
Session 2: The tourist harbours and their capacity of development

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PHAROS (Playgrounds, Harbours and Research of Sustainability) is a project financed by the European Commission in the context of the Life Ambiente 2004 program.

Regione Liguria is the beneficiary, then we have 1 regional agency for environmental protection, two universities, 1 consulting private society, 7 municipalities, 6 golf club and 4 tourist harbours.

Among the harbours partners we have the biggest Ligurian tourist harbours (PORTOSOLE), and the smallest one (CALA CRAVIEU). There are also Marina degli Aregai and Marina di Varazze, which is under construction.

With the Life PHAROS project, we intend to propose an answer for the emerging practice of new multiple and incompatible uses of the coastal area, connected with the diffusion of tourist harbours and golf-courses.

Harbours and golf-courses are tourist excellence structures, but they have a considerable impact on the environment, particularly in a territory as fragile as Liguria is.

PHAROS project is aimed at identifying a methodology for the EMAS registration of tourist infrastructure with a great territorial impact, in an integrated way with the sustainable development processes carried out by Local Agencies: six Golf Courses and four Tourist Harbours will experiment innovative methods and technologies for the environment management.

Moreover, the PHAROS project will also deal with the development of innovative procedures and technologies and will carry out a census on the good management practices relevant to environmental aspects. Among the final products of the project, an online manual will also be available for any other subject having the intention of taking this path. The innovative environment management procedure and technologies will be tested by ten partners: six Golf Courses and four Tourist Harbours.

The term of the project is fixed on December 1st 2006.

The project is aimed at achieving various results, such as:

- Guidelines for the certification of tourist facilities, in order to repeat elsewhere any results obtained
- Development and testing of an Environmental Management System to pursue a constant improvement of environmental performances
- Registration of certain tourist facilities in accordance with the European Regulation EMAS II
- Diffusion of good management practices concerning: energy saving and use of renewable energy, natural fertilisation of golf-courses, role of golf in the local ecologic network, control of the impact of tourist harbours on the coast and refuse collection in harbours.

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- Improvement of efficiency and of the relationships between Public Administrations and tourist facilities with regard to the management of environmental issues.
 - Diffusion of the initiative at both national and European level, through communication and the Open Group

The web site www.lifepharos.it contains all the information about the project, in particular there is a section regarding open group with also work documents used during the meetings, the adhesion form and all the meetings' programs.