

Immaginare culture della cooperazione: le Università in rete per le nuove sfide dello sviluppo



III Congresso scientifico CUCS Torino, 19-21 Settembre 2013

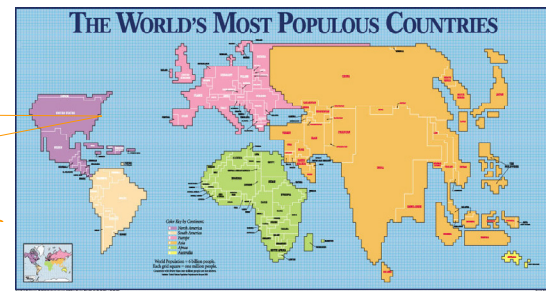
Is India really so small???

To look at development from a gandhian perspective. Cultural exchanges, educational opportunities and twinships between schools

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What about changing frame of mind?



Abstract

Since 1968 exchanges of loving mutual support take place between two realities geographically far away, and culturally and socially deeply different: the ASSEFA Group of Torino and the Indian NGO ASSEFA (Association for Sarva Seva Farms). Exchanges of documents and mutual visits have offered to the italian partners the opportunity to be witnesses of the achievement of a gandhian development model, inspired by concepts as sarvodaya, swadeshi, swaraj, nonviolence, antyodaya. Twinships between schools carried out over thirty years allowed italian students of primary and secondary level to come in touch with a context that is not only culturally different, but testifies the possibility of a 'development' based on cooperation, empathy, reverence for nature and respect for the environment. Meanwhile students of the indian villages felt appreciated and developed greater confidence in themselves.

Aims of the twinship

- ✓ Italian students – with the help of their teachers – may succeed in challenging the idea that western society is more 'developed' and leads other cultures towards 'progress'. Moreover they may learn to respect and appreciate world views and cultural frames different from theirs.
- ✓ Students of ASSEFA villages have a precious opportunity to increase their self-esteem, as they get in touch with peers who appreciate and respect them. Moreover they deepen they knowledge about world issues and other civilizations.

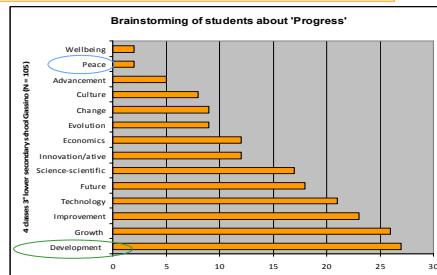


Methodological approach

The opportunity was offered to start a twinship with no rules except the willingness of teachers to learn about ASSEFA movement and gandhian thought, and to promote a respectful dialogue among peers. Continuous feedback and reflection of the research group was carried on, based on the exchanged documents, the meetings with italian teachers, the dialogue with indian ASSEFA staff, the reading of the relevant literature on India and on 'nonviolent and sustainable education'.

Brainstorming of some italian teachers about 'progress'

- ✓ development, freedom, respect
- ✓ civility, culture, peace
- ✓ well-being, improvement, happiness



Achieved Results

The twinship experience achieves a higher educational value when integrated within an interdisciplinary and multicultural program. Italian students enjoy the experience and show great motivation in preparing the material to be sent to Indian friends. The perception and evaluation of the 'differences' by students is heavily influenced by the awareness of the teachers.



To keep the future open to all potentials, alternatives and dissenting possibilities, it is necessary to envisage alternative futures from different civilisational and cultural perspectives (Ziauddin Sardar)



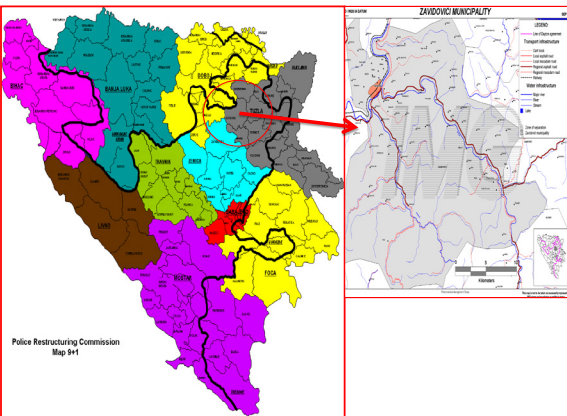
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A safe place for the victims of domestic violence: support to autonomy and development of local resources in the Balkans area (since 2006)

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The project fulfilled in Zavidovići, a central Bosnia Herzegovina town, has developed initiatives to support the victims of domestic violence and to face a culture which originates and legitimates violence itself.

During the last six years, a local network (several schools and associations, Dom Kulture, the Health House) and a Bosnian association - *Sigurno Mjesto* - were created through a program of decentralized cooperation in which several Italian and Bosnian institutions have been involved as partners.

The Department

- realized an exploratory field action-research on access to basic services of the Zavidovići Local Communities (young local researchers were formed as interviewers and data collectors)
- backed and monitored the planning and the implementation of the preventing and training activities (workshops, focus groups, etc.) in Italy and in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Reasons of the intervention

- Lack of direct experience on these forms of social tutoring.
- Need to build specific competence for a direct relationship with the victims.
- Need of spaces to apply and verify work models and competences.

2012. Specific outcomes in Bosnia Herzegovina

- **prevention:** analysis of the gender relationships through diversified actions, according to methods and to target groups
- **support:** intensifying tutoring activities for the victims of domestic violence referring to the association
- **support:** resources activated to get a partial economic autonomy to some women victims of domestic violence
- **interaction:** development of local and international territorial networks to keep opportunities of exchange and training. Widening of the intervention to the rural areas

... and in Italy

- **enhance competences of the Italian operators:** critical analysis and evaluation of the Italian social work model, improvement of the skills to undertake and manage complex social ambience
- **development and consolidation:** direct relationship between Social Services of Alba and of Zavidovići and between *Sigurno Mjesto* and the Italian associations

Methodological approach: • Experts identified by Università del Piemonte Orientale, by Ser.T Alba Bra and by local trainers carried on tutoring activities for the members of Bosnian association • Social workers and members of local associations participated to official and technical missions in Bosnia Herzegovina to grant a direct bi-national relationship.

An intervention model: the experience has produced an efficient work model which, through the synergy of different involved subjects, with different roles and in different stages, allows to activate long lasting processes supported by periodical micro-actions.



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FUND FOR COOPERATION AND KNOWLEDGE

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Abstract

The University of Pavia (UNIPV) launched the 'Fund for Cooperation and Knowledge' in 2009. The Fund was intended to finance scholarships for students of Developing Countries wishing to study in Pavia and for students of UNIPV aiming at spending some months in a Developing Country to study, to carry on researches, or to do an internship. The Fund and the selection of the students are managed by a Joint Committee composed by students, professors and administrative staff of UNIPV. Resources for the Fund come from UNIPV and from its students, who pay each year 2 Euros together with the tuition fees.

Achieved Results

Since 2009, 32 students from Developing Countries and 52 UNIPV students received a scholarship.

Objectives

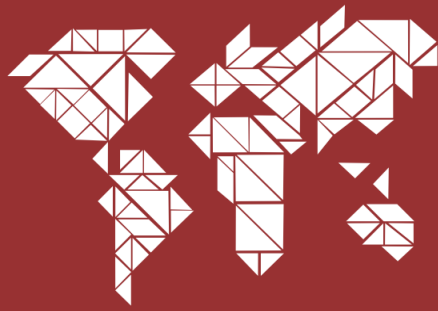
Increasing student mobility to/from Pavia University and to/from Developing Countries; giving students the chance to have an experience abroad, to improve their skills and to widen their knowledge; strengthening university cooperation with Developing Countries.

Methodological approach

Candidates awarded with a scholarship are selected by the Joint Committee, who examine their application and evaluate their CV and academic skills. Selected UNIPV students go through an interview too.

Conclusion

After four editions, it is clear that the idea of the Fund works and it is a kind of scholarship programme which could be implemented in other Italian universities too.



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MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY SKILLS AT THE SERVICE OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: THE ACTIVITY OF THE CISAO OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TURIN



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Abstract

The CISAO (Interdepartmental Centre of Research and Scientific and Technical Cooperation with Sahelian and West African Countries), that includes internal and external staff of the University of Turin, professionals and experts, holds together multidisciplinary and integrated expertise with the task of facilitating and coordinating **educational and scientific exchanges** with similar institutions in **West Africa** and in the **Sahel**, in particular. The concerned countries are **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali, Niger, Senegal**. Institutionalized in 2004, the CISAO was established since 2000 by a group called "Uni-Sahel" which grouped together researchers with common interests of investigations and cooperation with the Sahel, which over the years have woven intense relationships with African counterparts.

Objectives

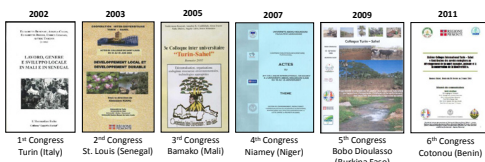
Main objectives: food security promotion, extreme hunger and poverty reduction.

Specific objectives: improvement and sustainable management of natural resources, animal and vegetal productions, with environment and biodiversity preservation; knowledge sharing and appropriate technologies; institution of north-south and south-south networks.

Achieved results

- Establishment of a **network** in which researchers from different scientific fields, such as economists, sociologists, anthropologists, geographers, geologists, agronomists, veterinarians, etc... can meet and share their experiences, even with the support of the Piedmont Region, which promoted decentralized cooperation initiatives through the program "Food security and fight against poverty", since 1997.
- Improvement of **actions** in 4 main strands, concerning animal and vegetal productions, energy facilities and socio-economic and educational issues.

The results of the activities are exposed during **congress** with the participation of Italian and Sahelian academics:



NIGER: dairy Kouri cattle farmers



MALI: horticulture practices



NIGER: sellers of traditionally produced honey



MALI: training of solar cookers technicians

Methodological approach

In relation to the approach proposed by the Piedmont Region, many actions have been promoted, sharing expertises in different fields and a close cooperation with similar institutions, involving also civil society, for the promotion of a mutual cultural enrichment and to create the conditions for self-sufficiency of the involved countries.

Recent projects with the participation of CISAO

IAO/GENDER (Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare
<http://www.iao.florence.it/>



4CITIES4DEV (Comune di Torino – Slow Food)
<http://www.4cities4dev.eu/>



Conclusion

In recent years, there has also been attempted to merge some interventions according to the issues explored and the countries and partners involved to make more effective the actions planned and carried out. This new method stimulates the search for greater interdisciplinarity and an integrated approach to the issues and problems and will be applied in the project RUSSADE (**ACP – EU Edulink program**) that involves a group of researchers of CISAO.