



Municipality of Ventotene

Province di Latina

Island of Peace – Gateway to Europe

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Application Dossier

Ventotene

The Ventotene municipal administration manages two small islands: Ventotene and Santo Stefano. Ventotene and Santo Stefano are 50 km off the coast between Rome and Naples. Ventotene can be reached, via Formia, with the ferries and hydrofoils of the private shipping company (Laziomar), twice a day. In the summer the number of runs increases and those from Ischia and Naples are also activated. Santo Stefano can be reached by boats moored in the Roman port. A heliport was recently built there. Ventotene also uses the Roman port and three dams to moor the boats and has a heliport for emergency transport. All the historic sites in Ventotene are easily accessible to those with physical limitations because the island is an open-air museum. The QRcode-equipped panel allows the visually impaired to listen to the descriptions of the places and the history that has passed through them.

Ventotene e Santo Stefano have always been considered ideal places to border:

- Villa Giulia, where Giulia, daughter of Augustus and other important Roman women, were confined. It is a vast archaeological area that also includes the Roman port, the wells and the fishpond;
- the Bourbon prison of Santo Stefano, where the opponents of the fascist regime were confined. After the formation of the Italian Constitution, advanced methods of rieducating prisoners have been experimented;
- a political prison was created on Ventotene where Italian intellectuals opposed to the Fascist regime were confined. There, in 1941, Altiero Spinelli and Ernesto Rossi signed the Manifesto "For a free and united Europe".

Detention on these islands acted as a political laboratory to visualize how to guarantee peace, pursue freedom, defend democracy and cooperation between peoples.



Representation of Ventotene and its location in Italy



The tomb of Altiero Spinelli in Ventotene

The Manifesto "For a free and united Europe" was written on Ventotene, which inspired the constitution of Europe. We are celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Manifesto this year.



When England's exit from Europe threatened the very life of the European Union, Italy (Matteo Renzi), Germany (Angela Merkel) and France (Francois Hollande) chose to meet in Ventotene in August 2016 to witness the Union's solidity.



On 10 and 11 October 1981, Altiero Spinelli, when celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Manifesto, proposed to use Ventotene as training center for young people in European values. For 40 years 250 young people have been trained on Ventotene about European federalism. We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the programme for the training of young Europeans interested in carrying on the idea of Europe contained in the Manifesto.



Monti and Prodi at the federalist seminar and young european participants

The training carried out in Ventotene has become an opportunity for personalities, scholars, politicians, researchers, academics and people of culture to meet and exchange ideas on Europe every year. Ventotene has thus continued to be a 'laboratory' for supporting the idea of Europe, but also for stimulating its federalist structure.

Each year we host around 2000 students on the themes of Europe and environmental sustainability. We have set up, since 2018, a coordination group of Europeanist Movements to plan the annual initiatives in Ventotene.

We activated the project the Way of the Founding Fathers and Mothers of Europe with 20 European municipalities. All Italian municipalities have already signed up. The other municipalities are consulting their municipal councils

We activated Friendship Pacts with the European islands of the Mediterranean (Lampedusa, Ithaca and Retimo).



the Friendship Pact between the 4 islands and the approval of the two Greek islands



We have formed an alliance with a number of organisations that have already been awarded the European Heritage Label: the Alcide De Gasperi house (Pieve Tesino), Ostia Antica (Roma). Now we are competing for the European Heritage Label 2021.

We activated the relationship with Polish municipalities twinned with municipalities involved in the battles of Montecassino. below are letters for the President of the Western District of Warsaw and the Mayor of Blonje, the leader of an association of municipalities twinned with Italian municipalities



The Italian Government, on the basis of the commitment made with France and Germany, in August 2016, invested 70 million euros to restore the Santo Stefano prison and make it "La Scuola d'Europa". It will become a place for researchers, scholars, artists and students from all over Europe.
(<http://commissariocissantostefano.governo.it>)



We have a website where you can find all the European activities we do:
www.ventoteneisolamemorabile.it.



Ventotene obtained the Diploma of Europe of the Council of Europe in 2019
The foto on the home page of the 2019 Diploma of Europe award ceremony.

This activism has earned Ventotene the recognition of City of Culture 2019 e "Place of Memory and Island of Europe" (Law 12 August 2020 of the Lazio Region).

The new technologies

The new technologies for Ventotene are used to:

1. make the historical heritage owned usable in all European countries and in the rest of the world, showing digitally, with reconstruction in 3D mode and with films / documentaries, the places of detention;
2. build immersive realities on the two islands to make those who physically visit the places experience the life and works of the inmates.

The website: www.ventoteneisolamemorabile.it was created in 2019 to show the digital solutions that the Administration has begun to implement, thanks to the funding provided by the Lazio Region on municipal projects (see VOL: Ventotene online, https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3385113284890573&id=630856663649596)

Signs will be installed in the most significant points of the two islands with at least bilingual writings and QR codes connected to the website. At the moment the work, which began in Ventotene and will continue on Santo Stefano.

On Santo Stefano there will be a museum itinerary, both real and virtual, which highlights the principles underlying its particular structure and illustrates the changes that have taken place over time.

A historical narrative will be privileged that makes visitors relive the reality of prison life, through interactive multimedia installations.

The intention is to network the official documentation of the EU, of Italian and European university archives and libraries and of research centers with on-site terminals and printers to make a remote library accessible to scholars, researchers, students hosted on the two islands. Some cells will be made available for the use of the countries of Europe.

Artistic and cultural activities

On Ventotene cultural events have been organized for several years:

1. music: jazz (Noises in the Island), classical (VentoMusic), choristers (Choir festival)
2. literature: literary festival (Gita al Faro) with hospitality, for a week, of writers to write books on the island (tenth edition)
3. crafts: construction and launch of hot air balloons. They are carried out by the island community in all important events. Original majolica is also made.

The experience gained on Ventotene will be replicated in an increased and expanded form on Santo Stefano once the existing buildings have been renovated the prison and related structures.

It plans to make the spaces that will be restructured available to groups of artists who want to spend a residential period on the island to create works of art of various kinds.

On 17 September 2020, a initial planning process was launched to identify viable, eco-sustainable and shared solutions.

Management of the site

The management of the historical, cultural and environmental heritage of the two islands is ensured by an articulated and flexible structure, composed of the following parts:

- the Municipality governs the strategies for maintaining, developing and promoting the Heritage,
- the Marine Protected Reserve follows all the structures and activities concerning the environment (the sea, flora and fauna),
- the Terra Maris Association deals with the management of the historical heritage present on Ventotene and Santo Stefano and provides guides for the various historical and environmental excursions,
- ProLoco takes care of the events and the arrangement of the places, tools and rooms available (Terracini multipurpose room),
- a municipal councilor follows the cultural programs that are developed on the two islands
- the person in charge of the Europe project follows the initiatives related to the European theme on the two islands and in Europe,
- the two Business Networks present in Ventotene take care of the reception system and its promotion,
- the coordination group of pro-European movements plans the European activities on the two islands and in Europe. The Table is composed of: European Movement, New Europe, Ass. Santo Stefano in Ventotene, European Federalist Movement, Altiero Spinelli Institute of Federalist Studies, Ventotene-Santo Stefano political confinement documentation center. It is chaired by the Mayor and has the Head of the Europe project as secretary.



At the same time, the extraordinary Commissioner for the restoration of the Santo Stefano prison works, on behalf of the Italian Government, on the restoration of the prison, on the cultural activities that will be developed in the restored premises and on the related communication.

Reception facilities, visitors' information and signposting

The visitor who arrives on Ventotene is accompanied by illustrated signs that immediately show him the recommended historical, cultural and environmental itineraries. If you reach the island by hydrofoil, you will find six large colored panels that illustrate six itineraries.

If you get off the ferry, find a large panel indicating the six routes and the significant stops for each.

Continuing along the Roman port to reach the historic center, you will find directions to reach the island of Santo Stefano. At the end of the first ramp of Bourbon origin is the Tourist Information office, where you can get brochures on the two islands and make reservations to be accompanied by specialized guides.

On the island there are signs with illustrations in Italian and English of the significant stages.

On the website www.ventoteneisolamemorabile.it paths for the preparation of the visitor with automatic translation in different languages are reported. The QRcodes on the illustrated signs are linked to the website and allow you to listen to the illustrations with your smartphone.

Historical Archive for the Confinio of Ventotene and Santo Stefano

A specific space has been allocated to the Historical Archive for the Confinio of Ventotene and Santo Stefano and its documentation on the history of the Confinio and the Confined people has been increased. Regional funding has also acquired to bring some files present at the Cassino prison in Ventotene and the Convention of 27.01.2016 between the Municipality of Ventotene and a group of Italian Institutions and Universities interested in historical archives has been confirmed; this group includes:

- ADIR The Other Right. Inter-university research centre on prison, deviance, marginality and migration governance
- Ministry of Justice, Prison Administration Department
- University of Milan
- Regione Campania,
- The municipality of Salluzzo



European policies

In Ventotene you can see how European policies are implemented.

1. A strong environmental policy

Attention to the Marine Reserve has grown and funding has been obtained from the Ministry of the Environment to set up an environmental education structure that will be set up in the multipurpose room of the island.

The Migration Museum and Ornithological Observatory for the Ringing of Migratory Birds has been strengthened with regional funding in conjunction with the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA).

A specific provision has been issued for the application of a Plastic Free policy.

A specific "environmental tax" has been issued for recreational craft stationed in the port of Ventotene.

Research was carried out to verify the quality of the marine flora and fauna in front of the coast to correct the desalination plant installed on the island.

An agreement has been made with to protect the birth of sea turtles

2. A political intelligence of the reception

A Family House was welcomed on the island to help some women (mothers and daughters) to recover a critical past and to integrate with the island community.

More generally, the island was open to all those who wanted to come to the island to rediscover the roots from which Europe was born and to bring to Europe Ventotene and what it symbolizes.

In 2019 Ventotene hosted the administrators of the Italian municipalities of the ANCI Association who wanted to study Europe and discuss the role to be played (TRAINING CAMP ANCI and Lazio Region). In the same year Ventotene joined the Association of Municipalities WELCOME through which Ventotene is taken as an example in all municipalities members as a symbol of Europe

3. A sensitive policy to intervene on social distress

Considering that for most of the year on the island remain few inhabitants and often the sea conditions do not allow to reach the land, there are some cases of depression that sometimes lead to suicide. In this case, research has been carried out with Democratic Psychiatry to understand the causes of this phenomenon, which is also present in many so-called "inland areas" of the country and, in particular, in the small islands of the world.

4. A very strong support action for European education and training

Ventotene has invested a great deal in this area, working on two fronts: strengthening and preparing the municipal structure for its own training and developing agreements and collaborations with bodies, associations and organisations with the aim of bringing young people from all parts of Europe to the island (see Erasmus), but also with all those people who have significant roles in society (teachers, administrators, scholars, trade unionists, writers, journalists, etc.) who can play a role in taking Europe forward "from below" to make people understand the real reason for its existence.

On the first floor, the "Memorable Year Project", launched in May 2019, served both to train the young people of the island, but also to prepare the municipal structure.

On the second level the result achieved is demonstrated by the number of activities that have been carried out on the island.

A new strategy: Ventotene is no longer a place where you breathe Europe and study where and why it was born, but a symbol that spreads European values outside the island, in Italy, in Europe, in the Mediterranean, in Africa to show how peace can be achieved.

1. Landing on the Continent to bring the idea of Europe, which Ventotene symbolizes, to the places that wanted to forget the atrocities of the war and the reasons that generated it

While the action to attract people to the island and satisfy their desire to know the history of the birth of the idea of Europe has developed, in 2019 a further strategy was pursued, that of taking Ventotene, as the individual of Europe, off the island starting from the places



of remembrance. We started with the area of Cassino and its surroundings and now we plan to continue intervening in other symbolic places in Italy and abroad.



In particular, also thanks to a small European funding granted by the Regional Council of the Lazio Region, it was possible for Ventotene to compose a concertation group with the presence of the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, five High Schools of Cassino, the municipalities of Cassino and surroundings, the Europeanist Movements (MFE and CIME), the European Commission in Italy and local associations and launch an educational program that called **EVICAM (Europe to live and walk)** and that was implemented in the spring of 2019. Almost 500 young people, including high schools and universities, were involved.



Several working groups have been formed and the projects have been presented in the Aula Magna of the University in the presence of all the professors and presidents of the Europeanist Movements (Giorgio Anselmi and Pier Virgilio Dastoli, as well as the rector and mayor of Ventotene Gerardo Santomauro.

This positive experience led to the signing of an agreement between Ventotene, the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio and the high schools in the area where the battles of Montecassino were fought.

2. the key to Europe

According to this second strategy, it is now Ventotene that begins to give recognition to those who distinguish themselves in supporting Europe.

So Ventotene has made a silver key and every year gives it to a deserving person.

it has been delivered:

- in 2018 to Emmanuel Macron
- in 2019 to David Sassoli
- in 2020 to Ursula Von der Leyen

