, such as climate change"**



**Danuta Hübner on her role as
chair of parliament's regional
development committee**



**Luc Van den Brande sets out
the priorities for this year's
Open Days**



**Maud Olofsson calls for a
holistic approach to the
economic and climate crisis**





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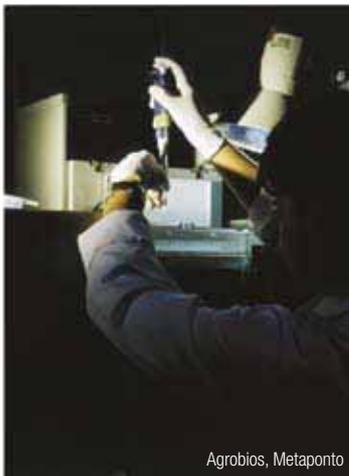
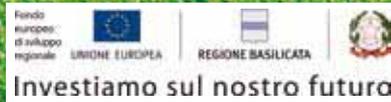
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Basilicata. Fertile terrain for talented minds.



Agrobios, Metaponto

Discover and invest in Basilicata.

Film director Francis Ford Coppola, whose grandfather grew up in Basilicata, has remarked on the region's striking landscape when seen from the sky. "You see fields, grapes, beautiful country. You see the earth as it was intended to be. We have a region of Italy that is still preserved, still authentic."

Today Basilicata also offers fertile terrain for the cultivation of researchers, managers, and creative professionals. People richly endowed with ideas, skills, work and life experiences. People who desire to live in cities and regions of human scale.

One example is the earth observation cluster that has grown between Potenza and Matera, with its network of enterprises, research institutes, and university departments specialized in satellite monitoring of the environment, seismic studies, and the attenuation of risks linked to natural disasters. Over a thousand people work in Basilicata's cutting edge space technologies sector, which is nurtured by the Geodesic Space Center of Matera, the University of Basilicata and the National Research Council (CNR) in Potenza.

Our job is to preserve the unique combination of historic and natural resources in Basilicata, and the advanced, knowledge intensive economic activities which have emerged in the last twenty years. We also know our most important patrimony is our rich reservoir of skilled people, from the thousands of employees at the modern Fiat-Sata plant in Melfi, which is increasingly focused on ecological vehicles, to the hundreds of researchers working on earth observation, on renewable energies and on green biotechnology at University of Basilicata, CNR, AGROBIOS, and ENEA Trisaia. The agri-food industry, oil and gas extraction, and furniture manufacturing round out the region's economic activities.

Thanks to recent achievements, Basilicata is also plowing the way for new investment. The Basilicata Regional Government plays an active role in stimulating private investment in the region, starting from promising and strategic sectors, especially those strong on research and development. The Regional Government is designating a significant portion of European Union structural funds for the period 2007 – 2013 to knowledge intensive areas.

It is in this spirit that the Region of Basilicata is hosting the first international forum on the challenges of the knowledge economy for small and medium sized cities. Open Days (October 29 – 31, 2009), an event supported by the EU's Committee of the Regions and the European Commission, will be held in the captivating Sassi of Matera, an UNESCO world heritage site, and just one of many places in Basilicata that have, in recent years, become international film locations and cultural tourism attractions.

The aim of the forum is to stimulate an exchange of ideas and solutions between public and private sector operators on policies for education, training, environment, research and innovation, and creative industries. For small and medium cities, especially those geographically peripheral to Europe's major economic engines, policies in these areas represent a challenge within a challenge. For more information: <http://opendays.basilicatanel.it/> .



Geodesic Space Center, Matera



Matera, The Sassi



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