

Brief note on the ESD Strategy implementation activities

By the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

- **The National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)**

The National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) was approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE) in December 2017, in accordance with the provisions of Law 221/2015. The NSDS is an update of the former Environmental Action Strategy for Sustainable Development (2002-2010) widened to define broad guidelines for economic, social and environmental policies, aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda in Italy.

Following the principles of the 2030 Agenda, a multilevel consultation approach was at the core of the NSDS, which included central and regional institutions, as well as the research community and civil society. They all actively contributed to the definition of the NSDS content throughout the entire process. The NSDS includes a set of strategic choices and national goals organized in six areas (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership and Sustainability Vectors). The Vector “Education, awareness and communication” is considered fundamental to achieve the NSDS goals. The “culture of sustainability” must be spread at all levels (companies, civil society, institutions, research), including formal and informal education centers, in a life-long learning perspective, aiming at triggering the transformation of the current development model and the dissemination of knowledge, skills, lifestyles and best practices for sustainable development.

The NSDS also outlines a governance system for the implementation of the Strategy led by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, that coordinates the implementation of the NSDS, with the support of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, for the internal dimension, and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, for the external one. The Ministry of Finance is responsible to link the NSDS implementation process with the official economic policy documents. In line with the document approved, the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea is working on the development of the structure and organization of the Forum on sustainable development.

The Forum have the task of supporting the process of implementation of the national and regional sustainable development strategies as well as guarantying an effective exchange of information and networking among the stakeholders involved in the decision making process. The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, has also developed and launched a set of actions to foster a more effective integration and governance of the principle of sustainability at sub-national level and to support the implementation of the regional sustainable development strategies, both through

national financial resources and technical assistance. In this context several regions included in their sustainable development strategies objective and actions for the strengthening of education on sustainable development.

- **Agreement between Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea and the Ministry for Education, University and Research**

On December 2018, an Agreement was signed aimed at developing activities on environmental education.

The two involved Ministries, in compliance with the principles of independence and the choices of individual schools in relation to the Training offer Plan, will cooperate in the implementation of a shared program in favor of all levels schools in the national territory, in order to promote and disseminate a mindful culture and understanding of environmental issues and sustainable development. Students will be addressed for the achievement of a responsible behavior, intended at the protection of the environmental and cultural heritage of their country. This represents a national plan for environmental education aimed at ensuring that national and local projects for environmental education and sustainable development are gradually integrated and convergent in the curricular paths, specific to the different orders and degrees of education.

In order to promote the required initiatives to implement the above mentioned Agreement, to monitor the results and to identify the appropriate adjustments, a Joint Committee, coordinated by a representative of Ministry of Education and composed of representatives of both ministerial structures, has been set up.

- **Public Notice for organizations, enterprises and cooperatives on divulgation activities on SD**

On April 2018, the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea launched a public notice aimed at promoting activities for the dissemination and raising awareness on sustainable development issues and circular economy. The financial amount of the public notice was 400.000 euros.

- **Call for proposals on environmental education – Public Notice**

The Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, in the framework of the Agreement with the Ministry of Education, published a notice of public interest with the aim of selecting environmental education projects presented by associations and civil society. Accordingly, a group of proposals for environmental education activities in line with the principles expressed in the Charter of Environmental Education were selected and approved on 23 November 2016; with the *Plastic Free Strategy*, the Ministry aimed at abolishing the use of single-use plastic products. The projects will be oriented to encourage the adoption of responsible consumer behaviours and to strengthen critical capacity of choice. The actions will be addressed to a territory covered by 24 National

Parks and will involve primary schools, first and secondary schools in the national education system.

- **Programme Agreement “I am Environment”**

On 27 December 2018, a programme agreement was concluded between the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the Command for the Environmental and Agri-Food Forestry Units of the Police force *Arma dei Carabinieri* with the aim of disseminating a participated environmental security. The information activities shall be aimed at promoting and stimulating active and virtuous behaviours with a view to respecting and conserving the marine habitat, with particular reference to the issues of the proper use and disposal of plastics, as well as the prevention of forest fires. The activities of information, communication and promotion of environmental culture will take place in various locations during 11 months.

- **Programme Agreement “Environmental education and communication campaign on combating the dispersion of micro-plastics in the marine and coastal environment #PlasticFreeGC”**

On 27 December 2018, a Programme Agreement was signed between the Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea and the General Command of the Port Authority regarding the promotion of activities aimed at disseminate information about environmental security. The activities are easily perceptible through the hashtag #PlasticFreeGC, the slogan for identifying the communication campaign and the environmental education activities on combating the dispersion of micro-plastics in the marine and coastal environment. The Agreement will last for 11 months.

- **Cooperation Agreement with ISPRA (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research) for the relaunching of the National System IN.F.E.A.**

The Cooperation Agreement foresees informations, awareness-raising, training and education for sustainable development activities, in order to support the process of relaunching the national system In.F.E.A, (Information, Training and Environmental Education). Definitely, the implementation of an agreed plan of integrated actions, realized through the support of the National System for the Protection of the Environment, is the closing target . It will guarantee a certain linkage between national and local level. The activities will last for 11 months.

- **Memorandum of Understanding on the definition of an action plan to combat the phenomenon of the burning waste**

On 19 November 2018 a MoU was signed between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, the Political Authority for Cohesion and the Region of Campania. In compliance with the mentioned Protocol, the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea will implement a program of initiatives and periodic campaigns of information and awareness, addressed to the population and, in particular, aimed at inhibiting the occurrence of the burning waste. The General Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment will be responsible for information and awareness-raising actions aimed at citizens and businesses to prevent and combat the incidence of fires.

- **Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea and the National Olympic Committee (CONI)**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea and the National Olympic Committee (CONI) for the promotion of sustainable development principles in the field of sporting world. Particularly, the Memorandum is finalized to endorse the adoption of joint initiatives to start a way of change towards an environment-friendly lifestyle. In line with the combined approach of the 2030 Agenda, it is necessary to generate synergies between the sustainable well-being and the sporting world, not only from an economic point of view, but also within its social and environmental features.

- **Information campaign and awareness raising to the correct and safe use of mobile devices**

According to the decision n. 00500/2019, the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, together with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, University and Research, will adopt an information campaign aimed at identifying the proper use of mobile telephony equipment and disseminating information on the risks to health and the environment, associated with the improper use of such equipment. To this end, several lines of activity are planned: on-line information, television campaign, social media. An education program is also scheduled in the schools. It is finalized to educate children to a safe use of mobile phones and digital technologies.

- **Establishment of the National Day for Environmental Education**

A National Day for Environmental Education is established in order to promote environmental culture and sustainability in all its forms at national level and to raise

public awareness on sustainable development issues. On May 10 2019, the National Day of Environmental Education, will be celebrated.

- **Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the Ministry of Justice**

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the Ministry of Justice was signed in order to develop synergies of interventions useful to favor the social inclusion of minors or young adults hosted at the Criminal Institutes for minors. The activities promote social reintegration, responsible citizenship to reduce the risk of criminal recidivism and develop environmental awareness. Institutions are committed to encouraging and supporting, in the framework of joint planning and through an effective form of collaboration, all initiatives aimed at promoting and disseminating, in minors or young adults, a mindful culture and awareness of environmental issues and sustainable development. They will be sustained in the identification of conceivable future job career paths, through the promotion of chances for social rehabilitation. The project will also improve an experimental plan for the performing of laboratory doings and environmental education initiatives for minors and young adults, hosted at the Criminal Institute for children in the Campania Region.