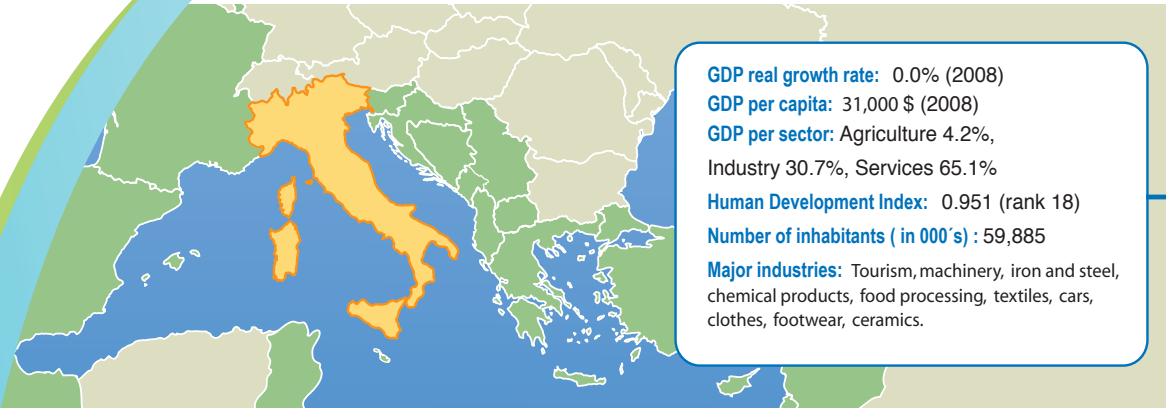


# Italy



## Main Issues related to SCP

Italy has traditionally promoted sustainable procurement through fair trade and green shopping initiatives developed by civil society organizations. Furthermore, both the regulatory framework and programmes of public/private collaboration have shown progress in promoting other aspects of sustainable consumption; both domestic and industrial; in energy efficiency, recycling, the dissemination of eco labelling, and the adequate use of natural resources. In production, major priorities are waste management, climate change and to reduce the environmental degradation

### Climate change & Energy Efficiency:

The National Allocation Plan clearly reflects the difficulties Italy faces in fulfilling its obligations under the Kyoto protocol. Green House Gas Emissions will have to be reduced by almost 15% between 2008 and 2012 to fulfil the objectives outlined by the Kyoto protocol. A new decree was approved in 2008 to help eliminate market faults and existing obstacles to an efficient use of energy.

### Waste management:

The Italian government has made improved waste management a high priority, clearly demonstrated by the recent appointment of the Head of Italian Civil Protection Department as Undersecretary of the State in the Council of Ministers, responsible for waste problems.

## Policies and Strategic Framework

The framework document for sustainable development in Italy is the Environmental Action Strategy for Sustainable Development, approved by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning in 2002. Major focuses are climate change, nature and biodiversity, urban life and environmental quality, and the sustainable use of water resources and waste management.

The Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) is elaborating a National Strategy for Sustainable Production and Consumption. A contribution paper has been prepared to integrate SCP as a main topic in the New Italian Strategy for Sustainable Development. It is currently under discussion with major stakeholders.

## Legal and Regulatory Framework

The legal and regulatory framework related to Cleaner Production and sustainable consumption, particularly of energy, is well developed in Italy. A number of laws have been changed or adopted in recent years.

The main problems frequently encountered in regulation enforcement are related to the allocation of competence among the concerned institutions and legislative actors. However, the situation has improved with the enactment of framework laws that establish principle guidelines for the institutions responsible for the setting up of regulation.

In 2005 an IPPC observatory was founded to improve the application of the IPPC EU Directive. It acts as a monitoring body to guarantee a more efficient application of pollution prevention and reduction.

A number of economic and financial instruments are in place. The “Industria 2015” programme has been launched to increase Italian companies’ competitiveness in the area of renewable energy and energy efficiency, by implementing industrial innovation projects. Tax deduction is granted to Fair Purchasing Groups, which promote the consumption of seasonal and local products. Environmental permit validity is increased by 3 years for those installations registered under EMAS.

The National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement has recently been approved. A series of decrees have currently been issued defining minimum environmental criteria to be included in public procurement, as well as specific methodological guidelines and sector targets.

## Greening Industry and Society

In Italy the first steps in the development of corporate social responsibility (CSR), in its modern sense, have been characterized by the participation of company associations and cooperatives, rather than large-scale industry.

EMAS, ISO 14001 and eco label play an important role in Italian companies. Since 1997 yearly participation has increased significantly. The application of EMAS and eco label has been favoured by the development of training for environmental auditors and eco label consultants at local training institutions, as well as the development of specific master programmes related to environmental management.

Socially responsible investment (SRI) is well rooted in Italy and has mainly been promoted by strong cooperatives and religious organizations. An Italian agency (Avanzi SRI Research) has been the European pioneer in analysing financial products related to sustainability.

## Main Actors and Projects

**IMELS** and **ISPRA** (National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research) are the main actors in the promotion of SCP in Italy.

A number of partnerships with relevant stakeholders have been signed by IMELS. Examples include agreements with COOP Italia for the promotion of new SCP patterns, and with the province of Matera for promoting environmental management in the tourism sector.

A number of awards are supported by several public and private organizations to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

On an international level, Italy supports the UNEP Marrakech Process. The IMELS launched a thematic Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC).

