



Sustainable Territories: Intra-regional cooperation for a prosperous and greener future

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

More4nrg thematic seminar
Abruzzo (I), 8 October 2010

With the 20-20-20 goals now incorporated in the Europe 2020 Strategy, the EU is pursuing an ambitious climate and energy policy leading to sustainable territories. However, these goals can only be reached when all actors on a regional and local level make a calculated effort. Around three-fourths of all European regions have already implemented energy strategies, many of which involve intra-regional cooperation with different actors such as cities, municipalities, enterprises, chambers of commerce or other relevant organisations.

Intra-regional cooperation is crucial for regions, cities and municipalities in putting forward climate and energy action, innovation and economic development and a new way of thinking on how to best improve the quality of life and well-being. Sustainable territories created in this way offer a comprehensive link between the phenomena our regions are currently facing, such as climate change, rapid urbanisation, the need for accelerated economic growth and globalisation.

The objective of the conference is to debate with regional and local decision-makers and experts how they can best cooperate within their territories so as to implement their energy strategies and contribute to the European energy goals. The conference also aims to present regional good practice and demonstrate how cooperation between public and private actors can contribute to enhanced regional policies.

Dates and meeting venue:

7-8 October, Pescara, Abruzzo (I)

Structure of the conference:

The conference will be composed of two practical parts:

- The first part will offer an introduction to the theme by highlighting interactions on the regional level and by presenting EU and regional factors that can lead to sustainable territories. Speakers will explain how to enable regions and all regional

actors to make their territory a livable and economically growing space without damaging the environment and providing good living conditions.

- The second part will focus on practical tools to build a sustainable territory. A first session will highlight the cooperation between regions and cities and municipalities. The second session will investigate how regions can successfully cooperate with enterprises and their respective chambers and associations.

Throughout the conference, regional practitioners will also introduce other decision-making instruments meant to help policy-makers and policy planners to build consensus around the design and development of sustainable communities. Initiatives such as benchmarking methodologies, energy and climate change action plans, asset mapping and environmental impact assessment will be highlighted.

Questions to be addressed during the conference:

- How to tackle complex interrelations of different activities in our territories such as land use, transportation, housing, innovation, economic development and social equity?
- How can intra-regional cooperation be an answer to this complexity?
- What kind of decision-making tools can help to promote sustainable territories?
- How to involve enterprises and citizens with the planning process?
- How to coordinate tasks of local and regional authorities in tackling climate change and energy-related problems?
- How much do such policies cost? Are they affordable? Can they be considered reliable long-term solutions?