

Facing the Adriatic sea, Porto San Giorgio represents one of the favorite destinations of Italian and European tourists.

With its 16.000 citizens, the town has already taken up a path toward the environmental sustainability, stimulating the inhabitants, and in particular the new generations, to choose eco-friendly lifestyles.

With the pollution, present in all his forms, the environment in which the citizens live is altered and the life quality is getting worse. As a result the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the environment are unfavorably modified to the life of the vegetal and animal organisms (man included).

In the municipality of Porto San Giorgio the water pollution is caused by the purification plants of the factories and by illegal dumpings at sea. To solve this problem, the municipality promoted the building of a sewage pipe with different canals (sewers) for black and white waters.

Another kind of pollution is the atmospheric one, coming from the thin dust and greenhouse emissions (caused mostly by vehicles). The public administration, following the regional regulations regarding the air quality, is monitoring the various parts of the city and imposing traffic limitations to solve the pollution problem. Since Porto San Giorgio is a seaside resort, the breeze and the particular ventilation help to improve the environmental situation, but the heavy traffic of the SS16 (national road 16), which passes through the whole city, is a problem that the administration is trying to solve, collaborating also with the neighboring cities.

Besides, a recent municipal decree put some restrictions to the use of (wood) chimneys both for food services and residential buildings.

Another reason of the atmospheric pollution is the electromagnetism caused by radio-antennas, telecommunications and by the noise coming from some facilities such as the railway and the road network. The municipality is predisposing their supervision by ARPAM (the regional institution for the protection of the environment) and his placing noise barriers near the motorway to limit the damages of this kind of pollution.

Porto San Giorgio is a high-density populated town, so every problem must be faced bearing in mind this factor.

Concerning (or regarding) the waste management, we have 16.000 citizens in 8 km<sup>2</sup>: that means producing an elevated quantity of garbage per individual. To improve the quality of the town a door to door separate collection of waste has been set up in every area: that provides for the periodical collection of the rubbish (day by day).

Even though during summer the waste problem is amplified, the municipality is trying to increase the citizens' awareness to lower the land-filling process. In addition, there is an accurate control of fly-tipping of some particular refuses, such as the asbestos. The local

schools have been involved to raise the new generations' awareness of the environmental themes, and to motivate them toward a real change.

Regarding the integrity of the territory, the main emergency is represented by "Monte Cacciù", a hill situated in the south-west of the town: in fact it usually prevents the superficial water flowing.

Another matter is the "Fosso Rio Petronilla", a small brook that crosses the city and has caused a lot of bother, mainly during the rainy season.

The coast represents a great economic resource and has been subject of several maintenance works: however in the last years, the coastal erosion has been increasing, especially in the southern part of the town.

Finally, also the harbour is an issue to consider: in fact its entrance often needs dredging works.

The public administration has to apply focused measures in order to solve these problems, since the economic resources are becoming scarcer and scarcer: in fact, together with experts, it is trying to find the best solutions, minimizing costs.

Moreover, the municipality of Porto San Giorgio is holder of the "Bandiera Blu" (blue flag) since 2000. This year the award ceremony was in Rome, the 12th May.

The Blue flag was instituted in 1987, the European year of the environment, and is assigned each year in 41 countries. Initially it involved only European countries, but then the project was extended and is now supported by ONU (UN- United Nations), UNEP (United National Environment Program) and UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization).

Today the white flag is perceived as a reward for a constant and efficient work on the environment and the sea. It also favors the tourism economy and promotes Porto San Giorgio's territory all along its country and also beyond the national borders.