

The Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion

The Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion for the development of Europe, Ancona, 27/8/2011-1/9/2011

Ancona was the venue of the event under the title "The Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion for the development of Europe" from 27th August to 1st September 2011.

The occurrence was organised by the Marche Regional Authorities and was conceived as a display event to show the various initiatives carried out by the players that have actually contributed to improve the economic, social and cultural integration of Adriatic and Ionian countries. In particular, these initiatives include the participation of the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area with its own stand in the event. Since its establishment in 2001 the AIC Forum has contributed with due devotion and engagement towards bringing the two shores of our sea closer from a social and economic standpoint. The role that the AIC Forum can play within the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion corresponds to its original mission, i.e. the creation of new opportunities for the development of the SMEs of the area.

The area economic framework has highlighted a strong concentration of the international trade of the AIC Forum member countries in destinations within the Adriatic-Ionian area; we are facing a market, whose needs and rules are gradually getting in line with the ones of the European single market, although no formal agreements on this exist. An additional trade increase, which is likely to take place in the very near future, will make it increasingly necessary to agree on procedures that aim at facilitating the circulation of goods and providing for safe, transparent and sustainable transactions. This objective can be more easily reached with a organism acting at supranational level, which is credible and recognized, as well as able to harmonize market rules and focus on the specific needs of the various countries. This organism can be undoubtedly represented by the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, which is considered a tool towards more Europeanisation, whe-



Ancona (Italy), 27th August 2011, opening ceremony

re each institutional level participates in a positive-sum game: the local and national levels play a crucial role in creating a space and achieving an objective of territorial cooperation that goes beyond the national borders.

This makes it possible to solve common problems with positive repercussions on all participants and contributes to build a more united Europe.

The event was therefore a major step for the entire community, as it enabled to illustrate and inform about the several initiatives carried out in recent years by the Marche Region in collaboration with the other fora of the basin and the Secretariat of Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, all based in Ancona, as well as about the potential offered by the Macroregion, which is expected to be officially recognized by European institutions in 2014.

The inaugural ceremony of the event took place on Saturday, 27th August 2011, at 10:30 a.m. in the central Piazza Cavour in Ancona. After his opening speech, the President of the Marche Regional Authorities Mr. Gian Mario Spacca invited the AIC Forum

President Mrs. Jadranka Radovaniæ to proceed with the cutting of the ribbon, which officially marked the start of the event. After a short visit to the stands set up in Piazza Cavour, the institutional delegation made up of the Marche Region President, the President of the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area, the President of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce, Ambassador Fabio Pigliapoco representing the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and the Mayor of Ancona Mr. Fiorello Gramillano walked along Viale della Vittoria and inspected the main projects implemented in the Adriatic-Ionian area by the various promoting players, to then come to the Passetto war memorial where the press conference was held.

The coming together of the AIC Forum President Mrs. Jadranka Radovaniæ and the Marche Region President Mr. Gian Mario Spacca, who strongly wanted and supported the creation of a Macroregion in our reference basin has sealed the fruitful work carried out by the AIC Forum association in bringing the concept of territorial cohesion for the development of SMEs into practice.

Women & Innovation

Training event, Ancona (Italy), 30/09 and 1/10/2011

On 30th September and 1st October 2011, the Workgroup on Women Entrepreneurship of the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area organized a training activity for the women entrepreneurs who participated in the contest for innovative women enterprises of the Adriatic and Ionian area. The initiative went under the title "Women and innovation" and was promoted within the collaboration between the Croatian Chamber of the Economy, the Ancona Chamber of Commerce and the Province of Ancona under the patronage of the Italian national Union of chambers

of commerce Unioncamere. The two-day training session was an important occasion to consolidate the skills of women entrepreneurs in using information and communication technologies and resorting to European programmes to support women enterprises and their innovation challenge. The next session with Adriatic-Ionian women entrepreneurs is scheduled for 3rd and 4th November in Split, which will be the venue of the 6th edition of the Congress of Women's Enterprises focussing this year on a central topic, i.e. "NETWORKING: a tool for growth and competitiveness".



PROGRAMME

Thursday 3rd november

- 14.00 **opening** – welcome speeches
Jadranka Radovanić, Forum AIC President
Jure Šundov, Vice Mayor of Split
Patrizia Casagrande Esposto, Province of Ancona - President
Helena Štimac Radin, Gender Equity Department - Head
Jasminka Keser, Ministry of Economy, labour and entrepreneurship
Ante Sanader, Prefect
- 15.30 **"Networking for the future development"**
Daša Dragnić, University of Split
Mary Ann Rukavina Cipetić, Regional Council for Gender Equity
Luciana Frontini, Forum AIC

Friday 4th november

- 9.30 **"The observatory of women entrepreneurship of the Adriatic and Ionian area: current state"**
 Chamber of Commerce Forum members and women's entrepreneurship associations
- 10.30 Business Panels: Exchange of experiences and evaluations of differences in networking

"Pane Nostrum"

The international festival of breads and baked products Pane Nostrum, organized by the Municipality of Senigallia, the local section of the retailers' association Confcommercio and the Farmers Association of the Province of Ancona C.I.A., with the collaboration of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce, the Province of Ancona and the Marche Region, was held in Senigallia from 15th to 18th September 2011. This initiative is now acknowledged as one of the most significant events to promote the products of the Italian food and wine sector. The 11th edition of Pane

Nostrum goes under the title "Bread and baked products from Adriatic Lands" and hosted bakers from Albania, Croatia and Serbia thanks to the collaboration with the AIC Forum. Besides bakers coming from Split (Croatia), Durrës (Albania) and Belgrade (Serbia) artisans active in the sector coming from the Italian regions Emilia Romagna, Marche and Abruzzo, as well as Sicily, Calabria and Tuscany, took part in the initiative. As usual, the initiative profited from the contribution of bakers coming from the trainings school for the hotel and restaurant trade of Sens (France) and Lorrach (Germany), and the students of the training institute Panzini from Senigallia.

Partecipazione in the 110° meeting of Eurochambres members

24th October 2011, Brussels

The President of the Ancona Chamber of Commerce and Vice-President of the AIC Forum Mr. Rodolfo Giampieri will take part in the 110th Meeting of EUROCHAMBRES members, which will be held in Brussels on 24th October 2011.

After the meeting the President will have the opportunity to present the members of this the most prestigious European network of chambers of commerce the mission and activities of the AIC Forum to support the development of the SMEs of the Adriatic-Ionian area and achieve an increasing level of economic and territorial cohesion. The approved membership status of the AIC Forum within Eurochambres is particularly important, also in view of the fact that our association is the first crossborder network of local chambers of commerce that was granted the possibility to join the network as member. The AIC Forum will have the chance to benefit from a number of services and assistance, including support to the organization of international events, creation of other networking opportunities for the exchange of information and best practices, lobbying activity before EU institutions to represent the interests of enterprises, etc. These services and assistance are important and essential to make the chambers of commerce of the Balkan area more visible, consolidate the AIC Forum network and support the future Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion. With reference to the setting up of the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion and in order to make this project and its benefits more visible, a number of meetings with Eurochambres President Alessandro Barberis and Secretary-General Arnaldo Abruzzini were organized. These will make it possible to strengthen the solidarity and collaboration relationships necessary to organize initiatives and projects supporting the Macroregion strategy.