



Expression of interest from the Union of Bassa Romagna Municipalities (Italy) to join a European consortium for the submission of SAP proposals under the Call “LIFE-2023-SAP-CLIMA”, Topic “LIFE-2023-SAP-CLIMA-CCA”.

The territory of the [Union of Bassa Romagna Municipalities](#) is located at the heart of the Province of Ravenna, in Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy), covering a surface of 480 sq km, crossed by rivers and channels over the countryside. The Union has an overall population of over 100.000 inhabitants and it is characterized by urban centers of medium-little dimensions. In fact, it consists of 9 Municipalities (Alfonsine, Bagnacavallo, Bagnara di Romagna, Conselice, Cotignola, Fusignano, Lugo, Massa Lombarda and Sant’Agata sul Santerno), the main Municipality being Lugo with 32.243 inhabitants. The Municipalities have entrusted the Union with the management of various departments, including Environment. The Union Council approved, in accordance with the guidelines of the Covenant of Mayors, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP in aggregate form - Option 2).

**In May 2023, the region was hit by an extremely-intense series of meteorological events caused by climate change.** The first occurred between 1 and 4 May: for 48 uninterrupted hours, rainfall reached over 200 millimetres in various cities, exceeding alarm levels. Torrential water poured down violently over vast areas of the territory, bringing overflowing, flooding, landslides and the inundation of coastal areas. Due to the prolonged drought of the previous months, the land was dry, unable to absorb so much rain in such a short time. In the morning of 16 May, it rained again and the same city streets, freshly cleared of mud, were again under water. This time the event was even more violent and affected a larger area. The heaviest rainfall covered around 800 square kilometres and in just a few hours, depending on the area, total accumulated rainfall reached a peak of more than 400 millimetres. From 1 to 17 May, a total of 4.5 billion cubic metres of water fell. **Historic highs in the last 200 years were exceeded:** 23 rivers overflowed at the same time, involving more than 100 municipalities, including those in Bassa Romagna. There have been 15 victims.

**In this disastrous scenario, it is essential to develop state-of-the-art tools and solutions to model climate change adaptation, risk assessment, management and decision support.**

**The structural peculiarity of an organisation such as a “union of municipalities” makes it necessary to think about how to strengthen the internal organisation and response capacity when (and not if) calamitous events happen, with actions that 1)**

are long-lasting, 2) have an impact on the territory, and 3) make the organisation itself more efficient.

In order to pursue these objectives, **the Union is willing to join European “LIFE consortia” that are elaborating a standard action project (SAP) proposal in response to the Call for proposals "LIFE-2023-SAP-CLIMA - Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation", specifically for Topic “LIFE-2023-SAP-CLIMA-CCA - Climate Change Adaptation” (deadline: 21 September 2023).**

**The Union of Bassa Romagna Municipalities, with its own Europe and Strategic Planning Office supported by technical Offices, has a wide experience in the submission and development of cooperation projects at EU level in Programmes such as Interreg-CE, Erasmus+, URBACT, Interreg-MED all focused, with different declinations, on the topic of environmental sustainability (energy efficiency, local agrifood, circular economy, etc.).**

Please, if interested contact us at the references below:

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