



June 03, 2014 – Presentation

The “Energiochi 9” Contest – Sustainable Energy Education Project

Project Description – Also for the school year 2013-2014, the Abruzzo Region – Direzione Affari della Presidenza, Politiche Legislative e Comunitarie, Programmazione, Parchi Territorio, Ambiente, Energia - Servizio Politica Energetica, Qualità dell’Aria, SINA - (Department of Presidential Affairs, Legislative and European Policies, Programming, Parks, Territory, Environment, Energy - Energy Policy Service, Air Quality, SINA -) in cooperation with:

- MIUR (Ministry of Education) – Regional Education Office,
- The University of L'Aquila, Department of Human Sciences,
- ENEA, Technical Unit for Energy Efficiency
- The Ministry of the Environment

Is promoting the Energiochi Contest, now in its ninth edition.


This year the Alterenergy project was an important part of the Energiochi activities: an intense awareness raising activity took place in the schools of small cities (cities with less than 10,000 inhabitants) thanks to the work of volunteer teachers and of regional staff who made lessons about rational use of energy and renewable energy sources.

Thanks to the constant interest shown by teachers and school supervisors every year, the Energiochi Contest proves to be an important goal, that enhances the awareness of creating a winning formula. Over the last years, it involved many schools of the region and attentive interlocutors interested in sustainable energy issues.

Students can take the challenge to measure their skills and creativity at regional level in order to compete for the victory of a final prize through the presentation of a work on issues related to renewable energy.

The objective is to promote the knowledge of energy issues and use of renewable energy sources among all students in primary and secondary schools of the region in order to raise awareness on the possibility of having a sustainable energy education today.





An Opportunity for Schools – By taking part in the contest, schools not only have the chance to win a prize but also to have an environmental education experience, that enriches all students' academic studies. The cooperation among teachers and sector experts together with guided educational tours at regional renewable energy plants played an essential role.

It will be possible to create an educational-didactic path that will lead students to reflect on energy saving issues and best energy practices in order to promote a sustainable energy education at all level according to students' age.

Prizes and Awards

The Energiochi Contest was awarded numerous prizes and recognitions at both national and international level. In June 2009, it received an award for its high educational content to children of all ages in Paris, under the second Regional Energy Conference of the Île-de-France Region.

In January 2009, two projects of the contest "Un bosco per Kyoto" (A Forest for Kyoto) and "Una Scuola una Stella" (Every School a Star) received a high recognition under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, at the Campidoglio in Rome, because of their educational value for renewable energy sources and energy production.

In 2013, the contest was nominated for the Award, the European Oscar of sustainable Energy and ranked 2nd among the others.

The Energiochi Contest in Europe


The "ENERGIOCHI" Contest joins the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EUROPE campaign, for this reason it is recognized as "BEST PRACTICE" at European level.

Moreover, an agreement was signed between the Abruzzo Region and the **Province of Avila (Spain)** in order to reproduce the Energiochi model in both countries and to share the experiences among teachers and students involved in the project. **The Maramures Region (Romania)** and **Cyprus (Greece)** are following the same path.

This year, the representatives of the European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment (**FEDARENE**) will be present at the Award Ceremony planned at the end of the school year.

The Energiochi Contest and the Covenant of Mayors

The connection between the Energiochi Contest and the Covenant of Mayors is firmly established today. All municipalities of the Abruzzo Region signed up to the Covenant, a voluntary agreement, in order to have higher energy savings in the territory. Because of its educational value, the Energiochi Contest became part of the European programme of the Covenant of Mayors. Therefore, it is an initiative to raise awareness essential to achieve the target in developing renewable energy sources and energy efficiency by 2020 and all municipalities in the Abruzzo Region committed for it.



Today's request to every school participating in the project is to open up to the territory, to go and find out its potential and the potential of the municipalities themselves, in order to promote the development of renewable energy sources. The schools is asked to view the regional SEAPs (*Sustainable Energy Action Plans*) and to propose original ideas that could contribute to an active energy policy open to debate with citizens.

A close connection among schools and local authorities was established in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors. Schools have become more open to the territory by reading SEAPs and understanding those actions undertaken at local level, that are leading to virtuous behaviour.

Lecturing and Educational Tours

Students taking part to the contest also benefited the participation of expert teachers at classes. Expert teachers are winners of the previous editions, who engaged to cooperate with students participating to the contest this year. While promoting the contest, a virtuous system has been activated fostering an opportunity for education and growth for all the people involved in this project. The possibility for students to have educational tours at renewable energy plants in their territory and the cooperation of local authorities was a very important experience. Moreover, students often experienced a KM 0 energy demonstration.

The Energiochi Contest and the Environmental Education Centers

The Energiochi Contest has been enriched by the cooperation with the network of the Environmental Education Centers in the Abruzzo Region. Environmental Education Centers (EEC) are a point of reference for environmental education and sustainable development to all citizens, schools, educational agencies, local bodies, and companies that want to measure their proficiency in terms of sustainability. The innovation of this edition resulted from the synergy between the project DI SCUOLA IN CEA (From School to EEC) and the "Energiochi Contest 9". The EECs were asked to participate at classes through didactic lectures about energy issues in lower secondary and secondary schools competing in the contest. The objective is to strengthen the educational and didactic value of the Energiochi Contest.

THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

So far 240 final works have been presented by the classes participating to the contest. 99 schools have been involved in the territory, overall 433 classes and 12.000 students.

More specifically, the following schools are participating:

- Kindergarten – 39 schools
- Primary school – 54 schools
- Lower Secondary school – 113 schools
- Secondary Schools – 34 schools

According to provinces:

- L'Aquila – 63 schools
- Chieti – 91 schools
- Pescara – 50 schools
- Teramo – 36 schools

All classes conceived and realized documentaries, videos, spots, interviews, interactive games, and music lyrics about sustainable energy and environment. They reported the didactic activities they made during the whole school year and the creation of their works, which are being examined these days by members of the Commission in order to choose the best ones.

All in all, the main objective of the project was achieved by all participants. The object was the acquisition of a new language in terms of energy, aiming at rising more awareness about people's behaviour by starting an aware-rising path looking at sustainable energy education.

The Final Event

The meeting is set for 06th of June in Chieti with all the winning schools. The Municipality of Chieti is working with the Abruzzo Region and other partners of the contest to the success of the award ceremony, that will involve the winning schools.

The top three winning schools in every province will be awarded according to their educational level, that is kindergarten, primary schools, and lower secondary and secondary schools. Moreover, special awards will be given to other deserving schools.

About 2.500 awarded students, teachers and school heads, local, provincial and regional authorities, the University of L'Aquila, The Ministry of Education – The Regional School Office – , ENEA (the National Energy Agency), Mayors of towns of the winning schools with their mayoral sashes and banners will participate to the award ceremony.

In addition, the representatives of FEDARENE the European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment will take part in the ceremony.

Award Ceremony Programme

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| 8.30-9.30 | Students' arrival at Villa Comunale of Chieti in Viale Europa and delivery of the Energiochi gadgets at marquee tents; |
| 9.30 | Students' Parade line- up led by Mayors accompanied by a marching band; |
| 10.00 | Parade steps off walking through Corso Marrucino up to Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, (affectionately called Piazza San Giustino) where the award ceremony will take place; |



10.30 Students' positioning , start of the award ceremony, welcome and opening by the authorities and flag hoisting.

The main representatives of the European Institutions and the President of FEDARENE (European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment) will take the floor.

During the prizegiving there will be performances in the square and at stands. The award ceremony will be broadcasted live on television and video conferenced with all European partner like Avila (Spain), Flevoland (Netherlands), Sweden, Romania, AER (Assembly of European Regions).

13.00 Start of the Energiocchi Contest decade, ribbon cutting and conclusion of the award ceremony.

