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ITALY



COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

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LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency

ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: Besides the ODA initiatives, Italy is active in many actions of capacity building and technology transfer to developing countries and countries with economies in transition through research institutes, governmental agencies, universities, and *ad hoc* consortia.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: In 1999, Italy's Official Development Assistance (ODA), as reported to the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, has been 1,806 millions of dollars (€1,695,011). The ODA/GNP ratio is 0.15%. If one considers the gross return of 193 millions of USA dollars, Italy's APS has been of 1,999 millions of USA dollars, equal to €1,876,288, according to the OECD conventional exchange rate of 1,817.3 Italian Lira per dollar. These amounts are far from the 0.7% established during the Rio Earth Summit and confirmed in 1997 as a strategic objective by both the UN General Assembly and the Italian Parliament. More specifically, in 1999, Italy's contribution of 1,999 millions of USA dollars has been distributed as follows:

- 1,355 millions of USA dollars, equal 67% of the total, to the multilateral; and
- 644 millions of USA dollars, equal 32.2% of the total, to the bilateral.

In 2000, the ODA has been €1,497.725,007 (equivalent to 0.13% of the GNP). In the DPEF (National Document for Economic and Financial Planning) for the years 2002-2006 the 0.7% goal has been reaffirmed, and the funds have been increased (€103,291.380 in 2002, €154,937,070 in 2002, €206,582,760 in 2004),

Cooperation: By its constant participation at the activities of the OECD/DAC Working Party on Development Assistance & Environment, Italy has supported the principles approved in Rio, as well as adopted the deliberations of the Rio +5 process. In particular, by adopting bilateral instruments, Italy has focused its intervention on the Mediterranean Basin, the Middle East, and the Balkan Regions. In this context, the co-operation with environmental institutions has been particularly intense, in particular in Egypt, the Palestinian territories, Tunisia, and Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia.

The co-operation with the North-East Adriatic Countries are aimed at supporting institutions and policies on sustainable use of forestry resources and protecting the Adriatic basin, through financial planning in cooperation with the World Bank and international organizations. For these investments, the co-operation has been established directly by way of research of framework agreements with regional organizations linked to the nature conservation organizations.

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**CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED
DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE**

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: In 1989 a Commission was established to investigate poverty and marginalization, with two main objectives: (a) to provide data and information on the spread and the characteristics of poverty in Italy; and (b) to provide decision-makers with instruments for policy assessment.

Programmes and Projects: In 2000 Italy participated at the launch of the Anti Poverty Partnership Initiative (APPI) hosted by UNDP and at the ILO "universitas" project, promoting training and innovation. Some agreements have been signed with some HIPC's (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) such as Bolivia, Tanzania, Uganda in order to activate the cancellation of their debt, as stated by Law 209/2000.

Status: The number of poor families includes those who live below the poverty line, i.e., with a per capita consumption that is less than half of the average national per capita consumption. Based on the data for consumption by families compiled by the National Statistics Institute (ISTAT), in 1995, 2.128 million families lived in poverty, for a total of 6.696 people, corresponding to 10.6% of families and 11.9% of the Italian population. Sixty-eight and one-tenths percent of poor families are in the South of Italy; 12.4% in the Center; and 19.5% in the North.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Social spending as a percentage of the State's total expenditures has gone from 24.4% in 1992 to 18.5% in 1995.

Cooperation: Italian co-operation has adopted a new strategy to combat poverty in line with the guidelines about to be defined by the OECD, but also fit to available financial and human resources. Moreover, the central strategic objective of the government's co-operation activities for the period 2000-2002 is to reduce poverty, involving all the regional areas in which co-operation is active. The initial financial endowment for the programme is €129,114,225. Further €103,291,380 will be allocated in order to guarantee continuous action until the end of 2003. Moreover, the decision provided by the 1998 Financial Law will be further implemented. According to it, the assisted countries can benefit of a debt swap in local currency funds, to be destined to environmental protection and socio-economic development programmes.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: Law n. 38 of 1994 redefined tariffs in the integrated water service, taking into account the quality of the resources and the service and assuring full coverage of costs. The legislative decree of December 1996 turned the tax on waste into a tariff, no longer calculated on the basis of the surface of the living space but on the quantity of waste produced.

In 1999, the “Sezione Ecolabel Italia” and ANPA adopted a plan for the promotion of Ecolabel in Italy. As a result, in October 2001, 14 Italian enterprises had adopted the Ecolabel, representing 139 products in 7 different sectors.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In Italy strictly environmental taxes constitute 0.1 % of total tax revenues. Energy and automobile taxes (12,8 %), which have a significant environmental impact, represent a higher percentage.

In 2000, the application of the Ecolabel was extended to the services, and the tourism sector was chosen as the first sector for such application. ANPA realized a national study on the feasibility of the application of the Ecolabel to the tourism sector. The positive results of this study, published at the end of the year, encouraged the application of the Ecolabel to the tourism sector.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Among the voluntary tools are some initiatives of communication and information of consumers. The law 9/91 foresees the energetic labeling to inform the consumers and to promote more efficient products, but its real implementation was limited. It became compulsory only between 1998 and 1999 (first for the refrigerators, then for the washers) following the adoption of EU directives.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: The 1996 budget introduced a tax on the disposal of waste being unloaded that aims to foster a decrease in the production of waste and increase the recovery of raw materials and energy from waste. The tax revenue should amount to more than 1,000 billion liras per year.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

Decision-Making: In Italy strictly environmental taxes constitute 0.1% of total tax revenues. Energy and automobile taxes (12,8%), which have a significant environmental impact, represent a higher percentage.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Despite a growing demand, the energy sector shows a promising tendency to a slight decoupling between energy consumption and economic growth. National energy intensity (toe per million ECU, 1990) fell off from 183 in 1985 to 180 in 1990 and 177 in 1996. However, the reduction of energy prices slowed down the performances of the energy sector. In terms of energy efficiency, Italy was in 1996 the seventh most efficient country, providing 6,8 billions USD (1995) per Mtoe of energy. Another accomplishment relates to the reduction of sulphur dioxide emissions (minus 21% in 1995 in comparison with 1990) and of nitrogen oxide emissions (minus 22% in 1995 in comparison with 1990).

These results are mainly due to:

- The adoption of abatement technologies and better techniques of combustion;
- The increasing use of natural gas (plus 43,3% during the last decade and plus 8.7% in 1999 with respect to 1998) that represented 30.6% of the energy demand in 1999; and
- The adoption of stringent regulations on sulphur emissions.

The demand for renewable sources of energy is increasing continuously (plus 49.5% during the last decade and plus 11.5% in 1999 with respect to 1998). The most relevant renewable sources of energy are hydroelectric and geothermic energy that represent 20% of the national energy production. However the production of electric energy from Aeolian and solar sources is still marginal. In order to overcome this situation, a project for the construction of a solar plant in Sicily has been recently funded.

An important measure to promote the use of renewable sources of energy relates to the adoption of a market mechanism that will enter into force in January 2002 and oblige producers and importers of electric energy to provide electricity from renewable sources for at least 2% OF THE QUANTITY EXCEEDING 100 gwH. This system will start in January 2002 and the final objective is to double the recourse to renewable sources within 2010.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The measures Italy has taken allowed it to comply with the obligations of the Helsinki Protocol (1985) on the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 per cent and of the Sofia Protocol (1988) concerning the control of emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes, both Protocols in the framework of the UN-ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979).

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: In October 1995, a framework law on noise pollution was approved regulating the air, rail, maritime and vehicular transportation sectors. The regions have the duty of defining zoning criteria for municipal territories and acoustic rehabilitation plans. Environmental taxes constitute 0.1 % of total tax revenues. Energy and automobile taxes (12,8 %), which have a significant environmental impact, represent a higher percentage.

Some measures have been taken in order to overcome the situation of increase in transportation and to reduce the negative impact of the transport sector on environment and health:

- The abandonment of lead fuels’;
- The extension of the railway system;
- The promotion of web access to jobs and services;
- The so-called “Sundays walking” initiative, supported by the Ministry of Environment and organized monthly by 200 municipalities. The objective of this initiative is to reduce air pollution by closing the city centers to automobile traffic during one day (usually on Sunday). The results of the initiative were very positive in terms of pollutant emissions reduction and public participation to the activities (walks, concerts, etc.) organized.
- The creation of new cycle paths;
- The expansion of pedestrian zones; and
- The promotion of the collective use of the car (car pooling and car sharing).

The adoption in 2000 of a General Transport Plan that takes into account the environmental impact of the transport system and the need to reduce the demand for transport.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In 1998, the number of vehicles in Italy reached 42.8 million units: 31.4 million of cars (Italy has one of the highest rates of motorization with more than 50 cars per 100 inhabitants), 3 million of industrial vehicles and 6.8 million of motor-cycles. Moreover, even if the process of renewal of the mobile park is in course, the percentage of these vehicles with more than 10 years of life is very high (37.2% for cars; 50.8% for trucks; 60.9% for buses and 56.6% for motor-cycles). This means that a large amount of vehicles circulate not respecting the new environmental normative on gas emissions. All the measures mentioned above have not produced the expected positive results because of the overwhelming demand for transport of passengers and goods by road. The General Transport Plan foresees that, over the next 10 years, the demand for transport by road will increase by 14 to 33% for passengers and by 12 to 28% for goods.

Energy consumption has gone up from 163 Mtoe (Tonnes Oil Equivalent) in 1990 to 175,5 Mtoe in 1997. This increase was mainly due to the transport sector. A priority objective of action to improve the transportation sector is to protect people's health from air pollution generated by fuel combustion. The road transportation sector is, in fact, responsible for 49% of NO_x emissions, 63% of CO, 38% of COV, 62% of Pb, 20% of CO₂.

The most negative trends have been registered in the transport sector. The energy consumption in the transport sector has gone up from 62 million TCE in 1992 to 39 million TCE in 1997. The transport sector represents 30 % of the national energy consumption. The energy consumption for transport by road represents 89% of the total energy consumption for transport.

The energy consumption for transport for the most part non renewable, is responsible for the release of numerous polluting substances in the atmosphere. The transport sector is responsible for 28% of the carbon dioxide emissions, 78% of the carbon oxide emissions, 66% of the nitrogen oxide emissions and 4% of the sulphur oxide emissions. Major improvements are expected with the introduction in the vehicle park of cars with catalytic stock-pot.

The transport sector is responsible also for the acoustic pollution. Despite the 1995 framework legislation on acoustic pollution, around 90% of the Italian population living in big cities is still exposed to noise levels superior to acceptable thresholds foreseen for urban areas. This situation is due to the non-adoption of concrete measures for transport sector. However, measures have been taken to reduce the noise caused by air and railway transport.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: In general terms, the difficulties in implementing the sustainable development objectives were also due to the fact that the financial contribution allocated, the institutional co-ordination between central and local level and the involvement of the private sector were not adequate.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In 1992 the average number of children per woman in Italy was between 1.25 and 1.26 by comparison to the average EU value of 1.48. In the Center-North of the country, the fertility level is equivalent to 1 child per woman. Projections for 2005 indicate three hypotheses: fertility rates of 2.1, of 1.7-1.8, or of 1.3 will lead, leading, respectively, to populations of 59.58, 56.24 and 51.98 million inhabitants. Unlike other countries, in Italy there is not great concern over the problem of sustainable population growth. The issues on which attention is focused are the drop in the birth rate, aging of the population, foreign immigration, and health. In recent years the government has not taken any significant initiatives on the subject of fertility and births. On the other hand, the cultural, economic and social conditions do not seem to exist for an eventual increase in Italian fertility rates. The main challenges related to demography include: the declining birth rate (Italy has the lowest rate in the world.); and the ageing of the population.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Italy, through the UNFPA, has funded projects in Africa to improve services in the mothers and infants sector, and pilot projects to benefit women in Latin America. Through FAO, it has also financed a project to support the first farm census in China (1986-96). Collaborative activities have started with Mozambique for personnel training and expansion of structures to make the population census.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: From 1990 to 1996 at least 18 laws were passed to assimilate EU directives in the field of air pollution and industrial risks, affecting productive activities. Law 626 of 1994 and the later Decree 242 of March 1996 issued new regulations for safeguarding the health of workers on the job (in 1995, 780,000 work-related accidents, including 1,080 fatalities, were reported).

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: A priority objective of action to improve the transportation sector is to protect people's health from air pollution generated by fuel combustion. The road transportation sector is, in fact, responsible for 49% of NO_x emissions, 63% of CO, 38% of COV, 62% of Pb, 20% of CO₂. The data for 1993 shows that in large cities there is respect for the air quality standards on SO₂, while the standards for NO₂, CO₂, and particularly CH₄ are exceeded. In October 1995 a framework law on noise pollution was approved regulating the air, rail, maritime and vehicular transportation sectors. The regions have the duty of defining zoning criteria for municipal territories and acoustic rehabilitation plans.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: Approximately 50 Italian municipalities are adopting their own documents (Local Agendas 21) for sustainable developments (including Rome and Venice).

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The inspections of the number of cars in circulation provided for by the new road code will lead to 6% savings in fuel consumption. Car parks designed at intersections with public transportation (Park and Ride) received a subsidy of 3,500 billion liras, for subways and trams 6,000 billion, and for bicycle paths 50 billion. The average amount of green space per 9.5 million inhabitants of the eleven largest cities in 1993 was 9.8 m² per person. Specific initiatives are underway for the 14 areas declared at risk of environmental crisis, in which approximately 11 million people live. The activities of required consortia allowed the recycling in 1995 of 1.4 tons of trash (double the amount of 1990), primarily in the cities.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making:

In 1999, the task of promoting sustainable development was formally assigned to the Ministry of the Environment, which was endowed with a Department for Sustainable Development (SVS). The Department mainly deals with the following functions:

- Promotion and coordination of programmes and projects for sustainable development;
- Finding of financial resources for interventions of environmental protection and recovery;
- Formulation and management of programmatic documents admitted for European co-financing;
- Environmental tax regulations and tariff mechanisms;
- Environmental accountability;
- Promotion of voluntary agreements with private enterprises;
- Promotion of employment in the environmental field
- Promotion of environmental research;
- Dissemination of environmental information to the public;
- Drafting of the report on the State of the Environment;
- Updating and management of the National Plan for Sustainable Development; and
- Support of sustainable development objectives in international fora.

A permanent working group between the Ministry of Environment and Regional authorities has been created in April 2001 to discuss actions for sustainable development. In 1993, in compliance with the obligations signed in Rio, Italy adopted its first Global Plan for Sustainable Development and for the implementation of Agenda 21 in order to give more operational substance to this principle. This Plan, approved by the CIPE, the Italian Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning, devised a national strategy that was essentially addressed at checking and planning the economical development model making reference to its environmental effects rather than the social and institutional concerns.

In 1998, the Ministry of the Environment began the preparation of the new National Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development. In line with the Sixth European Environmental Action Programme, some priority areas (instead of the driving forces identified in the 1993 National Plan) have been identified and, for each area, specific objectives and targets have been fixed. The priority areas are: climate and atmosphere, nature and biodiversity, environmental quality and quality of life in the urban areas, use of resources and waste production. The strategy gives a major emphasis to the relationship between environmental quality and quality of life of human beings, in particular in urban areas. The concept of quality of life, as foreseen in the strategy, is mainly related to human health, air quality, noise and food security. Other important issues are the integration of the environmental factor in all major policies and the public awareness and participation in the environmental decision-making processes. In order to allow the CIPE to adopt the strategy by the end of 2002k, the Ministry of the Environment has initiated the inter-ministerial consultation process, involving at the same time the major stakeholders.

Since 1996, environmental concerns are also included in the “National Document for Economic and Financial Planning”(DPEF) that contains guidelines for the Government action. Two different phases have led to the integration of the environment into policy making. The first phase, that started with the 1996 DPEF was characterized by the application in the environmental field of the theory of double dividends. The theory is based on the idea that environmental protection (in particular energy saving) and valorization can positively contribute in promoting national economy and employment. The 2001-2004 DPEF, approved in 2000, defines the integration of environmental issues as a major step for a wider economic policy of sustainability”. The action will be mainly focused on the rationalization in the production and consumption of energy products and on the taxation reform. The DPEF also promotes the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol targets for the prevention of climate changes, the improvement in energy efficiency as well as the increase in the use of renewable sources of energy.

The activities developed in Italy to promote local sustainability instruments have increased notably in the last year, permitting Italy to align itself with the best European standards. In the last years, these initiatives are strongly supported by the central institutions, affirming the principle and objectives of local sustainable development.

Programmes and Projects: The National Plan was developed taking into account the general framework adopted in 1992 at European level, named “Fifth Environmental Action Programme”. The programme identified the main “driving forces” responsible for the bulk of pressures on the environment: energy, industry, agriculture, transport, tourism and waste.

Status: In the July 1994 agreement between government, labor unions and entrepreneurial associations, the issue of sustainable development was inserted, with particular reference to aspects of work, research and training.

During the last decade, the competences in the environmental field have been progressively transferred from national level to regional and local levels. The national level is competent for the definition of the environmental quality objectives and for the general criteria of the sector policies. The regions are responsible for the strategic planning. Finally, provinces and municipalities are responsible for the control and application of the plans and programmes. In order to avoid possible conflicts, the State is also competent for the coordination and integration of environmental rules and programmes.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: In order to facilitate the communication between the authorities and the citizens and to make citizens aware of the decisions to be taken, their long-term effects and their possible alternatives, a mechanism of public involvement, as defined by the European Awareness Scenario Workshop (an initiative launched by the European Commission in 1994) has been often adopted. .

Information: The National Agency for Environmental Protection –ANPA has drawn up data bank GELSO (local management and environmental sustainability). This data bank is a tool for local administrations, environmental associations, technicians, environment consultants, citizens and all those that are interested in innovations in the environmental area. The data bank gathers the “good practices” defined on the basis of compatibility with a set of requirements put into play by ANPA and verified by a scientific committee. In order to facilitate the practical enforcement of the local Agenda 21 the National Environmental Protection Agency – ANPA has published in 2000 guidelines addressed to local administration.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Parallel to this national decentralization process the European Union has re-enforced its role in the environmental field with the adoption of the Fifth Environmental Action Programme (the Sixth Environmental Action Programme is in course of adoption). In fact, the definition of the general framework of the Community environmental policy remains the prerogative of the European Union.

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CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: The preliminary actions for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, with the CIPE deliberation of the 19 November 1998, gave origin to the definition of a detailed number of national actions finalized to the reduction of the GHG emissions. The process of implementation of these foreseen interventions is still in progress. Due to the relatively good general framework of the Italian energetic system, the burden of the GHG emissions abatement will be relatively high without applying the so-called “flexible mechanisms”.

The annual programme will identify:

- The typology of actions that will be financed;
- The priority sectors of intervention;
- The assignable funds to single measures and programmes;
- The conditions and modalities for the assignment of financial resources;
- The priority territorial areas;
- The categories of people that will benefit from the interventions; and
- The modalities for the monitoring of the initiatives and the assessment of the results.

Status: Among the environmental issues the fulfilling of the Kyoto targets will be the main challenge in the next future along with the pressure generated by the transport sector. The Conclusions of the European Environment Council of 29 October 1990, adopted under the Italian European Union Presidency, aimed at the stabilization of dioxide carbon emissions to the level of 1990 within 2000. The Kyoto Protocol renewed this objective by setting an overall GHG reduction target of 8% within 2008-2012 for the whole European Union (the specific target of Italy is -6.5%).

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Italy signed the Montreal Protocol (1987) in 1988; its London Amendment (1990) in 1993 and its Copenhagen Amendment (1992) in 1993. The latest reports to the Montreal Protocol Secretariat were prepared in 1995. Italy signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994.

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CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Decision-Making: A recent legislative instrument, Territorial Agreements, i.e., agreements of programs between local institutions and the labor unions and entrepreneurial associations, became operative in various parts of the country and is meant for initiatives to implement socio-economic and environmental sustainable development in the territories.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: A Charter on forests and vegetation is being implemented that will allow more incisive intervention policies to safeguard the forests.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: According to the rules agreed in Bonn and Marrakech, an important contribution to the fulfillment of the Italian commitment will be given by the forest sector. During the last decade, Italian forests have absorbed 15 million tons of carbon each year. Such a result is tied to the increase in forest extension in line with the new forest management system based on conservation and protection. For instance, at least 104,000 hectares of new forests have been introduced by Regional initiatives between 1994 and 2000., and other forests have appeared, also by natural diffusion of the forest trees and shrubs in abandoned rural areas previously destined to agricultural uses. According to EUROSTAT data, in 2000 the total forest extension was 9,857,000 hectares. On the contrary, forest fires represent a considerable obstacle to the absorption of carbon emissions and to the ecosystem. In 1998, fires provoked 1.6 million tons of carbon emissions in the atmosphere, destroying 73,016 hectares of forests. In 2000, 8595 fires have been registered, covering about 58000 hectares of forests.

Another challenge relates to the risk of erosion and hydro-geological disorders (floods and landslides). In Italy, 3671 municipalities (45% of the total) are classified with high risk of landslides of floods. These risks tend to increase because of climate changes that induce intense precipitations concentrated in short periods. The repetition of meteorological disasters re-enforced the need to adopt concrete measures to reduce the effects of these natural disorders. A turning point was represented by the tragedy of Samo (area in the South of Italy) where two hundred people died in a catastrophic landslide. After this tragedy, an emergency legislative measure was issued, and specific emergency measures were taken for the interested area. The important innovations relate to the definition of areas with high risk of landslide and flood and to the adoption of a new approach based on prevention and civil protection.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: On 27 February 1996 Italy signed the protocol to activate the Convention on the Alps, covering mountain forests, which is meant to assure a global policy for the protection and sustainable development of the Alpine territory. The subjects operating in this field include thirty-five mountain communities, whose most prominent activity is the defense of the forest and the lumber cycle.

The North African programme has mobilized resources in two countries of strategic value for Italy's aid programme: Egypt and Tunisia. These, together with the African Sahel, are the parties that Italy has chosen to support actions in the framework of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

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CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: MDALUS project, (Mediterranean Desertification and Land Use) is a project which operates in the EU Mediterranean area.

Status: In Italy the desertification phenomenon is found in Sardinia, due primarily to human activity. In the framework of the MDALUS project, (Mediterranean Desertification and Land Use), which operates in the EU Mediterranean area, Sardinia is a unique area of study. The preliminary results of the studies of desertification in Sardinia show that the main causes are urbanization, excavation activities, salination, forest fires, and heavy metal pollution.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa was signed by Italy in 1994 and ratified in 1997.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: Law n.97 of 31 January 1994 laid the foundations for a sustainable development of the mountain environment, with management coordinated by the State, regional, and local governments. The law creates a national fund for the mountains, facilitations for young entrepreneurs, an informational system on the mountains, and simplification of administrative activities. The initiatives being discussed include the definition of a Convention for the sustainable development of the Apennines. A good mountain policy should provide for detailed projects that take into account the varying degrees of development of the different mountain realities in Italy.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: It is useful to recall that of the thirty richest municipalities of the country, twenty-three are located in mountain areas (primarily in the North), just as of the thirty poorest municipalities, twenty-seven are in mountain areas, primarily in the South. Italy's mountains, including the Alpine arc and the Apennine ridge, represent more than one-third of the national territory (4,198 municipalities organized in 350 communities, with 10.4 million inhabitants).

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Moreover there are efforts underway to grow beyond an emergency and instead plan preventive actions that will allow savings. In fact, according to calculations, damages caused by hydrogeological imbalance in the past 10 years amount to 60,000 billion liras. For 1996, financial resources allocated to mountains were approximately 670 billion.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: During the last decade, the use of fertilizers and pesticides, mainly concentrated in the North, showed swinging trends. The entry into force in April 1999 of the “Code of good agricultural practices” that contains measures to reduce and prevent nitrate pollution from agricultural activities (in compliance with the European Nitrates Directive) gave origin to a stabilization of nitrogen compounds used in the production of fertilisers. Phosphorus and potassium compounds are also stabilizing. As far as pesticides are concerned, their use is 15% lower than the level registered in 1990.

The agricultural sector consumes 50% of the available water resources. The national policy for sustainable use of water resources aims at rationalizing water consumption and promoting water recycling. The integrated” water management system of water distribution, consumption and treatment has been organized at local level. Finally, the authorization to discharge waste water into water bodies is given not only on the basis of their chemical composition (emissions limits) but also on the basis of the ecological standards. This system, foreseen with a 1994 national law has been only recently put in practice. Actually Italy is close to finishing the development of a new national law to discipline wastewater reuse. This would be one of the most practical ways to reach both water bodies quality protection and water saving in the same time.

The number of farms and people employed in the agricultural sector is decreasing. However, the abandonment of the farms has not been accompanied by measures to restore the natural conditions of the landscape. This situation gave origin to a serious degradation of soils and to an increasing risk of hydro geological disasters.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: A new phenomena relates to the extension of biological agriculture. In 1999, the surface dedicated to biological cultures was of 953,000 hectares and the number of biological farms was of 47,000,. Mainly located in the South (Sardinia and Sicily). The biological sector represents 6% of the agricultural surface. The main biological products are fodder, grain, fruits, olive and wine. Biological agriculture aims at ensuring an added value to the products, by lowering the environmental impact of agricultural practices, and protecting natural resources.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: NGOs in Italy are heavily involved in this area, themselves managing one hundred twelve protected areas totaling 28.141 ha.

Programmes and Projects: To implement the EU Habitat Directive, Italy has initiated the Bio-Italy project, which aims to identify the areas of the Italian territory to be inserted in the Nature 2000 ecological network.

Status: With regard to flora, in Italy there are approximately 5,900 species, while the check-list of fauna presented in early 1996 indicates more than 56,000 species. To this end, in June 1996 Italy transmitted to the EU a list of approximately 2,300 national sites of EU importance. From 1992 to 1995, 3,236 exemplars of animals and 3,344 exemplars of fruit/vegetables protected by CITES were sequestered.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: The First Triennial Program for protected areas (1991-1993) allocated 375 billion liras worth of resources, while the Second Triennial Program (1994-1996) allocated 154 billion liras.

Cooperation: Italy signed the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 and ratified it in 1994. Its latest report was submitted in 1995. Italy signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in 1973.

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**CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF
BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY
SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-
BUILDING**

Decision-Making:

Technologies: In 1999, the national Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Environment (ENEA) was reformed in order to give explicit support to sustainable development through research and innovation. Actually, the organizational structure of ENEA is being revised in order to further clarify its task. One of the major changes relates to the institution of a Division competent for sustainable development.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Programmes and Projects:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Status:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Information:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Financing:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Cooperation:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

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CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES.

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The Italian coastline is approximately 7,100 km long. The beaches extend for approximately 52% of the littoral development and more than 1500 km are in a state of erosion. Counting ports, wharves and protective works, there are more than 600 km of concrete defenses. Sea water quality has improved slightly, as shown by the analysis of data on the suitability of bathing water in the 1992-95 period; the percent of favorable samples increased from 91.4% in 1992 to 93.9% in 1995. In the latter year, bathing was not allowed along 592 km of coastal area due to pollution. Of these, 81% were due to exceeding legal limits on biological parameters. After the algae infestations of the late 1980s in the upper Adriatic and in some parts of the Tirana, there have been no more major eutrofissation and mucilaginous formations algae. In the Orbetello and Venice lagoons projects are underway to lower the risk of new eutrophic excesses. In Italian ports in 1993, 16,244 thousand tons of chemical products were moved, including fertilizer, 12,048 thousand being shipped in and 7,196 thousand being shipped out. The movement of oil products unloaded and loaded at 15 ports amounted to approximately 170 million tons a year, more than 70% of which was at the five largest oil ports (Trieste, Genoa, Venice, Cagliari, Augusta). During the 1992-96 period (as of 31 May) the Ministry of the Environment, on the indication of the maritime authorities, coordinated actions on 216 cases of pollution or danger of pollution in the national territorial seas. The causes were as follows: 17% from navigation accidents (collisions, accidents, running aground, sinking); 83% to accidents (not closely tied to navigation, such as breakdowns or mistakes in use of on board equipment, oil terminals, or ground facilities). Eight marine reserves have been instituted (7 marine reserves plus the National Park of the Maddalena archipelago), 4 of which were created in the 1990s.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was signed by Italy in 1982 and ratified in 1994.

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CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: According to the 1991-93 data on the 13 main rivers for a total of 156 survey sites taken from the national network of the National Information System on the Environment (SINA); 32% of the survey sites can be classified as polluted (class III); 9% as very polluted (class IV); 9% as heavily polluted (class V). The remaining 50% is little or not polluted. The demand for purification, equivalent to approximately 99 million inhabitants, counting the resident population, commercial, artisan and other users, as well as the presence of seasonal tourists, has been formally met by a measure of 70%. Only 5.3% of the facilities that serve 39% of the population are equipped with tertiary treatment. The chemical pollution of subterranean waters is most concentrated in the Paduan basin, in connection with the intense agro-zootechnic use of the soil, the high concentration of industrial plants, and urbanization; 80% of the pollution cases of industrial origin are concentrated in this area. The water quality in natural and man-made lakes is generally poor in trophic terms. This phenomenon is particularly evident in Sardinia, where 40% of the capacity is subject to frequent algae flourishings, and Sicily, where 51% of the waters are considered mesotrophic or eutrophic. The algae proliferation events include algae that produce toxins that lower the possibility of using the water, particularly for drinking. In 1992, there were 13,053 active aqueducts on the national territory. They serve 58% of all the inhabitants of the North, 35% of the Center, 75% of the South and 47% of the islands. This geographic distribution of infrastructures does not correspond to a parallel distribution of the quantity of water: among the inhabitants of the North, for example, 8.5% do not have sufficient amounts; this percentage reaches 18% in the Center, 55% on the islands, and 78% in the South.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

Decision-Making: Based on DPR 175/1988 and later implementation laws, in Italy there are 440 industrial plants at risks of a significant accident, a large percentage of which are represented by chemical and petrochemical industries and depots. Numerous decrees, the most recent in January 1996, have broadened the field of application of the law and introduced stricter criteria for the preparation and assessment of safety reports for risky plants. A new drive to control the risk of chemical industry activities will be adopted by the EU Directive called "Seveso 2," which Italy will strive to quickly incorporate into national law. Approximately 90 Italian chemical firms, with 233 production centers, belong to the "Responsible Care" programme, which aims to lower environmental pollution and the risk of accidents, and make more rational use of prime materials.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Decision-Making:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: A new legislative decree, approved in December 1996, reorganizes and streamlines rules for the waste sector. It is based on the principles that inspired the EU directives and includes among its objectives the lowering of waste production and its danger, increased recycling, and the rationalization of disposal procedures. Program agreements are foreseen between public administration and economic operators to create real recycling opportunities. The decree imposes waste collection targets differentiated by the burden on the municipality, and provides for transforming the tax on Solid Urban Waste into tariffs, to implement the principle of shared responsibility.

The adoption in 1997 of a new strategy for waste management represented an important turning point with respect to the traditional waste system, mainly based on an emergency approach. The new strategy introduces major principles of an integrated waste management and, in line with the EU directives in the field, gives absolute priority to (in order of preference):

- 1) Waste prevention and reduction – through the analysis of the whole life cycle of products, use of clean or low waste technologies and products – in 1999, a General Prevention Program for package waste entered into force;
- 2) Recovery (re-use, recycling, valorization as secondary raw materials);
- 3) Energy recovery;
- 4) Disposal on landfill in safety conditions.

To attain these targets the legislation foresees appropriate management planning at all competent regional and local levels and appropriate cooperation forms among municipalities: each region establishes a waste management plan which includes specific types of waste (urban, hazardous, non hazardous, inert) quantities and origins of waste to be recovered or eliminated through different treatment facilities, appropriate location and installations for the disposal. This plan must include also the plan of polluted sites that must be reclaimed in order of priority. Polluted sites, at national and regional level, are in course of restoration through the appropriate methods and technologies ensuring a high level of safety.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Status:

Hazardous wastes: Although targets are still only being achieved in part, considerable success has been made. At the end of 1995, separate collection of plastic packaging for fluids increased over 70% since 1994. In 1995 separate collection of glass packaging for fluids yielded 50% of the total waste glass in the country, and collection is undertaken in 61% of the total municipalities. Collection from businesses and imports put the total even higher. Similar results have been experienced with recovery of paper.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: In Italy nuclear waste and radiated fuel deriving from the operation of electronuclear centres are managed by the plants that generated them and temporarily held in engineered depots specifically built for this purpose. Radioactive waste produced by medical and hospital, industrial and research activity is instead managed for the most part by various authorized industrial workers.

The limited diffusion of depots and the concentration of management in a limited number of installations with a restricted number of qualified workers allows for better control over the relative activities, able to assure the necessary guarantees of nuclear security and radio protection of workers and the population as a whole. According to the National Agency for Environmental Protection (ANPA), 23,000 mc1 of radioactive waste, for approximately 10,000 Tbq2, has accumulated in the sites where it was produced, and for the most part must still be treated and processed. To this quantity one must add 330 t of non-reprocessed radiated fuel and treated waste being returned by England to Italy following ENEL's reprocessing of fuel.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Information:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Financing:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Cooperation:

Hazardous wastes: The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was signed in 1989 and ratified in 1994. The latest information was provided to the Basel Convention Secretariat in 1997. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was signed in 1989 and ratified in 1994. The latest information was provided to the Basel Convention Secretariat in 1997.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

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CHAPTER 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: No information available.

Children and youth: No information available.

Indigenous people: The role of indigenous people is not applicable to Italy.

Non-governmental organizations: No information available.

Local authorities: Status: Approximately 50 Italian municipalities are adopting their own documents (Local Agendas 21) for sustainable developments (including Rome and Venice).

Workers and trade unions: No information available.

Business and industry: Decision-making: In order to involve the private sector in the global objective of sustainable development, large Conventions were organized by the Central Administration on the main economic issues: Energy (1998), Transport (1998), Agriculture (1999), Landscape and Artistic Heritage (1999), E-government (2000). In these Conventions, the concept of sustainable development was defined as the key principle to be pursued and the environmental factor was integrated in sector policies. Since March 2001, the application of the Eco-Management Audit Scheme (EMAS) has been extended to all economic sectors. Status: In September 2001, 1037 Italian enterprises, mostly located in the South, obtained the ISO 14001 certificate. Capacity-building and Awareness-raising: The application of the Eco-Management Audit Scheme (EMAS) in Italy has been strongly promoted by ANPA which initiated a series of activities for the information and diffusion of the scheme. In October 2001, 74 sites were registered in the EMAS scheme, most of which located in the North of Italy. The greatest number of registered organizations operates in the energy, waste and chemical sectors.

Scientific and technological community: No information available.

Farmers: No information available.

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CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Decision-Making: The 2001 Financial Law (L.388/2000) introduced important measures in favour of environmental protection and sustainable development.

In Italy strictly environmental taxes constitute 0.1 % of total tax revenues. Energy and automobile taxes (12,8 %), which have a significant environmental impact, represent a higher percentage. Law n. 38 of 1994 redefined tariffs in the integrated water service, taking into account the quality of the resources and the service, and assuring full coverage of costs. The 1996 budget introduced a tax on the disposal of waste being unloaded that aims to foster a decrease in the production of waste and increase the recovery of raw materials and energy from waste. The tax revenue should amount to more than 1,000 billion liras per year. The legislative decree of December 1996 turned the tax on waste into a tariff, no longer calculated on the basis of the surface of the living space but on the quantity of waste produced.

The most important measures introduced by the Financial Law are:

- Tax reduction for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) that carry out environmental investments;
- Exemption from the excise duty on bio diesel;
- In order to promote the use of bio diesel, the Ministry of the Industry is entitled to realize a pilot project for the bio diesel distribution, starting from the urban areas with major traffic problems;
- Reduction of the excise duty on certain products used as fuels (bio ethanol, gas oil, etc.);
- Financial contributions for the use of geothermic energy
- Creation of a fund for sustainable development within the Ministry of the Environment. The sources of the fund will have to be assigned with priority to: reduction of the quantity and danger of waste; rationalization of water and energy consumption; major use of renewable sources of energy; technological innovation for the environmental protection; promotion of environmental accounting; promotion of local Agenda 21 initiatives; and improvement of the environmental quality;
- Creation of a fund for the reduction of emissions into the atmosphere and for the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy;
- Attribution of financial resources to the research in the field of electromagnetic pollution and to the realization of a national register of fixed pollution sources of that kind;
- Promotion of new technologies with low environmental impact;
- Simplification of administrative procedures in the EMAS (Eco-management audit scheme) certification;
- In order to promote sustainable agriculture and to reduce the risks for the environment and for human and animals health, an annual contribution was assigned to food security, represented by 2% of the sales proceeds of phyto-sanitation products; and
- Refunding of the interventions in favour of environmental education, information and awareness.

The 2002 Financial Law, in course of adoption, assigns new funds for the interventions in the environmental field and for the promotion of sustainable development. The major innovation of this new financial law relates to the definition of the modalities for the use of the fund for sustainable development (see 2001 financial law). Within the 31 December of each year, the Ministry of the Environment and Land Protection will have to define, with the approval of the CIPE, the annual programme for the use of the resources of the fund.

The current process of internalization of environmental costs has had a positive impact. The most significant example of such process is the introduction and application of the Carbon tax. A percentage of this tax income is assigned to the promotion of the use of renewable sources of energy, to the support of environmental Research and Development and also to finance bilateral environmental co-operation in the field of GHG reduction.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The main processes in the economic sector, apart from some difficulties to get good economical growth scores, have been related to the European integration in the EU and the adoption of the Euro. These processes

requested some restrictions in the public expenses and some increase in fiscal charges in order to correct some defections in the public expenditure and in the public debt. One of the most challenging targets for Italy will be to pursue the efforts in this direction and to improve the expenditure for scientific research, including the expenditure for scientific research, including the research support to sustainable development.

The overall funding for the environmental protection raised 700 million euros. Moreover, the fund for Sustainable Development was incremented by 75 million euros and 100 million euros were assigned to programmes of research, development and production of electric energy with thermal solar technologies.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Decision-Making: The education, training and environmental information sector in Italy involves various subjects: local government agencies, environmental associations, ministries, schools, park agencies, and so forth.

The Ministry of the Environment has awoken public opinion to environmental topics promoting a communication strategy. During the last three years, the Ministry has conducted a series of sensitizing campaigns. Special emphasis was placed on waste; practicability and transportation, with related implication on the air quality of the urban environment.

Programmes and Projects: Initiatives include the programme agreement between the Ministries of the Environment and of Education for teaching environmental issues in schools, teacher training, and the dissemination of educational material.

Status: The Italian Ministry of the Environment has promoted a national system for environmental information and education, so called INFEA, aiming at integrating the actors operating in the environmental field, the local and global initiatives, the commitments undertaken by citizens and the administration. This process pushed regional governments to promote the creation of Centres and Laboratories for environmental education, training and information operating in the regional territories with several initiatives and coordinating funds coming from the Ministry of the Environment and Land Protection. The Centres have multiplied with respect to the 10 experimental ones which began in the early Nineties. In December 2000 there were 79 Centres. The initiatives are addressed to students, SMEs, associations, employees, administrators, trainees. The re-organization of the system, in accordance with the decisions adopted by a permanent working group where central and regional governments are represented, has been decided in November 2000.

Recently, training activities dedicated to environmental topics have had a considerable development and have been a strategic opportunity for increasing innovative, occupational spaces within the framework of an economic system more related to an environmental and social compatibility.

The main topics of the environmental courses are: sustainable agriculture and tourism; management and maintenance of public green areas; environmental safety; quality and environmental certification of processes and products. In the field of urban planning, due to the greater attention to the preservation, courses have been organized on bio-architecture, ecological building, restoration of historical centers and historical heritage. In the technical training of workers (Superior Technical Training – IFTS), new courses on environmental topics were also introduced.

Information: The ANDREA data-base (National Archive of Documentation and Research for the Environmental Education) gathers information on activities promoting environmental information carried out by several actors (local administration, local, national and international organizations, schools, universities, research centers), along with the materials produced by them.

A National Data Base on Environmental Education and Training (ANFORA) , established by the Ministry of the Environment and Land Protection, collects information on environmental training initiatives undertaken by the universities, the schools, the regional government, other public administrations, private entities. According to the available data, about 2000 environmental training activities have been activated during the past years.

Research and Technologies: In ANFORA are included some researches concerning the impact of the environmental training (both university courses and regional professional training) on the labour market.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISM AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 2 or under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.

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CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: The strategic environment assessment (SEA) is considered as a key concept to help achieving environmental protection and sustainable development and to integrate the environment into sector-specific decision-making. Despite the absence of a specific law on SEA, experimentations of national SEA's have been done for some indicatives.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: On June 2001 Italy has ratified the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), representing the application at regional level of the Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

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CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure ensures that environmental consequences of projects are identified and assessed before authorization is given. The widening of the scope of application of the EAI procedure strengthened the prevention of the environmental damages caused by the industry.

The Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) instrument sets of common rules on permitting for industrial installations in order to reduce pollution by industry and to control emissions from larger facilities. The permits must be based on the concept of Best Available Techniques (BAT) that requires radical environmental improvements. It might thus be very costly for companies to adapt their plants to BAT. Therefore transition periods are foreseen.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In the industrial sector, measures have been taken in order to:

- Reduce the use of polluting substances;
- Control the use of natural resources;
- Prevent and reduce industrial risks; and
- Minimize the quantity and hazardousness of waste generation.

These main instruments, adopted at European level and implemented at national level, are used in order to ensure an adequate level of protection of the environment in the industrial sector.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: As European Member State, Italy is required to maintain inventories of emission data from specific industrial sources and to report emissions from individual facilities to the European Commission. The reported data will be made accessible in a public register, the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER) which is intended to provide environmental information on major industrial activities. The Member States will be required to submit their first report in June 2003.

Research and Technologies: In order to reduce industrial risks, 18 areas have been classified as high risk and plants are being shifted away from urban areas. Moreover, the so-called Seveso II Directive, amending the previous Directive on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, contains general and specific obligations for the Member States in order to ensure both the prevention of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances and the limitation of the consequences of such accidents not only for man (safety and health aspects) but also for the environment (environmental aspect). Among these obligations, Member States will have to establish a Safety Report, a Safety Management System and an Emergency Plan.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Decision-Making: In Italy, the concept of habitat protection became part of the national legislation with the implementation of the European Habitat Directive. This concept is expressed through a series of measures which are necessary to maintain or re-establish a satisfactory state of preservation of the natural habitat. This has been a very important step forward as Italy inherited from a varied fauna, flora and landscape.

In Italy, an experimental Integrated Product Policies (IPP) has been applied in the tourism sector. IPP, originally launched by the EU Commission's Green Paper, is an innovative tool for the achievement of such an objective, because it is based on the environmental impact assessment of products during their whole life cycle.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The presence of tourists in Italy is continuously increasing. The need to exploit the potentialities of this growing demand for tourism and the consciousness of the fragility of certain areas (like historical cities and natural parks) gave origin to some decoupling between tourism and environmental pressure. Some measures like the application of the EIA procedure for the tourism sector re-enforced this tendency.

The establishment of 21 National Parks and of hundreds of natural reserves and regional parks allowed the survival of rare and endangered species. The establishment of another 9 national parks and about 20 protected marine areas has been planned.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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