



**Regione Toscana**

Diritti Valori Innovazione Sostenibilità



Together with  **ANCIM**



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# INSULAE

GREAT MINOR EUROPEAN ISLANDS

THE ISLE OF ELBA – TUSCAN ARCHIPELAGO 10TH/12TH SEPTEMBER 2009

## 2° EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON MINOR ISLANDS

A two-faced survey of the “Maritime Continent of Europe” in order to discuss shared development and territorial diversity. **Insulae. Great Minor European islands** (The Isle of Elba – Tuscan Archipelago) 10th/12th September 2009, an event organized by the **Tuscan Region** and by the **Tuscan ‘Anci’** [Association of Italian Municipalities] together with **Ancim** [Association of Italian Minor Islands], which has chosen a double perspective for its second edition of the “European Conference on Minor Islands”, taking place in Portoferraio.

A sort of telescope to look “far out” to the European Union’s maritime policies soon after the start of Europe’s new legislature, and a hand lens to examine the relationship between the process of community integration and regional policies so as to investigate both the vulnerability and potential of the Tuscan, Mediterranean and European coastal and minor islands’ areas.

During the three-day conference on the Isle of Elba, not only the tenable development of the minor islands’ particular characteristics and their extremely rich environmental, historical and human resource heritage will be talked about but the strategic role that they can play will also be discussed, whether it be about the experimentation of new relationships between the various administration levels or about territorial terms such as the essential aspects of a new co-operation network in the Mediterranean and elsewhere.

Given that, in 2010, a free trade area will be set up in the Mediterranean, the international conference’s talks on the first day will be on the subject of co-operating and co-ordinating policies: the presentation of the 2009 Tuscan Marine Agenda and the work of the Tuscan Marine Council will be followed by an analysis of the consequences of such directions on the quality of life and essential services on the various islands, and the overcoming of their very fragility, which is indeed an aspect that characterizes them. Thus, subjects will range from safety considered as a fundamental element for economic development to an analysis of the country’s maritime laws, from the importance of maritime sectors (docks and port, fishing and those connected to water culture) to the promotion of typical products and to the plans for improving accessibility of across-the-border areas.

IF ONLY ONE LUMP OF EARTH SHOULD BE WASHED

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But **Insulae** will also be a chance to discuss the principle of subsidiarity and European stability, subjects which will be approached and discussed on the second day. The coastal and island areas, which have always been places of meetings and trade for Mediterranean seafarers, nowadays are new frontier areas and are a perfect setting in which to take stock of nationwide, regional and local government decisions about the ways of overcoming the present crisis, about the growth in competitiveness and about immigration policies.

The making of a disparate yet coherent community, based on a renewed concept of citizenship, is the crucial starting point in order to make the most of the areas' endogenous potentiality and in order to clear away any sort of marginalization in the enjoyment of man's rights and in the use of the services offered, whether it be determined by the land's irregularities or by the differences in language and culture.

So that islanders and islands can become synonyms of integration and mixed cultures and not a synonym of isolation.

Just like last time, there will be some collateral events taking place during the Conference: a specially interesting one will be the meeting in the name of minor islands' young residents, as well as the chance to discover and rediscover the Tuscan Archipelago and to get to learn about examples of praiseworthy administration in the minor islands.

By means of OST- Open Space Technology, a technique which encourages spontaneous and creative discussions, youngsters will be able to compare the advantages and disadvantages of island life, weighing up its strong points and its criticisms in terms of both social participation and inclusion. At the end of the day, a summarizing document will be prepared about all the debated questions and proposals, an 'instant report' about the day's work, thereby guaranteeing the promises made and which will be presented during the European Conference.

AWAY BY THE SEA, EUROPE WOULD BE DIMINISHED

John Donne, No man is an island



# INSULAE

## INFORMATION

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