



A4 Strengthening regional co-operation

From GPPnet to GPPinfoNET: The Italian network

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Organisation : Province of Cremona - Env. Dep.

Short description: The territory of the province of Cremona is located in the region Lombardia (northern Italy) and comprises 115 Municipalities. The area is rich of water and green landscape and its cultural heritage, made of historical towns, castels, churches and historical buildings has an immeasurable value. Italian Provincial Authorities have administrative competences in several key sectors, such as agriculture, environment, transport, economy, public buildings, roads, territorial planning and energy planning. Main activities of the Environment Department are: soil protection, environmental preservation and valorization, prevention of environmental catastrophes, conservation of water and energy sources, protection of biodiversity, management of natural reserves, waste management.

Executive Summary of your abstract

Territorial cooperation can enhance the highlighting of best practices and their replication. Regional and local bodies should share objectives and put in place the different tools that they have at disposal.

Abstract

From 2002 to 2004, the Provincial Administration of Cremona has been beneficiary of the GPPnet Green Public Procurement Network (LIFE02 ENV/IT/00023) project which led to the development of a methodology for the systematic introduction of GPP.

The initiative involved the creation of a GPP network with the participation of the project beneficiary, the Provincial Administration of Cremona, and 13 municipalities seeking to improve the Green Procurement in their work and thereby set an example to influence the behaviour of other organizations and public bodies.

Since then, the Province of Cremona has taken a leading role in the GPP field at regional and national level. After the project, the Province of Cremona activated a project financed by Region Lombardia that was called "At school of GPP" which started on December 2006 and ended after 12 months. The project aims was spreading GPP practices at regional level, by adopting a participatory approach.

Main features of the project were:

the creation of a forum on GPP with the participation of local authorities, citizens and enterprises.

GPP related advantages and disadvantages, problems and solutions will be discussed in the Forum;

the institution of a School for GPP, opened to representatives of local authorities located in the Region that were able to choose between an elementary (5 days) and an advanced course (3 days) on GPP; the dissemination of a regional newsletter on GPP called GPPinfoNET Lombardia; the creation of a GPP award, which was given at the end of 2007 to the local authorities that had shown the greatest efforts for GPP implementation in Region Lombardia.

From the collaboration activated during the project, the regional working group on GPP was also set up in cooperation with Regione Lombardia.

Since 2005 the Province of Cremona also coordinates the Working Group on Green Public Procurement of the National Association for Local Agenda 21 that has now more than 190 members located all over the national territory.

All those experiences have led to the presentation of new project proposal to the European Commission.

The new project is called GPPinfoNET: The Green Public Procurement Information Network (LIFE 07 ENV/IT/000410) and is again based on the concept of using cooperation as a way forward for GPP implementation, hence the achievement of environmental objectives.

The overall objectives of the Green Public Procurement Information Network are:

- 1) Reducing resource consumption and pollution resulting from public procurement
- 2) Preparing the ground for the introduction and implementation of National Plans for GPP;
- 3) Promoting the implementation of GPP at national and European level.

Project's specific objectives are:

- 4) Raising the awareness about the role of GPP for the implementation of strategies for sustainable consumption and production, including the promotion of environmental technologies;
- 5) Overcoming the information gaps that hinder the implementation of GPP

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Core preparatory actions:

- 1) Selection of target regions;
- 2) Translation and adaptation of materials produced within Life Environment GPPnet and by Italian National Working Group on GPP

Implementation actions:

Organisation of regional seminars
Set up of regional networks for GPP in Italian regions
Regional newsletters
Organization of national GPP days
Interregional meetings for exchange of good practices
Creation of regional networks for GPP in European regions
Communication and dissemination activities

Resumé

Architect, in charge of Agenda21 Office and Department Head of "Energy and Thermal Systems. In charge of European projects such as "GPPnet Green Public Procurement Network(LIFE 02 ENV/IT/000023)", GPPinfoNetwork (LIFE 07 INF/IT/0000410), and GPPnetWork national network of environmentally friendly public procurement. Coordinator of the Working Group on Green Procurement of the local Italian National Coordination for Agenda 21 and of the Regional Coordination of Lombardia. Since 2002, supervisor of several trainees and interns from various Italian universities with regard to projects on public Green Procurement and to the commitments undertaken as a consequence of signing the Aalborg Commitments. Both as regard spreading the results of the LIFE GPPnet project and afterwards, I wrote reports, held conferences and gave courses on green procurement for public employees as well. I supervise the update of various web sites among which www.compraverde.it, www.smarthydro.eu and the pages dedicated to energy, thermal systems, agenda21 of the web site www.provincia.cremona.it/settori/ambiente

Recommended reading: www.compraverde.it