Case Study PC 04 Environmental Commitment in the Province of Siena, Italy

When the Province of Siena obtained the ISO 14001 certification in 2003, it was the first province in Italy to implement an Environmental Management System. The provincial strategy foresees the environmental certification of 11 Municipalities of the province which has already been set into motion. In 2006 Province of Siena earned the EMAS certification and one year later the Environmental Declaration was approved. In June 2006 the Province of Siena, all of the 36 provincial Municipalities and Mountain Communities signed a first Agreement Protocol for the application of the Aalborg Commitments. Priority was given to six out of the ten points of the agreement - Governance, Natural Common Goods, Responsible Consumption and Lifestyle Choices, Sustainable Local Economy, Social Equality and Justice, from Local to Global. The province is hence following a process of the Environmental Management System for gaining the goal “Siena Carbon Free” by 2015. A number of initiatives and measures on direct (energy audit, photovoltaic panels in schools, rising awareness among officers, etc) and indirect aspects (communication campaigns, energy census, calls for green projects funds, etc) have been so far undertaken. The involvement of several stakeholders and especially the research sector, ensured the prolific ongoing of several projects for the exploration of climate issues under the social, scientific and political aspect.

Some examples on the practical implementation of such studies are as following:

- **Qualitambiente** is the name of the association which brings together all the local administrations within the Province. All of them are labelled (ISO 14001 or EMAS) and, if not, have already started an environmental certification process. Besides local governments, the committee includes 8 foundations and 25 among companies and consortiums. The constant organisation of workshops within the Agenda 21 process frame ensures a systematic update of technicians and officers belonging to public bodies.

- The public sector’s employees can enjoy environmental training courses
thanks to tailored programmes held by the Labour and Professional Training Centre in collaboration with the Province of Siena. Under this partnership the lessons cycle *Learning for a Sustainable Development of the Territory* is also organised and financed.

- A number of other initiatives on environmental education are aimed to rising awareness on the importance of global climate change issues and on citizens’ responsible behaviours, such as the INFEA (Environment Information, Training and Education) initiative or the *Didactic Experiences of Sustainable Development for the Schools of the Province of Siena* (S.S.0.). Officers of the Province administration are constantly kept up to date on the Environment Management System. Other courses within the same thematic field will be implemented in the near future.

- The collaboration between the Province, University of Siena and the Foundation Monte dei Paschi di Siena gave birth to the *SPIn-Eco project* aimed to assess the sustainability of the provincial area through the use of eco-dynamic indicators. As a result, 37 reports on the province and on the 36 Municipalities and 8 other books were drawn up.

- *REGES* is the name of another project for the certification of the Emission-Absorption Balance of greenhouse gases and the production of the GHG inventory.

The grid below shows just a section of the summary on initiatives that are already running in the Siena’s territory. The entire tab is available in the Baseline Review of the Province of Siena within the Managing Urban Europe project.
### Figure 1: a number of actions and projects had already put into practice when the Aalborg Commitments were signed by the Province of Siena and its Municipalities and Mountain Communities. Here there are some examples.