

Local Agenda 21 role of Region of Campania cities in environmental sustainability policy

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Abstract

The ONU Conference concerning Environment and Development , the "Earth Vertex", which took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, introduces the Local Agenda 21 concept. In particular it represents the process able to realise environmental improvement plans for the local governments, on the basis of local problems.

This paper deal with the local cities role in the Agenda 21 process.

Precisely, it concerns the Region of Campania cities: Atripalda, Marcianise, Pomigliano d'Arco, Pagani, which have a very important role in the Local Agenda 21 process, from environmental, political, social and cultural point of view, aiming to realise a project able to produce development, respecting environment and territory.

1 Introduction ⁽¹⁾

Sustainable development represents one of the most interesting challenges of the millennium just entered, in social, economic and environmental fields.

To create the suitable bases which are necessary to the constitution of a society able to conjugate the environment tutelage to the local communities development constitutes a fundamental instrument for the realization of a more equitable distribution of riches.

The environmental sustainability of development is certainly a problem of world dimension; this is the reason why Agenda 21 accomplishment is submitted to the national governments. Nevertheless, the art. 28 of Agenda 21 Program and the Fifth Environmental Program of European Union recognize the essential role of Local Administrations concerning the concrete realization of sustainability objectives.

Particularly, it is specified that, also on local level, it is important to create a new model of territory management which is based on environment sustainability. From this point of view, Local Agenda 21 is the document addressed to sustainable development. It was approved during the ONU Conference concerning Environment and Development, the "Earth Vertex" which took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Subsequently, on a European level, Local Agenda 21 was recognized as one of the most effective procedures able to promote quality of life improvement, in harmony with environment, through a decisional trial with a very high participation.

Local Agenda 21 can represent the process able to elaborate and to realize environmental improvement plans for the local governments, on the basis of emergencies and local problems.

This fact generates concrete changes in the territory organization and produces very important improvements in the whole local community organization. These initiatives constitute the Local Action Plan that is divided into years and for thematic programs. It is also characterised by continuous activities of control, evaluation and revision.

The whole process has a very strong participation of local communities and of other groups which are involved in sustainability development. Moreover, the process has a very dynamic and evolutionary character and all the changes obtained during the years depend on results, on technical ability of subjects and on local requirements.

Why Local Agenda 21? Agenda, as an instrument on which to annotate things to do; Local, because defined in a precise context, which is limited to the actors involved; 21, because reported to the century of which it aims to have an important role.

At the end of this brief introduction aimed to the definition of Local Agenda 21 and especially to the individualization of the reasons for which it takes its origins, it is very important to underline the role of Local Agenda 21, distributed on the national territory, combined with the actions of Public Administrations.

After many years of informal relationship, different Public Administrations contributed in fact to realize a coordination between all the Italian Local Agenda 21, through the signature of the Ferrara Paper (April 1999); the engagement is to promote and to coordinate Local Agenda 21 processes in Italy.

A21L is the abbreviation of the coordination of the Public Administration that will elaborate its Local Agenda 21.

It is also an Internet site for all the people who want to understand the sustainability development idea and all the subjects who wish to apply this concept on a local level. It is also a News Letter, aimed to favour the circulation of useful notices concerning this argument and, generally, concerning sustainability.

2 Italian experiences ⁽²⁾

The Italian engagement about Agenda 21 is rather recent, but it doesn't mean that it is devoid of meaningful experiences.

While some European countries, United Kingdom, Spain and the northern countries, immediately realized and experimented the principles of Agenda 21,

with the origin of different local experiences, Italy had many experiences in this field in the second half of the Nineties.

The most significant results have been achieved from: the city of Modena, the cities of Ferrara, Rome, Bologna, Venice and Turin. The experiences of these corporations represented the starting-point to experiment a model of Agenda 21, in Italy.

In particular, the same experiences made these associations fulcrum of technicians, government administrations and local interest.

It is important to know that in the classification of the Italian provinces with the highest level of life, annually published in the "Sole 24 Ore" (an Italian important review) 18 provinces of the 26 classified, have on their territory a process of Local Agenda 21, in itinere. The association of Italian Local Agenda 21 contributed to increase the number of the cities which agree with European Campaign Sustainable City (462 - source: European Campaign, October 2001) and also to approach to Agenda 21 many little towns. The sensitisation activity has also involved the central public administrations. The Ministry of Environment created, in the last year, a section on sustainable development, taking experience furnished by the participation of the two prizes promoted in the last years: the "Children Recognition Sustainable City" and the "Sustainable City Prize". In the beginning of the Year 2001, the Ministry financed, for the first time, 110 programs of sustainable development and of Local Agenda 21 with an expense of 25 thousand million lire.

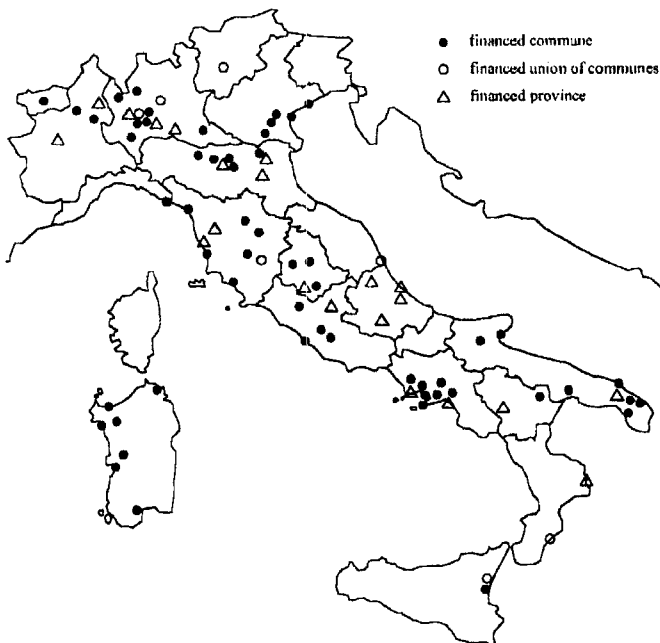


Fig. 1. Financing distribution on Italian territory

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Actually, the Local Agenda 21 action in Italy obtained its maturity that is verifiable with the number of subjects and associations which agree with the Aalborg Paper. From a recent search of the CNEL, it has emerged that one inhabitant on five participates to a Local Agenda 21 process.

3. Campania Region experiences ^{(1) (2)}

In Italy, the Region of Campania, inside the national context of Local Agenda 21 actions, has a fundamental role, because of the presence on its territory of cultural and environmental riches and because of the diffusion of social and natural problems: Vesuvio, earthquake and pollution.

In Campania the origin of Local Agenda 21 program depends on the sensitisation of political and professional associations to the environmental thematic.

A measure of the diffusion of the methodology of the Local Agenda 21 process and of the interest of the local administrations in this field can be evaluated from the participation to the proclamation of the Ministry of Environment of projects of Local Agenda 21, in the Year 2000.

To this proclamation many towns and provinces participated. Particularly, the majority is situated, in the Province of Caserta, 37.1%, and in the Province of Naples, 25.7%, while the less sensitive geographical area is certainly the Province of Benevento, 5.7%. Among these subjects only some are in useful positions to have financing. They are: seven cities (Atripalda, Marcianise, Pagani, Pomigliano d'Arco, Portici, and Sorrento), two provinces (Naples and Salerno) and the Corporation Cilento Park and Vallo of Diano.

In particular, the initiatives of Pomigliano and Solofra, for example, have an urban type accent; those of Atripalda are based on an aspect concerning environmental education; Pagani and Sorrento projects are of an integrated type.

Marcianise (Caserta)

The city of Marcianise started the Project "In march toward the sustainable development". It is a Local Agenda 21 process which aims to reach the definition of a general strategy of sustainable development, expressed in terms of general and specific objectives of improvement.

The Plan regards an area with a very strong industrial character and so it aims to realize an environmental tutelage and a quality of life improvement.

It is articulated in three parts: the first, aimed to the creation of consent, the second, aimed to the acquisition of knowledge and the third, aimed to the planning of activities. The three parts will lead therefore to the institution of the Forum, to the realization of the Relationship on the state of the environment in the city of Marcianise, to the definition of sustainability indicators for the evaluation of the efficacy of development politics.

Contextually, policies of information and sensitisation will be realized through specific channels: Agenda 21 Counter, toll-free number, newsletter, internet site. They will be used to diffuse the results during the different phases of the Plan.

The Public Administrations will have specific competence in this field with the aim to support effectively the activity of the Forum in a wider temporal arc of the duration of the Project.

Atripalda (Avellino)

The city of Atripalda, in the Local Agenda 21 approach, participated to a number of initiatives concerning the sustainable development also receiving important recognitions, for example the “Children Sustainable City”.

In February 2001, Atripalda starts the process of Local Agenda 21, one of the first cities in Campania, with the Forum “From the outskirts toward the sustainable development”. This first phase had the objective to constitute a permanent Forum with the involvement of enterprise associations and professional, cultural and environmental associations, public corporations, etc. Currently the institution of a City Forum is in progress. It is an organ which studies and proposes new policies in the sector of the sustainable development. It will also be a technical committee.

It will take care of the whole process during its unrolling, taking part in all the organized activities, to discuss, to plan and to organize the work. An important objective of Atripalda Local Agenda 21 is to realize a Local Action Plan aimed to define action guidelines, compatibly with sustainable development. Further objectives will be the constitution of the town agency “Sustainable Atripalda and A21L” that will represent the instrument which will permit ideas to become actions.

Sorrento (Napoli)

Sorrento formalised the adhesion to the Paper of Aalborg with its Local Agenda 21 plan compatibly with the other projects and initiatives in progress, concerning sustainable development. In fact it is a city in which sustainability is a very important reality.

Local Agenda 21 Plan is divided into these phases:

- local staff formed on sustainability, waste cycle and waste differentiated collection;
- informative and formative plans on waste differentiated collection;
- waste differentiated collection control;
- acoustic and air pollution control;

In particular, after this diagnostic phase a Forum will be realised.

It will be divided into five thematic sessions that will valorise all the work.

The sessions will be:

- 1) the waste cycle;
- 2) mobility, quality of the air and noise;
- 3) sustainable tourism;
- 4) biodiversity, agricultural zones and natural resources;
- 5) environmental certification.

Currently the project is in a start-up phase; it has been defined the work group and a lot of data about territory has been collected.

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Pomigliano d'Arco (Napoli)

The city of Pomigliano d'Arco agreed to the Paper of Aalborg, in October 2000, after a period of information and sensitisation toward the citizens on the sustainable development and after having realized concrete projects about sustainability.

The city participated to the "Proclamation of co-financing of sustainable development programs and realization of Local Agenda 21" emanated by the Ministry of Environment, introducing the plan "Pomigliano d'Arco - Plan for the start of Agenda 21". It has been judged positively.

The plan aims to start the Local Agenda 21 process, favouring territory sustainable development.

The initiatives foreseen by the project will be realized in 18 months and are:

- information and share;
- the civic Forum;
- seminars and formative stage;
- constitution of the Agenda 21 Office;
- relationship about the state of environment.

The main objectives to be realized are:

- 1) to consolidate a structure inside the administration which is able to activate all the instruments useful to the information and the communication on sustainability, realizing all the phases of the Local Agenda 21 process;
- 2) to activate information and communication campaign addressed to the technical and administrative personnel of Pomigliano d'Arco and to the various subjects and social actors, through specific initiatives;
- 3) to plan and to start an activity of environmental reporting.

The final objective is to promote a lasting and sustainable development of the city through initiatives that can increase the satisfaction of the citizens in terms of quality of life, defining and realizing programs for the retraining of urban space and for the improvement of the green spaces management.

Pagani (Salerno)

The Public Administration of Pagani has already started a sensitisation and environmental integration process in the government of the territory, with the objective of giving character of sustainability to the local politics.

The "PA.C.I.S. Pagani Sustainable City" Project is the pilot-plan to the Local Agenda 21 implementation in the whole area of the Agro Nocerino-Sarnese.

The PA.C.I.S. Project wants to be the continuation of a course through which to set the attention of the citizens to territory environmental emergencies, such as: elevated hydro geological risk, elevated pollution of the Sarno river; industrial and urban pollution.

The Administration of Pagani structured the whole project on the basis of two fundamental moments:

- a first phase of construction of the complex system of human and material resources, of knowledge of the territorial data and of social needs;

- a second phase, to be realized at the same time, aimed to the sensitisation, information and active participation of the citizens to the decisional process.

In the Environmental Forum the emergent environmental priorities will be individualised and, consequently, will be tended to the political choices toward interventions, that could be financed, through the Territorial Integrated Project of the Agro Nocerino-Sarnese.

Actually, there have been individualized, therefore, an external Technical-scientific Working Group, constituted by consulting engineers, with a sectorial competences; the Operative Group formed by a Coordinator, a City Referent, an Administrative Referent and a Secretary.

The following are in phase of constitution: a Group of Organisation Support constituted by graduated young people, selected on the basis of a public proclamation and currently employed in formative activity.

The individualisation of all the principal actors, categories, professional orders and other people involved in the trial is now taking place.

In this phase a demand is manifested to constitute a network, between all the subjects that have started similar initiatives with the purpose of developing forms of collaboration for the optimisation of the process.

The final real objective of PACIS Pagani Sustainable City is to respect territory in which we live and to do all that is possible to improve the quality of our lives.

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