

## **Madrid hosted a workshop for the search of sustainable financing sources schemes applicable to the European infrastructure EU-SOLARIS**

25/06/2014. - Tuesday 24th, the headquarters of the Secretary General of Science, Technology and Innovation in Madrid, which is a part of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, hosted a workshop on financing sources in the framework of the project EU-SOLARIS. The event gathered scientific and administration authorities, as well as industrial sector representatives from a dozen of European and non-European countries, which are partners in this European project co-funded by the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Union.

The EU-SOLARIS project aims to create a unique distributed European research infrastructure for Concentrating Solar Thermal (CST) technologies. The project's main objectives for its preparatory phase (2012-2016) include the search of a sustainable financing source scheme towards the management of this pan-European research infrastructure with the aim of allowing Europe to continue its leading role in the upcoming CST technology developments.

The opening session was carried out by the Assistant Deputy Director, Sub-directorate General of International Relations and European Affairs Inmaculada Figueroa Rojas EU-SOLARIS Project Coordinator Manuel Blanco Muriel introduced the project, which is coordinated by the Advanced Technology Centre for Renewable Energies (CTAER).

The workshop ran from 9:30 until 17:30, being organized around different topic-orientated round tables followed by a debate. The topics addressed were focused on "European public financing initiatives" (Horizon 2020 y SET-Plan) and "National public financing initiatives", with representatives

from Spain, Germany, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Turkey, which are EU-SOLARIS partners. Furthermore, representatives from the region of Andalusia, Alentejo and regions of Italy, shared their experiences regarding their own regional financing initiatives. The last session, carried out Luis Crespo, president of ESTELA (European Solar Thermal Electricity Association) focused on private financing initiatives.

This workshop is seen as a very significant event within EU-SOLARIS milestones, since it meant the kick-off for the Advisory Board for Funding and Administration, gathered for the first time with the fifteen partners of EU-SOLARIS project. ([www.eusolaris.eu](http://www.eusolaris.eu)).