**Arpa Emilia-Romagna tasks and activities**

Arpa stands for Agenzia Regionale per la Prevenzione e l’Ambiente dell’Emilia-Romagna (Regional Agency for Environmental Prevention in Emilia-Romagna) established under Regional Law no. 44 of 19-4-1999 and subsequent amendments. Arpa is an environmental control technical support body to the Regional, District and Local Authorities and is administratively and technically independent.

Arpa's functions, activities and tasks cover all aspects concerning environmental control, including:
- monitoring of the various environmental components
- management and surveillance of human activities and their territorial impacts
- activities in support of the environmental impact assessment of plans and projects
- creation and management of a regional environmental information system

Also of great importance are the custom-made activities undertaken by Arpa on behalf of local clients:
- soil, water and air quality improvement plans
- complex territorial analyses
- study and characterisation of ecosystems
- research into themes associated with the development of environmental prevention in production cycles (Life Cycle Assessment, Best Available Technique, etc.)

The Agency's activities are aimed at local, regional and national institutional customers, the business world and private citizens.

Arpa also collaborates with the Italian Agency for the Environment and Territory, the European Environmental Agency and Italian, European and International Institutes and research centres.

**Mission and Vision**

Integrated environment-territory health prevention and support to environmental sustainability policies promoted by the Region are the objectives common to many of Arpa's activities and the basic elements of the Agency's mission. Arpa operates an environmental management and control system which integrates activities associated with verification of conformity to regulations and standards with study and analysis of the causes of degradation and their relative effects. This objective is condensed in Arpa’s vision statement, to be achieved through coherent evolution and the adoption of strategies for implementing the mission.

**Vision**

In collaboration with public and private subjects, Arpa develops and promotes activities and prevention procedures aimed at improving the quality of environmental systems and safeguarding the health of the population, through an organisation of network services capable of producing and exchanging knowledge and information.

**Values**

- Caring and environmental promotion
- Anthropogenic, ecological and territorial safety
- provision of services to the achievement of sustainable development

**Network organisation**

The Agency has identified the network as the most suitable organisational structure to respond to the complex demand for services, with operational "nodes" located throughout the region (nine local Districts). Regional operational nodes with specialist skills (four thematic structures) and central integration and support nodes for the coordination and management of common functions (General Management, Administration and Technical Management).

Each local node is divided into three Services each with its own mission.

**The System of Excellence Centres**

The themed structures are:
- **Environmental engineering**
  - Responsible for plans and projects associated with environmental risk prevention, strategic environmental assessments (SEA) and environmental cartography. Provides ecosystem project management services
- **Hydrometeorological Service**
  - Responsible for operational meteorological, climatic, agrometeorological, radiometeorological, hydrological, hydrotypic and meteor-environmental activities and of the related R&D, providing short- and medium-term regional forecasts and local warning products. It also provides agrometeorological products and information. It operates an integrated regional hydrometeorological gauging network. It is the Regional Centre of the national information system in support of the Italian Civil Protection and also National Competence Centre for Numerical Weather Prediction.
- **Daphne Oceanographic Structure**
  - Responsible for monitoring marine-coastal ecosystems, operating with an oceanographic motor vessel equipped for monitoring and studying the evolution of the North Adriatic ecosystem. Provides specialist biochemical analytical services in support of safeguarding the ecosystem and the drawing up of plans for planning, improvements and protection.
- **Regional Centre of Numerical Weather Prediction**
  - Responsible for implementing strategies and programs related to environmental assessment policies, to the effects of environmental factors on human health. Its objective is to develop the potential of the environmental and health prevention network through the joint planning of interventions and integration between the Arpa network and public health structures.
- **Rimini-DaP**
  - Responsible for strategies and plans aimed at activating and/or supporting programmes and initiatives for gathering information on the effects of environmental factors on human health. Its objective is to develop the potential of the environmental and health prevention network through the joint planning of interventions and integration between the Arpa network and public health structures.

More than 300 staff operate in the Emilia-Romagna Regional Agency for Environmental Prevention.

**Integration and specialisation of activities**

Over the years, Arpa's district operational nodes have integrated part of their activities at the regional level, enabling each to achieve a high standard of specialisation. Each District has activated at least three regional Centres of Excellence responding to a number of primary objectives:
- constant updating of instruments for the analysis and integrated interpretation of environmental ecosystems
- development of new methods and technological upgrading of activities associated with the surveillance and monitoring of environmental components
- continuation of analytical activities involving non-environmental matrices or requiring particular technologies and equipment in specialised laboratories in support of the entire network
- integration with the relevant institutions and bodies for the development of a regional information system on the environment
- promotion of training initiatives to develop skills relevant to the sector.

The regional Agency's Centres of Excellence also guarantee constant dialogue with other parties in the vast national and international network.