

IMAGINING CULTURES OF COOPERATION: UNIVERSITIES NETWORKING TO FACE THE NEW
DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

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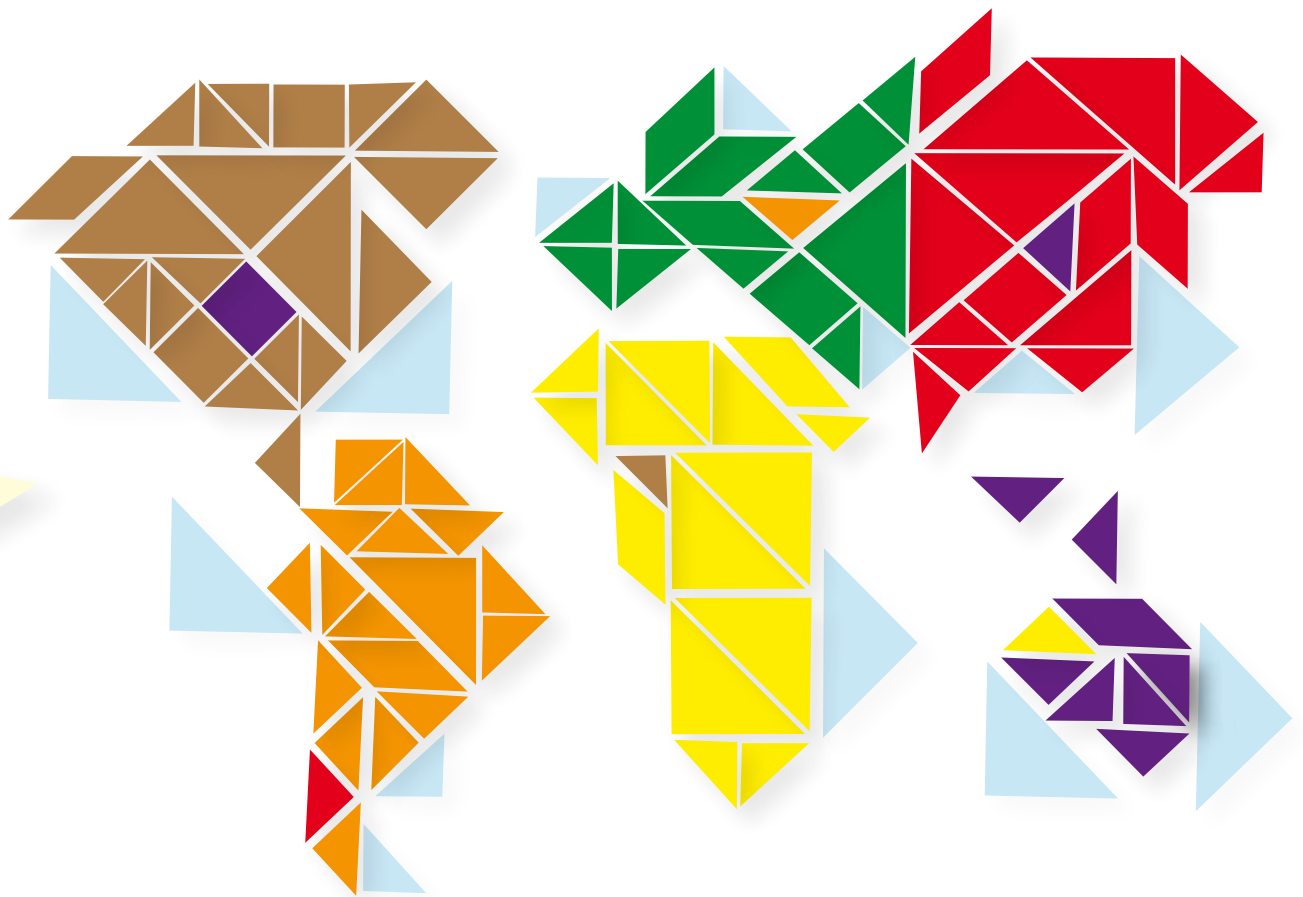
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**IMAGINING CULTURES OF COOPERATION:
UNIVERSITIES NETWORKING TO FACE THE NEW DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES**

Proceedings of the III Congress of the University Network for Development Cooperation (CUCS)

Turin, 19-21 September 2013



**POLITECNICO
DI TORINO**



**UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI TORINO**

Egidio Dansero, Francesca De Filippi, Emanuele Fantini, Irene Marocco (eds.)

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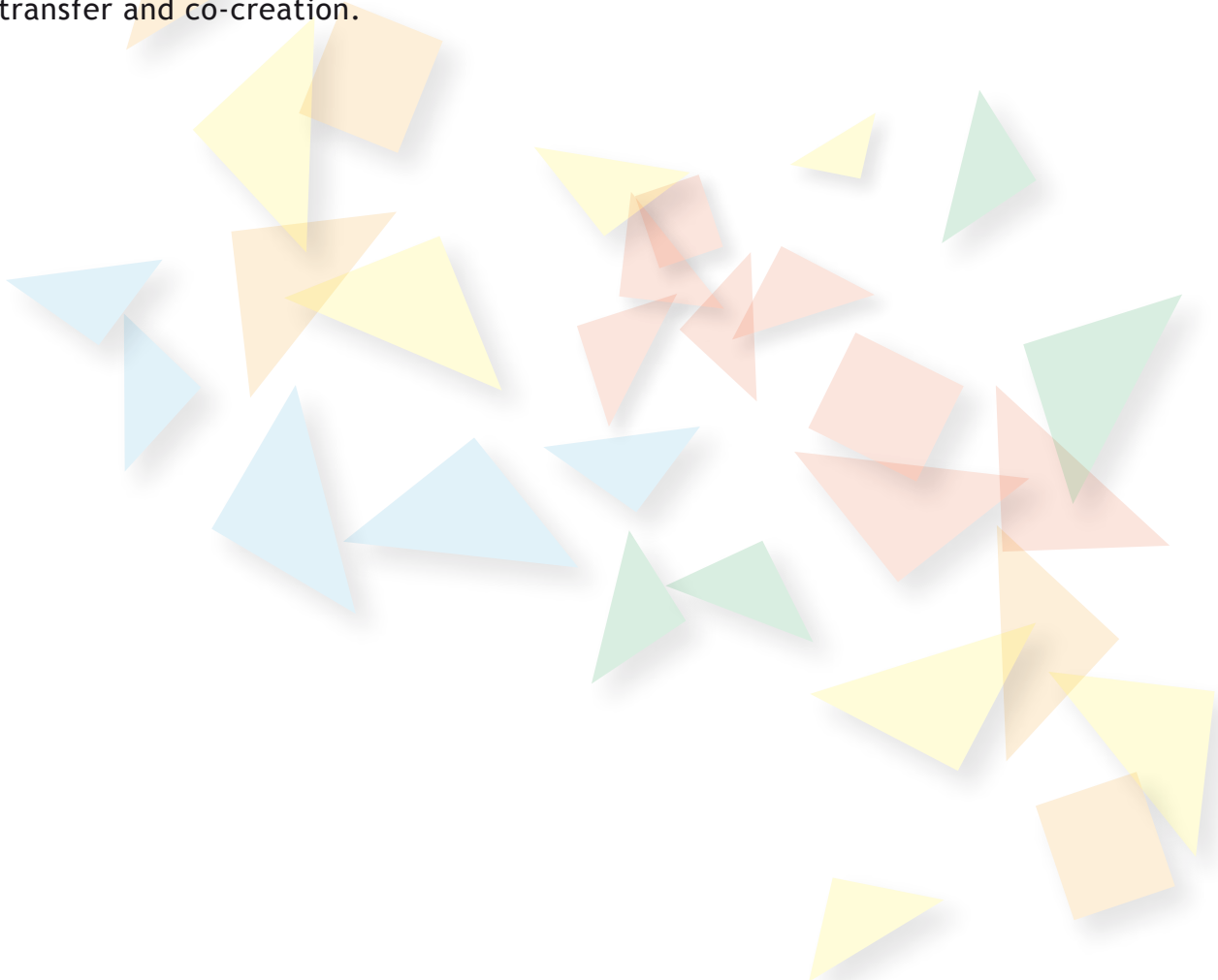


TABLE OF CONTENTS – SESSIONS

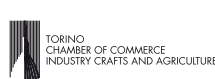
<i>Opening remarks</i>	iii
<i>Education, training and human resources</i>	1
<i>Global Health</i>	94
<i>Security, risks, conflicts and vulnerability</i>	143
<i>Human settlements, territories and communities</i>	173
<i>Economic development: actors, networks and processes</i>	327
<i>Development cooperation methods and approaches</i>	450
<i>Rural development, natural resources and environment</i>	575
<i>Cultural cooperation</i>	729
<i>ICT and media for development</i>	804
Table of contents - Papers and posters	868

The Italian Universities Network for Development Cooperation (CUCS) has been founded in 2007 and nowadays includes 28 Italian Universities. The III CUCS Congress (CUCSTorino2013) was held in Turin on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of September, 2013. CUCSTorino2013 was co-organised by Politecnico di Torino and University of Turin in the frame of the growing partnership between these two Universities with other relevant development cooperation actors (the UN system, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local authorities, foundations and NGOs and their respective partners in the so called “Global South”).

The Congress, titled “Imagining cultures of cooperation: universities networking to face the new development challenges”, focused on changes occurring at different levels on current development and cooperation trends (theories, policies, practices, and the definition of the Global Development Agenda post 2015), on the role of universities as development cooperation actors and their contribution in terms of research, education & training, solutions implementation in the field, technology transfer and co-creation.



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Table of contents - Papers and posters

SESSION: OPENING REMARKS

- iii Foreword
Rectors: Gianmaria Ajani, Marco Gilli
- iv Imagining cultures of cooperation: Universities networking to face the new development challenges
Egidio Dansero, Francesca De Filippi, Emanuele Fantini, Irene Marocco
- ix Italy and the post 2015 development agenda. The role of universities
Caterina Bertolini
- x University networks as actors of scientific and multidisciplinary partnerships: history and development of CUCS
Emanuela Colombo
- xii The development scenarios and university cooperation
Gianni Vaggi
- xvii Role and social responsibility of the university in promoting international cooperation for global health
Edoardo Missoni

SESSION: EDUCATION, TRAINING AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Partnerships between academia and NGOs in technical studies in Italy

- 1 Partnerships between academia and NGOs in technical studies in Italy
Guido Zolezzi, Angela Ortigara, Marco Bezzi, Emanuela Colombo, Lorenzo Mattarolo, Carlo Collivignarelli, Sabrina Sorlini, Mentore Vaccari, Francesco Vitali, Francesco Mongera, Italo Rizzi, Giovanni Armando, Giorgio Cancelliere, Fabio Fussi

Cooperation programs on education and teachers training: the role of university and effectiveness evaluation

- 8 Cooperation programs on education and teachers training: the role of university and effectiveness evaluation
Cristina Coggi, Paola Ricchiardi
- 10 From a disciplinary approach to the culture of inclusion: the role of the Department of Education Studies of the University of Bologna in the project “Inclusive education for children with disabilities in Kosovo”
Federica Zanetti
- 16 Implementing and evaluating teachers training and education interventions in the global south
Cristina Coggi, Paola Ricchiardi
- 24 The project “Fenix” in TeofiloOtoni – Brazil – Minas Gerais. Training teachers on cognitive enhancement for children living in dilapidated containers
Tiziana Bonasso
- 26 Cognitive enhancement for children in developing countries. A teacher training experience in a Kigali primary school.
Roberto Trincherro

ICT and Capacity Building

- 33 ICT and Capacity Building: the contribution of interuniversity cooperation to the training of global and local entrepreneurship in cultural, economic and social sectors
Angelo Inzoli
- 35 Possible areas and critical elements for building development cooperation initiatives in education and blended learning methodologies
Gerolamo Spreafico
- 40 The intercultural perspective of e-learning programs and the use of new technologies in Africa
Angelo Inzoli, Lucie Zouya Mimbang
- 47 Participatory processes and tools for improving teachers professionalism: the IUS Case
Piergiuseppe Ellerani, José Gil Mendoza Ma.
- 55 Alternative media strengthening and support mechanisms in African protracted crises and conflict-affected territories: can paradigm shifts assist and relief?
Mohamed S.M. Yassin, Renato Sesana (Kizito)

HEI Cooperation for capacity building in biodiversity conservation, food security and sustainable development

- 62 HEI cooperation for capacity building in biodiversity conservation, food security and sustainable development
Cristina Giacomina
- 63 Cooperation experiences with HEIs in the Indian Ocean
Cristina Giacomina
- 67 Fostering “Little Green Guards” through a collaborative partnership to create an effective conservation education program for rural children in Guizhou, China
Chia L. Tan, Yeqin Yang, Kefeng Niu, Lei Shi, Weiyong Zhang, Isidoro Riondato, Cristina Giacomina, Emilio Balletto, Marco Gamba, John A. Phillips
- 73 A Program in higher education for food security and environmental sustainability
Carlo Semita, Elena Ferrero, Gabriella Trucchi, Angela Calvo

Posters

- 81 Teaching Italian and Arabic: an interchange between Italy and Libya
Barbara Airò, Silvio Beretta, Antonio M. Morone
- 82 «Insieme per Makamba»
Anael Bianucci, Chiara Ghislieri
- 83 M.M.SC. Track In integrated environment and landscape design in the context of international cooperation. Field work internship as opportunity for engineering students to approach developing context
Marco Bezzi, Guido Zolezzi, Martina Ferrai, Davide Geneletti, Cordeiro A. R. Ortigara.
- 84 Preparare i bambini all’adozione internazionale. Ideazione di nuove prassi con gli operatori burkinabè
Marta Casonato, Paola Molina, Gisèle Thiombiano
- 85 Capacity building in ICT: the Experience of Maputo living lab’s Summer Schools
Aaron Ciaghi, Pietro Molini, Adolfo Villaflorida
- 86 1st level Master in “Oral Health in Disadvantaged Communities and Low Income Countries”
Giancarlo Vecchiati, Francesco Bassi, Patrizia Di Caccamo, Jennifer Atkinson, Luca Cavallo, Giulio Preti
- 87 Promuovere la salute orale in cooperazione internazionale: una sfida di salute globale nelle esperienze di progetti integrati in Libano e in Etiopia
A. Rinaldi., P. Di Caccamo, G. Benedetti, B. Giordani, C. Resti
- 88 Establishing a new Master degree in sustainable crop protection in Egypt: a project funded by EU TEMPUS programme
Paola Colla, Davide Spadaro, Maria Lodovica Gullino
- 89 Tutori di resilienza. Modello di formazione di insegnanti e social workers nell’ambito del programma MOSAIC del Ministero degli Affari Sociali Libanese con il supporto della cooperazione italiana
V. Hurtubia, F. Giordano, C. Castelli
- 90 University-NGOs partnership in formal education: the experience of CIVIC.A.S.
Francesco Mongera, Michela Bortoli, Guido Zolezzi, Marco Bezzi
- 91 A wood in the San Salvario neighborhood: A Photovoice project
Valentina Noya
- 92 Indo-Italian International School on "Use of e-infrastructures for advanced seismic hazard assessment in Indian Subcontinent"
Antonella Peresan, Giuliano F. Panza, Giampiero Viezzoli
- 93 L’osservazione: uno strumento di lavoro per gli educatori della prima infanzia.
Maria Nives Sala, Paola Molina
- 861 Master in Architecture for Health
Addendum Francesca Giofrè, Giuseppe Primiceri, Ivana Miletic

SESSION: GLOBAL HEALTH

Training abroad for residents

- 94 Training abroad for residents
Luisa Mondo, Giuseppe Costa

Global Health Governance, healthy systems and development cooperation

- 97 Global Health Governance, healthy systems and development cooperation
Eduardo Missoni, Angelo Stefanini, Paola Brusa
- 100 The role of the university in the global health strategies of the Italian development cooperation
Angelo Stefanini, Eduardo Missoni

- 107 Global health education and the growing need for policy-making and management training of future health-relevant professionals
Eduardo Missoni, Fabrizio Tediosi
- 117 The challenge of training health personnel in resource-limited settings
F. Castelli, S. Caligaris, A. Matterelli, M. Bettinzoli, G. Sulis, V. Pietra
- 123 A.P.P.A.® PROJECT: an example of international health cooperation
Francesca Baratta, Antonio Germano, Gaetano Di Lascio, Paola Brusa
- 130 GHC-TUSCANY: new partnerships for the global health
Maria José Caldés, Nicole Mascia, Michele De Luca

Posters

- 135 ARACNE Tessere reti per il diritto alla salute dei migranti
Comitato Collaborazione Medica
- 136 Promozione della salute in una società multietnica
Iolanda Vigna, Christel Makoutsin, Mirela Rau, Bi Xu, Mariamel Gendi, Maria Cristina Odiard, Claudia Spezia, Maria Luisa Soranzo
- 137 Impact of pregnancy and labour complications on neonatal outcomes: a retrospective cohort study in a rural hospital of Ethiopia
Elisa Bobba
- 138 Positive and negative effects of financial and non-financial incentive mechanisms for health workers in rural and remote areas of Ethiopia. Focus on Oromiya, Somali and Tigray regions
Maria Alessandra Brocardo
- 139 Professionalization of future humanitarian health workers: an innovative hybrid training course for residents in anesthesia and critical care medicine in collaboration with an Italian NGO.
P.L. Ingrassia, M. Foletti, L. Ragazzoni, A. Ripoll, F. Della Corte.
- 140 Humanitarian Medic: an innovative training program for the professionalization of humanitarian health workers in anesthesia and critical care medicine during residency programs.
P.L. Ingrassia, M. Foletti, L. Ragazzoni, A. Ripoll, F. Della Corte
- 141 Selezione e uso di idonei alimenti locali per la prevenzione della malnutrizione infantile
Bruna Santini, Emanuela Nigro, Maria Luisa Soranzo
- 142 Bibliographic repository. Comitato di Collaborazione Medica (CCM)
G.P. Zara, S. Rasetti, F. Locatelli, L. Palmucci, C. Rigazzi, M. Passatore, A. Levis, M. Bertini, M. Fascendini, E. Bobba
- 862 A.P.P.A.® Project: study of pediatric formulations for using in developing Countries
Addendum Francesca Baratta, Francesca Tarditi, Paola Brusa

SESSION: SECURITY, RISKS, CONFLICTS AND VULNERABILITY

Geomatics for emergency management

- 143 Foreword to the oral session “Geomatics for emergency management”
Piero Boccoardo
- 146 Evaluation of TRMM Satellite data for mapping monthly precipitation in Pakistan by comparison with locally available data
Muhammad Adnan Shahid, Piero Boccoardo, Walther Cámara García, Adriana Albanese, Elena Cristofori
- 155 Flood-risk mitigation in the Soliette River Basin: an international cooperation initiative (Haiti, Dominican Rep., Italy)
A Domeneghetti, L. Brandimarte, M. Barbarella, A. Castellarin, L. Brandimarte, G. Di Baldassarre, A. Brath
- 164 Unmanned Aerial Systems for data acquisitions in disaster management applications
Irene Aicardi, Filiberto Chiabrando, Andrea Lingua, Francesca Noardo, Marco Piras

Posters

- 172 Realisation of a Geomatics Laboratory for the Management of Hydrogeologic and Seismic Risks
Giorgio Poretti, Chiara Calligaris, Michele Ferneti
- 863 Solid waste management in armed conflicts and unstable conditions: a case study from the Gaza strip
Addendum Marco Caniato, Mentore Veccari

SESSION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, TERRITORIES AND COMMUNITIES

Sustainability of appropriate environmental technologies in developing countries

- 173 Sustainability of appropriate environmental technologies in developing countries
CeTAmb

- 175 Sustainability of appropriate environmental technologies in developing countries: general framework
Carlo Collivignarelli, Sabrina Sorlini, Francesco Vitali
- 179 Sustainability of water supply projects: considerations from two case studies
Sabrina Sorlini, Luca Rondi
- 188 Healthcare sustainable design in the global south. A tale of two stories.
Marco Morandotti, Daniela Besana
- 196 International university cooperation for valorizing crude earth as building material in Chad and Cameroon
Jean Pierre Temga, Angelo Mazzù, Jean Pierre Nguetnkam, Daniela Palazzini, Robert Ndjouenkeu, Francesco Vitali
- 204 Enhancing energy access for the poor: the role of appropriate technologies in the use of traditional solid fuels
Francesco Vitali, Mentore Vaccari
- 210 Study of design of a low environment and social impact landfilling in Togo, Assahoun Village
Alessandra Bonoli, Sara Bellavita

Emergency vs Development. The architectural project within development cooperation

- 216 Emergency vs Development. The architectural project within development cooperation
Francesca De Filippi, Alessio Battistella
- 218 Architecture quality of cooperation projects
Camillo Magni
- 220 A methodological proposal for the assessment of the sustainability of post-disaster reconstruction processes
Elisa Salvaneschi, Marco Morandotti
- 228 Developing emergency
Riccardo Vannucci
- 237 Vernacular approach to architectural design in a development cooperation experience with Mexican indigenous communities
Roberto Pennacchio, Roberta Nicchia, Alessandra Basile, Andrea Tulisi.

Community development and psycho-social intervention

- 245 Community development and psycho-social intervention
Alfredo Mela, Norma De Piccoli
- 246 International cooperation in the field of higher education: the TEMPUS Programme
Norma De Piccoli, Silvia Gattino, Cristina Mosso
- 249 African cinema as instrument and opportunity in inter-academic cooperation: a project in Ngozi (Burundi)
Emanuela Gamberoni
- 254 Appreciative inquiry in Saint Martin: exploring the potential for change
Manuel Marrese
- 261 Identidad, memoria y desarrollo de comunidad
Anna Maria Bastianini, Ester Chicco, Alfredo Mela
- 864 Cooperation, discours, changement: bias dans le discours academique sur le conflit
Addendum *Davide Ziveri, Angela Fedi*

Plans and projects “beyond the boundaries”: subjects, knowledge and tools

- 267 Plans and projects “beyond the boundaries”: subjects, knowledge and tools
Daniela De Leo
- 270 Una exploración de los currículos de las escuelas europeas de planeamiento en el ámbito de la planificación descentralizada
Valentina Alberti, Sara Bindo, Enrica Gialanella
- 276 Spatial planning in predominantly vernacular settlements. The case of African rural towns.
Roberta Nicchia
- 284 Developing the new strategic Masterplan for Herat (Afghanistan)
Mirella Loda, Mario Tartaglia
- 293 Knowledge and processes of sustainable development for the South-East Europe
Chiara Camaioni, Ilenia Pierantoni, Massimo Sargolini
- 301 Beyond tourism: discovery of the historical and artistic heritage of Havana
Micaela Scacchi
- 309 Sapienza Millennium. Projects and thoughts. University of Rome Sapienza and the international cooperation
Maria Grazia Montella

Posters

- 315 Participatory design and building with international students and indigenous communities of Mexico
Alessandra Basile, Roberta Nicchia, Roberto Pennacchio, Andrea Tulisi
- 316 Haiti | 1 | Foyer d'accueil aux enfants démunis d'Haiti
Architettura Senza Frontiere Piemonte ONLUS
- 317 Argentina: Cooperation between Fossano and Rafaela
Architettura Senza Frontiere Piemonte ONLUS
- 318 Haiti | 2 | Re-start from straw
Architettura Senza Frontiere Piemonte ONLUS
- 319 Multiple voices design for the south of Quito: cooperation between universities and municipalities
Roberta Bianchi, Luca Brivio, Maurizio Chemini, Alberto Merigo
- 320 Elimu na Malezi: psychosocial adjustment assessment in Tanzanian primary school children
Massimo Cotichella, Emanuela Rabaglietti, Beatrice Sacconi, Samwel Kilimuhana, Vivian Nankurlu
- 321 Float-ram: a new human powered press for earth blocks
Carlo Ferraresi, Walter Franco, Giuseppe Quaglia
- 322 Design for emergency: training and educational practices
Alberto Giacardi, Irene Caltabiano
- 323 Evaluation of the horizontal flow planted filters and anaerobic filter for the treatment of greywater in Venezuela
F.H. Gomez, S. Sorlini, F. Vitali, M.C. Collivignarelli
- 324 Costruire con la comunità
Veronica Brugaletta, Giorgio Ceste, Marco Ciavaglia, Natalia Da Silveira Arruda, Selene Guelfi, Janet Hetman, Giacomo Lanino, Carlo Mossetti, Simone Peditto, Valentina Sismondo, CRD-PVS Politecnico di Torino
- 325 Hervé Brugoux. Architetture in Madagascar
Laura Marino
- 326 Team C.A.S.A.
Mezzosangue lab, AKO

SESSION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: ACTORS, NETWORKS AND PROCESSES

Immigrant entrepreneurship

- 327 Immigrant entrepreneurship
Alessandro Arrighetti, Andrea Lasagni
- 328 Percorsi evolutivi e varietà delle imprese etniche in Italia
Alessandro Arrighetti, Daniela Bolzani, Andrea Lasagni
- 336 Immigrant women and entrepreneurship: strategies of development and forms of transnationalism
Deborah De Luca

Local development in international cooperation

- 345 Local development in international cooperation: issues, approaches and perspectives for a territorialisation of development policies
Egidio Dansero, Cristina Scarpocchi
- 349 Local development: some personal reflections
Massimo Pallottino
- 350 Territory and local development in the Italy-CILSS Fund
Egidio Dansero, Agnese Migliardi
- 356 Producers' cooperatives brokers or mirrors of social structure: a case study from Northeast of Brazil
Carla Inguaggiato
- 365 RENEP –Renewable energy for Palestine
Giulio Mondini, Sergio Olivero, Paolo Lazzeroni, Federico Stirano, Vito Antonio Ricci, Piercarlo Montaldo, Eliana Perucca, Carlo Micono, Guido Zanzottera
- 370 The contribution of local taxation to the sustainability of the Millennium Development Goal 7C in the regions of Louga (Senegal) and Niamey (Niger)
Maurizio Tiepolo, Sarah Braccio, Mario Artuso
- 378 Development cooperation and sustainable tourism in Mozambique: territorial systems and cultural heritage in the Zinave National Park
Sara Belotti
- 386 The ILO's approach to local development
Roberto Di Meglio
- 390 The territorial approach to local development and local governance: the UNDP ART initiative
Francesco Biciato

Microfinance: from theory to practice

- 393 Microfinance: from theory to practice
Pierluigi Conzo
- 394 Social inclusion through microfinance: an analysis of current approaches and new follow-up procedures
Andrea Bigio
- 402 The willingness-to-pay for insurance: evidence from Southern Ethiopia
Davide Castellani, Belaynesh Tamire, Laura Viganò
- 412 Microfinance in a post-disaster context: The case of the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka
Pierluigi Conzo, Leonardo Becchetti, Stefano Castrì, Davide Libralesso, Ilaria Urbinati

The Global economy and international development cooperation in emerging countries and new markets

- 419 The global economy and international development cooperation in emerging countries and new markets
Emanuele Fantini
- 420 The impact of emerging countries on Sub-Saharan African economies: factors of long-term growth?
Alice Nicole Sindzingre
- 429 Generalized tariff preferences for development and emerging countries: assessment and perspectives
Lorenza Mola
- 438 Crowding in the private sector under a developmental state: which role for international cooperation in Ethiopia?
Michele Boario, Emanuele Fantini

Posters

- 446 Processo di pianificazione delle catene alimentari per la creazione di sistemi alimentari in un'ottica di sviluppo locale
Andrea Calori, Andrea Magarini
- 447 Best practices in micro-finance: evidences from the International Award
Maria Cristina Negro, Dario Peirone
- 448 Community managed micro-finance experiences in Europe: the self-funded communities
Patricia Rodriguez Pulido, Francesca Lulli, Abdoulaye Fall
- 449 Economic growth, inequality and new measures of well being. Preliminary issues and fieldwork.
Andrea Salustri

SESSION: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION METHODS AND APPROACHES

Open Data and Open Access: which knowledge sharing for development cooperation?

- 450 Open Data and Open Access: which knowledge sharing for development cooperation? Data and information organization for development cooperation and knowledge sharing
Susanna Sancassani

Beyond GDP: definition and making of new welfare indicators

- 454 Beyond GDP: definition and making of new welfare indicators, reflecting on conceptual and methodological issues
Elena Camino
- 456 From enforcement to dialogue. Listening to the voices of stakeholders: a challenge for university
Paola Bianca Camisani, Elena Camino
- 465 Sustainability: from the imaginaries to the indicators... and back? The case of India
Simone Contu, Elena Camino
- 474 Cultures of cooperation: strengthening the network with Gandhian economists
Nanni Salio

Rethinking international cooperation: the contribution of peace studies

- 480 Rethinking international cooperation: the contribution of peace studies
Gianluca Brunori, Giorgio Gallo, Massimo Pallottino
- 483 Development cooperation and the "Culture of peace" institutionalization
Pierluigi Consorti
- 487 Development cooperation, peace studies and asymmetric conflicts
Valentina Bartolucci, Giorgio Gallo
- 492 Why does international development cooperation need the contribution of peace studies? And why is peace research currently so marginal in international development cooperation?
Massimo Pallottino

- 500 Donors' conditionality in conflict scenarios: the difficult relationship between grant aid agencies and beneficiaries
Federica De Sisto

Development cooperation and internalization of universities

- 504 Development cooperation and internalization of universities
Angelo Stefanini, Alessandra Bonoli
- 506 Initiatives to start with implementing sustainability process into University of Bologna
Alessandra Bonoli, Francesca Cappellaro
- 511 International development cooperation and internationalization of the university: de-construct to re-construct with different types of knowledge
Angelo Stefanini
- 517 Global partnership, participation and development cooperation: the role of public consultations launched by the United Nations in building a post-2015 Global Agenda aiming at a multi-dimensional and multi-scalar development
Simona Epasto

From a donors/beneficiaries relationship to mutual transformation

- 525 From a donors/beneficiaries relationship to mutual transformation: imagining and evaluating the relational dimension in decentralized cooperation initiatives
Egidio Dansero, Stefano Rossi
- 527 New social pathways: voluntary organizations for development and international solidarity in Tuscany
Fabio Berti, Cristina Capineri, Lorenzo Nasi
- 534 La dimension relationnelle de l' "ici" dans les initiatives de coopération au développement. Reflexions sur les effets au Nord de la coopération décentralisée des parcs naturels du Piémont
Nadia Tecco
- 540 Entre théorie et pratique: Université de Turin et coopération décentralisée piémontaise. Quinze ans de recherche dans le domaine des déchets
Roberta Perna
- 548 Competences et pratique de coopération internationale en Senegal sur la route des talibés.
Giulia Gozzelino
- 555 Decentralised cooperation as a policy for local change and international partnership: the experience of Trentino in the Balkans and in Mozambique
Jenny Capuano, Sara Franch, Massimo De Marchi, Stefano Rossi, Paolo Rosso
- 563 Which future for a policy of Italian territorial cooperation integrated with the Western Balkan countries?
Andrea Stocchiero

Posters

- 571 To look at development from a Gandhian perspective. Cultural exchanges, educational opportunities and twinships between schools
Elena Camino, Maria Ferrando, Maria Elena Bo
- 572 A safe place for the victims of domestic violence: support to autonomy and development of local resources in the Balkans area (since 2006)
Maria Perino, Miranda Prosio
- 573 Fund for cooperation and knowledge
Andrea Pichelli
- 574 Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary skills at the service of development cooperation: the activity of the CISAO of the University of Turin
Carlo Semita

SESSION: RURAL DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Agriculture in developing countries between local rural development policies and international models of "land grabbing"

- 575 Agriculture in developing countries between local rural development policies and international models of "land grabbing"
Francesco Costamagna
- 577 The role of African governments in the land grabbing business
Hans Holmén
- 584 The commoditization of commons: the role of civil society and academic organizations in global land grabbing
Davide Cirillo

- 593 Large-scale land acquisitions and foreign direct investments: a challenge for international law
Stefano Montaldo
- 602 The socio-economic impact of large-scale land investments: the case of Mali
Astrig Tasgian
- 611 Land grabbing as a strategic game: a three level approach
Raffaele Bertini

Agro-biodiversity and diversified agri-livestock systems

- 617 Agro-biodiversity and diversified agri-livestock systems
Riccardo Fortina, Cristiana Peano
- 619 Cultural identity and conservation of indigenous and native diversity
Francesco Sottile, M. Beatrice Del Signore, Serena Milano, Cristiana Peano, Vincenzo Girgenti
- 627 Local fruits and nuts as a tool for the development of Afghanistan
Edgardo Giordani, Gregory Cullen, Pablo Degl'Innocenti, Giuliano Masini
- 636 Analysis of the sustainability of Slow Food Mushunu chicken presidium in Kenya
Daniela Fiorito, Nadia Tecco, Vincenzo Girgenti
- 641 The role of diversity and diversification for resilient agricultural systems
Nadia Tecco, Vincenzo Girgenti, Cristiana Peano, Francesco Sottile

Agriculture and urban and peri-urban breeding

- 646 Agriculture and urban and peri-urban breeding
Mario Mattoni, Daniele De Meneghi
- 647 Preliminary results on the development of innovative site-specific integrated animal health packages for the rural poor
Mario Mattoni, Rajinder Saini, Charles Mahama, Issa Sidibe, Burkhard Bauer, Oumar Diall, Antonio Rota, Raffaele Mattioli
- 654 La filière laitière en Afrique sahélienne: valorisation du produit local
Massimo Zecchini, Anna Cantafora
- 660 Diffusion de l'insémination artificielle bovine dans des fermes en zone urbaine et périurbaine de Niamey, Niger: perceptions et perspectives
Carlo Semita, Moumouni Issa, Hamani Marichatou, Abdou Moussa Mahaman Maaouia, Abdoukadi Djibril, Tiziana Nervo
- 668 Keeping dairy cattle in the Gaza strip: a case of study.
Cristiano Rossignoli, Francesco Di Iacovo, Roberta Moruzzo

Gender and rural development in cooperation programs

- 669 Gender and rural development in cooperation programs
Angela Calvo
- 671 International aid and gendered roles in agricultural value chains: some reflections from a rural development program in Northern Senegal
Cristiano Lanzano, Agnese Migliardi, Cecilia Navarra
- 680 The experience of IIDA: twenty-two years of frontline engagement of empowerment of the people and especially women in Somalia
Mariam Yassin Hagi Yussuf, Hibo Yassin Hagi Yussuf, Davide Rigallo
- 687 Gender mainstreaming in international development: an evaluation of strategies in health and education
Costanza Tognini
- 696 Agricultural gender indicators to improve development programmes: a critical approach
Francesca Alice Centrone, Angela Calvo

Access to water and the nexus with food, energy and land: themes and indicators for the post 2015 global development agenda

- 704 Access to water and the nexus with food, energy and land: themes and indicators for the post 2015 global development agenda
Emanuele Fantini
- 706 Environmental mainstreaming and integrated policies in development cooperation after Rio+20: the emblematic case of water and food
Massimo Zorzea

Posters

- 716 Water and sanitation access in the South-Western region of Burkina Faso
I. Angeluccetti, V. Coviello, S. Grimaldi, P. Vezza, A. Koussoubé
- 717 Sustainable biomass in developing countries
Federico Barigazzi, Stefano Bechis, Paolo, Giglio, Thomas A. Lawand
- 718 Application of solutions developed for DCS in Italy

- Stefano Bechis, Federico Barigazzi, Giulio Re, Thomas A. Lawand*
719 Milk and dairy products supply to urban and periurban market in Niger by the creation of a cooperative dairy unit
- Anna F.A. Cantàfora, Filippo De Monte, Simone Stella, Massimo Zecchini, Miro C. Crimella*
720 'Italy in Senegal': large-scale investments and support for family farming
Giorgio Roberto
- 721 Ten years of cooperation on sustainable agriculture between China and Italy
Maria Lodovica Gullino, Angelo Garibaldi, Massimo Pugliese, Corrado Clini
- 722 Creating and improving professionals in the management of livestock farming in the Sahelian area
Tiziana Nervo, Gabriella Trucchi, Moumouni Issa, Marichatou Hamani, Alhassane Yenikoye, Victorin Codjia, Carlo Semita
- 723 Environmental resources and decay in Cape Verde. A survey in Santo Antão and São Vicente
Stefano Orlandi, Angela Calvo
- 724 La riforma silenziosa. Come lo Stato ruba la terra
Alessandra Portis
- 725 The H₂O/Ortisol model. Sun and water management for a reliable and sustainable horticultural production
Maurizio Previati, Stefano Bechis, Davide Canone, Stefano Ferraris
- 726 Transfer of agro-livestock technologies for biodiversity preservation in Sahelian environment
Carlo Semita, Riccardo Fortina, Francesco Cristofori, Ousseina Saidou Touré, Moumouni Issa, Marichatou Hamani, Alhassane Yenikoye, Tiziana Nervo
- 727 Improvement of the dairy production chain in the rural areas of Ecuador through the use of repeatable teaching model
Martina Tarantola, Gianluca Pressi, Paolo Rodighero, Luca Nicolandi, Emma Della Torre, Ivan Garcia, Carlos Arce, Claudia Durando, Achille Schiavone
- 728 A multilingual approach to preserve vineyard landscapes' agrobiodiversity.
Francesca Varvello

SESSION: CULTURAL COOPERATION

Traditional medicines and local knowledge

- 729 Traditional medicines and local knowledge: policies, international aid and academic research
Elisa Bignante
- 731 Les relations entre la médecine traditionnelle et la médecine officielle au nord du Senegal: un étude comparative
Laura Sinagra Brisca, Sabrina Renzi

Cooperating for cultural heritage conservation

- 739 Cooperating for cultural heritage conservation
Francesca Declich, Cecilia Pennaccini
- 740 Cultural cooperation by way of ethnography: a Ugandan case study (Corus Project)
Anna Baral
- 747 The Italian ethnological mission to Ghana and cultural cooperation: heritage-making processes in the Nzema Area (South-West Ghana)
Mariaclaudia Cristofano, Stefano Maltese, Elisa Vasconi
- 754 The promotion of heritage inside the politics of tourism development of Mozambique. The role of international cooperation
Elisa Magnani
- 760 Sperimentazione di modelli per il rafforzamento delle istituzioni alle quali è affidata la conservazione del patrimonio culturale: casi di studio in Cina e in El Salvador
Mario Micheli

A better knowledge for a better cooperation

- 768 A better knowledge for a better cooperation: the contribution of human sciences for an intercultural cooperation to development
Ilaria Micheli, Mauro Tosco
- 769 The power of ethnic labeling: the role of international cooperation and academic community in shaping the new indigenous movement in Bolivia
Lorenza Belinda Fontana
- 777 Safeguarding the past to guarantee a better future. The role of ethnolinguistics in the Necofa Project among the Mariashoni Okiek Community
Ilaria Micheli
- 785 Strategies of land exploitation and management in the area of Aksum (Northern Ethiopia) Between the first millennium BC and the first millennium AD

Luisa Sernicola

- 791 The case of Zimbabwe Bushpump like a socio-technical network
Federico Silvestri

- 798 Language uses vs. language policy: South Sudan and Juba Arabic in the post-independence era
Stefano Manfredi, Mauro Tosco

Posters

- 803 Formazione linguistica e interculturale: I laboratori di francese per studenti non italofofoni e di lettura comparata dei miti letterari
Patricia Kottelat, Laura Rescia, Monica Pavesio

SESSION: ICT AND MEDIA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Blurring boundaries, reshaping technologies, merging know-hows: a reflexive approach to ICT4D in developing countries

- 804 Blurring boundaries, reshaping technologies, merging know-hows: a reflexive approach to ICT4D in developing countries
Iginio Gagliardone, Daniele Trincherò
- 805 China and the African internet: perspectives from Kenya and Ethiopia
Iginio Gagliardone
- 812 Mapping map Kibera: what is behind the map?
Elisabetta Demartis
- 821 M.U.S.I.C. – Mediterranean Urban Sounds Interactive Culture
Antonella Contin, Alessandro Frigerio, Paola Bellaviti

Communicating development and international cooperation

- 827 Comunicare lo sviluppo e la cooperazione internazionale
Silvia Pochettino
- 828 The communication of international cooperation and development in Piedmont
Sara Minucci
- 835 Ong e social media: i risultati di un'indagine di mappatura della presenza online delle organizzazioni non governative italiane
Donata Columbro
- 840 The representation of the cooperation north-south in the Catalan media
Xavier Giró

New technologies for inclusive urban development

- 846 The ICT for an inclusive urban development
Francesca De Filippi, Serena Pantanetti
- 848 The use of ICT for social inclusion and participative planning. A case study of "south-north" technology transfer
Francesca De Filippi, Serena Pantanetti
- 853 An effective strategy to develop efficient services for a digital-divided population
Riccardo Stefanelli, Abel Rodriguez de la Conception, Elisa Pievanelli, Daniele Trincherò

Posters

- 858 Participatory methodologies for a responsible tourism: the Zinave National Park (Mozambique)
Sara Belotti, Diathesis Cartographic Laboratory
- 859 Oltre la cartografia partecipativa: raccolta coordinate con palmari GPS e condivisione di geodati via web (2.0)
Antonio Maini

- 860 *Addendum*

FOREWORD

The Proceedings of the CUCS Torino 2013 Congress are the result of the fruitful confrontation on development and cooperation activities which many Italian universities, as well as members of the international development cooperation system are engaged in. The organization of the CUCS Torino 2013 was possible thanks to collaboration between the Italian universities belonging to CUCS (Italian University Network for Development Cooperation), the General Directorate of Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Research.

The fact that the two Turin universities chose to promote and organize in synergy the Congress and the publication of the Proceedings is due to their desire to contribute to the consolidation of a local development cooperation system, in partnership with all those who made the event possible. Special thanks go to: the local institutions (the Piedmont Regional, the Province of Turin, the Municipality of Turin, the Network of local municipalities for peace - Co.Co.Pa., Gruppo Trasporti Torinesi-GTT), the Turin School of Development (ILO), the Chamber of Commerce (CCIAA), Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione CRT and the Piedmont NGOs Consortium.

The very title of the Congress - “Imagining cultures of cooperation. Universities networking to face the new development challenges ” - reflects multiple objectives. Here below are the main ones:

- the acknowledgement of the creative and innovative role which academic knowledge can produce and make available for the international development cooperation system;
- the joint commitment of the two Turin universities in the field of international development cooperation, as demonstrated by the 2013 Turin CUCS Congress. Their conviction is that cooperation is worthwhile and that it is necessary “to cooperate in order to cooperate better”;
- the active participation of the universities in the debate on the definition of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, by contributing with research, knowledge and the education of the future ruling classes, who will eventually be required to turn the objectives into policies and concrete results;
- a deep reflection on the relationship between development cooperation and the internationalization of university institutions and, more in general, of our territory.

In most cases academic mobility and university internationalization processes are first of all inspired by a competitive approach. The organization of the CUCS Torino 2013 Congress, its outcomes included within these Proceedings, and the projects that were born during the days of the Congress testify the richness, the effectiveness and ultimately the strong necessity for a cooperative approach in order to promote awareness in citizens who will be active and desirous of responding to the new global challenges.

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IMAGINING CULTURES OF COOPERATION: UNIVERSITIES NETWORKING TO FACE THE NEW DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

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THE CUCS UNIVERSITY NETWORK: COOPERATING TOWARDS A BETTER COOPERATION

The Proceedings of the CUCS Torino 2013 Congress (19-21 September 2013) represent the final step of a scientific project and of an organisational and relational process that have proved challenging, engaging and ultimately rewording. At the same time the Proceedings testify the growing contribution by the Italian universities to the debate on international development and set a new beginning towards the next CUCS Congress to be held in 2015 in Brescia, as well as towards a more tight and effective cooperation between Politecnico di Torino, University of Turin and all the other actors involved in international development cooperation within the territory of Turin and Piedmont (international organisations, local institutions, NGOs, foundations, private companies...).

Founded in 2007, the Italian Universities Network for Development Cooperation (CUCS) encompasses today 28 universitiesⁱ. CUCS represents nowadays the widest academic and scientific forum in Italy where universities can exchange and debate among themselves and with other international cooperation partners on development issues.

CUCS Torino 2013 came after the first CUCS Congress in Pavia (June 2009), focused on “Universities and Youth for Cooperation and Peace” and the second CUCS Congress in Padua (September 2011), on “Academic cooperation and the synergy with civil society and business community”ⁱⁱ.

The present Proceedings contribute to highlight the rapid pace at which CUCS is growing in terms of enthusiasm by its participants and in terms of quality of their scientific contribution to the current national and international debate on development, as acknowledged also by Caterina Bertolini (Coordinator of University Cooperation at the Minister of Foreign Affairs - General Directorate of Development Cooperation), in her introductory remarks to these Proceedings.

A detailed overview of CUCS objectives, institutional structure, historical evolution and future perspectives is offered by Emanuela Colombo (Polytechnic of Milan) on behalf of CUCS in the introductory session in these Proceedings. Gianni Vaggi's (University of Pavia) introductory remarks discusses the role that CUCS - and knowledge and training in broader terms - should play in the rapidly changing global scenarios of international development cooperation, while Eduardo Missoni (Bocconi University) focuses particularly on the contribution that universities might offer to the key area of global health.

THE CUCS TORINO 2013 CONGRESS: STRUCTURE AND GOALS

The title of the CUCS Torino 2013 Congress – “Imagining cultures of cooperation. Universities networking to face the new development challenges” – echoes the very mission of the University: being a space for debate and for producing and sharing culture, it aims at promoting a broader innovative effort to critically assess previous experiences in order to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation within and between universities, as well as with other development partners.

Consequently, one of the main objectives of the Congress was to offer such a space, in front of the need of evaluating, raising awareness, and to know how to produce a Culture of Cooperation in all academic research fields. Therefore CUCSTorino2013 gave the opportunity to researchers working in/for development cooperation to take the stock of the current debate and start with new grip and ideas.

A second objective was to enhance relations within the CUCS network and between the network and other development cooperation actors, such as governmental and local authorities, civil society and NGOs, private companies and international organizations (in particular the UN and EU agencies based in Turin).

A third objective was to promote a deep reflection regarding the changes occurring at different levels on current development trends (theories, policies, and practices) and cooperation, and on the role of Universities as development cooperation actors, in terms of research, education and training, solutions implementation in the field, technology transfer and co-creation. Moreover the III CUCS Congress reflected on the achievements and perspectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and on the contribution that universities should offer to the definition of the post 2015 development agenda.

The Congress has been organised in four plenary sessions, three parallel sessions and two poster sessions attended by more than 400 participants from 31 Italian universities and 10 foreign universities, international organisations, national ministries, local authorities, NGOs, and private companies. The three days of the Congress were hosted in three different venues, the University of Turin, the Politecnico di Torino and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ITC-ILO), as a symbolic and spatial representation of the cooperation efforts between different institutions that has made the Congress possible and successful. On the evening of Friday the 20th, the

Municipality of Turin hosted a side-event to the Congress, with the projection of videos on development issues.

In the first day of the Congress, the opening session was held in the Aula Magna of the University of Turin, with the introductory remarks by the Rectors, and by representatives of the Piedmont Region, the Province of Turin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs - General Directorate of Development Cooperation (MAE-DGCS), the Italian NGOs Association (AOI) and the CUCS network. Following the openings, a first plenary session was devoted to a special event on food security in preparation of the World Food Day, jointly organised by the CUCS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with speakers from FAO, IFAD, WFP, NGOs and universities. The second plenary session aimed at introducing the scientific debate of the Congress, with interventions by the CUCS delegates from University of Pavia, Bocconi University of Milan and by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research.

On the second day of the Congress, three keynote lecturers addressed the plenary in the Aula Magna of the Politecnico di Torino: Francesco Biciato (UNDP), Mazen O. A. Hasna, (Qatar University) and Jean-Claude Bolay (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne). During the third day of the Congress, the final plenary session was held at the International Training Center-ILO. This final session focused on the role of universities in the post 2015 development agenda, with representative from ILO-ITC, UNDP, UNESCO, European Commission DG Dev, OECD-DAC. The Italian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lapo Pistelli, closed the session and the whole Congress by addressing in his concluding remarks the issues of the post 2015 development agenda and the process of reform of the Italian development cooperation.

Panels and posters sessions alternated the plenary sessions during the first two days of the Congress. The 33 thematic panels were selected through a call for panels, followed by a call for papers and posters; 155 papers and 93 posters were selected through a second call, with the scientific advice by the panels' coordinators. By involving both academicians and practitioners in the two rounds of selection, the Congress managed to enlarge the number of participants compared to the previous editions, and thus to enrich the quantity and the quality of the debate.

Being CUCS a multidisciplinary network, panel sessions have been defined considering a cross- and trans-disciplinary approach, identifying nine main thematic sections: Education, training and human resources; Global health; Security, risks, conflicts and vulnerability; Human settlements, territories and communities; Economic development: actors, networks and processes; Development cooperation methods and approaches; Rural development, natural resources and environment; Cultural cooperation; ICT and media for development. Each thematic session included different panels dealing with papers about theoretical and/or methodological approaches, while projects and experiences of research, education, technology co-creation and implementation in the field are included in poster format.

Paper presenters were invited to contribute to at least one of the following overarching questions:

- *Partnerships and frameworks to enhance cooperation*: which styles, practices, strategies, actors, approaches and instruments strengthen the culture and the effectiveness of cooperation? How and with which specificities do Universities cooperate with other actors within development programs and processes? How to enhance their contribution?
- *The link between knowledge, technology and power within the processes of local and global development*: knowledge and technology play a crucial role in upholding the processes of economic development, in shaping power relations and in promoting or hampering human rights and democracy; how do Universities participate to these processes? How do they balance the detachment proper of scientific research with the inclination to civic and moral engagement in the processes of social transformation?
- *Technology transfer and co-creation*: which methods and instruments are the most appropriate to guarantee the sustainability of the technology transfer and co-creation? How to analyse its impact on receiving societies? Which kind of academic contribution? Which is the relationship between general and theoretical knowledge, on one side, and local and contextualised knowledge on the other? From technology transfer from the North to the South to technology co-creation and knowledge sharing, mainly thanks to ICT: utopia or reality?

THE CUCS TORINO 2013 PROCEEDINGS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The Proceedings of the CUCS Torino 2013 Congress collect most of the papers and of the posters presented during the Congress. The papers included in the Proceedings have been selected in close cooperation with panels' coordinators; they have been edited and revised following the Congress debate and an internal review by the panel coordinators in the aftermaths of the Congress. The Proceedings seek to contribute to the national and international debate on development cooperation activities carried out by the Italian Universities by sharing research-based analysis, stimulating debate and building common ground among key stakeholders.

The general picture offered by the whole of the papers and of the posters in the Proceedings is extremely rich and articulated, addressing the broader spectrum of the universities' field of intervention in international development cooperation. All the three university's missions are involved: research, training and the so called "third mission", that broadly covers the involvement of the university within the society, its engagement and outreach. In this respect, universities are contributing through training and research *for* development cooperation – i.e. producing general knowledge that might be used as a background for development cooperation initiatives -, *in* development cooperation –

getting directly involved within development cooperation activities by dint of applied training and research – and *on* development cooperation – approaching development cooperation and its social, political, cultural and technical dynamics as the privileged object of its study. These issues are explicitly addressed in the Proceedings section on “Education, Training and Human Resources”; they also represent a crosscutting theme to almost all the panels.

Beyond the specific contribution offered by each panel, paper and poster, we believe that the CUCS Torino 2013 Congress and its Proceedings represent a step forward towards a deeper and more effective engagement by the Italian universities within the rapidly evolving scenarios of international development cooperation. International development actors, theories, strategies, policies and practices are evolving both at the global and at the local scales. The Proceedings section on “Methods and approaches in development cooperation” specifically offers a glimpse of such dynamics, which again were addressed directly or indirectly in most of the panels. New donors such as China, Turkey and Brazil are emerging, redefining the traditional North-South equilibriums. They introduce new practices and devices in international cooperation, beside the conventional channels of official development assistance (ODA). The economic and political influence of these new donors often challenge more consolidated approaches within the international development forums, such as those affirming the link between development and the promotion of democracy and human rights. On the other side, new ways of understanding and measuring development and well-being are emerging from the bottom up, both in high and low income countries. The Proceedings section on “Economic development” specifically addresses the growing role of economic actors, the private sector, and migrants’ entrepreneurship in shaping these processes and orienting the definition of new development strategies in the context of the economic crisis affecting consolidated development models such as the European one, and resulting in the shrinking of public resources allocated to international development cooperation. Several other Proceedings sections and panels – ICT, media and development; ICT and Capacity building; Sustainability of environmental technologies in developing countries; Geomatics for emergency,... - address the role of technology, and in particular ICT as an instrument to empower new paths of development, denouncing at the same time the risk of reproducing asymmetric power relations linked to knowledge and technology.

Are the traditional actors of international development cooperation, such as Italy and specifically Italian universities, aware of the magnitude of these changes? Are they equipped to tackle them? We consider the approval of the long awaited reform of the Italian development cooperation in August 2014 as an encouraging step towards a positive answer to these questions. The reform process was discussed during the CUCS Congress too, confirming the Italian universities’ willingness to engage and cooperate with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other development partners in the definition of national strategies and guidelines. In these respects, the Italian universities are looking forward further discussion and future implementation of the new Ministry’s “Principles, guidelines and priorities for development cooperation with Universities, Research and Training Centres”.

While these progresses are encouraging, we believe that there is still a long way ahead to sharpen the Italian universities’ contribution to international development. Therefore, on the basis of the CUCS experience and of the CUCS Torino 2013 Congress debate, we would like to conclude by sharing a set of questions developed in order to raise awareness, effectiveness and efficiency within universities’ development cooperation initiatives and towards a University policy on international development cooperation. These are the questions that will orient the future engagement of the Politecnico di Torino and the University of Turin, including their joint initiatives, on international development cooperation. We hope that they might also inspire other universities, within the CUCS network and beyond.

1. Universities, international cooperation and the post 2015 development agenda

- Why universities should get involved in international development cooperation?
- How international development cooperation has been addressed within the different missions of the university (training, research and the “third mission” dealing with universities’ public engagement and outreach)?
- How universities understand the new global scenarios and the new geographies of development? How do they insert in these processes?
- How universities are contributing to the definition of the post 2015 development agenda? How this agenda will shape their future engagement on international development cooperation?

2. Universities’ internal organisation for development cooperation

- How the engagement in international development cooperation initiatives fits within universities’ broader strategies on academic mobility and internationalisation? The competitive approach based on university benchmarking and inspiring universities’ internationalisation strategies is complementary or alternative to the spirit of international development cooperation?
- Do universities need to elaborate a specific agenda on international development cooperation? Or the issue should be rather tackled as cross-cutting theme in the ordinary planning and activities of the universities?
- Which are universities’ best practices in terms of internal organisation to manage development cooperation initiatives, information sharing on these projects within the university and outside, and promotion of trans-disciplinary working groups for development cooperation?

- Which are the most suitable modalities to organise and offer training on international development cooperation issues for universities' students and staff?
- Which are the most effective tools to promote the research on international development cooperation issues?
- Which are the most needed mechanisms to monitor and evaluate universities' development cooperation initiatives?

3. The partnership for international development cooperation

- Which are the national and international academic networks more interesting and promising for international development studies?
- Which partnership should be established or reinforced with the other international development cooperation actors (governments, international organisations, NGOs, local authorities, private companies, foundations, religious actors,...)? Which are the most effective spaces and tools to foster such a partnership?
- Which academic partnership should be prioritised (top ranking international universities in high income countries or universities and other research/training centres in the countries of intervention)?

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We are particularly grateful to Elena Giglia and Alessandro Leccese (University of Turin) for their guidance and support in publishing these Proceedings as a first issue of a new open access journal, JUNCO- Journal of universities and development cooperation. We hope that this will be the first of a long series of issues, allowing JUNCO to become a space where universities can share and debate the results of their researches among them and with other international development cooperation partners.

The publication of these Proceedings represents the last step of a long scientific and organisational process started in July 2012. Throughout this process we have met and we have been supported by the work of many people. In acknowledging all of them by name there is the risk to forget somebody, nevertheless we try.

A collective thanks to all the friends, colleagues, Rectors, Delegates of the CUCS network, particularly to Emanuela Colombo and Gianni Vaggi, tireless coordinators and spokespersons, and to Ferruccio Miglietta, CUCS' fundamental organising support.

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ⁱⁱ For the proceedings of the previous editions of the CUCS Congress see: Vaggi G., Colombo E., Miglietta F. (eds.) (2010), "L'Università e i giovani per la cooperazione e la pace. Formazione, ricerca, innovazione e partenariati per lo sviluppo globale", Atti del I Congresso CUCS 2009, Poliscript, Politecnico di Milano; "La cooperazione universitaria e la sinergia con la società civile e le imprese", Atti del II° Congresso Nazionale CUCS sulla Cooperazione Universitaria, Padova, 15-16 Settembre 2011, Università di Padova (CD-Rom).