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

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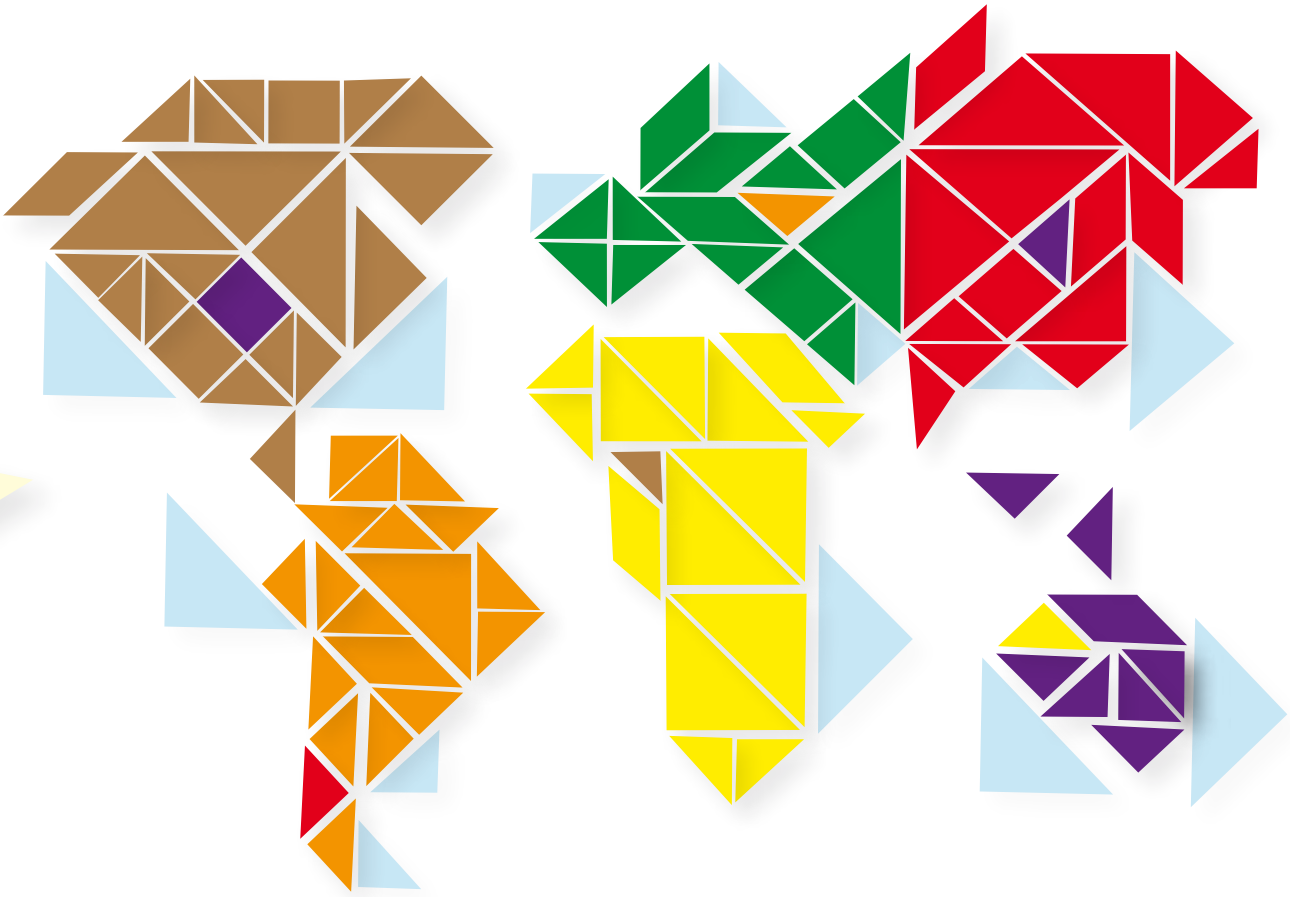
IMAGINING CULTURES OF COOPERATION: UNIVERSITIES NETWORKING TO FACE THE NEW DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

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

Turin, 19-21 September 2013



POLITECNICO DI TORINO

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

Imagining Cultures of Cooperation: Universities networking to face the new development challenges.

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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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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 it 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 universities[i]. 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 Bicciato (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 advise 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 addresses in the Proceeding 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 approach 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 us 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 path 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 us 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 respect, 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 join 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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[i] CUCS Partner Universities are: Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori di Pavia, Politecnico di Milano, Politecnico di Torino, Università IULM di Milano, Università degli Studi di Bergamo, Università degli Studi di Bologna, Università degli Studi di Brescia, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Università degli Studi di Genova, Università dell'Insubria, Università degli Studi di Milano, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Università degli Studi di Padova, Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale "Amedeo Avogadro", Università degli Studi di Parma, Università degli Studi di Pavia, Università degli Studi di Siena, Università degli Studi di Trento, Università degli Studi di Torino, Università degli Studi di Trieste, Università degli Studi di Urbino, Università della Valle D'Aosta, Università Cà Foscari di Venezia.

[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).