Energiochi
Inciting active participation in energy education in the form of a competition in schools as an application of «Alterenergy» models.

HALLE PAJOL
Paris, 02/12/2015
REGIONE ABRUZZO, ITALY

- Region surface: 10,794 Km²
- 65.1% is mountainous
- 34.9% is constituted by hills
- 4 provinces: L’Aquila, Teramo, Chieti, Pescara
- 305 municipalities
- 1,500,000 inhabitants
ENERGIOCHI REGIONAL CONTEST: AN INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE

Regione Abruzzo, Energy Department, and ARAEN (Regional Energy Agency), in collaboration with:

- the Ministry of University and Research, Regional Education Office
- University of L’Aquila, Department of Human Sciences

have been promoting the Regional School Contest called «ENERGIOCHI» (in English, Energames), for the last 10 years, inviting students from all educational levels in the region (kindergardens, elementary, middle and high schools) to work on energy efficiency and renewables.

The contest promotes the knowledge of energy saving criteria and renewable energy sources, raising awareness on the importance that everyday behaviors have on the environment, driving at virtuous behaviors and actions oriented to the sustainable consumption, as well as to the dissemination of good practices for the education to sustainable energy.

As a matter of fact, the first step to achieve EU objectives on reduction of greenhouse gas and to fight against climate change is to involve the younger generation (and the school system) because they are the citizens of the future.

Project co-financed by the European Union, Instrument of Pre Accession (IPA)
ABOUT THE CONTEST

- The competition is announced every year in autumn. The works are generally received at the regional offices by March and awarded in May.

- During the academic year, participants can either present an awareness-raising work that informs on issues related to renewable energy and environmental sustainability, or build a creative project, for the promotion of renewable energy. For a better realization of the final product, the following educational resources are available:
  - lectures by both technical and administrative qualified personnel;
  - guided educational tours to renewable energy plants;
  - educational workshops on energy and environment sustainability.

- All works must be strictly connected with the local context where the school is located, also with reference to the SEAP (Sustainable Action Plan) prepared by each municipality and the *Covenant of Mayors*. 

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- 242 projects evaluated (mainly movies, interviews, plasters, drawings)
- 36 educational institutions ranked on the first 3 places in every province according to their educational level (kindergarten, primary school, lower secondary and secondary school)
- 51 schools awarded
- 28 special awards
- 4 evaluation commissions
- The final award ceremony was attended by more than 2,500 students and 500 between teachers, school heads, and mayors of towns from the winning schools
- The amount of the contest varies from year to year, but generally it is around €200,000.00. The project is funded by Regione Abruzzo also through international partnerships, as in the case of «Alterenergy».
Regione Abruzzo promotes its contest at EU level also thanks to FEDARENE. The aim is to broaden the partnership with other countries. Agreements with Spain, Croatia and Cyprus have been signed to realize the contest abroad and to share the experiences among teachers and students involved in the project. Sweden, England, Hungary, Netherlands and Romania are following the same path.
ENERGIOCHI AS TANGIBLE APPLICATION OF THE BOTTOM-UP APPROACH (1)

Energiochi represents an education and awareness activity in the framework of the «Covenant of Mayors» initiative as it focuses on the direct and strategic involvement of local bodies, small communities and schools fostering their cooperation and integration to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories.

It aims at contributing to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO2 reduction objective by 2020 and a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

In line with the EU programmes and initiatives, the contest highlights the importance for the territories to strengthen their resilience to the inevitable impacts of climate change, now and for the future.

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ENERGIOCHI AS TANGIBLE APPLICATION OF THE BOTTOM-UP APPROACH (2)

Energiochi is a best practice in the application of the bottom-up strategy. As a matter of fact, Regione Abruzzo is strongly convinced that local governments can play a decisive role in the mitigation of the effects of climate change, especially if we consider that 80% of energy consumption and CO2 emissions is associated with urban activities. For this reason the need for a "bottom up" strategy, that starts from the base, from individuals and individual communities to achieve a strong, practical impact in the fight against climate change is a top priority.

In this framework, the regional governments play a strategic role as an intermediate body that is aware of the different needs and approaches at local level and coordinates the actions in order to meet these specific needs. It is the multilevel governance that involves Regions, Provinces and all municipalities.
ENERGIOCHI AS APPLICATION OF THE “ALTERENERGY” MODEL

Energiochi has been further strengthened by the integration of “Alterenergy model” consisting in the awareness and education campaign with the direct and strategic involvement of local bodies and schools with special attention to small communities (with less than 10,000 inhabitants), creating better conditions for a dialogue between citizens, stakeholders and local authorities.

Alterenergy is a tool for expanding government-citizen interaction is the information campaign: it enhances local authorities’ role in the diffusion of energy efficiency measures and increases the awareness about the opportunities and benefits related to energy efficiency.

The above mentioned model represents a replicable models for the sustainable management of energy resources in small European communities, improving their capacity to plan and manage integrated actions dealing with RES/RUE use, through a participated approach that involves the local actors and the implementation of pilot actions in the education field.

Thanks to this strategy local authorities and schools become co-protagonist of the choices of the territory in energy and environmental fields.

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THE AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES OF ALTERENERGY PROJECT

Among 56 awareness raising activities organized by the project consortium, it is worth to highlight also the very exciting experience regards the theatre-learning approach aimed at experimenting innovation in an audience development. 5 project partners in fact agreed on a different tool for stimulating young students, based on a theatre experience.

After a training session involving 10 theatre Adriatic actors, 5 related laboratories have been implemented in different local schools, reaching 2,350 people during the all activities performed.

A Final Publication as Manual on the theatre lab experience has been produced in may 2015 and presented during a further show organized by Puglia Region on the 21/05/2015 with 479 participants.

The final theatre show “Alternative Odyssey” has been organized as follows:
• In Molise in May 2014;
• In Slovenia in July 2014;
• In Puglia on the 11/12/2014 and replicated on 21/05/2015;
• In Veneto on the 13 December 2014;
• The Albanian partner has finalized the activity in April 2015.
«Alterenergy» is a project funded within the cross-border Cooperation Programme IPA-Adriatic 2007-2013. The initiative relies on a partnership of 18 organizations, regions, ministries and energy agencies belonging to all the countries of the Adriatic area: Italy (7 Adriatic Regions), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia and it is led by the Mediterranean Department of Puglia Region with the scientific support of the Technology and Innovation Regional Agency (ARTI Puglia).

It aims to promote sustainability in small Adriatic communities through an integrated approach for the efficient use of energy and its production from renewable sources. The precise aim of the project is to develop replicable models of sustainable management of energy resources in small Adriatic municipalities through attended participated approach involving public administrations, policy makers, citizens and local stakeholders, improving their ability to plan and manage integrated actions of energy saving and the production of energy from renewable sources.

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REPLICABILITY & TRANSFERABILITY

Energiochi is easily replicable in other countries for several reasons:

✓ **Education**: The environmental education in schools is already part of the curricula; this is why Energiochi represents a tangible replication to be shared at European level.

✓ **Freedom of approaches and choices**. Each country can choose:
  - how many schools and which classes will participate, considering that the aim is to develop a critical consciousness with respect to environmental issues;
  - the amount of the contest according to its needs and economic resources and how to spend the budget (whether to organize guided educational tours or not, whether to award the works with money or not, and so on)

✓ **Awareness campaign**: The contest stimulates the development of an interaction between local authorities and schools: students could get in contact with their territory and local authorities studying the local energy plants and programs.

This is a model of governance easy to replicate, thus creating resilient communities and improving citizens awareness on sustainable development, which is also the main purpose of Alterenergy.

Give the floor to Ms Dina Studen (Zagreb, Croatia)
ENERGIOCHI IN EUROPE: a concrete example of replicability

- **AVILA (SPAIN):**
ENERGIOCHI IN EUROPE: a concrete example of replicability

- **CYPRUS (GREECE):**

Agios Andreas Primary School Nicosia joined Energiochi contest since 8th edition. In each edition students carried out different works focused on different topics, such as a project on wind power, model houses using solar energy, a theatrical play about solar energy and the use of photovoltaic systems, becoming more and more independent and self-confident with respect to environmental issues.

In the last edition, they studied “new” professions related to renewable sources of energy and they amply disseminated the project.

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION
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A Paris,

La ville lumière,

la ville de l’amour

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