



REGIONE DEL VENETO

ELISAN Steering Committee 24/01/2022

Antonio Franzina, Veneto Regional Council, Press Office

Dear colleagues,

First of all, let me bring you the greetings of President Ciambetti. In this moment, we are as you know all very busy with the election of the Italian President of the Republic.

Allow me to bring you some updates, as some of you may recall, President Ciambetti is now also Italian Ambassador to the Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy, supporter of the Green City Accord (thanks to our colleague Athanasios Goumas for the exchange of information), key expert member of the Council of Europe Committee on Environmental and Health Crisis.

The reason I am sharing this information is not for self-promotion but to understand the possible benefits he can bring to the ELISAN Network and the partnership. In addition, as you are aware, our Region is specifically active in the Committee of the Regions. And now he is member of the Commission for Environment, Climate change and Energy (ENVE) and Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) and Chair of the Italian Delegation and Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the CoR.

So, regarding ELISAN, we would welcome common work in the fields of linking Environment, Health and Social Policies, specifically with the challenges faced by climate change. In this aspect, let me stress the importance of circular economy, as an asset both for economic development and the reduction of waste. Therefore, we welcome the engagement of ELISAN in the Council of Europe, Committee on Environmental and Health Crisis.

In relation to the Covenant alone he speaks on behalf of 4,890 Italian cities and territories, equivalent to 53 million 201,477 inhabitants. These figures say that:

- 1) the vast majority of Italian cities, territories and regions are calling for decisive actions to combat climate change, to act for an eco-sustainable development and they are willing to play their part;
- 2) cities and territories must be protagonists of the actions and policies undertaken and planned at global level.

The costs of the ecological transition and the fight against climate change must not fall exclusively on citizens, families, workers, pensioners, artisans and small businesses, who represent the majority of the world's population. We cannot admit that a tiny percentage of people holds the vast majority of the world's wealth, a wealth often accumulated at the expense of the environment, nature and the quality of life of the majority of citizens. Private profits cannot be the result of costs paid by the entire community and the environment.

Therefore, as said at COP26 with the President of the **Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region**, we call for international choices and policies that support circular economy and social economy, thus promoting new forms of development and employment including:

- appropriate tax policies and tax reductions;

- support for Applied Research in the field of environmental protection;
- production of alternative energy from renewable sources;
- support for environmentally sustainable production;
- promotion and dissemination of a culture of environmental protection, protection of savings, promotion of reuse, restoration and recycling.

We cannot “**waste**” any more time. The ELISAN Network is active at local level in its actions and therefore is very well placed to act close to the citizens, according to the principle of subsidiarity.

Why not thinking in the framework of the conference of the future of Europe to build common initiatives regarding this topic, for instance, after the General Assembly of ESAN in Barcelona, with the collaboration of ECAS (Entidades Catalanes de Accion Social), the proposal came to think about an event on precariousness, inequality and environment. It could be an idea to explore.

Let me take this opportunity to highlight the importance of the work to be done to promote sustainable families in collaboration with IFFD and the UN. As said by Annalisa Bisson, we will co-organize the expert meeting on the project Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families, for the implementation of the SDG 11. It will take place in Brussels, on 30th, 31st of March and 1st of April. I hope you will take active collaboration in it.

In addition, still in the framework of this project, I was very happy to see the active involvement of the Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences. Seeing the engagement of the students, I think they could contaminate other ones, and we could suggest to involve Universities from Veneto and other countries.

To conclude, we are very happy to actively engage in the ELISAN Network, since its action is focused on the local level, precisely where citizens needs are.