

The inhabitants of *Cienaga Grande* lagoon in Colombia will implement innovative technologies to improve environment and life conditions



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The local authorities of the area of the *Cienaga Grande* Lagoon, in the Colombian province of Magdalena, and the University of Magdalena established contacts with the Non-governmental Organization *Carretera Central* of Siena, Italy, in order to define common fundraising activities to implement initiatives for environmental protection and to improve life and health conditions of the inhabitants, by means of the transfer of innovative technologies and solutions and the collaboration of the IDEASS programme.

A first collaboration agreement was stipulated between the Municipality of Sitionuevo, surrounding the Lagoon, and the Italian NGO, aimed at: improving the management of urban solid waste, promoting reuse practices introducing innovative technologies; promoting the environmental and cultural heritage that characterize the Magdalena Province; implementing initiatives related to the concept of Green Economy in order to face situations of environmental degradation.



The Rector of the University of Magdalena, main educational institution in the Colombian Caribbean region, expressed willingness to participate in the initiative through its Faculty of Environmental Engineering and the Department of International Relations.

In this framework, the collaboration with the Italian Universities of Venice, Padua and Siena was envisaged, in order to implement transfer of innovative know-how to the lake-dweller population of the *Cienaga Grande*.

Different IDEASS environmental innovations will be included in the process and a first interest was expressed for the possible transfer of the SOLWA (Solar still for drinkable water production from polluted or salt waters), which could improve the drinkable and sanitary water supply for the local people.



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