



The Situation in Tuscany

The project “Sarete” was developed based on a relationship between businesses and territory. For years Tuscany has been developing and promoting, by means of the project “Fabbrica Ethica”, a series of policies in support of Corporate Social Responsibility. In fact, it is no coincidence that in a national context, this region has the highest number of businesses certified SA8000. The project has succeeded in developing, in a particularly incisive manner, from both a political and operational perspective, also due to the establishment of a regional body of multi-stakeholders, grouping all of the involved parties at a regional level: trade unions, category associations, environmental organizations, consumer associations, Inail (Istituto Nazionale per l’Assicurazione sugli Infortuni sul Lavoro>National Institute for Work Injury), Universities, the CER (Ethics Regional Committee), etc.

During these past years, the Tuscan project has assumed an elevated importance and dimension in a very remarkable way thanks to the capability of the Tuscan Region and CER to associate sensitivity-training and informative policies to some tools supporting those businesses that have chosen to apply Corporate Social Responsibility and to have been able, at the same time, to accept and develop requests coming not only from small and medium-sized enterprises, but also from micro businesses representing, case in point, the broadest part of our economical and productive network of resources.

It must be noted that, during these years, the project has been completed by a regulatory activity that has outlined a series of fundamental aspects concerning CSR, as well.

The Sarete network represents the natural aggregation of a group of businesses certified SA8000 trying to claim a different role in the global and local economy with the collaboration of the Region. On one hand, during these past years, consumers demonstrated a greater attention to purchasing – tracing out of products; on the other hand, the global economy has interrupted any balance between real and speculative economy, to the advantage of the latter, by the achievement of an overbearing capitalism more and more difficult to control, exclusively aimed at realizing an immediate profit with no substantial value.

Regulations

L.R. (Regional Law) no. 17 of the 8th May 2006

Provisions concerning Corporate Social Responsibility with a more concentrated attention on information and communication, direct interventions addressed to businesses, composition and functions of CER (Ethics Regional Committee). In the section of principles, the meaning and importance of the concept of social tracing out as a fundamental element of social responsibility is outlined.

L.R. no. 37 of the 23rd February 2005

“Provisions supporting free and equal trade”. The Tuscan Region, in the field of policies promoted and applied to support international collaboration in conformity with articles 3, 4 and 71 of the statute concerning solidarity, communication, culture and religions, recognizes free and equal trade as a considerable function in respect to Tuscan promotion, meeting different cultures and supporting economical and social growth, in the respect of individual rights of developing countries.

L.R. no. 63 of the 15th November 2004

“Regulations against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity”

The Tuscan Region adopts, by means of applying article no. 3 of the Constitution, policies aimed at allowing all individuals to freely express his/her sexual orientation and gender identity and condemns discrimination by guaranteeing the right to self-expression according to a person’s sexual orientation and gender identity.

L.R. no. 18 of May 2002

Regulations for the introduction of biological, typical and traditional products in public refectories and programs of food education. It designates a priority in giving public contracts to those businesses offering products coming from certified SA8000 companies, without prejudice with regard to the use of food coming from biological and integrated agriculture.

Project “Fabrica Ethica”

The project “Fabrica Ethica”, promoted by the Tuscan Region (Council on Production Activities), was established as an initiative aimed at enhancing Corporate Social Responsibility for development based on non-discriminatory practices, promotion of individuals and “diversity”, and the protection of human rights and the environment. The project has involved all public institutions, economical and social subjects interested in Corporate Social Responsibility, and has achieved such a level of dimension and importance as to have obtained international recognition.

The portal www.fabricaethica.it offers a general view of all regional activities, information on Italian initiatives and contains a section aimed at the diffusion of, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises, the SA8000 standard by means of activation of supporting information services and distribution of funds to businesses.

CER (Regional Ethical Committee)

The Regional Ethical Committee took office in May 2003. It was founded based on deliberations no. 138 and no. 439 issued in 2003, chaired by the Counsellor Ambrogio Brenna and composed of 24 delegates of all local stake-holders: business associations, trade unions, non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations, consumer associations, local institutions, chamber of commerce system. At the conclusion of its first mandate on the 15th of May 2005, its composition and its functions have since been regulated by Regional Law no. 17 of 2006 on “Provisions concerning Corporate Social Responsibility”. In particular, according to Regional Law no. 17/2006,

CER's functions have strengthened, resulting in a more active and propulsive role in addressing and monitoring CSR diffusion in the Tuscan economical system. Participation in CER is free of charge.

The new composition of CER includes 39 members, among which are the above-mentioned ones and ABI, Universities, Social Security Institutions, organization for the protection of equal opportunities and the association for environmental protection. The list of the members appointed by Decree no. 79 of 2007 of the Regional Board President is published on the Website www.fabricaethica.it, section "theoretical context" page "CER".

These are its functions:

- Formulating opinions and proposals for the Regional Board concerning projects for the diffusion, the encouragement and the study of CSR procedures;
- Analyzing Tuscan business realities by means of studies and inquiries;
- Proposing tools to guarantee the transparency and functionality of a gradual improvement and involvement process of chain suppliers that will lead businesses to the introduction of certifiable management systems, even by means of agreements with third-party organizations.
- Operating to improve transparency and quality of business certification and reporting processes by means of the full access to pertinent documents.

Throughout the years, CER's work group has established the following projects:

Laboratorio Filiera Pelle (Skin Network Laboratory)- FELAFIP

Work group for the project: "District and Network Certification".

Fund of Social Sustainability – Micro-Credit

Work group of "Economy and Finance".

The SA8000 Standard

The SA8000 Standard has been identified as one of the distinguishing elements of Tuscan businesses. The achievement of the certificate not only reflects an improvement of its image and is not an objective in and of itself, but represents a tool able to continuously improve management, throughout the pursuit of new objectives and the sharing of such objectives. Until 2006, businesses could require contributions for the Certification. From 2000 to 2006, the number of businesses financed by the Tuscan Region were 276. Today, in Tuscany, certified SA8000 business total 272 of 827 in Tuscany and 1779 world-wide.

Moreover, on the 13th of November 2006, the Tuscan Region adhered to Global Compact and projected and realized support tools in the following steps of certification, by means of facilitating access to other public funds and the allowance of IRAP.

Regional Boosting System

Based on the new regional planning (2007-2013) and the pertinent POR (Programma Operativo Regionale> Regional Operative Plan), an appropriate provision for advanced and qualified services has been organized, called provision 1.3.b, providing contributions for SA8000 and other certifications (including those concerning health and safety in the work place) that has expanded on contributions to consultancies for corporate balance-sheets, as well, in accordance/assertion to/of national and international guidelines. Moreover, all of the notices of POR, where compatible, provide criteria for rewards and additional scoring criteria of the SA8000 standard and social balance-sheet, with a different level of scoring. The Tuscan Region, also, guarantees a discount on IRAP of 0.50% addressed to small and medium-sized businesses.

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