



UNESCO Chair in
Sustainable Development
and Territory Management



University
of Torino



Organizzazione
delle Nazioni Unite
per l'Educazione,
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Comunità delle Università Mediterranee



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PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط



Regione Puglia
Assessorato al Mediterraneo, Cultura, Turismo

BEYOND NORTH-SOUTH FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND A NEW MEDITERRANEAN RENAISSANCE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSING CERIMONY OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITALIAN UNIFICATION

La Venaria Reale, 26-27 November 2011

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Opening Ceremony

On the occasion of the Conference “Beyond North-South for a sustainable development and a new Mediterranean Renaissance” held at the Royal Palace of Venaria near Turin (Italy) on 26-27 November 2011, UNESCO and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (hereinafter called ‘PAM’), have announced the setting up of a new UNESCO Chair at the University of Turin, to develop international cooperation North-South-South in the Mediterranean Region.

The initiative is aimed at facilitating, through summer school projects, the training of public officials in order to promote better governance in the sustainable development of the region. The conference organised by the University of Turin, UNESCO, PAM, and the La Venaria Reale Consortium, was attended by a PAM high level delegation made up of PAM Vice President, Senator Francesco Maria Amoruso (Italy), and PAM Secretary General, Ambassador Sergio Piazzi, by the Chief of UNESCO Science Policy and Reform Section, Mrs Sonia Bahri, by the Vice President of University of Torino, Mr Salvatore Coluccia and by the Major of Turin, Mr. Piero Fassino, former Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Sen. Amoruso underlined the excellent relations between UNESCO and PAM, which contribute to the building of a more stable, prosperous and united Mediterranean region. With reference to the role of education in the process of economic and social development, Ambassador Sergio Piazzi, reminded that within the PAM Panel on External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean, the Assembly will dedicate in 2012 particular attention to the educational sector, and will be also organising an international fora to discuss issues related to this area, including professional training in the Mediterranean countries, aimed at improving the opportunities for socio-economical development, commercial, and educational, scientific and cultural exchanges in the region.

During the Opening Ceremony, a prize has been awarded by PAM to the University of Turin.

2. Context

The “Arab Spring”, which began in Tunisia and spread to Egypt, now continues in Libya, Yemen, Bahrain and Syria, illustrating the scale and complexity of the local, regional and global effects of this historical movement. While each example is unique, in view of its specific features, it seems that only stronger international governance can complement action taken by national authorities to deal with the challenges and address the momentous consequences of these events at different levels.

The Mediterranean is a hub of interdependent cultural, environmental, political and social dynamics. As a result, it is an ideal place to build the future, a microcosm of all of its societies' major problems – revolving around North-South interaction, divides and interconnections – and seems to be a genuine twenty-first century laboratory, where the necessary resources can be harnessed and shared answers found.

An international effort must enable UNESCO and the PAM to lay emphasis on the universal model of “living together”, which the Mediterranean must adopt in order to support a “new humanism” and a “new Mediterranean renaissance” so that the dialogue of cultures and sustainable development can be set as priority goals on which the region’s future can be built inasmuch, as the challenges facing the Mediterranean are universal in scope and consequences.

3. Goals of the Chair and the Network

The network’s goal is to promote a series of training courses and summer schools for civil servants and decision makers in order to promote Mediterranean governance and sustainable development in the region. The Division of Science Policy and Capacity-Building of UNESCO contributed to the establishment of this partnership with the UNESCO Education Sector, the PAM, international and regional partner organizations (FAO, ILO, OCDE, CIHEAM) and several Mediterranean universities, drawing on a UNESCO Chairs’ network for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region. The activities of the UNESCO Chairs’ network, an innovative example of North-South-South cooperation in the Mediterranean, have been launched officially on 26 and 27 November 2011 at an international forum in Turin, which marked the end of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy.

4. Goals of the meeting

The meeting recommended a regional interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral plan of action designed to:

- (i) Support high-level scientific training (summer schools for civil servants and decision makers) in “governance for Mediterranean sustainable development”, by establishing an international platform, providing technical assistance to the PAM, building its Member States’ capacities and strengthening university exchanges for North-South-South cooperation;
- (ii) Promote, in an integrated manner, tangible and intangible Mediterranean common heritage, environmental biodiversity and cultural diversity. These are key factors of sustainable development, as are the economy and responses to social challenges. This can be achieved, inter alia, by supporting the introduction of a green economy in

the Mediterranean region through sub-regional governance and through the contribution of fundamental research applied to land-use and natural resources management. Most exemplary is the “Mediterranean diet”, which has been listed as part of the intangible heritage of humanity – it is rooted in respect for the land and biodiversity and it ensures the preservation and development of traditional activities or local fishing and agricultural crafts in Mediterranean communities;

- (iii) Facilitate the holding of international fora in partnership with the PAM, with emphasis on the role of new information and communication technologies in supporting the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

5. Outcomes of the first meeting

A platform and a working group will be constituted for the purpose of establishing an international committee to coordinate the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs’ network in order to improve Mediterranean governance for sustainable development. This committee will be instrumental in enabling scientists – through “deployable” training meetings and summer schools – to play their role fully by providing decision-makers with training modules for scientific advice and by providing more technical and institutional bodies with a number of standards and monitoring and evaluation tools. Officials in Mediterranean states public authorities could thus receive the latest scientific expertise for analysing problems and shared challenges, for anticipating the effect of various activities on the local and regional development of the Mediterranean Basin and, lastly, for finding appropriate and shared solutions to the region’s main challenges.

The specific objectives of this platform and international committee are to:

- Investigate the present situation of education for sustainable development addressed to civil servants and promote its integration at a stronger international governance level within the PAM membership;
- Coordinate the development of a common framework of competencies and standards in education for sustainable development governance among the established North-South-South networks in Mediterranean Region;
- Design and implement capacity-building by setting-up a “training of trainers” mechanism for enhancing pre-service and in-service trainers’ skills on education for sustainable development governance;
- Coordinate and conduct pilot events in education for sustainable development governance through pilot summer-schools in the Mediterranean Region.

6. Profile of participants

The symposium has been attended by senior members of national parliaments, senior local governments officials, representatives of regions and ministries of the States Members of the PAM, universities, scientific and research institutions, and UNESCO Mediterranean Chairs, scientists and engineers, representatives of governmental agencies, members of civil society, the organizers (University of Turin, La Venaria Reale, UNESCO and PAM) and representatives of international and regional partner organizations. The workshop/working group, convened on 26 November during the second meeting on Saturday and after the historical and anthropological symposium on Sunday 27. It brought the UNESCO Mediterranean Chairs together in order to draw lessons learned and best practices from the debates, and validate the activities to be carried out.

7. Agenda

This two-day symposiums has been organized in thematic meetings. Each meeting began with an introduction to the theme by designated speakers, followed by a debate with participants, and ended with the compilation, by a group of rapporteurs, of the key points discussed and the proposals made during the debates. After the first symposium and workshop on Saturday, a visit was organized to the Royal Palace of Venaria Reale on the evening of 26 November, during which researchers had showcase exhibitions mounted as part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy.

The workshop/working group that took place on 27 November closed with a final session where an interdisciplinary and intersectoral plan of action was discussed to follow up the initiative at the sub-regional level.

A methodology of work was proposed:

- Step 1: a matrix and a map resulting form of the conference by the UNESCO Chair of Turin;
- Step 2: a virtual platform for interaction, deposit of information free training moduls, and for research about the position of the future training courses in “governance for Mediterranean sustainable development”;
- Step 3: a design of a pilot Summer school, and a fund rising in the framework of UNESCO/PAM Mediterranean action plan;
- Step 4: international fora in 2012 to discuss issues related to this area, and create a steering committee in the framework of a UNESCO/PAM Mediterranean action plan.

8. Policy recommendations to the next UNESCO Executive Board (189th session: 27 February - 8 March 2012)

Following the draft resolution 36 C/COM.SC/DR.3 submitted by Egypt and Tunisia to the past 36th Session of the UNESCO General Conference (SC Commission, 1 November 2011, Item 5.23 of the agenda) it was decided, during the debate within the SC Commission, to represent a policy recommendation to the next UNESCO Executive Board (189th session: 27 February - 8 March 2012) to:

- support a regional intersectoral plan of action focused on a “new Mediterranean renaissance” based on sustainable development of the region;
- promote high-level interdisciplinary and scientific training for “governance for sustainable development in the Mediterranean” and the periodic organization of an annual fora;
- establish an international platform and a steering committee, providing technical assistance to the PAM, and reinforcing university exchanges and capacities among its member countries to promote North-South-South cooperation.

The PAM was pleased to contribute through a financial support to the Conference “Beyond North-South for a sustainable development and a new Mediterranean Renaissance” held at the Royal Palace of Venaria, near Turin (Italy) on 26-27 November 2011. The PAM Funding Contribution will be mentioned (following the Agreement signed between UNESCO and PAM) in the list of additional appropriations to the regular budget included in the general execution report to be submitted by the Director-General to the Executive Board of UNESCO for its information.

The purpose of UNESCO-coordinated fora is to broaden the scope of the international effort led by the PAM for Mediterranean regions, districts and eminent persons in the political, intellectual, scientific and artistic spheres in order to:

- Raise awareness and promote this activity by supporting legislative bodies, elected representatives, associations and international networks;
- Enable UNESCO to coordinate and integrate the ongoing activities it is currently undertaking to promote democracy and socio-economic development in the Mediterranean, by launching a new regional inter-sectoral plan of action for a “new Mediterranean renaissance”;
- Enable UNESCO to strengthen its capacity to deliver and its impact in the Mediterranean region;

- Promote new alliances and strategic partnerships with public and private groups and international and intergovernmental institutions capable of reinforcing UNESCO action in support of Mediterranean states and institutions in the critical period of transition, as already being done, as an example, by UNECE and the other members of the UN Economic Cluster, together with and in support of PAM efforts.

Sustainable development, research, innovation and processes entailed in ecological change are of major importance to all Mediterranean institutions that have been set with the priority goal of addressing present and future political, socio-economic and environmental crises. This commitment is particularly strong when territory management is considered locally and globally to be an advantage. Today's local, national and international decision-makers often lack specific skills for promoting development on sustainable grounds. Democracy, human rights, political and institutional activity, planning and management must be central concerns in strengthening governance in the Mediterranean, which is perceived as a management area or "common property". This framework must enable decision-making in a wider perspective, while promoting local/global governance capable of using all forms of interdisciplinary knowledge. The aim here is to create the conditions for all aspects of sustainable development as the centrepiece of a new model of territory management designed to harmonize and coordinate effectively the complex work of scientists and legislators.

9. Financial support through the EU response to the Arab Spring: new package of support for North Africa and Middle East through ENPI CBC Programme

EU Financial Tools, as those described below, will have to be fully mobilized in order to provide the additional required support for the activities described above. In particular, Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) is a key priority of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) ENPI. It aims at reinforcing North-South-South cooperation between member states and partner countries along the external border of the European Union.

The European Commission has adopted on October 2011 four new decisions for its Neighbourhood, with programmes including support for areas like democracy, growth, job creation, microfinance and higher education – evidence of "*our strong commitment to our neighbouring partners*" said Štefan Füle Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy announcing the package.

"Through job creation, improved living conditions, university partnerships and promoting a stronger voice for civil society, this support demonstrates Europe's full engagement in ensuring the desired transition to democracy in the region," Füle added.

The four decisions approved are:

The **SPRING programme** (Support for Partnership, Reform and Inclusive Growth), adopted by the Commission. Under this flagship initiative, the Commission will provide support for the Southern Neighbourhood countries for democratic transformation, institution building and economic growth in the wake of the Arab Spring. Support provided through SPRING will be tailored to the needs of each country. The total value of this initiative is €350 million to cover the years 2011 and 2012.

A **Special Measure to support poorer areas in Tunisia** in the aftermath of the events of the Arab Spring. €20 million has also been allocated in order to foster employment and job creation in the country and to improve living conditions for inhabitants of urban areas in the most impoverished regions, as well as to improve access to microfinance.

The **Erasmus Mundus** programme. This will go towards achieving better understanding and mutual enrichment between the EU and neighbouring countries by creating possibilities for student and academic staff mobility (for example, the opportunity to study in universities in EU Member States) and exchange of knowledge and skills. The overall budget for this programme is €66 million.

The **Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility** is designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society to promote reform and increase public accountability in their countries. With a total budget of €22 million, the programme will also support regional and country projects led by non-state actors. Similar amounts are envisaged for 2012 and 2013.

ENPI Programme encourages participation of international organizations like UNESCO and others UN bodies in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the ENPI Programme; establishing a strategic framework of 4 Priorities jointly defined by the participating countries reinforcing North-South-South cooperation in Mediterranean Region:

1. promotion of socio-economic development and enhancement of territories;
2. promotion of environmental sustainability at basin level;
3. promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capitals;
4. promotion of cultural dialogue and local/regional governance.