



# Municipality of Ventotene

## Province di Latina

### Island of Peace – Gateway to Europe

**Piazza Castello n.1 – phone +39 0771/85014 – fax +39 0771/85265 - P. IVA 00145130597-**

## 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 symbol of Europe

On Ventotene was created a political prison 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 celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Manifesto in 2021.



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.



A Ventotene 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.

in line with this strategy Ventotene 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 2019 to Emmanuel Macron
- in 2020 to David Sassoli
- in 2021 to Ursula Von der Leyen



## Ventotene school of Europe

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 celebrated the 40th anniversary of the programme for the training of young Europeans interested in carrying on the idea of Europe contained in the Manifesto (29 agosto- 3 settembre).



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.

For three years we have been hosting the School of Europe for the training of young people from different European Schools and celebrate Europe Day on 9 May.

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.

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, from 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, Ventotene has set up 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 to realise an educational program that called **EVICAM (Europe to live and walk)** for a European education programme for university and high school students.





## Ventotene is the centre of the Network of European Mediterranean Islands

Ventotene has formalised a Pact to bring together all the European islands of the Mediterranean. The Pact has already been signed by Procida, Lampedusa, Retymno (Crete) and is about to be signed by Ithaca, Capraia, etc.



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



## Ventotene as the centre of the Network of Municipalities of the Founding Fathers and Mothers of Europe

Ventotene is building the Network of Municipalities where the people who contributed to the formation of the European Union were born or worked. The Agreement has already been signed by Milan (Eugenio Colorni), Bergamo (Ada Rossi), Florence (Ernesto Rossi), Pieve Telesino (Alcide De Gasperi) and Roma Capitale (Altiero Spinelli). We are working towards an agreement with the municipalities of Bazoches- sur- Guyonne, Schaerbeek, Colonia, Clausen, La Coruna, Forchtenberg, Messina, Magonza, Couvel, Odessa, Diekirch, Utrecht, Woodstock, Urlum.



## Ventotene Research Centre on Europe

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



Ventotene is building a large research centre on Europe for European researchers in Santo Stefano, where the Italian State is renovating the famous Bourbon prison. The Italian State has invested € 70 million.

The Italian Government 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>)



in 2021 Ventotene obtained 300.000,00 to realise a multimedia museum on the evolution of Europe that will start to be realised in 2022

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](http://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](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.

### **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),
  - Stella Maris in-house companies for the services
  - 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.



### **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](http://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.

On a website where you can find all the European activities we do:

[www.ventoteneisolamemorabile.it](http://www.ventoteneisolamemorabile.it).



## Awards

Ventotene:

- obtained the Diploma of Europe of the Council of Europe in 2019,
- has been awarded the title of City of Culture 2019 by the Lazio Region
- has been awarded the title of "Place of Memory and Island of Europe" (Law 12 August 2020 of the Lazio Region),
- was presented by the Italian State for the European Heritage Label 2022

## 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 (TRAYNING 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.

#### Partnership

Ventotene has signed agreements with numerous public and private institutions

- [ASSOCIAZIONE "LA NUOVA EUROPA"](#) - D.G.C. N. 3/03.07.2017
- [DIPARTIMENTO DI INGEGNERIA CIVILE, CHIMICA, AMBIENTALE UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI GENOVA \(DICCA\)](#) - D.G.C. N. 14/16.07.2017
- CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE ISTITUTO SULL'INQUINAMENTO ATMOSFERICO (CNR - IIA) e EXALTO ENERGY & INNOVATION SRL - D.G.C. n.48/16.10.2017
- [CONSIGLIO ITALIANO MOVIMENTO EUROPEO \(CIME\)](#) - D.G.C. N. 62/28.11.2017
- SISTEMA BIBLIOTECARIO SUD PONTINO - D.G.C. N. 66/04.12.2017
- [DIPARTIMENTO INGEGNERIA, INFORMAZIONE, ELETTRONICA E TELECOMUNICAZIONI UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA "LA SAPIENZA"](#) - D.G.C. N. 67/04.12.2017
- [ISTITUTO SCOLASTICO "ALIGHIERI FORMIA - VENTOTENE"](#) - PROGETTO "UN ANNO MEMORABILE" - D.G.C. N.3/09.01.2018
- [PATTO DEI COMUNI PER LA PARITA' E CONTRO LA VIOLENZA DI GENERE](#) - D.G.C. N.112 DEL 26.11.2018
- [DIPARTIMENTO DI STUDI UMANISTICI UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI ROMA 3](#) - D.G.C. N. 9 DEL 27.01.2019
- [ASSOCIAZIONE SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI PSICHIATRIA DEMOCRATICA ONLUS](#) - D.G.C. N. 13 / 18.02.2019
- [ISTITUTO DI RICERCA SULLA FORMAZIONE INTERVENTO](#) - D.G.C. N. 41 / 12.03.2019
- LICEO STATALE "TERENZIO MAMIANI - ROMA" - D.G.C. n. 117 / 11.10.2019
- RETE PICCOLI COMUNI DEL WELCOME - D.C.C. N. 57 / 18.11.2019
- FONDAZIONE FAMIGLIA SARZI - D.G.C. N. 1 / 03.01.2020
- [ANCI LAZIO E UNITED NETWORK EUROPA](#) - D.G.C. N. 5 / 24.01.2020 E 11 / 24.02.2020
- [UNICAS - D.G.C. N. 81 DEL 08.12.2020](#)
- [UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI "MARCONI" - PROGETTO "SILENZIO DI GIRA"](#) - D.G.C. N. 82 / 08.12.2020
- [DIPARTIMENTO COMUNICAZIONE E RICERCA SOCIALE UNIVERSITA' "LA SAPIENZA" DI ROMA](#) - D.G.C. N. 94 / 30.12.2020
- [OMEGA](#) - D.G.C. N. 4 / 19.01.2021
- [UNIVERSITA' STUDI ROMA 3 E COMMISSARIO STRAORDINARIO DI GOVERNO S. STEFANO](#) - D.G.C. N. 6 / 27.01.2021
- [UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DELLA TUSCIA](#) - D.G.C. N.37 / 27.04.2021
- STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA "ANTON DOHRN" DI NAPOLI - D.G.C. N. 51 / 09.06.2021
- CENTRO DI RICERCA DIRITTO PENITENZIARIO E COSTITUZIONE UNIVERSITA' STUDI ROMA 3 - D.G.C. N. 64 / 06.07.2021
- [UNIVERSITA' STUDI TUSCIA E COMMISSARIO STRAORDINARIO DI GOVERNO S.STEFANO](#) - D.G.C. N. 82 / 15.09.2021
- [ARCHIVI STORICI UE](#) - D.G.C. N. 83 / 28.09.2021
- [LIBERA UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI MARIA SS. ASSUNTA \(LUMSA\)](#) - D.G.C. N. 87 / 13.10.2021
- [ENEA](#) - D.G.C. N. 88 / 21.10.2021
- [ISTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO EUROPEO E COMMISSARIO STRAORDINARIO DI GOVERNO S. STEFANO](#) - DGC N. 93 / 11.11.2021