

Dear reader,

In the frame of the Medossic project an international conference on eco-innovation took place in Portorož, Slovenia on October the 1st. The conference represents the most important event of the Mediterranean project which is focused on strengthening the strategic cooperation between the economy, public institutions and other support organisations in the field of innovations for sustainable development.

A one-day conference was organised by Regional Development Centre Koper, which is one of the ten Mediterranean partners coming from Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Croatia and Montenegro. With the conference the partners want to contribute to an improvement of the regional politics in the field of eco-innovation and above all to strengthening the eco-innovation culture, which proved to be an important element in stimulating innovations for sustainable development.

Four presented contributions from companies and partners were directed to encouraging discussion and exchange of views on opportunities environmental awareness and (eco)innovation can offer. The first good practice case was presented by TEC - Technological and Environmental centre from Koper and the case from Port of Koper illustrated the system for enhancing innovation at the organizational level. An interesting output of the conference was also the Spanish case that presented the cooperation through a non-profit organization RETA, which provides direct support to the innovators on regional and not mainly on national level. This case proved to be a valuable reference point for the majority of participants, whose support systems for innovation operate on national level only. Finally, TecnoMarche, Italian project's partner from Marche region, presented their strategic and operational plan for the Marche region. All presented contributions are described in detail as follows.

The Medossic project partnership group.

PARTNERS

Slovenia

Regional Development Agency of the Notranjska-Karst Region
Regional Development Centre Koper
Regional Development Centre Novo mesto
.....

Cyprus

Larnaca district development Agency
.....

Italy

TecnoMarche - Scientific and Technology Park of the Marche Region
DELTA 2000 Soc. Cons. a.r.l.
.....

Spain

Provincial Government of Malaga
.....

Greece

Eastern Crete Development Organization
.....

IPA PARTNERS

Croatia

RRA Porin Rijeka, Croatia

Montenegro

Montenegrin Directorate for Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises,
Montenegro



MEDOSSIC CONFERENCE

At the transnational conference in Portorož (October the 1st) some of the best cases from business practice were presented. Participants had the opportunity to discuss private sector cases from Slovenia, but also one of the best system practices from Spain and Italy.



Conference impression.

(Eco)innovation as a business opportunity

TEC Technological and Environment centre Ltd. has been established by the Port of Koper together with private partners and the Municipality of Koper. TEC seeks new technological solutions for environmental conservation and carries out technological and ecological researches.

TEC is focused on renewable sources of energy, waste processing and fuel quality analysis. It is engaged in the development of innovations with world-class potential in the area of waste treatment and water reclamation. In 2008 the enterprise received an award from the national financial newspaper Finance and the Eco Fund for the environment friendly procedure of the year, for the development of a new sustainable technology of the transformation of waste from the paper industry in an eco absorbent material for cleaning the water surface.



Technical process

Ninety million tonnes of paper are produced in Europe's paper mills per year and the sludge that is a by product of this production, well over four million tonnes, is either processed and burned or dumped in landfill. By processing paper mill sludge to create an absorbent material capable of cleaning up oil and chemical spills, the CAPS method (Conversion of paper mill sludge into absorbent) claims that only 2.9% of emissions of CO₂ equivalent could be generated. With the production of Hydrophobic Absorbent for Water Surface Cleaning (HAWSC) this treated paper mill sludge could be taken up by 20% of the potential market in Europe, which would include ports, marinas, petrol stations, oil refineries and even restaurants and hotels. The enterprise will extend the production lines that already exist in Slovenia and Finland by setting up two new production lines a year, capable of processing 80,000 tonnes each. Their goal is to be able to handle 26% of all the paper mill sludge produced in Europe.

The penetration of the technology and product on the European market is co-financed by the European Commission through The Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) and Eco-Innovation programme. In 2009 the TOC was the only enterprise from Slovenia and one of the 15 selected enterprises from the EU invited to take part at The 2009 Eco-Innovation Summit in Brussels.



CAPS – Environmental Evaluation

Closing the loop



Scheme: environmental solution and monitoring the process.

System for internal promotion of (eco)innovations

Port of Koper (Luka Koper), port and logistic system, is a public limited company (51% of the shares are owned by the Republic of Slovenia) with 768 employees and 53 years of tradition. It operates all the terminals and the port area of the only Slovenian commercial port. The company is the main actor operating in the Slovenian maritime sector. Its basic port services are cargo handling and warehousing and it is capable of dealing with practically any kind of cargo. The company is heavily interconnected to the international trade, handling about 30% of cargo for domestic needs, where all the rest are transits for customers coming from the Central and Eastern Europe.

In 2000, Port of Koper was one of the first European and the only Mediterranean port to establish an environment management system according to the ISO 14001 standard applying to all port activities, and it is constantly building upon it. The company regularly monitors and supervises the environmental impacts of

port activities in co-operation with the presiding expert institutions.



Port of Koper.



Monitoring and managing environmental impacts have thus become part of the regular activities of the company, including all the employees in the environment management system. Innovations and work improvements are fostered on daily basis. Employees are invited to notify their innovations through the company intranet and are stimulated to do so through a system of rewards. When innovations are about environment, the goal is reached twice: a financial saving and a saving in terms of nature.

Eco-innovations have been implemented practically at every level of work. Examples are initiatives to save on paper and ink, rules about recycling materials in offices and on terminals (by producing also compost), use of bicycles or corporate bus for transfers inside the port area, but also specific technical improvements that are leading the port of Koper in becoming a green port.



Mrs. Metka Sušec Praček from Port of Koper

Regional system

The Andalusian Technology Network (RETA) is a non-profit organization that was incorporated in April 2005 at the initiative of the Regional Ministry of Innovation, Science and Enterprise to Foster R+D+I in Andalusian companies.

RETA's main objective is to boost and improve the innovation to all Andalusian companies regardless of their size or territorial location, through three premises:

- To have traditional companies innovate
- To have innovative companies carry out R+D
- To have companies those already carry out R+D+I to continue growing

To this end, RETA agglutinates the Autonomous Community's innovation offer and makes it available to Andalusian companies.

RETA's mission is to move the capacity of innovation of the Technological Centers of Andalusia and the knowledge generated at the universities to the whole Andalusian productive network in order to change it into highly competitive services and products.

RETA is located in Technological and Industrial Parks:

- To stimulate and to guarantee the Innovation and Technology Transfer
- To find out opportunities from Innovation and Technological Development
- To foster networking and to boost internationalizations
- To enhance the Andalusian productive network competitiveness

Technology clusters

RETA operates in the territory through Technology Partnerships. Technological clusters are concentrations of firms in science parks, innovation centres and industrial estates where RETA agents works directly with companies to facilitate access to services R&D&I provided by the network. RETA operates as a network deployed throughout every Andalusian Provinces (8).

"Technology Clusters" are placed at the heart of companies concentrations in specific geographical areas, where a RETA Technology Expert provides services and advice to local companies, so as to help them to innovate.

Reta: a service at hand

RETA offers Andalusian companies a direct, close, personalized and free consultancy service on:

1. R+D+I financing and protection
2. Creation of Innovate and technology-based companies
3. Business cooperation
4. Industrial promotion of small and medium-sized companies
5. Introduction of business management tools and systems
6. Product and process engineering



- 7. Technology Transfer
- 8. Specialized Training

Partners

RETA is comprised of 51 members:

- 11 Science and Technology Parks
- 35 Technology Centers and Foundations of Innovation and Technology
- 3 European Business and Innovation
- IFAPA, with its 18 Centers for Agricultural Research and Training and Fisheries
- Technological Corporation of Andalusia and 14 Participating Entities



Mr. Sergio Garcia from Provincial Government of Malaga presented the case of Reta.

Agents

The value and uniqueness of RETA agents is the direct and personal work with entrepreneurs. Technology Partnerships Agents visit companies, meet their needs and detect in the Andalusian Knowledge System the most effective solutions.

Among the activities of agents are:

- Transferring the experience of the Technology Park to the Industrial Estates
- Enhance the capacity of innovation and enterprise development
- Promote liaison between business and science
- Connect business with innovation capacity to innovation centers, BICs and other businesses of the territory in the same grouping technology
- Technological diffusion among traditional companies, so that the use of new technologies favors modernization and innovation capacity in the future

DELTA 2000



DELTA 2000 is a Local Development Agency and Local Action Group for the management of LEADER in Po Delta area in Emilia-Romagna region. It was created in 1994 as a non-profit association. In 1996 it becomes a limited liability co-operative company. It joins together of public bodies as well as individuals representing the main participating institutional, economic and social entities.



The main aim of our Agency is promoting local resources and economic activities in a harmonised and integrated way in order to start a local development process based on the self-representation of local communities. DELTA 2000 deals with local development, promotion of the area and economic growth of rural areas. It plays an important role as technical instrument for the implementation of local economic plans, supporting local bodies, associations, economic operators and the whole community in Ravenna e Ferrara Provinces.





The main current activities of the consortium are projects aimed at the valorisation of the economic resources and activities of the territory; the direct management of projects aiming at promoting integrated sustainable development; the evaluation and monitoring of projects carried out in the framework of EU initiatives such as European Cooperation Programme (as Italia-Slovenia, South East Europe and MED Programme), Leader Axis 4 and, in the recent past, the I.C. Leader II and Leader +, TACIS and V Framework Programme, EU Cross-border Programme INTERREG IIIA; technical assistance to public and private stakeholders, with reference to projects funded by the EU Cross-border Programme INTERREG IIIA and other European programmes.

Slovenia: South Primorska Region

South Primorska Region is one of the more developed Slovenian region, where natural features enable the development of tourism and special agricultural crops, its favourable geostrategic location and access to the sea facilitate the development of transportation and logistics services. The region has high entrepreneurial culture. The share of innovative companies among active enterprises is well above the national average, same as companies which fund R&D with own sources.

Building and construction activities are intensive, there are 8 dwellings per 1,000 population, mainly new constructions. The University of Primorska is an important asset to help the region face future challenges of global competitiveness. The current Regional Development Programme sets the following two priorities: **(1) Knowledge and technology for the development of the economy**, and **(2) Infrastructure for sustainable development**. Both priorities have potential for eco-innovative interventions.

Important facilitators of innovation in the region are large enterprises, which already meet high environmental standards and have important RD sections. Small and medium-sized enterprises are eco-innovative primarily in the areas of IT, electronics, chemical industry and processing waste. Great potential for the region are representing the sectors that are associated with the sea, port and transport (marine research, water protection, environmental technology, transport and tourism).



Luka Koper, whose activity leaves an impact on the development of the South Primorska region, giving it a positive and dynamic economic pulse.



Debeli Rtič