Abstracts

Pg 1  THE WARRIOR, THE MERCHANT AND THE ELEPHANT
Francesco Bertolini, Sala Buconi, Milan

Pg 3  ARPA: STRUCTURE AND PROGRESS IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS
We publish the report “Structure and progress in environmental controls” opening the “Giornate di Corvara”, annual meeting of the Associazione Italiana degli Igieneisti Industriali, Milan, March 31–April 2, 2004.
Edolo Minarelli, General Manager, Arpa Emilia-Romagna
Mauro Bompani, Communication Area Manager

Pg 6  CERVIA: WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT INDICATORS AT ARPA EMILIA-ROMAGNA: FIRST DATA
During the workshop “Towards a system of management indicators”, held in Cervia on March 23/24, 2004, method guidelines on Demand-Planning-Performance and on resource allocation for Arpa operational hubs, were outlined.

The modelling process led to a quantitative definition of management indexes for Province-based departments while theme structures are still being improved.

Adriano Libero, Andrea Giunchedi, Luca Torreggiani
Planning and Control Area Management, Arpa Emilia-Romagna

Pg 8  POLLUTION, CULTURAL ASPECTS AND LIFESTYLES
City-dwellers are well aware of the high risk of pollution attached to urban traffic, but they also rank the need for parking lots as a primary issue. Such were the findings of a recent investigation carried out in Florence. Most likely, the outcome would have been the same in any other Italian town. A sort of “cultural schizophrenia” surfaces, emphasizing the flaws, complex relationship between different lifestyles, the way pollution risk is perceived and attitudes towards change. A different approach from institutional actors is needed: rather than the usual campaigns that aim at making the public aware, campaigns to “listen to” people and, accordingly, act together.

Stefano Beccastrini, Arpa Toscana

Pg 10 SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT AND NEW PROFESSIONS
Throughout the last few decades, environmental issues increasingly featured on the political agenda and among people, as they no longer are a merely local problem but affect the whole world. Being able to comply with a new model of development depends on methods and levels of involvement of individuals within communities, each with their own role and responsibility. In order to successfully tackle the challenge of sustainability, professionals must play an active role in such a process of change, too.

Matteo Mascia, Ethical Planning and Environmental Policy Co-ordinator, Fondazione Lanza

Pg 12 A COMMUNICATION LAB ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
The first stage of the project “Vetrina della Sostenibilità Emilia-Romagna” has been completed. A list of 198 useful processes drafted by companies and organisations is now available: products and services (39%), system actions (32%), production processes and techniques (15%), environmental management systems (14%). The “Vetrina” involved all production and service template systems in Emilia-Romagna. The 2004 ERA (Emilia-Romagna Environment Prize) will be awarded to outstanding contributions.

Lea Buschetti, General Manager, Environment, Coast and Soil Protection, Paolo Tamburini, Communication Manager, Environmental Education, Local Agenda 21 Emilia-Romagna

Pg 14 EMAS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: FROM THE “TANDEM” PROJECT TO THE REGISTRATION OF THE PROVINCE OF BOLOGNA
The Province of Bologna recently completed the activities scheduled in the Project “Pilot Action for the promotion of Emas in local government units working on a large scale with Local Agenda 21”. Outcomes were outlined during the workshop held on February 27.
Paolo Natali, Manager Environment Area, Province of Bologna

Pg 16 EUROHARP PROJECT: A STAGE IN REGGIO EMILIA
The research project promoted by the European Community within the Fifth Framework Program stems from the common need for adequate tools in the evaluation and planning of the loss of nourishment caused by diffused anthropic sources, a major cause of surface water eutrophication in Europe. While the first steps of the projects were completed, the final stage, i.e. the development of operational tools is still underway.

Silvia Franceschini, Environment System Service, Provincial Section of Reggio E.

Pg 18 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION: THE PROTOCOL BETWEEN ARPA AND THE MODENA CITY COUNCIL
“I go to school with my friends” is the title of one of the projects included in the cooperation agreement between Arpa Emilia Romagna and “L’Olmo”, a Centre for Education to Sustainable Development in Modena. The project concerns training and information, cooperation in health issues and environmental areas; development of investigation and research in areas of common interest; supply of technical and organizational support by Arpa for the educational activities included in “School Agenda 21” and proposals for training citizens.

Pg 19 SPECIAL FOCUS ON NATURAL RADIOACTIVITY
Natural radioactivity: risks for people and the environment

“The activity of CTN-AGF in the natural radioactivity field” was the title of the workshop held in Rome on December 17, 2003.

Law n. 230 (March 17, 1965, amended by law n. 241, May 26, 2000), stemming from European regulations, introduced in the Italian body of laws rules on the safeguard of individuals, workers and the environment against the exposure to natural radioactive sources.

Apart from specific events such as nuclear explosions or accidents, exposure to ionogenic mutations mostly comes from natural sources, first and foremost from the decay of radon, a natural radioactive gas that the WHO have listed in Group 1, among carcinogenic substances. Special situations concern working activities including use and storage of materials or production of NORM (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials), residues that can expose workers and people to radiation and therefore must not be neglected.

The results achieved in this field were outlined at the Rome Workshop held on December 17, 2003, promoted by CTN-AGF (Centro Tematico Agenti Fisici), with the scientific co-ordination by PG Arpa Emilia-Romagna and Apat. An extensive summary is published, in co-operation with Apat.

Edited by:

Pg 38 DIOXINS, FURANS AND POLYCHLOROBIPHENYLS: EFFECTS AND INFORMATION
Recent epidemiological studies have shown that the effects of dioxin and some polychlorobiphenyls are more noxious than previously thought. The enlargement of the European Union brought up problems such as laws that differ from EU rules that guarantee high sanitary and environmental protection. In order to detect such hazardous substances both in the food chain and in the environment, highly sensitive analytical tools and methods are required.

Ivan Scarfini, Gabriele Castellari, Davide Panniello, Alberto Santolini, Organic Micropollutant excellence, Arpa Emilia-Romagna, Ravenna Area Dept.

Pg 40 INTEGRATED BIOLOGICAL MONITORING: A NEW WAY TO TEST THE QUALITY OF WATER
Arpa Ferrara produced a new monitoring system to test the quality of water, i.e. ecotoxicological tests on automatically collected samples after a biological pre-alarm signal.

Daria Stefania Tosi, Naturalist

Pg 42 ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION MONITORING: A FIVE-YEAR SURVEY IN FLORENCE
In the last five years, the expected increase of Ultraviolet radiations as a consequence of the thinning out of the ozone layer (“ozone hole”) was a major issue in the international scientific world. LaMMAIBIMET in Florence performs a steady monitoring in this field.

Daniele Grifoni, CNR-IBINET, Florence