

GUIDELINES FOR THE VALORISATION OF THE THERMAL POWER PLANT IN PORTOSCUSO.

The aim of these guidelines is to provide general information on the fields to be developed in the valorisation projects of the Thermal Power Plant in Portoscuso. In particular, with regard to the territorial scenario, some critical elements relating to the context need to be taken into consideration in order to help find a solution to some key issues emerged during the stakeholders workshop.

Critical elements requiring solutions

As highlighted in the dossier annexed to the procedure, the site is located in the Industrial Area of Portovesme, owned by the municipality of Portoscuso. This area is characterised by two critical elements that the projects need to address.

The first critical element is given by the high unemployment rate that has been afflicting the Municipality of Portoscuso and its neighbouring municipalities for about ten years, after the closing of Euralluminia (2009) and Alcoa (2012). According to ISTAT data, the provincial unemployment rate is above 20% and the youth unemployment rate exceeds 45%.

The second critical element is represented by the environmental pollution of the Industrial Area of Portovesme, as well as of a sizeable portion of the Municipality of Portoscuso and of several surrounding municipalities. Indeed, the production of the industrial sector has damaged the territory causing two evident effects. The first effect is the pollution of the aquifer, which has led the Municipality of Portoscuso to issue an ordinance that prohibits the cultivation and human consumption of products throughout the entire municipal territory. To date, an action plan has been defined and procedures have been launched for water reclamation at the expense of the enterprises settled on the territory. The second effect is the presence of the so-called "red mud basin" that collects the waste produced by the processing of bauxite, realised along the coastline and currently isolated through hydraulic containments.

The project topics identified during the meetings with stakeholders

The dialogue with the stakeholders led to identify two overriding project topics - that can be potentially integrated - which need to be at the basis of the territorial development scenario:

- Production and logistics activities connected to the metallurgic sector
- Environmental remediation activities to be carried out on the territory

The first project topic is based on the possible development of an industrial and logistics area, characterised by non-fragmented joint production activities, connected to the aluminium chain.

Such scenario is inserted into a wider project, developed in the last years by the Ministry of Economic Development, aimed to relaunch aluminium production activities. In the first months of 2018, the Ministry

signed an agreement for the transfer of Alcoa's plant from Invitalia (which had taken it over temporarily) to the Swiss Group Sider Alloys. At the same time, the ministerial procedure aimed to restart Eurallumina, a bauxite refinery owned by Rusal. These actions laid the foundations for the reconstruction of an aluminium production area at national level.

In such context, against the reactivation of production activities, the site would be able to host "services" activities addressed to the surrounding enterprises, with particular attention to logistics services. The insertion of logistics activities could be functional for the development of a future Free-Trade Zone (Special Economic Area).

Several activities that could be developed are as follows:

- Production activities relating to the aluminium production chain,
- Production activities supporting the enterprises of the Industrial Area in Portovesme,
- Logistics services supporting aluminium production,
- Logistics services supporting the harbour and the Free-Trade Zone (FTZ).

The second project topic consists in developing an innovative Centre for environmental treatment and remediation. In the light of the territory's history and of the impacts caused by its production activity, the idea is for the Centre to host a services structure for environmental remediation which would focus on two areas of competence: depollution, with particular reference to the red mud problem, and the reduction and reuse of waste produced by the territory's industrial plants. These activities could be developed in collaboration with the Universities of Cagliari and Sassari and with the new Centre of Excellence for Environmental Sustainability in Iglesias.

Opportunities

Indeed, the area is characterised by several resources that can be exploited to realise the scenario of integrated development outlined in the project topics defined in the previous paragraph.

First of all, the area of the former thermal power plant in Portoscuso benefits from the presence of plants and structures that in actual fact can be reused.

Secondly, the use of the area - recognised as a complex industrial crisis area – gives access to Invitalia's development contract, which provides financial support to enterprises operating in the differentiated green buildings sector and/or in the traditional industrial sector.