

## How has the synergy between Herambiente and Eni Rewind for the construction of the environmental platform in the Ponticelle area been received by the Ravenna area?

The synergy and the technological and corporate partnership (with the establishment of HEA S.p.A) between two important companies, leaders at national level, and at the same time strongly rooted and present at territorial level, certainly represents a guarantee of seriousness and reliability that the territory is able to perceive. The municipal administration immediately grasped the importance of the overall intervention, and also the economic-entrepreneurial system, thanks also to the progressive increase in knowledge of the project, has become aware of the importance of the initiative, both in terms of infrastructuring qualified services dedicated also to local businesses, and in terms of spin-offs on the territory, which are expected to be significant, with investments amounting to many millions of euro over the next few years. Furthermore, since October the start of the authorisation process has also entailed moments of public visibility for the productive redevelopment project in the area, without registering any particular stance by citizens or specific stakeholders. Even though it is never easy to develop projects for waste plants (particularly if it is of industrial origin), I believe there is ultimately a perception of the need for these facilities and a chance to raise awareness that the multifunctional platform, as part of the overall project, is perfectly in line with the objectives of the circular economy.

**What scenario made this industrial symbiosis, now considered an Italian best practice, possible in brownfield valorisation projects? Can this virtuous experience be replicated in other terri-**

## ories and how?

The elements favourable to the realisation of this industrial symbiosis are manifold. First of all, the skills of the two partners favour an important synergy to optimise the management of waste, both related to the Eni Group's activities and deriving from the market, favouring the recovery of energy and materials with industrial efficiencies and economies of scale. The multifunctional platform project then fits into the virtuous process of recovering the *brownfield* Ponticelle of 26 hectares, which envisages, following the environmental remediation project, its overall productive redevelopment and the construction of a photovoltaic park and a bioremediation platform independently promoted by Eni Rewind. The projects, although autonomous and independent, are interconnected in the overall infrastructure of the area with a view to rationality. The synergy between the two platforms, in particular, is evident; although they will be completely independent in terms of waste treatment activities, they will use some utilities in a shared manner, avoiding unnecessary duplication. In addition, the new HEA platform, which will adopt the best available technologies, will replace the current HASI (Herambiente Servizi Industriali) owned platform located in the Via Romea area, with an important plant optimisation. Another relevant element for the success of similar initiatives is the attitude of the public administration in allowing, also through town planning, the possibility of realising certain facilities under the right conditions. As a whole, these situations are not easily reproducible, although replicability in other territorial contexts would be highly desirable.

**What waste management and logistical needs does the construction of the environmental platform meet**

## in the local and Italian landscape?

Without going into detailed numbers, the plant deficit in Italy (also) for the special/industrial waste cycle, which is often a commodity exported abroad, despite transport costs, is evident. It should also be borne in mind that the production of special waste is 4/5 times greater than that of municipal waste, with all that this implies in terms of plant requirements for this supply chain.

The Emilia-Romagna region boasts a strong establishment of manufacturing and industrial activities and is experiencing higher growth rates than other Italian regions. With this in mind, the recently adopted Regional Waste Management Plan (PRRB 2022-2027), with regard to the management of special waste, assumes the principles of self-sufficiency for the disposal of non-hazardous waste in the regional context, and generally of plant proximity. The province of Ravenna is one of the largest producers of special waste in the region. By optimising flows for disposal and maximising material/energy recovery with pre-treatment operations, the platform is fully consistent with planning objectives at every level and at the service of the territory in particular. It will also be able to address, in a versatile manner, the needs of local companies in the management of industrial waste, offering treatment solutions for, among others, various outflows from the plants of the Eni Group and other companies in the petrochemical sector.

The platform will be equipped with advanced waste traceability systems and environmental certifications to guarantee total transparency in waste management, ideally fitting into an area that boasts consolidated policies of environmental protection and control with the direct commitment of companies (monitoring networks, certifications, EMAS of companies and district).

## INTERVIEW



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