

Trieste, 28 October 2005

PRESS RELEASE

AREA adopts the European Charter for Researchers

The official decision was made at the last Board meeting.

The final goal is the promotion and defence of professions in the research sector.

AREA Science Park has decided to adopt the European Charter for Researchers. The Charter, approved by the European Commission on 11 March 2005 and presented right in Trieste last May, lays down in particular the role and responsibilities of researchers, their employers or funding organisations. The aim is to define better training schemes in the field of development, knowledge transfer and sharing, as well as greater certainties with regard to professional careers. The Charter is accompanied by a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, aiming at improving researchers' recruitment, making selection procedures fairer and more transparent, and encouraging the use of wider criteria to evaluate researchers' experience and skills. "The idea we should like to promote – explains the president of AREA, Maria Cristina Pedicchio – is that any assessment on the researchers' activity should not just consider the number of their publications, but also other parameters, such as experience in teaching, supervising, team work, knowledge transfer, managerial activities and dissemination to the public. All these aspects have always been crucial in our Science Park".

Through the decision made by the Board, AREA in particular undertakes to:

- implement the principles and values enshrined in the Charter and Code of Conduct;
- promote the enhancement and development of human resources throughout the whole career and acknowledge the value of geographic, interdisciplinary and intersectoral (public-private) mobility as a way of strengthening scientific knowledge and achieving the researchers' professional development;
- guarantee fair and attractive conditions, in terms of grants and salaries;
- request researchers to pursue the objectives enshrined in the Charter, by implementing them in their profession;
- urge the regional and national institutions to adopt policies and measures compatible with the new guidelines defined by the Charter and the Code of Conduct.

This commitment has already materialised in a first initiative, i.e. the regional mobility programme known as "*Talents Friuli Venezia Giulia*" *International Fellowship Programme*, presented a few days ago and explicitly based on the principles and values enshrined in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct.

Press Office: Leo Brattoli, tel. +39 040 3755221, mobile +39 335 1236284