



Friday – 22nd March
9.00 – 10.40 – Room A

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FRONTIER AND MATURE AREAS

Assoil School in Basilicata: a case study for social responsibility within the value chain
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Abstract

With its considerable oilfields, Basilicata is the largest region in Europe for onshore hydrocarbon production. Through the ongoing extraction from the Val d'Agri oilfield and soon from Tempa Rossa, within few years production will reach 150 to 180 thousand barrels/day.

The local goods and services sector working with the upstream operators has grown progressively as new small-size companies burst in the area and a number of national companies established local operations to follow the development and maintenance of the growing upstream activity. Nevertheless, because of the need for high standards and specialization to operate within this industry, the initial years were defined by the necessity to bring in the required expertise from other regions, primarily from business districts that have been instrumental to oil and gas activity since the 70's and 80's.

It is within this context that in the Spring of 2010, during the course of an in-depth meeting between stakeholders on oil production in Basilicata, the need for developing a training center that would be instrumental in the local development of Oil&Gas production emerged as a high priority. A center that would attract companies interested in the growing local market of specialized machinery and would meanwhile facilitate the move of local enterprises towards international markets.

ASSOIL School ("Advanced skills for service in Oil&Gas industry school"), founded by the Division for Goods and Services of Assomineraria and 16 of its associated companies, was thus established in 2011 in Viggiano, next door to one of the most important onshore oil centers in Europe. The school was created with the aim of generating and promoting technical and professional courses for the human resource interest of both the 16 founding companies and the companies from the whole upstream value chain.

In addition to establishing a hub for the Operators and Contractors interested in training or re-training their workforce, ASSOIL School has placed itself as a complement to educational institutions (schools and universities) in the Region, interacting with them as well as contributing to their capacities to respond to job market requirements.

The launch of a powerful dialogue with local institutions, together with industrial, professional and trade union bodies, was instrumental to the development of the school's educational activities but ended up creating a physical sense of the potential impact of the O&G activities on both the local economy and employment, beyond the regional boundaries, towards the international markets.

The School has indeed positioned itself as a crossroad for global initiatives. In 2012 Assomineraria signed an MoU with the University of Maputo through which young graduates from Mozambique will undergo professional training in Viggiano, and a similar institution will be created in Mozambique in order to supply technical training according to local needs. Other business cooperation initiatives are following through.

Less than two years from its establishment, ASSOIL School is being perceived by the public, institutions and operators as an essential tool for the development of activities that generate wealth and employment for the local economy. As a result, it is emerging as a crucial player in the challenging process of building consensus for the entire upstream production chain.