

Working Group 2

Round Table «Environment and Sustainable Development»

1. The Ancona Conference on «Security and Development in the Adriatic and Ionian Basin» (May 19th-20th, 2000) has drawn a specific attention to the protection of both the economic and the environmental resources of the Adriatic-Ionian area. The Conference stressed that a correct exploitation of resources must fully comply with the natural environment, according to the model of «sustainable development». The scientific cooperation amongst the Countries of the Basin is an essential pre-condition in order to achieve the goals above described: in this framework, both the Universities and the High specialized Research Institutes connected to Universities are strongly encouraged to play a crucial role in this perspective.
2. The following items are included amongst the priorities defined at the Ancona conference: (a) the sea and shores protection; (b) the evaluation of the impact over the environment and landscapes provoked by industrial and civilian settlements; (c) the development of the eco-tourism; (d) the protection of the biological diversity of the sea and the correct exploitation of the fishing resources. The Adriatic-Ionian Initiative emphasized these items both in general and specific terms, welcoming the suggestions that emerged at the Round Table on «Scientific Cooperation for Safeguarding the Resources of the Adriatic and Ionian Basin». Particularly, a Program for the protection of fishing resources and their exploitation in an ecological sustainable perspective has been proposed by encouraging the development of techniques of *aquaculture* with a controlled and limited environmental impact.
3. Definitely, the issue of «Environment and Sustainable Development» encompasses a wide and well-articulated range of different aspects in the fields of politics, economics and society, science and technology, agriculture and industry. The most significant fields of activities are as follows:
 - a) the development schemes (on the local, national and regional levels), which can be drawn for a variety of economically relevant fields, from the industrial to the agricultural settlements, including rural areas and tourism;
 - b) the control over the environmental pollution and the measures to be adopted for prevention and recovery;
 - c) the deterministic and probabilistic evaluation of industrial risks in the coastal areas and the measures to be adopted in order to contain possible negative consequences over the population and the environment;
 - d) the economic evaluation of the consequences of agricultural practices over the natural environment and, in particular, those which are eco-compatible;
 - e) the technical and economic evaluation of the alternatively agricultural systems of productions (as the biological, integrated and conventional production), including local and typical products which should be encouraged and protected;
 - f) the selection of the goals and tools of actions that are more convenient for an economic and socially sustainable development of the region, in the spheres of both the public and private interests, according to the recently established EU schemes.

In this framework, the working team has the task to select some project proposals with a relevant scientific content that should be carried out and implemented through the cooperation of Universities, Centers for Development and Researches and Enterprises (including high-tech agencies) of the coastal Countries.

4. The fields of actions and the goals described at the point 3 should be discussed and achieved taking into consideration the great opportunities offered by modern information technologies, which include the territorial information systems and the techniques of data collection and elaboration, the process simulations and the supporting systems in decision making, the techniques of optimization and the needs of vocational training. This innovative approach may guarantee adequate tools for the implementation of the project proposals. An additional benefit is set up by the UNIADRION network, which can be rapidly and effectively offered to potential and real customers. Moreover, this strategy substantially contributes the creation of a network of experts as a crucial pre-condition for dealing with the difficult problems of an echo-compatible and sustainable development effectively, both in economic and technical terms.