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Arzignano European Capital of research in the tanning industry

27 July 2014 - Green Chemistry - Environment - Special waste



Launch of the European project "Green Leather Industry for Environment", financed by the European Commission as part of the program LIFE.

During the kick off meeting held on the 21st June 27, 2014 at the main office of Acque del Chiampo in Arzignano, the pilot project "Green Leather Industry for Environment" (green LIFE) was officially launched. The initiative is to be considered as the first step of a district-level shared path and involves five companies operating in the tanning supply chain of Vicenza: Dani Spa (tannery), Gruppo Mastrotto Spa (tannery), Ikem Spa (chemical supplier), Ilsa Spa (enterprise specialized in biotechnology and technical resources for agriculture) and Acque del Chiampo Spa (service provider of water purification). The above mentioned companies will work together in order to achieve important goals in terms of:

- reducing the consumption of natural resources;
- tanning by-products valorization;
- prior assessment of the benefits and costs due to a possible scale-up of emerging technologies in the district.

The proposal has passed a rigorous selection: only 47 of the 421 projects submitted by Italy were actually financed as a result of the technical merit of the project and the support given by the institutions towards a worldwide leading industrial district.

The development of the activities will be completed within three years, displacing an investment of €2.3 bn, 50% of which is financed for a 50% by the European Commission.

The research includes the following guidelines

- testing of oxidative, enzymatic and with bath recovery liming
- testing of metal-free tanning
- recovery, treatment and valorization of the tanning by-products in the industrial, agro-industrial and energetic field
- impact assessment of new technologies on the comprehensive water purification system
- environmental impact and socio economic analysis of new technologies, along with a simulation on district scale.

The above mentioned technical and economic aspects will be implemented by informative activity data and follow-up activities, provided to every district stakeholders. In particular, a website featuring constant updates on the project development will be launched within a few months.

"Green Life" represents a unique opportunity stressing the challenge of breadth of perspectives, innovation, planning skills and player's unity. It's a project that complements other initiatives already underway in the local area, which underlines the importance of operating as a single group, instead of a simple network of single companies.


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