



Progetto “Highplan – Pianalto a sustainable development plan for Pianalto” LIFE04 ENV/IT/000446

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

General description

The general idea that underlines this project can be considered highly innovative firstly for the multidiscipline integrated approach that can be implemented and secondly for the size and typology of the area involved . HighPlan “Pianalto” is a quite interesting area in terms of morphology, with flat land and hills, small villages as well as small cities, all under an increasing pressure for urban, residential and industrial activities, with a deep and ancient rural culture. HighPlan “Pianalto” involves all these municipalities, spread across three provinces, that want to face the new millennium challenges with a common multilevel tool The aim is to create a particular structure over the municipalities dedicated to Sustainable Development, with a local approach but looking towards global solutions. This project wants to highlight the importance of cooperation and empowering local communities on a vast area with different characteristics and rates of development.

Objectives

Sustainable Planning following a participatory process of an area with similar environmental characteristics , through activities of multi-level information campaigns, confrontation between all the participants involved (Municipal councils, citizens, schools, employers) and the predisposition of a series of specific interventions in 4 main macro-areas: eco-building practices, sustainable transport, waste management, protection of the traditional natural landscape

Actions and means involved

Constitution of a Steering Committee composed of a representative of all the Municipal Councils and provinces involved, the region and the Agenzia Energia e Ambiente di Torino, responsible for the management and organisation of the Committee.

1. Predisposition of a Thematic Plan which will express the policy choices of the project.
2. Constitution of a Sustainable Development Agency which will manage the planning project on a day to day basis and which will operate across the territory in an itinerant manner through the opening of an information desk and through the organisation of conferences, exhibitions, information events and confrontation amongst the participants.
3. Confrontation with the local reality through a participatory process of Forum regarding environmental planning
4. Elaboration by the Pianalto Sustainable Development Agency of an Action Plan which will indicate in a precise manner the actions that are to be implemented in the 4 main macro-areas on which the Steering Committee reached a concerted decision for action.
5. Voluntary participation to the Action Plan by the Municipal Councils, which in this way demonstrate their commitment to the project
6. Implementation of the Action Plan in 4 macro-areas:
 - Municipal Councils: activities are foreseen aimed at the citizens in the form of incentives that encourage ecologically correct behaviour (separated waste collection, tax discounts offered for those undertaking eco-building practices, incentives to encourage conversion of commercial vehicles to methane) and through activities aimed at improving the management system of the council itself (energy saving measures, green purchasing, sustainable transport of employees, use of organic foodstuffs in canteens /homes managed directly by the council)
 - Schools: activities regarding training of pupils and teachers for the autodiagnosis of the school building, autodiagnosis of school buildings, implementation of energy saving measures and monitoring the results of energy consumption.
 - Citizens: activities foreseen include the organisation of one or more public conferences which highlight current environmental problems, ecologically correct behaviour patterns and how these can reduce the impact of human activities and finally how the Pianalto area intends to act regarding these themes. Organisation of an itinerant exhibition illustrating new technologies and environmental themes.
 - Companies and professionals: activities foreseen include training courses regarding eco-building and plant design and ISO 14000 – EMAS certification as well as best practices in these fields

Expected results

Activation of a form of environmental planning which:

- minimises the impact bound to human activities;
 - is elaborated and shared by all participants;
 - is the result of inter-municipal confrontation (circa 130.000 inhabitants), in order to maximise the possibilities for the exchange of knowledge, the transfer of best practices and the opportunity for co-operation on new projects;
 - is able to manage 4 concrete local projects (one from each macro-area)
 - makes the most of the specific local environmental characteristics (traditional natural landscape, local production of building materials, use of solar energy, biomass and other renewable energy sources, purification technology and recycling)
 - can remain as a participatory management tool for the territory even after the end of the project.
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