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## City of Brindisi

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### **CASH / Cities Action for Sustainable Housing** **Local Action Plan / draft version**

#### Introduction

We all know how much energy poverty is an important challenge to deal with in Europe, meant as a problem afflicting all countries from western to eastern ones.

Since the beginning we felt CASH network as an opportunity to check the state of the art from different point of view of other cities and we did like the approach. First of all, we found LSG is such a new tool very helpful to work with.

Region Apulia adopted his own energy plan, called PEAR (Piano Energetico Ambientale Regionale), but the approvation is still to come.

Brindisi doesn't have his own local energy plan, but is working on energy efficiency on social housing since not too much time and the local coordinator, mr. Costantino, thinks CASH work could quicken awareness of the problems to make processes be faster than they are today.

#### **LSG**

Brindisi LSG is well assorted with so many different concerns involved; the so called stakeholders are from tenants to energy companies, from environmental agencies to regional government.

Here is a complete list:

- Regione Puglia;
- IACP (Istituto Autonomo Case Popolari);
- ORCA (Osservatorio Regionale Condizione Abitativa);
- ARPA (Agenzia Regionale Protezione Ambiente);
- ENEL;
- CETMA (Cento di Progettazione, Design e Tecnologie dei Materiali);



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- ANCE (Associazione Nazionali Costruttori Edili);
  - UGL (Unione Generale del Lavoro);
  - Unione Inquilini;
  - UIL - UNIAT (Unione Italiana degli Inquilini, Ambiente e Territorio).

We had two meetings where we did discuss the meaning of LSG, mostly to let people understand we are supposed to work together anyway and beyond the CASH network.

It's clear Brindisi needs a new attitude to this issues at any level of the decisional chain, from local government to the tenants; actually, they are the final users of the process.

LSG coordinator shared his "own" project: to join expertise from all members and to promote a pilot plan to be applied on a block of Paradiso neighborhood, a model to be reproduced with the involvement of people.

## LAP

During the LSG meetings, we provided a pattern of topics to be analyzed.

- social issues;
- physical issues;
- administrative issues;
- financial issues.

### *Social*

All members agreed about the lack of information on energy problems; it sounds quite weird cause Brindisi is an important energy-producer city with 3 implants from gas and from coal.

Common people don't know how much could be important to decrease their own consumes, adopting a slightly more correct use of energy.

Energy production is considered mostly a job opportunity and people feel energy efficiency a problem to face with somewhere but in his own house. ORCA told about his educational project, ran in Bari according with the local IACP. They spent few weeks monitoring consumes before providing tenants for educational sessions about a correct use of domestic energy.

Furthermore, ORCA called for a friendly competition between tenants, lasting 1 month, to experience a better use of energy, giving very encouraging results and, most of all, disseminating good practises every tenant suggested other people. It also proved that saving money and doing something concrete is up to anyone.



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So, local coordinator launched a new version of this project to be experienced in Brindisi on a larger scale, first involving ENEL, tenants union, and appliances distributors as well, to offer prizes to the winners.

Brindisi is still working on it and we hope to present results during Italian meeting in April. We are trying to have the meeting in Brindisi during the EUSEW 2011, European Sustainable Energy Week, that is scheduled for April 11/15.

*Participation* is the keyword and we think people should be updated since childhood about energy issues, about the chain from production up to the use, about the sources and the urgency to switch on renewables.

### *Physical*

The housing stock Brindisi would like to work on, in Paradiso neighborhood, is mostly owned by IACP (Istituto Autonomo Case Popolari). Together with IACP management and professionals, we are already at work to choose which building typology can be eligible to experience the ORCA project first and the pilot plan in a second time.

The challenge is to find a building with a homogeneous ownership among private, people who bought from IACP, and public apartments.

We are using camera for thermography to map heat dissipation, thermal bridges and to check the general status of the buildings.

Most of the housing stock comes from '60; that period people was urgent of houses to answer the fast industrial process and there a general cheap way of building without paying attention to energy savings or whatever.

We will cooperate with CETMA (Centro di Progettazione, Design e Tecnologie dei Materiali) to check results and to collect data to be analyzed.

### *Administrative*

At national level, sometimes politicians are used to talk about nuclear power but they always found it so hard to promote.

In Apulia we have an official regional list of professionals, qualified for energy saving design to apply on building general design.

Furthermore, according to national address, in 2009 Apulia enacted a temporary law, lasting two years, meant to renew the private housing stock; after a demolition, people can rebuild using 35% more volume if the new building is certified as "energy saving respectful".

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Brindisi didn't sign the Covenant of Mayors but Apulia Region is one of the most advanced in Italy for activity on energy issues and environmental care.

We would like to involve different offices of Municipality, from Housing Policies to Energy officers, cause sometime people is used to work on "parallel" projects that may have points of convergence to be developed just once from at least two points of view.

So, the aim is to implement local rules with energy saving criteria as some city already does.

### *Financial*

Recently, Brindisi received regional funds, 5 millions euro, to restore some areas of Paradiso neighborhood with roads, sports facilities and new buildings. There was a sort of "prize" for cities who submit projects with a good implementation of sustainability criteria.

The competition asked for a good quality of new building and to keep energy saving as a priority for design and for materials.

Participants were required to certify the new buildings are supposed to spend at least 30% less energy than energy amount suggested by a national law.

Designers may reach this important number just using sun filters, high performance material for roof and façade walls, and, mostly, heating system integrated and hot water produced by solar panels.

In Italy we have some contribution to people who would like to switch on renewables and now the cost of solar technology is cheaper than few years ago.

So, it's usual to see roofs with solar panels and the process or renovation should be helped more, at any level.