

The Mediterranean Department of Puglia Region: the promoter of the Strategic ALTERENERGY project

Many of the ideas, often born from disjointed thoughts, have gradually motivated different partners around the initiative. It has, therefore, triggered a process of participatory planning that has valued the contributions of each partner, socializing, and sharing ideas and working methods. The promoter of the Strategic ALTERENERGY project is the Puglia Region, the Mediterranean Department, together with the Republic of Albania, on the basis of the provisions stated in the IPA Adriatic Operational Program. Puglia and Albania, by common agreement, called on all the eligible territories to enter the partnership and to participate in the programming and implementation of the activities of the project. A series of meetings and exchange of correspondences with regards to a Strategic Project Italy-Albania in the framework of the Programme took place from March 2006.

On this month, a Letter of Intent was signed by the Prime Minister of Albania and the President of Puglia Region and sent to the President of the European Commission in Brussels, requesting the continuation of the cooperation between Albania and Italy in the framework of territorial cooperation EU Community funded Programmes. Following the decision not to have a bilateral programme Italy-Albania for the programming period 2007-2013 and in order to continue the cooperation activities started since 1994, efforts to include a Strategic Project Italy-Albania in the CBC IPA Adriatic Programme have continued. A high level Forum on "Investments and Legality in Albania" took place in Bari, Italy, on the 24th of May 2007, where discussions on the future cooperation of the two countries under the new Programme took place. Furthermore, the international partnership of CBC IPA Adriatic Programme (7 Italian regions + coastal areas of Slovenia, Greece, Albania, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro and Croatia) recognised the great value of the past cooperation interventions and accepted the Italian and Albanian request of foreseeing an explicit mention of the Italy-Albania Strategic Project in the IPA Adriatic Operational Programme.

Considering their own development priorities, and operating in line with the European ones, Albania and Puglia Region focussed the Strategic Project on the theme of "Low Carbon Economy". Afterwards, Albania and Puglia Region jointly decided to enlarge the Project Partnership to all the Programme eligible areas, with the objective of promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy production in the whole Adriatic Area. Such a decision would allow the maximum impact on the Programme involved areas, in the respect of the "strategic" nature of such a Project.





During the 1st Joint Monitoring Committee held in L'Aquila on July 8th 2008 the first draft of the project was presented and all members of the JMC were invited to join the partnership. By the 5th of December 2008 the International Seminar "Moving towards a low carbon economy in the Adriatic Area" was held in Bari, during which all components of the JMC were invited to participate. These countries directly participated in the work: Italy, Albania, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, and Slovenia. The territories not present at the seminar also expressed an interest in the initiative.

Also the Italian Ministry for Economic Development (MISE), as national contact point for Objective 3 – Territorial Cooperation was involved in developing the strategic ALTERENERGY project. On the 31 of March 2009, during the CBC IPA Adriatic Joint Monitoring Meeting, an updated version of the project draft was presented, again receiving support and "go ahead" clear message. In December 2009, was organized a CBC IPA Adriatic Italian National Committee Meeting in Rome; the meeting was finalized to get the Italian consensus on ALTERENERGY updated draft, thus starting up thinking about project responsibilities and related budget per single partner; all contributions coming from the Italian side were coherently integrated into ALTERENERGY Project Draft. On the 2 of February 2010 in Rome took place a partnership meeting in Rome; the meeting was finalized to share among all Adriatic potential partners the last version of the Project draft. The occasion was useful to provide suggestions for finalizing the partnership (partners' necessary competences to officially enter the partnership). During the meeting it was agreed that the official partnership would have been definitely closed with the support of the National referents of the Programme.

Finally, the agreed project draft was presented during the last JMC meeting in Poreç (27 and 28 July 2010), receiving an "approval on first reading" and the go-ahead for the partnership formalization and the formal submission. Moreover, given also its concomitance with the development of other "standard" projects, and indeed to ensure the integration of measures IPA Adriatic in renewable energy and energy efficiency, there have been meetings with leader organizers of the standard projects (system of Chambers of Commerce, UPI Union of Italian Provinces, etc..) in order to avoid duplication and ensure both a unified vision of the operations in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

