Partner Search Forum

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Environmentally friendly technologies in European territorial cooperation

The Italian approach

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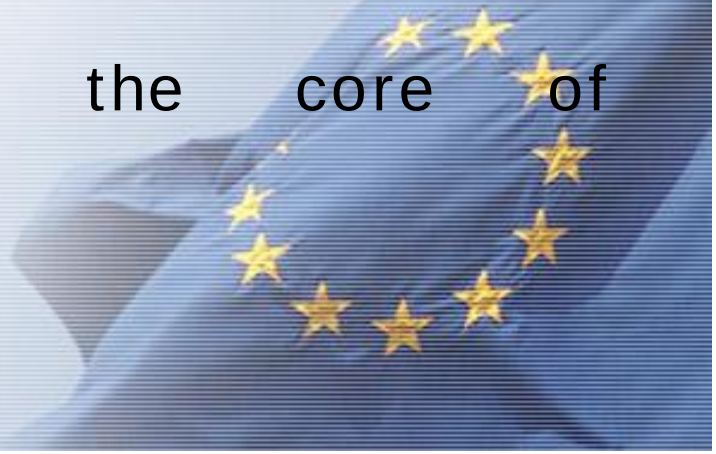
Context definition

Environmental technology (abbreviated as *EnviroTech*) or green technology (abbreviated as *GreenTech*) or clean technology (abbreviated as *CleanTech*) is the application of the environmental sciences to conserve the natural environment and resources, and to curb the negative impacts of human involvement.

Sustainable development is the core of *environmental technologies*.



Related technologies

Some environmental technologies that retain the sustainable development are:

- Recycling
- Water purification
- Sewage treatment
- Environmental remediation
- Flue gas treatment
- Solid waste management
- Renewable energy

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European Union level

The European Technologies Action Plan (ETAP), adopted by the Commission in 2004, is intended to make eco innovation an everyday reality throughout Europe.

The plan covers a wide range of activities: promoting eco innovation and use of environmental technologies.

Its objective is to improve European competitiveness in this matter, and enable the EU to become the recognized world leader.

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European Technologies Action Plan: examples

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Eco innovation is crucial to the economic competitiveness of Europe and to our future well being.
Eco-friendly technologies are good for business, reduce pressure on the environment and help to create new jobs.
Their use is less environmentally harmful, than relevant alternatives.

Examples include:

- Renewable energy generation - such as photovoltaic or wind power
- Cleaner cars
- “Passive houses” or environmentally friendly construction materials
- Treatment of waste for re-use or recycling

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European Technologies Action Plan: priority actions (1/4)

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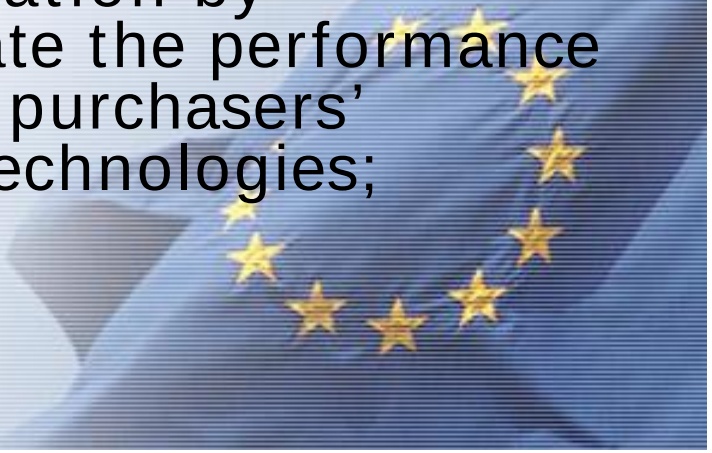
Priority actions for ETAP involve environmental technologies from research to markets, improving market conditions and acting globally:

- Increase and focus research by actions to attract more p& p investment in the development and demonstration of environmental technologies in line with the EU objective of 3% of GDP for research;

- Environmental technology verification by establishing a mechanism to validate the performance of products objectively to increase purchasers' confidence in new environmental technologies;



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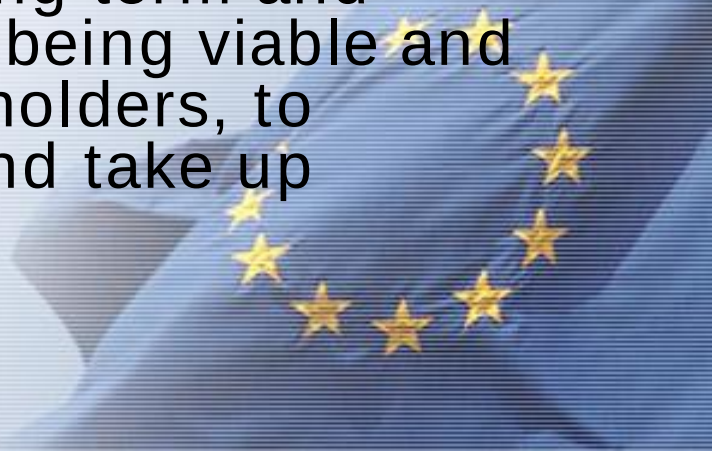
European Technologies Action Plan: priority actions (2/4)

- European Technology Platforms (ETPs) are specific public/private research partnerships that bring together interested stakeholders, to build a long-term vision to develop and promote a specific technology or solve particular issues.

  Relevant ETPs include: hydrogen and fuel cells; photovoltaics; steel; construction; and water supply and sanitation.

- Performance targets that are long-term and visionary as well as perceived as being viable and realistic by many different stakeholders, to encourage industry to develop and take up environmental technologies



European Technologies Action Plan: priority actions (3/4)

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- Mobilisation of financing ranging from classical loans through guarantee mechanisms to venture capital for environmental technologies.

  Current EU instruments include: the R&D Framework Programme, Environment-LIFE, Structural Funds, Cohesion Fund and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)

- Market-based instruments providing targeted economic incentives to help promote the take-up of environmental technologies

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European Technologies Action Plan: Priority actions (3/3)

- **Green public procurement** – taking a lead at EU level in offering a potentially powerful economic driver to further the uptake of environmental technologies;

- **Awareness raising and training** to encourage the development and take-up of environmentally friendly technologies, particularly through training in industrial and business settings;

- **Supporting eco-technologies in developing countries, and promoting foreign investment** to encourage sustainable development at the global level.

Example: Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme (CIP)

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The CIP aims to encourage the competitiveness of European enterprises, supporting innovation activities (including eco-innovation), providing better access to finance, encouraging a better use of ICT and promoting the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

The CIP is divided into three operational programmes:

1. Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP);
2. Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP);
3. Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE).

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ETAP and National roadmaps

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To foster experience sharing on eco-innovations and on best practices, EU Member States have formalised their national strategies and action plans towards environmental technologies.

National roadmaps help focus on relevant plans, actions and achievements relevant to environmental technologies and eco innovations.

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The Italian roadmap

The National roadmap implementing ETAP actions, was presented to EC in September 2005, it regards two relevant programming documents:

1. Innovation, Growth and Occupation Plan 2005-2008 (PICO), which implements Lisbon Strategy;

2. National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013, which implements cohesion policy, through the EU Structural Funds.

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The Innovation, Growth and Occupation Plan 2005-2008

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The PICO includes projects for *pilot actions* related to:

- increasing the energy efficiency in the industrial sector;
- energy production through investments combining heat and power (CHP also called “cogeneration”);
- scientific and technological research developing and exploiting the technologies for the hydrogen renewable energy (Veneto Region hydrogen pilot project in Porto Marghera - Venice);
- new technologies exploiting the solar energy, such as new photovoltaic panels more efficient or production and storage high temperature heat (Archimede project);
- biofuels;
- planning and realization of an energy cluster, focusing on new technologies and organizational models to manage energy supply network in a sustainable way.

The National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)

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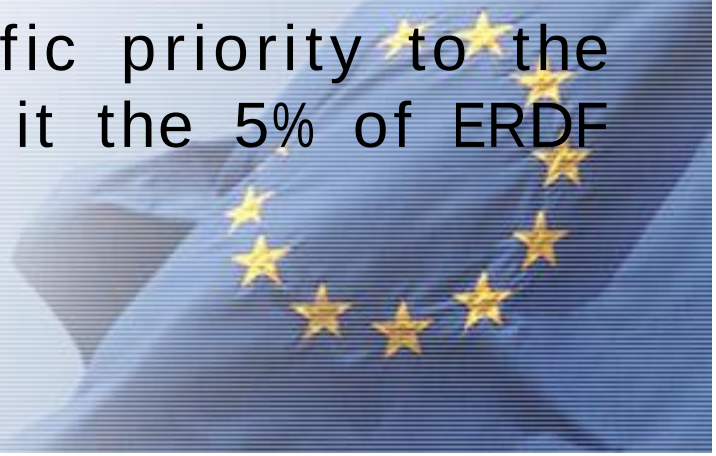
As a lot of European countries, for the programming period 2007-2013, Italy includes in the NSRF the Territorial Cooperation, based on the EU strategic guidelines

Italian Regions include the Interregional Cooperation as horizontal issue in their OP for Competitiveness and Employment

Veneto Region dedicates a specific priority to the Cooperation in the its OP, giving it the 5% of ERDF funds (20 meuro).



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Coherence , link, synergy between CE Programme and NSRF

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Both the documents support environmental technologies through the priority 3:

- CE "Using our environment responsibly". It aims to protection and enhancement of natural resources that are particularly relevant in this area, where an economic catching-up process is taking place, creating both new opportunities as well as risks for the environment

- NSRF "Energy and environment: sustainable and efficient use of natural resources for development" aims to support a supply of sustainable energetic services and the water resources and wastes management, soil protection and recovery of polluted sites. These can stimulate new development path, linked to the productive chains and to the technological innovation in energetic environmental

Focus on priority 3 of NSRF

The priority has 2 general objectives, each of them has 2 specific objectives:

3.1. Promoting the local development opportunities through the promotion of productive chains linked to the increase of energy share from renewable energy and energy saving
3.1.1 Energy diversification and increase of renewable
3.1.2 Promotion of energy efficiency and of energy saving

3.2 Ensure the sustainable conditions for the development and adjusted environmental services for citizen and firms
3.2.1 To increase the supply capacity, the quality and the efficiency of the water service and to strengthen the soil protection land and the prevention of natural risks
3.2.2 To increase the supply capacity, the quality and the efficiency of the waste management strengthening the productive chains and recovering the sustainable development opportunities, the polluted sites and the protection of public health

How does the NSFR support environmentally friendly technologies and activities (1/2)

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.....but sustainable development strongly affects the Italian NSFR policy, crossing different priorities. In particular:

- Priority 2: Enhancing research and innovation for competitiveness includes the investment supporting research and innovation aiming at introduce sustainable production pattern

- Priority 6: Links and Networks for mobility regards, among others, strategies for reduce gas emission

How does the NSFR support environmentally friendly technologies and activities (2/2)

- Priority 7:Competitiveness and employment focuses on the enterprises support, with application of the state aid rules to environmental measures for clean and ecological technologies diffusion and the efficient energy use, prevention and mitigation of the pollution

- Priority 8: Competitiveness and attractiveness of cities and urban system supports sustainable urban development through “light mobility”, air quality, correct land use, sustainable construction, energetic efficiency and waste treatment, upgrade and recovery of polluted sited.

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How does CE support **Using our environment responsibly** (1/2)

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Area of intervention 3.4 – Supporting Environmentally Friendly Technologies and Activities, aiming to *promote environmentally friendly technologies and activities in order to ensure eco-efficient production and consumption processes:*

1. Promoting sustainable production and consumption, with special attention to regional added value chains
2. Fostering urban and regional technologies and the use of environmentally friendly technologies for local and regional suppliers of infrastructure
3. Promoting transnational incentives (awarding schemes, best-practice web-platforms, certificates...) for eco-innovations

How does the CE Programme support environmentally friendly technologies and activities? (2/2)

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4. Applying environmentally friendly technologies in production processes
5. Setting up integrated environmental management systems and developing environmentally sound practices
6. Putting policies, strategies and technologies for sustainable constructions of buildings into practice
7. Focuses on the enterprises support, with application of the state aid rules to environmental measures for clean and ecological technologies diffusion and the efficient energy use, prevention and mitigation of the pollution

First call results on 3.4 Intervention Area

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Two projects were approved under 3.4 Intervention Area:

- ACT Clean – focused on the 3rd /4th action
- Transwaste – focused on the 2nd action

ACT Clean project:
Access to Technology and Know-how in Cleaner Production

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Partnership: 2 DE (LP - Federal Environment Agency, Sachsen Anhalt), 1AT,1 CZ, 1 SI, 1 IT (ENEA - Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and the Environment), 1HU, 1 SK, 1 PL

Challenges for CE:

- SMEs need to get access to environmentally friendly technologies and activities in order to comply with current & future EC Directives;
- There is a lack of links between demand and supply of environmentally friendly technologies and know-how;
- Existing technology & know-how must be demonstrated and deployed;
- Identification and exchange of SME support tools for cleaner production;
- A joint policy approach (consistent measures and incentives).

Objective: *promote the knowledge and use by SMEs* of *environmental technologies in order to reduce CO2 emission, reduce energy*

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Thank you for your attention !