Eco-innovation in Italy, 2012 Update

During 2012 the Italian economy has been significantly hit by the sovereign-debt crisis and has introduced structural reforms through spending cuts and tax increases. Economic activity is however expected to turn positive in late 2013 according to the OECD’s economic forecast of Spring 2012.

In the 2012 composite index of the Eco-innovation Scoreboard, Italy ranks below the EU 27 average with an overall score of 91 while the EU27 average is 100. In comparison to the 2011 Eco-IS Italy has not changed its position significantly, but has moved up in the EU27 ranking from 16th to 15th. Major contributor to this growth is the Eco-innovation output index and particularly the Eco-innovation related media coverage (3.3) with a growth of about 20%.

National policies and measures for sustainable growth in 2012 have focused on energy and “green” chemistry; reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants; green public procurement; eco efficiency in buildings; recovery and utilization of waste; and promotion of export of “green” technologies. Demand side initiatives during 2012 include for example the decree for incentives for renewable heat; and the application of a tax credit for companies that invest in the re-industrialization of land located in Sites of National Interest (SIT) using “green” technologies (defined by the 2012 updated list of technologies, systems and products that contribute to the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants). Other important policy initiatives to be adopted by December 2012 are the National Plan for the Integrated Management of Water Resources, the national plan for the recovery of waste and the approval of the National Plan for climate change adaptation, maintenance and security of the area.

Relevant references and links:
- European Environment Agency (EEA), May 2011, 2011 Survey of resource efficiency policies in EEA member and cooperating countries - country Profile Italy.
- Symbola, 2011, Green Italy - The green economy challenges the crisis
- Emission figures of the Italian emission inventory and other related documents are publicly available at http://www.sinanet.apat.it/it/sinanet/serie_storiche_emissioni