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European Union European Regional Development Fund

Changing of legislation, political decisors and funding: reasons for a delay of remediation actions

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The first identification of the Site of National Interest (SIN) "Sacco River Valley" took place in 2005 in accordance with Law n. 248/05

when concentrations of beta HCH isomer above the legal limits were discovered in bulk cow milk



In Italy, the SIN remediation procedure is attributed to the competence of the Ministry of the Environment (MATTM), which can consult some Scientific Institutions or local/regional Agencies or other qualified public or private subjects.

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The «Sacco River Basin» is one of the 57 Site of National Interest in Italy

SIN definition (D.Lgs. 152/2006): area where a dangerous chemical alteration of soils, surface and underground waters has been ascertained and a remediation is required

The remediation of SINs is a National priority





Following the establishment of the SIN, the following activities were assigned to a Commissarial Officer for the Emergency on behalf of the president of the Lazio region (2005):

- site securing,
- characterization,
- environmental reclamation and remediation.





At the beginning the Sacco river characterization and remediation activities involved 9 municipalities: Colleferro, Segni, Gavignano in the province of Rome, and Paliano, Anagni, Ferentino, Sgurgola, Morolo and Supino in the province of Frosinone.







In 2010, the activities of the Commissarial Officer were extended to the territories of 7 other municipalities located south of the previous perimeter. Such extension was due to the detection of residues in bulk milk in those territories

The state of emergency was extended until 2012 then with the order of the Head of the Department of Civil Protection on March 2013 the Lazio Region was declared competent authority for ordinary management.





In 2013, the Ministry of the Environment removed the SIN Sacco from the lists of (SIN) (Ministerial Decree 7/2013).

The Lazio Region appealed against this at the regional administrative court (the Lazio TAR) which, with a sentence of 16 July 2014, ordered the reintegration of the "Territory of the Sacco river basin" area between the SIN





Since there were evidences of contamination in a larger territory than the one that was previously identified ,

the Region asked to enlarge the territory to be officially declared as contaminated

The Ministry of the Environment instructed the Lazio Region and the regional environmental Agency (ARPA) to present a new perimeter, approved with Ministerial Decree 321/2016.



The current perimeter has been drafted by the Lazio Region and ARPA and approved by Ministerial Decree n. 321/2016.

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The new perimeter includes the territory of 19 municipalities up to the confluence of the river with the Liri River (54 km downstream of the industrial site)







Within the current perimeter there are two main industrial areas producing different pollutants

Even if the HCH contamination decreases moving away from the industrial source, the contaminants are present in the riverbed sediments up to the confluence with the Liri River (54 km)





After the approval of the new perimeter (Ministerial Decree 321/2016), the Ministry of the Environment asked the Lazio Region to identify the interventions for remediation.





In 2017 the Lazio Region approved a program for "Implementation of a Health and Environment Presidium at the Anagni Hospital (FR)" and "Program of epidemiological evaluation ", for the population residing on the SIN Valle del Sacco. (Deliberation of the Lazio Region n. 228 of 09/05/2017)

On 12 March 2019, a **program agreement** was signed by the Ministry of the Environment and the Lazio Region for the implementation of safety measures and remediation of the River Sacco SIN.





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Thank you!

Questions welcome

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