

The Energiochi Contest 9 – Report of the Energiochi Award Ceremony, 6th June 2014

Under a beautiful blue sky and a hot summer sun, the final award ceremony of the regional contest Energiochi 9 took place on the 6th June in Chieti.

During the award ceremony 57 schools ranked on the first three places in every province, were

awarded according to their educational level, that is kindergarten, primary school, lower secondary and secondary school.



(Students arriving at Villa Comunale)



(Groups of students walking towards the reception points) posters, and slogans.

About 3.000 students, teachers, school heads, and mayors of towns from the winning schools with their mayoral sashes and banners paraded down the main street of the city in the name of sustainable energy and environmental protection. The city streets were covered with people singing and dancing, in the meantime, students showed the participants all their works that led them to be awarded, such as scale models,



(Moments of fun. Students singing and dancing)

That was a great big party for energy!



(Luciano D'Alfonso among the winning schools)

All the participants proved to be very involved in the regional contest, everybody fully engaged in the project with commitment and reliability during all the school year, dedicating many hours of their scheduling to energy issues and to the promotion of good behaviours. The result was a lively, spontaneous and happy participation in the final award ceremony.

The first stop was at the wonderful Villa Comunale, that received all classes coming from everywhere in the region. After the very first inconveniences due, of course, to the contemporary arrival of 60 busses in the



(Parade arriving at Piazza San Giustino)

city, the award ceremony could orderly start thanks also to the valuable work carried out by the volunteers of



(Julije Domac interviewed by students)

the Civil Protection. Then, the students guided by their teachers,

registered at the reception points and walked towards the fountains of the Villa Comunale. Music was waiting for them there. Some students were also interviewed and had the chance to tell their own experience. Moreover, they had the possibility to participate in video calling with other partners from Romania, Cyprus, Spain, England, Sweden and Netherland, who could celebrate the final event with all the participants.

After all classes arrived, a long parade stepped off walking down the main streets of the city up to Piazza San Giustino. Thanks to RES.GEA s.r.l. Company, spin-off of the University G. D'Annunzio of Chieti, striking top view imagines of the parade have been filmed using a drone (a remotely piloted multirotor drone), that is a technical tool employed in research and in the most innovative monitoring systems and energy efficiency techniques.



(Parade top view filming drone)

The flag hoisting made by four students from the winning schools together with the European and the Italian national

anthems gave an important solemn moment to the crowded square.



(Choir and street band performances along the parade route)

Later on, an opening speech was held by



(Solemn flag hosting)

Umberto Di Primio, Mayor of Chieti, who worked together with the Abruzzo Region to a better success of this event. Meaningful words were addressed to all participants from Monsignor Bruno Forte, Bishop of the Diocese of Chieti, who kindly accepted to participate in the final event, as well as the new elected President of the Abruzzo Region Luciano D'Alfonso, who attended the award ceremony since its very beginning in company with other participants. A brief opening

speech was also held by Sandro Liberatore, Manager of the Regional Educational Department – an essential body to the whole Energiochi Contest.

The award ceremony was also attended by Julije Domac, special guest of the final event. Julije Domac is representative of the European Commission and President of the European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment (FEDARENE), his presence underlined the international dimension of the event.



Moreover, the participation of members from the evaluation committee of the contest, that is representatives of the (Mayors on the stage, ready for the award ceremony)



(Prizegiving)

University of L'Aquila – Faculty of Primary Education Sciences – , Prof. Giuseppe Cristofaro and Prof. Carla di Matteo, and the participation of representatives from ENEA, Nicola Labia and Barbara Accorona, Prof. Clara Evangelista from the Regional Educational Department were the added value to the award ceremony. Last but not least, the team of teachers that voluntarily held many lectures at schools.

The mayors of towns from the winning schools awarded the winning classes. Their presence strengthened the connection between education and territory, wishing in an even closer synergy that will lead to enhance the program of the Covenant of Mayors.

The award ceremony was directly broadcasted on television by Rete Otto (<http://www.rete8.it/it/primapagina/14800-video-energiochi-la-carica-degli-studenti.html>) and followed through video conference by all partners from Spain, Netherlands, Sweden, Romania, Cyprus, Turkey, England, who could also step in with short interviews during the award ceremony.



Students of the winning secondary schools

Their participation proved the deeply rooted international involvement, so that Spain and Romania are launching the regional experience carried out by the Abruzzo Region in their own territory.

In order to entertain all the participants dog support units performances from the National Department of Forestry took place in Piazza San Giustino, where also exhibition stands of the Regional Environmental Education Centers (CEAs) were installed.

The award ceremony concluded with final closing words to thank all the participants for coming and to invite them to be present fully enthusiastic to the next edition of the Energiochi Contest, that will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2015.

The Energiochi Contest is a great success also achieved through the involvement of all schools from the Abruzzo Region. Indeed, schools are the real protagonists of the whole contest.

Further information will be soon available on the Energiochi Contest website <http://energiochi.regione.abruzzo.it>. All works from the winning schools will also be uploaded.