

*Integration of environmental and sustainable
development policies in Structural Funds –
The experience of the Italian Environmental
Authorities Network in 2000-2006 planning
period of S. F.*

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The integration of the environmental dimension in the CSF

“The improvement of the environmental context, the valorisation of natural resources and the promotion of a development unifying economic, social and environmental aspects”

Specific instruments for integration included in the CSF

- *Environmental Authorities (EAs), both central and regional*
- *The Network of EAs and Managing Authorities for Structural Funds 2000-2006*
- *An Environmental Task-Force for strengthening EAs and the ANPA/ARPA system (National & Regional Environment Agencies for data and monitoring)*

Environmental Authorities (EAs)

Role:

“to integrate environmental dimension in all sectoral actions covered by Structural Funds in a sustainable development perspective and to assure coherence of all these actions with the EU environmental policy and legislation”

CSF 2000-2006



**Systematic cooperation with Managing Authorities and all concerned parties involved in CSF, PONs and PORs management,
at central and local level**

**one central EA c/o Ministry of Environment & Territory
a regional EA for each region**

The Italian Network of Environmental & Managing Authorities

Established during 1994-99 programming period
Becoming significant in the 2000-06 period

Composition:

- 1 Environmental Authority of CSF and 7 PON (Ministry of Environment & T.)*
- 1 Managing Authority of QCS (Ministry of Economy & Finance)*
- 2 European Commission (DG-Env, DG-Regio)*
- 7 Managing Authorities of PON (i.e. Ministries)*
- 7 Managing Authorities of POR (Objective 1 Regions)*
- 7 Environmental Authorities of POR (Objective 1 Regions)*
- 14 Managing Authorities of Docup (North Regions – Obj.2)*
- 14 Environmental Authorities of Docup (North Regions – Obj.2)*



Both Central and Regional Authorities
Both North (Obj.2) and South (Obj.1) Authorities

The Products of the Network (1)

1. **Operational Plan of Systematic Cooperation between EAs and Managing Authorities (POCS)**
2. **Methodological and technical guidelines for the evaluation of Operational Programmes**
3. **Methodological and technical guidelines for the environmental evaluation of Territorial Integrated Projects**
4. **Update of the Ex ante Environmental Evaluation of CSF, PONs, PORs**
5. **Evaluation of the implementation of the Polluter-Pays-Principle**
6. **Working Groups on Waste, Water, Ecological Network, Rural development, Energy, Environmental monitoring, Strategic Environmental assesement.**

The Environmental Task-Force of Environmental Authorities

*“Only 0,7 units per region dedicated to environmental integration in
Structural Funds”*

Price, Waterhouse & Coopers study for the EC, 1999

*“Central and Regional EAs’ structures need to be reinforced.
Dedicated central and regional task-forces should be created”*

CSF 2000-2006



The TFA i.e. 165 experts for supporting:

- *1 Central EA (Ministry of Environment and Territory)*
 - *7 Regional EAs*
- *7 ARPAs (Environmental Protection Regional Agencies)*

The Environmental Task-Force of Environmental Authorities

- *experts on average highly motivated*
- *not used to Public Administration*
- approach and rhythm (for the good and for the bad)*
- *strong professional background*

The Environmental Task-Force of Environmental Authorities

“A 6y project (Env. Operational Project) implemented by MATT and financed by EU Structural Funds seeks to provide local administrations in Southern Italy with skilled environmental staff. Some 150 experts advise the Env. Auth. and the ARPAs on how to assess the environmental implications of the CSF, as well as those of national and regional operational programmes.

This is

a very innovative capacity building project”
OECD, Environmental Performance Review of Italy, 2002

quotes it also in Recommendations as an example for other fields

The Environmental Task-Force of Environmental Authorities

“Initiatives towards the strengthening of the environmental aspect of sustainable development should be stressed: by means of skilled staff, they have concurred to the strengthening of the integration of environmental issues and the effective operativity of Environmental and Managing Authorities Network. Appreciated and important results have been obtained regarding the integration of environmental concerns in the programming documents, through some important guide-line documents on the modalities of cooperation between Environmental Authority and Managing Authority and on the methodological aspects of the environmental evaluation of the OPs. The activities carried out by the Network constitute an important added value for our administrations and are appreciated by the European Commission as excellence praxis to be diffused to other Countries.”

Italian Ministry of Economy & Finance, CSF Managing Authority
PON ATAS 2002 Annual Report, June 2003

The challenge for the next period European niveau

*European Networks are growing
but much remains to be done:*

- *strengthening integration of environmental policies within economic and sectorial policies*
- *orientate Structural & Cohesion Funds towards Sustainable Development*