

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

A21 Adriatic Sea Forum - Local Agenda 21 for Adriatic Sea Region

The Mediterranean region is characterized by conflicting trends.

On one hand, the awareness of environmental resources as basic development factors, particularly (but not exclusively) for tourist field. On the other side, sustainability policies are occasionally implemented, often without coordination, limited in time and space, without management tools, often concerned only about the environmental protection sphere, which is certainly important but not enough.

The Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities & Towns (*www.adriatic.ionian.net*) was born on April 30, 1999 with the approval of the "Charter of Ancona", which provides criteria and values meant to establish and develop a commitment of Local Administrations and their Associations for the sustainable development of the Adriatic region. The Forum is an instrument of decentralized and cross border cooperation, conceived after the experiences of cultural twinning and solidarity that followed the recent Balkan conflicts. It encourages and supports the administrative twinning between the cities on the two sides of the Adriatic, promoting the dissemination of best practices in governance and environmental protection, focusing on development of local authorities administrative organization.

Promoting and implementing the Local Agenda 21 for Adriatic Sea Region, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities & Towns aims to move into a common scenario in which sustainability is an administrative innovation and a market factor.

Expected date of initiation: April, 2002

Expected date of completion: end of 2005

Partners Involved:

The Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns is a voluntary network of cities located in the Adriatic and Ionian sea basin. The member cities, listed by country, are:

Albania: Durres, Lezhe, Saranda, Shkoder, Valona

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Neum

Croatia: Dubrovnik, Ploce, Pula, Rijeka, Sibenik, Split, Zadar

Greece: Corfou, Igoumenitsa, Parga, Patras, Preveza

Italy: Ancona, Bari, Barletta, Brindisi, Cesenatico, Chioggia, Civitanova Marche, Fano, Manfredonia, Molfetta, Pesaro, Pescara, Ravenna, Rimini, San Benedetto del Tronto, San Pietro Vernotico, Senigallia, Taranto, Termoli, Torchiariolo, Tricase, Trieste, Venezia

Slovenia: Koper

Yugoslavia: Bar

Leading Partner:

City of Ancona,

Emilio D'Alessio, Councillor for Environment and Quality of life

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

According to its Statute, the Forum will encourage and manage the implementation of Agenda 21, involving all local governments of the two sides of the Adriatic region, through a participative process meant to encourage:

- urban, rural, and coastal development in educational, cultural, health and technological fields;
- growth of entrepreneurship and promotion of local economic development and occupation, in a perspective of labour market and social integration;
- sustainable approach to environmental resources and ecosystems, i.e. rational energy and water supply consumption, promotion of renewable energy and so on;
- improvement in the transport, information and communication fields;
- cooperation in the juridical and administrative field;
- cooperation among citizens and institutions;
- contribution to the fulfilment of European integration of all countries involved, to support human rights defence and to encourage same opportunities for men and women.

All these themes will be approached involving all regional and local stakeholders in a "shared process" oriented to define scenarios, objectives, indicators and actions for the Adriatic Region. The final act of the process will be the Adriatic Action Plan 2020.

Expected results:

The implementation of an Adriatic Action Plan 2020, as defined with the participation of all the stakeholders involved in the process of A21 Adriatic Sea and in coordination with the Action Plans of the single municipalities members of the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns, will pursue the following results:

- Dissemination of sustainable development practices through methods of "shared governance";
- Improvement of integration and exchange among communities, searching for a conscious and sustainable life style, efficacious in satisfying necessity of collective and individual development;
- Intensification of economic and business exchange to increase commercial potential of sustainable products;
- Development of local markets and autochthonous productions with valorisation of typical products and local cultures;
- Improvement of standards of environmental quality for all concerned communities;
- Increase of global efficiency in using resources, particularly in the production of consumer goods, services and commodities,
- Closing of material production and consumption cycles with matter recycling and recovery of energy incorporated in products no more used.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

Local Administrative Bodies and Institutions

<i>Targets</i>	<i>Frame time</i>
Exchange of knowledge and best practices	2002 - 2005
Environmental Reporting	31 dic. 2003
Environmental registration of municipalities according with qualifications of European Regulation n.761/2001 (EMAS 2)	31 dic. 2004
Integrated Sustainability Balance	31 dic. 2005

<p>Activation on local scale of management system for sustainable development</p>	<p>Beginning 2005</p>
<p>Communities</p>	
<p><i>Targets</i></p>	<p><i>Frame time</i></p>
<p>Local A21Forum of single members</p>	<p>31 dic. 2002</p>
<p>Forum for Adriatic Agenda 21</p>	<p>31 dic. 2003</p>
<p>Definition Adriatic Action Plan 2020</p>	<p>31 dic. 2004</p>
<p>Fulfilment Adriatic Action Plan</p>	<p>Beginning 2005</p>
<p>Coordination and Implementation mechanism</p>	
<p>The coordination mechanisms provided are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns is already active and is composed by Majors and Councillors from each single local member, with a technical secretariat and a website (<i>www.adriatic.ionian.net</i>); - The A21 Adriatic Sea Forum, composed by stakeholders from administrative, economic, social, cultural sectors of the cities and the communities on the two sides of the Adriatic sea. The forum will be coordinated by an operative secretariat and a website platform, with its main office in Ancona. The constitution of thematic and/or sub-regional groups is expected, to examine and define targets and skills in all different sectors and activities of the local communities. - A technical group, composed by experts and technicians provided by single members of the network, which will design, implement and manage the MSLSD (Management System for Local Sustainable Development) . 	
<p>Arrangements for funding</p>	
<p>The Forum funding is set up as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - annual contribution of members, calculated on the basis of the number of inhabitants resulting from the last census and of the national PIL; - ANCI (Italian Municipalities Network), SMA (Albanian town Councils) and other associations contributions; - public financing, at international and national level; - contributions coming from public and private institutions; - sponsors 	
<p>Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer</p>	
<p>A21 Adriatic Sea Forum will move towards a scenario of sustainability as factor of innovation and investment, till to achieve a community "climax" in which local sustainability tools will be instruments of governance and public administration. The main objectives are synthetized as follows:</p>	
<p>1. Coordination and exchange between local authorities and subjects engaged in promotion and spread of a Management System for Local Sustainable Development (MSLSD), composed by tools for evaluation, orientation, audit and benchmarking of sustainability policies. The MSLSD set includes 5 tools:</p> <p>a. Good practices</p>	

- b. Environmental Report
- c. Environmental audit and certification (Emas2)
- d. Sustainability Integrated Balance
- e. Local Agenda 21

Each local authority member of the network, starting from the set of tools already implemented, completes "in progress" its own set, using common methodologies in the whole Adriatic sea region. The implementation of MSLSD needs:

- 1.1 the creation of an expert group, responsible for design and management of the system;
- 1.2 training activities for local administrators and technicians;
- 1.3 hard and soft structures for exchanges and coordination of the network (secretariat office, common web platform, periodic newsletter, etc.);
- 1.4 integration "in progress" of Local Information Systems, towards an Adriatic Information System for Sustainability.

2.

Creation of a sustainable innovation market to let grow and exchange good practices and procedures. The growth of sustainable innovation as market maker, other than local government maker, needs the spread of technical and commercial know-how about sustainable goods and services formerly implemented and experimented in single situations. The creation of a market of sustainable goods and services is the most important condition for the involvement of economic operators at any level and from any sector. The A21 Adriatic Forum includes:

- 2.1 a number of exchanges and surveys between the subjects taking part to the network, with the aim to favour the knowledge of experiences held in local implementation of practices and procedures;
- 2.2 the implementation of a Good Practices Data Bank for sustainability in the Adriatic sea region, useful to promote new exchanges and partnerships.
- 2.3 the periodic organization of public events (fairs, exhibitions and shows) for the diffusion and commercialization of sustainable goods and services in Adriatic sea region.

3.

Shared planning of medium and long term strategies for the settlement and implementation of the **Plan of Action for Adriatic Sea 2020**. The network seeks for the integration of different levels of action through the implementation of Local Agenda 21 for Adriatic sea region. The A21 Adriatic Sea Forum, composed of local stakeholders (economic operators, public administrators, NGO's, cultural organizations, etc.), has to define *scenarios, targets, indicators and actions* in a common way for the Plan of Action Adriatic 2020. The forum is supported by local forum/workshops and includes:

- 3.1 meetings between cities for the definition of common strategies which can produce issues for future cooperation, and break out into "cross border" good practices;
- 3.2 consultation and communication "within" local governments (temathic meetings, workshops, surveys, web forum, newsletters, etc.)
- 3.3 public events for a wide communication, expecially referred to specific targets (single categories of stakeholders, tourists, etc.).

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

The Forum of Adriatic Cities and Towns is collaborating with the European Institutions at any level and with national, regional and local bodies in all countries involved, so that:

- a. The Mediterranean can be one of the main "development areas" of the European Union, and not only the farthest end. In this context, the Adriatic sea is the ideal political, economic and cultural junction between East and West, North and South of the world;
- b. The interaction between citizens and cities from different sides of the same sea allows to develop relationships in order to share any kind of project or opportunity, not only from an economic point of view, but also from a social and cultural one.

The A21 Adriatic Forum will involve lots of cities in its initiatives, and will establish active collaborations with the main existing networks in the field of local sustainability, at European and international level.

Monitoring Arrangements

The Action Plan for Adriatic sea 2020 will use indicators to monitor "work in progress" of policies and actions. The set of indicators, defined by an expert group and approved by A21 Adriatic Forum, will be part of standard procedures conceived to help all the municipalities members in the evaluation processes. The Forum will use an "observatory", put into action after the definition of the Plan of Action, to manage the set of indicators and evaluate the results obtained through the application of policies and actions defined.

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available): www.adriatic.ionian.net

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

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