

Hi all,

As you know, last week took place in Naples the 5th Zero Waste Dialog <http://www.zwia09.info/> . Here you have a short report about what happened.

More than 200 people –150 of which Italian- participated in the 3 days that the conference lasted.

We had reports about Zero Waste initiatives from Italy, UK, Bulgaria, Catalonia, Scotland, Philippines, US and Canada and we also

On Friday we had presentations about Zero Waste businesses and in the afternoon we had a session on the overarching principles of Zero Waste in the world.

Friday ended with an impressive demonstration organized by the local Zero Waste network: more than 1000 people marched the streets of Naples asking the Campania government to adopt a Zero Waste plan for Naples waste crisis. The internationals were in the first row bringing international pressure.

To see some pictures of the demonstration see <http://www.flickr.com/photos/73161538@N00/>

After the demonstration, a delegation of Italians and internationals met with the local authorities to present the demands and complain about the crazy project to build 4 massive incinerators to solve the Naples crisis –this would mean capacity to burn all Naples waste and import from outside-.

Walking the streets of Naples we could see how mixed waste is dumped in the streets. See the video in which Paul Connett describes the situation: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQ1EF1ENF1A>

Currently the waste is collected and wrapped in plastic –what is known as “ecoballes”- and stored open air on fertile ground amounting to 2 square KM –equivalent to 800 football fields- see <http://is.gd/kNfC>

On Saturday we had presentations from the European Commission and Italian waste experts. The European Commission was claiming that incineration is safe and reasonable and we had the chance to confront their arguments in what was probably the first time they had to face a public check out. We also had the chance to learn about the best practice of Flanders, Belgium the European region with highest recycling rates -75%- thanks to separate kerbside collection, prevention and reuse policies, etc... they still burn 25% of the waste but it is because the incinerators were built before the current waste management plans were in place.

On Saturday afternoon we had a session on Zero Waste in Campania region in Italy in which many representatives of different organisations and municipalities spoke for a Zero Waste solution. It is remarkable the fact that we didn't have a single politician from Naples assisting to the event. Such is the distance between reality and politics in this beautiful Italian region.

All in all it was an amazing experience with lots of positive energy. It was agreed that next Zero Waste meeting will take place next year in the Philippines, so start getting ready!

Thanks to all those of you who participated and especially to those who helped organizing Rossano Ercolini and all the local team in Italy and the Zero Waste International support from Rick Anthony and Gary Liss. The success of the event and the fact that Zero Waste is taking shape in Europe and elsewhere is definitely thanks to you.

Best,

Joan Marc