



Regione Toscana



PLATFORMA

The European voice of **Local** and
Regional authorities for development

***"WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS EMPOWERING LOCAL AND
REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT
OUTCOMES IN EU PARTNER COUNTRIES"***

December 7th 2017

**Tuscany Region - Sala Pegaso
Piazza Duomo n. 10
FLORENCE**



**European
Commission**

Program

9:30

Registration

10:00 - 10:10

Welcome address

Monica Barni - Vice President of Tuscany Region

10:10 to 10:20

Presentation of the Platform Project

Platforma Representative

10:10 to 10:30

Presentation of the Research on Best Practices and partnership carried out by the Region of Tuscany

Andrea Manuelli-Local Global

10.30 to 11.45

Round table on best practices of territorial co-operation in the Mediterranean and future perspectives.

The round table participants are the representatives of Italian/European Regions and of the Tuscany system of cooperation.

Participants:

- Vice-President (Tuscany Region)
- Regional Minister (Sardegna Region)
- Director of the Catalan development cooperation agency (Catalunya Region)
- Directorate Europe and Mediterranean Cooperation (Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)
- Luca Menesini (Representative of local government)
- Andrea Stocchiero (Cespi)

Moderator: Platforma

11.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Workshops (parallel sessions)

Introduction to the workshops: objectives and methodology

Workshop 1 : Partnerships and Networks as a Strategic Asset in Development and Cooperation

Moderator: Federico Martire (Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation Expert - CPMR-IMC)

Context:

Partnerships and networks are an essential element of decentralised cooperation interventions, between both homologous actors and actors of different kinds. The integration resulting from the partnerships bears enormous advantages in terms of the strategic scope of the policies and also in terms of financial and technical synergies and between different and complementary competences. For local authorities it represents a *conditio sine qua non* to be applied in most of the interventions, as it is further demonstrated by the results of the mapping on the decentralised cooperation activities of the Italian regions and also by the

decentralised cooperation trends at European level.

Network and partnership setting and management choices define a fundamental aspect of the same approach models, increasingly less vertical, and more oriented towards exchange, participation and reciprocity. Italian decentralised cooperation, with its participatory approach and bottom-up processes, has in some ways anticipated some characteristic aspects of the emerging co-operation and partnership models at both European and international level. For this reason we believe that a capitalization of these practices and a greater awareness and formalization, or capitalization, of what has been achieved can be useful, for European local authorities active in this area, as well as for decentralised Italian cooperation.

Through partnership enhancement and consolidation of change action for processes - and not just for projects - Italian and European local authorities can work on the localization of SDGs, with a particular focus on the Mediterranean, not an easy -but fundamental- 'exercise' for the application of more effective partnership models and for pursuing the goals of sustainable development at local level.

Goals:

- Identifying the emerging models of local partnerships and networks among local authorities in decentralised and territorial cooperation and their relative strengths
- on the basis of the observed and planned evolution of interventions and partnerships in the cooperation of local authorities, to analyze what specific contributions the practices of Decentralised Italian Cooperation can make and how such experiences can be of interest to other European Regions as well.
- Exploring how the contribution of Italian decentralised Cooperation can be relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and on what aspects the capitalization of Italian experiences may be appropriate, especially in the context of an integrated territorial development.
- Finally, to define a shared reference framework and a more effective action in European cooperation with a particular reference to the Mediterranean area.

Themes and questions for discussion:

- what types of intervention and to partnership are the Local Autonomies moving towards within decentralised cooperation?
- what are the strengths and weaknesses of the old partnership and cooperation models compared with the emerging ones?
- what is the current impact and above all what is the potential of territorial partnership in the future, or the partnership with homologous local authorities in third countries?
- To what extent is there continuity in the partnership of the Italian regions and how does this continuity correspond to a process-oriented logic with respect to a "pro-project" logic?
- Within the partnerships, what is the role of civil society and its involvement in the decision-making and operational phases of the interventions?
- To what extent the experiences from interventions and partnerships of decentralised Italian Co-operation are also good practices which can be transferred to other contexts?
- What are the prospects for high-level participation in SDGs in the Mediterranean? In this respect, what is the orientation of the participating regions in the workshop?
- What are the key tools and mechanisms available to regional and local authorities to promote sustainable and integrated territorial development?

Workshop 2: The implementation of SDGs in local policies

Moderator: Stefano Marta (Regional Development Policy Division - OECD)

Context:

To date, decentralised cooperation has proven to be an effective tool for building networks and relationships based on recognition and trust. The roots in the territory of the regions, strengthened by collaborations with experts and NGOs that provide a concrete reference for institutions and citizenship, are an important facilitator for the implementation of effective and timely projects based on real needs.

The challenge for the future is to make an important contribution to the development policies promoted by the international community, on the basis of this heritage of relationships and *expertise* built over time.

The "17 Sustainable Development Goals" (which follow the Millennium Goals) are the main programmatic and operational reference for the coming years.

They deal with fundamental issues for the future sustainability of the planet and the coexistence between peoples: food shortages and the exploitation of natural resources; the reform of models of production and consumption; climate change; the emptying of rural areas and better organization of urban areas; the

growing economic and social inequality; regional conflicts and exogenous factors that threaten individual and social security; the shortages of sanitation and hygiene services, and more.

Agenda 2030 therefore requires a cultural change to overcome any vision focused on aid to public budgets and economic growth.

In this context, Regions can take the opportunity to give new impetus to their international vocation and become the bearers of the instances of change and innovation needed to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

Goals:

- Identify the characteristics of development policies relating to decentralised cooperation, based on SDGs
- define alignment/proximity pathways for development policies related to decentralised cooperation based on SDGs
- identify, on the basis of experience and good practice, the areas of intervention where local authorities can more effectively work to achieve SDGs in local regions and contexts

Themes and questions for discussion:

- How can the development policies implemented by the Regions move along the line drawn by the SDGs? And what are the possible changes or additions to existing policies, taking into account the actual implementation of the SDGs and the consistency of the same policy action?
- Which sectors require greater emphasis in adopting policies that are more consistent with SDGs? And which types of intervention seem to be priorities?
- What are the main implications of the approach followed in the SDGs moving from the inside to the outside of decentralised cooperation? What peculiarities emerge in the Mediterranean?
- Which sectors, approaches and partnerships do Italian and European local authorities intend to focus on in the Mediterranean area or more generally in relation to the southern hemisphere of the world? In a hypothetical grid of sectors and objectives, which are the most critical crossroads and on which regions can make greater contribution to localization of the SDGs and decentralised cooperation?

Workshop 3: Migration and Development: A New Challenge for Cooperation

Moderator: Andrea Stocchiero (CESPI)

Context:

The integration of migratory phenomenon into cooperation policies is a need which is increasingly recognized at international level. Almost all European countries, especially those with a considerable immigrant presence, and the European Commission provide for co-ordination of ad hoc measures on the subject. And every year, the international community meets with the Global Migration Forum to focus on the evolution of policies and actions seeking to achieve the "triple win" goal, namely situations where migrants, countries of origin and of destination are all winners in a mutual relationship.

In decentralised or territorial cooperation, co-development takes on an even more marked connotation because migrants are actors who act simultaneously in specific areas both of destination and of origin which relate to them. Migrants live and interact with local societies at a transnational level. The proximity relationship between local institutions, migrants and society is decisive in creating, or not, favourable conditions for integration.

Local institutions are called upon to identify and apply integration policies and to enhance the contribution of migrants to local development; in addition to this one should also consider the contribution that migrants can make to internationalization and cooperation with their countries of origin. In this way, we try to create a virtuous circle between migration and development. In fact, the latter can also improve the social, economic and political inclusion of migrants.

In Italy, there is an increasing number of varied experiences of migrant cooperation (community development initiatives), with migrants (cooperation and internationalization projects) and regarding the migration phenomenon (selection and training of labour market flows, reducing the costs of sending remittances and their empowerment for local development). Various strengths and weaknesses emerge from the analysis of these initiatives at the political and operational level.

But the most important challenge is to move from a project approach to a true policy definition for comprehensive and long-lasting co-development. If at national level in Italy this awareness has matured recently with the approval of the new law on development cooperation, at territorial level, some regions, provinces and municipalities, the political situation and the conditions of implementation are favourable so that the many initiatives on the dual issue of migration and development can be assessed in an integrated

reference framework and general orientation. These conditions have, however, been questioned in recent times, in view of the security type narrative which has emerged in public opinion and at political level, reducing the cooperation scope within the simple slogan of 'let us help them in their countries', with measures limited to repatriation, and emergency operations, whereas the migration phenomenon is recognized by everyone as structural.

Goals:

- Clarify the political approach of local authorities with civil society with reference to the relationship between development and migration
- Valorizing the role of diasporas in the countries of origin and destination, supporting the growth of migrant associations as an active and relevant part of civil society and as actors in territorial cooperation
- Identify effective patterns of development and cooperation based on the skills of migrants and their associations / organizations
- Integrate the action of migrants with the task of facing the major contemporary challenges (e.g., social exclusion, human rights, environment, climate change) and the pursuit and localization of SDGs
- Empower the role of migrants for development and cooperation in the Mediterranean

Themes and questions for discussion:

- Political orientation What do local / regional authorities propose regarding the EU / Italian policy on using cooperation for migration management? What are the political priorities regarding the relationship between development and migration? And in this context, what role could local authorities play or be called upon to play in terms of migration and development? In this regard, are there different positions and orientations? Which ones have emerged with greater clarity?
- Instrumental level: What lessons can we draw from the experiences of the regions with foreign communities?
- Which models can be implemented concretely in terms of valorisation of diasporas and migrants?
- In this regard, for an effective win-win or triple win action, what conditions should be in place and how can we promote positive contexts?
- What initiatives should be set up with migrant associations to enhance their skills and development experiences and capabilities?
- What are the tools to help the growth of migrant associations and help them become a fully fledged cooperation stakeholder? How can partnership networks between associations and other actors in the area be promoted?
- Which actors (national agencies, European, international, ...) can work better as partners or 'allies' for supporting cooperation on migration and development?

1.00 to 2.00 Lunch

2.00 to 3.30 Continuation of the workshop session

3.30 to 4.30

Presentation of the outputs of the workshop and conclusions.