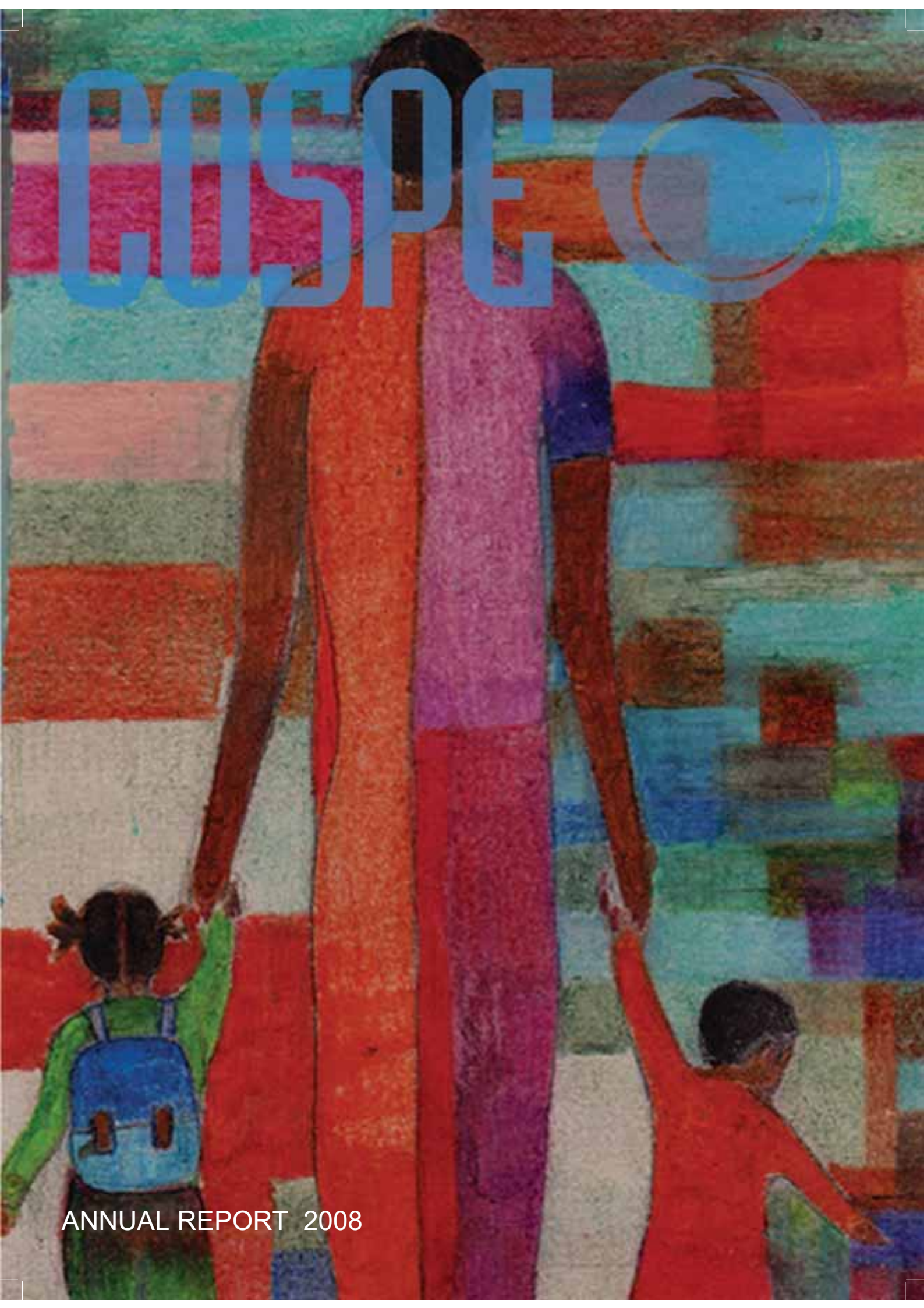


COSPE



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

The Annual Report of COSPE includes some newness: a new graph, a different content, a different distribution. What in fact you will read will be a synthesis – but a rich and articulate one - of the activities implemented in the past year. And you will read it as an anticipation of the Social Balance of our association for the same period. It also means that you can find an account of the principal actions realized both in the association's life and in the projects abroad and in Italy, in the fields of International Cooperation, Development Education, Interculturalism and the Promotion of Rights of Plural Citizenship. You can find a first group of indicators that contribute to measure the efficiency of our projects, the efficiency with which the organisation is managed, the coherency among the values, the principles and the practices of COSPE. The other new aspect is that the Annual Report is translated and printed in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese providing another step in the quality of communication and transparency towards partners and donors of COSPE in Europe and the rest of the world. 2008 was the year in which our association celebrated 25 years of existence, during which we have never stopped our commitment in the world, in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia, Italy and Europe, working together with our partners for the respect of the rights and equal opportunities of peoples, regardless of differences in geographical origins, of gender, of sexual orientation, of religion. We are and want to be an organisation of people that works for the emancipation, the freedom and the protagonism of other people. It is the respect for the commitment and intelligence of these women and men that pushes us to produce tools of communication that are a way to demonstrate what we do and of the coherency with which we operate and not merely an exercise in creativity. Thanks to those who have worked for the COSPE 2008 Annual Report. Enjoy it!

Fabio Laurenzi
President of COSPE

IN ITALY COSPE IS ASSOCIATED WITH:

- Italian NGO Association composed by 163 Italian NGOs
- Banca Etica
- COCIS, Italian federation of lay NGOs
- Coordination of NGO and Associations of International Cooperation in Tuscany
- Coonger (Coordination of NGOs in Emilia Romagna)
- Italian Observatory for Global action against Aids
- AIR (Italian Responsible Tourism Association)
- Forum Terzo Settore - Emilia Romagna Authorities

IN EUROPE COSPE IS ASSOCIATED WITH:

- Solidar, European lay NGOs network
- On Line/ More Color in the Media foundation, a network of European organizations working in the information sector, aiming to improve the intercultural information and representation of ethnic minorities in the media.
- ENAR, the largest network of European NGOs active in the field of Anti Racism
- Association WOMEN (Women of Mediterranean East and South European Network)

COSPE IN RECOGNIZED AS:

- *NGO from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs according to the law n° 49/87 DM n° 1988/128/004196/4 of 14/09/1988
- * member of the Regional Registry of Associations of Social Promotion, Province of Florence on 26/11/2003
- * member of the "Registry of the associations fighting discrimination" established by the President of the Italian Council of Ministers- Department of Equal Opportunities UNAR on 19/05/2005, n° 54
- * member of the first division of the "Registry of the associations supporting migrants", according to article 54 of the decree of the President of the Italian Republic 31/08/1999, n° 394 on 04/08/2000, n° A/36/2000/Fi
- * Since 2001, is the National Focal Point for Italy for "RAXEN" (European network for information on racism and xenophobia)
- * From 2005 recognized as a Learning Center accredited by the Region of Tuscany

COSPE IS CERTIFIED:

- * From 2007 certification of quality EN ISO 9001:2000
- * From 2007 certification from the Italian Donation Institute (IID)

1983-2008 - 25 YEARS OF COMMITMENT

25 years from the foundation in april 1983 were celebrated by COSPE in Italia through a range of activities: a monographic number of the BABEL magazine, a visual arts competition for young Italian and foreign artists, an international seminar and a campaign dedicated to the theme of the rights of women, and an important concert celebrated in Florence on 23 december. In may the **Ordinary/Extraordinary Assembly** of the association took place. An important occasion because the Board was renewed for the three years 2008-2011, and the debate at the forum, in the symbolically important year of a quarter of a century of existence, reaffirmed the principles and the objectives of COSPE. This was also the occasion to launch a new initiative extremely relevant to the nature and the perspectives of COSPE, the **Vico network**, a network of national relevance comprised of 35 civil society from 7 Italian regions that intend to commit together in a real cultural work on the themes of the imbalance between areas of the planet, of interculturalism, and of the struggle against discrimination. Looking at the operating structure, in addition to the **3 Italian offices** of Florence (National office), Bologna and Genoa, there are **21 offices abroad**. At least three quarters of funds raised in 2008 were committed to **International Cooperation**, while the remainder went to projects in **Development Education**, in the **Intercultural and the Rights of plural citizenship sector** in Italy and Europe.

Increasing attention was paid to the relationship with public donors, this is the reason why the **Department of Communication and Fund Raising** has been established and reinforced.

Although the approval of various projects by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has improved markedly the overall financial situation in 2008, the financial sustainability remains a very delicate and relevant theme. A special attention has been committed to the **human resource** management and - given that almost 70% of the collaborators and employees are women - to the **conciliation of life/work balance**. 2008 has been a year of set up and consolidation of new information and management systems to guarantee an improvement in the efficiency of the economic-financial management of the projects and of the association. In november 2008 all the organizational areas participated in a three day seminar to define the **strategic programme for 2009 - 2011**, on the bases of COSPE's prioritized themes, and of the actual and probable condition of the national and international scenario. 2008 was a year distinguished by the confirmation of **certification and recognition** that attests to the investment in quality processes: ISO9001 certification, accreditation with the entity of Training for the Tuscany Region, accreditation with ECHO, (European Commission Humanitarian Office), Italian Institute of Donations certification, accounts certification. In november 2008 the **second Social Budget** was presented, relative to the activity of 2007, a further stage in the program to make the social budget a real instrument to involve of the stakeholder and to measure the impact of the actions, and the consistency with the values and the proposed methodology.

COSPE COUNT ON:

147 members
1057 friends
65 volunteers

PERSONNEL:

54 project collaborators (working mainly in Italy)
72 occasional collaborators
160 local staff contracted by COSPE
331 local staff contracted by the partners
8 employees
32 expatriate in long missions and 9 in short missions
7 volunteers from civil service abroad and 15 in Italy

CAMPAIGNS PROMOTED BY COSPE:

• +WOMEN, - WAR

With the women for human rights and peace. To support the rights of the Somali women and the struggle against female genital mutilation.

• EVERYONE AT SCHOOL IN THE LAND OF MIAO (CHINA)

For the reconstruction of a school in a village in the minority Miao, to support the right to education in poor rural Chinese areas

• WATER CARRIERS

Water as a human right

• GRAIN CAMPAIGNS IN NIGER

Campaign of food sovereignty for the construction of cereal banks in Niger

COSPE PARTECIPATES TO:

- CAMPAIGN FOR A GLOBAL CONTRACT FOR WATER

Campaign to raise public and political awareness of the problems of water

- CAMPAIGN WATER COMMON GOOD OF HUMANITY

For an equitable and sustainable use of water resources in Italy and on a global scale

- ITALIAN COALITION AGAINST POVERTY

For an equitable distribution of resources and eradication of poverty

- EUROPAFRICA CAMPAIGN: AGRICULTURAL LAND

For agricultural solidarity and sustainability in the North, and in the South of the world

- MILLENIUM CAMPAIGN - NO EXCUSE 2015

- A WALL IS NOT ENOUGH

Campaign against the wall of separation in Palestine

- STOP SEXUAL TOURISM

Italian Campaign against sexual tourism

COSPE recognises and aspires to a set of **VALUES** that are the foundation of the association and guide of the organization.

*Diversity - Solidarity - Autonomy - Democracy and participation - Correctness and Transparency
- Efficiency and quality of action - Planning and Efficiency*

These values inspire the **CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES**, what must be always taken into account in the actions of communication, in the field activities and in the relations with the stakeholder.

Gender Approach - Networking - Participation Process - Environmental Sustainability

<p>VISION</p> <p>COSPE works for the construction of a world in which diversity is considered a value, a world of many voices, where the encounter enriches us, where social justice comes in the first place through recognizing human rights and equal opportunities.</p>	<p>MISSION</p> <p>Since its origins, COSPE works for dialogue between peoples, populations, and cultures, for equitable and sustainable development, for human rights, and for the realization of peace and justice among people.</p>	<p>THE PRIORITY THEMES</p> <p>The fields of excellence that distinguish COSPE work and define the objectives towards which we aim and on which we need to increase our competencies and understanding.</p> <p><i>Women rights and gender equity. Rights and dual citizenship. Employment - Economic and Social inclusion. Children's and adolescents rights. Food Sovereignty.</i></p>	<p>THE SECTORS OF INTERVENTION</p> <p><i>Development Education, International Cooperation, Intercultural and Rights of Plural Citizenship.</i></p>	<p>THE ACTIVITIES</p> <p><i>Information and news distribution - Training - Education - Research and Investigation - Production and distribution of publications, educational material, audiovisual and radio phonic - Study, planning and realization of projects and programs - Realization of seminars - meetings and workshops - Management of information services, linguistic mediation, complaints collection - Start up and support of small and micro enterprises - Technical assistance and support of groups and associations - Promotion and participation to campaigns of awareness raising - Responsible Tourism - Support of Fair Trade networks - Advocacy of weak or discriminated groups - Micro credit and microfinance - Support and consultancy on sustainable planning and management of natural resources - Health promotion in countries in the South of the world - Governance and support of decentralization processes.</i></p>
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND FUND RAISING

As for as the **COMUNICATION** is concerned, the major efforts went into the production of **new informative material** (BABEL magazine, thematic video, video and radio documentaries, scientific publications Quaderni COSPE, printed matters) and to **institutional communication** (new brochures, presentation video, pop up, roll up, campaign 5x1000, bags, t-shirts 5x1000, Social Budget), also in the improvement of the **existing tools** like the web site, the "Cospe Flash" newsletter, the Annual Report. A large contribution to the definition of the internal language has come from the process of elaboration of the **Social Budget 2007**, with the definition of the "Sectors of Intervention" and of the five "Priority Themes" on which COSPE wants to focus in the coming years: a real and appropriate guideline for the actions of communication. Also for the **EVENTS**, besides the more institutional ones (Assembly, meetings of the Network of Vico, presentation of the Social Budget 2007), COSPE in 2008 adopted a vulgarization strategy underlining the alliance between commitment and show. Many synergies with artists and cultural associations, among which: **Stefano Bollani** (*tournee Bollani Carioca March- July 2008*), **Ginevra di Marco**, **Festival of Creativity**, Association **Guascone Theatre** (*Utopia del Buongusto (Utopia of goodtaste)*



May-October 2008), Association **Manico** (*concert of Afro-American poetry Amiri Baraka October 2008*), **Festival of the peoples**, "**Circuito Cinema Firenze**" (*preview of the film "Billo il Gran Dakhar"*), Association **Teatro del Sale**, and the **International School of Comics**. Particularly relevant and requiring considerable commitment was the participation at "Terra Futura" 2008. The action of **FUND RAISING** from the private sector, while still in the phases of setting up, managed to procure around 85.000 euro in addition to the funds already raised by the organisation from private donors, testifying to the efficiency of using a wide range of tools. The first actions have been the improvement and integration of the **database** of companies and donors, the personalization of the **acknowledgement** tools for the donors, the integration of the existing activities **presentation** tools, the promotion of the donations through **RID**. The most significant results came from **enterprises**, **private donors** and the **campaign 5x1000**, but also working with associations, businesses, events and campaigns. The project of **COSPE bombonniere** was put in place facilitating experimentation with a new form of communication and visibility, and the potential to increase private donations. At the Festival of Creativity in Florence, the campaign "**+ Donna - Guerre**" (**+Women, - War**) was launched. Among the enterprises that supported COSPE in the course of 2008, it is worth mentioning: **NaturaSi**, **Roma for Music**, **Coop Adriatica**, **Mokaflor**, and the associations Euroforum e Artex. Together with NaturaSi e Mokaflor we are promoting and supporting the campaign "**I Granai del Niger**" (**Cereal Banks for Niger**).

Fabio Laurenzi

Pamela Cioni

Luisa Donati

Jacopo Brian Gazzola

Francesca Baldanzi

Director

Responsible of Communication

Responsible of Event Organization

Responsible of Fund Raising

Private Donors

laurenzi@cospe-fi.it

cioni@cospe-fi.it

donati@cospe-fi.it

gazzola@cospe-fi.it

baldanzi@cospe-fi.it

THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 – 2011

“Change; incidence on the institutional policies; “point of reference”; “centre of excellence”; cross cutting issues; diversification of the partnerships and of the sources of funds”. These the **keywords** of the **participatory exercise** which brought together all the organizational areas from 3 to 5 november 2008 in plenary sessions and working groups, to develop the **strategic plan for the three years 2009 - 2011**.

The strategic plan is not only an exercise for reaffirming the priorities, but a process of articulation that includes also a **comparison with the institutional actors, and the civil society** and a reflection on the major themes of actuality, on partnerships, on the way to implement, today, **cooperation and solidarity**. It is an attempt to put together the diverse **dimensions related to policy-making, institutional incidence, project management, partnerships**, through the promoted actions, exploring in particular the opportunity related to the recent constitution of the “**Vico Network**”.

At the same time another priority for the coming three years is a reflection on the **transnational** and European **partnerships**, the consolidation of “**historical partners**” that in some cases alongside the knowledge of the local contexts, and the political and social roots, have increased their planning experience and the managerial capacity acquired working together, following the same objectives of **sustainable development**.

The priority themes are those defined in the Assembly of 2008: Work, Gender Equity, Food Sovereignty, the Migration, and Children’s and adolescents rights. The identified tools are the **campaigns** of pressure and of information at various levels; the consolidation of the **relationship** with partners including European and local entities; the qualitative participation to working groups, thematic **coordination**, local, regional, national, transnational platforms.

The strategic plan identifies also the **common methodologies** characterized by **participative approach, advocacy** and pressure on intuitions and interest groups; support of grass-roots **democratic processes, empowerment** of disadvantaged people and groups; **networking** and inclusion of diverse experiences. The profound change in the way to manage cooperation, and the increasingly high competition for national and international funding, makes it necessary to use improved **managerial tools**, better adapted to the **professional growth**, to improve the **efficiency** in roles and times management; increase the **number, but above all the quality** of projects and financial resources develop and value the **human capital**, improve the **professionalism, decentrale** functions and activities abroad; consolidate the **administrative capacities**.

The short and long term views include **internal cross-cutting** and **inter-area work**; the **impact** and the **visibility** of the actions; the **funds raising from the private sector**, the search for **local fund** sources; the **transnational projects**; a system of **quality indicators**; the **south- south cooperation**; the major involvement of the **offices abroad** and the **partners** in activities planning, monitoring and evaluation and in the associative life.

THE INTERVENTION SECTORS

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

COSPE does not intervene in emergencies, but sustains long term economic and social development processes in impoverished countries that provide an interdisciplinary approach and the active participation of local partners and of beneficiaries.

INTERCULTURALISM AND RIGHTS OF PLURAL CITIZENSHIP

COSPE realizes programmes for the promotion of the rights of citizens, with particular reference to inclusion of migrants in school, social, and working activities. In parallel it works with projects and initiatives in the field of education to contribute to the intercultural transformation in the society.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

It means the work of collect and transfer information, competencies, and actions to raise awareness on the relationships between the North/South of the world, focusing on public opinion both Italian and European, schools, mass media, and Governmental institutions to ignite change in the behaviour and norms and modify the elements of imbalance between the North and the South.

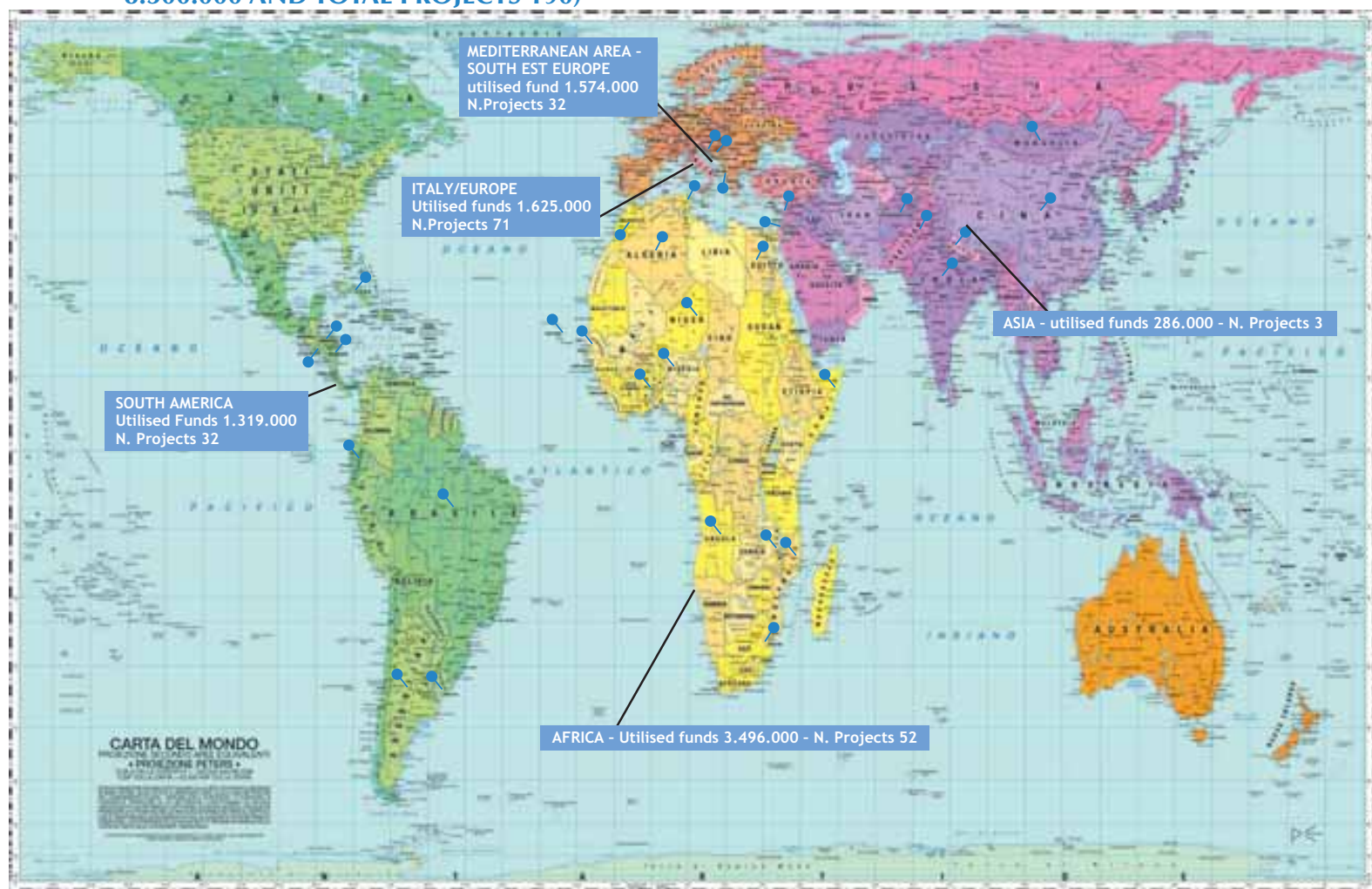
PROJECTS OFFICE PERSONNEL

Director Maria Donata Rinaldi rinaldi@cospe-fi.it
Secretary Sara Malavolti s.malavolti@cospe-fi.it

Area Coordinators	Africa Sub-Sahariana	Alessandra Brunelli	brunelli@cospe-fi.it
	Asia	Maria Omodeo	omodeo@cospe-fi.it
	Mediterranean and South Est Europe	Gianni Gravina	gravina@cospe-fi.it
	Latin America	Fulvio Vincenzo	vicenzo@cospe-fi.it
	Interculturalism and Rights of Infants and Adolescents	Maria Omodeo	omodeo@cospe-fi.it
	Development Education	Pietro Pinto	pinto@cospe-bo.it
	Promotion of the Rights of Citizenship	Anna Meli	meli@cospe-fi.it
	Training	Giancarlo Malavolti	malavolti@cospe-fi.it

For a complete list of projects and desk offices see on the web site www.cospe.org

FUNDS UTILISED IN 2008 AND ON GOING PROJECTS IN 33 COUNTRIES (TOTAL FUNDS 8.300.000 AND TOTAL PROJECTS 190)



COUNTRIES WHERE WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING:

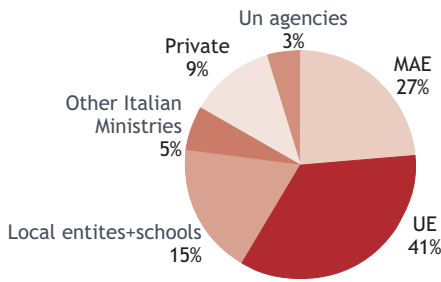
Capo Verde, Senegal, Niger, Ghana, Somalia, Angola, Malawi, Swaziland, Mozambique
Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras, Salvador, Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay
Afghanistan, China, India, Nepal, Mongolia, Pakistan
Albania, Algeria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israele, Morocco, Palestine,
Tunisia, Lebanon

OVERSEAS OFFICES

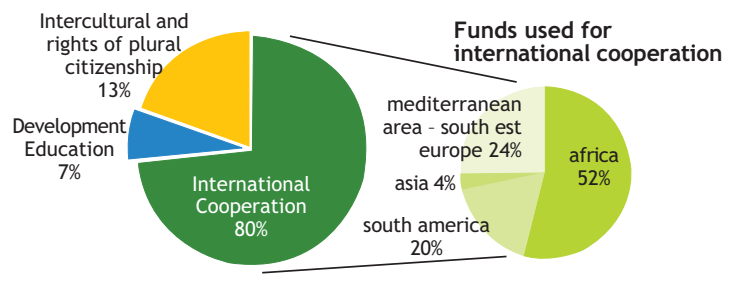
Angola	cospeangola@hotmail.com
Capo Verde	cospefogo@cvtelecom.cv
Ghana	tama.soru@yahoo.it
Malawi	cospengolowindo@mw.celteplus.com
Mozambique	monydep@hotmail.com
Niger	cospe.keita@yahoo.it
Senegal	cospesen@sentoosn
Somalia/ Kenya	boyassin@yahoo.it
Swaziland	coordinator.cospe@realnet.co.sz
Argentina	cospe@arnet.com.ar
Brazil	cospebrasil@gmail.com
Cuba	cospe@enet.cu
Ecuador	cospe@cospe-ecuador.org
Nicaragua	COSPEnica@gmail.com
Uruguay	cospe.montevideo@gmail.com
Albania	gendragruashk@yahoo.com
Croatia	desa@du.tel.hr
Egypt	cospe@cospe-egypt.org
Morocco	cospe@cospemarocco.org
Tunisia	stefano.mason@hotmail.com

		PRESENTED	APPROVED	WAITING	
2008	No. Projects approved	120	50	19	
	COSPE AS LEADING ORGANIZATION	Numbers	55	24	12
		Backer	15.299.344	4.471.782	5.002.632
2007	No. Projects approved	110	63	2	
	COSPE AS LEADING ORGANIZATION	Numbers	66	35	1
		Backer	13.206.488	5.295.516	776.884
2006	No. Projects approved	108	56	1	
	COSPE AS LEADING ORGANIZATION	Numbers	58	33	1
		Backer	19.579.270	11.719.614	77.464
2005	No. Projects approved	75	35	0	
	COSPE AS LEADING ORGANIZATION	Numbers	41	15	0
		Backer	10.062.801	1.509.965	-

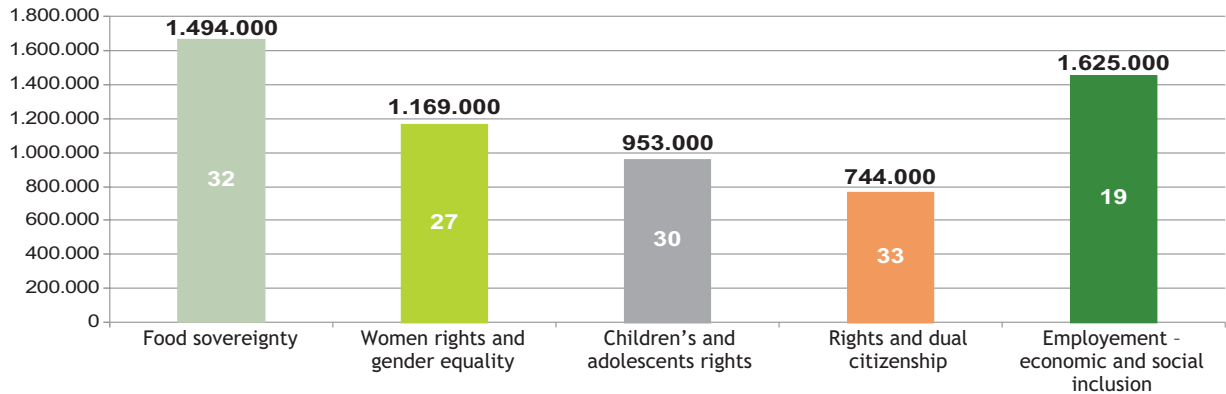
FUNDS RECEIVED TOTAL 6.732.000



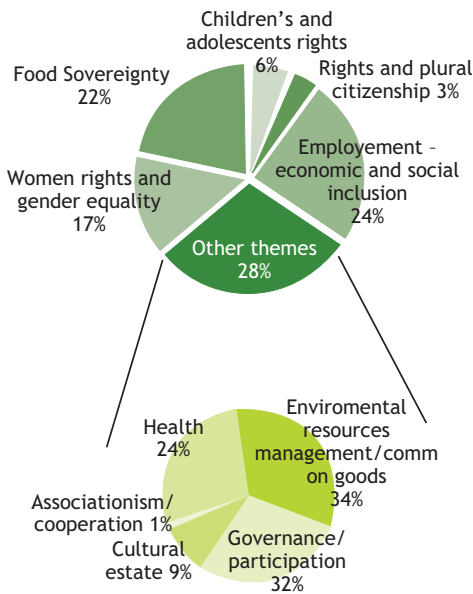
FUNDS DISTRIBUTION ACROSS SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



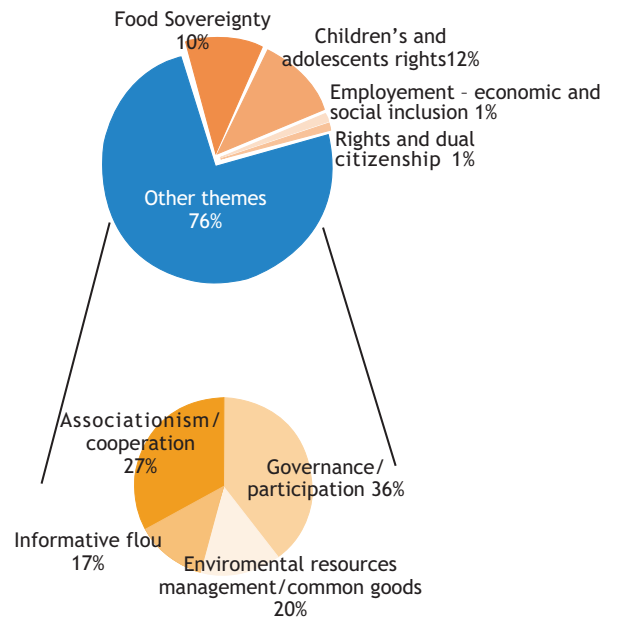
FUNDS DISTRIBUTION ACROSS THE PRIORITY THEMES



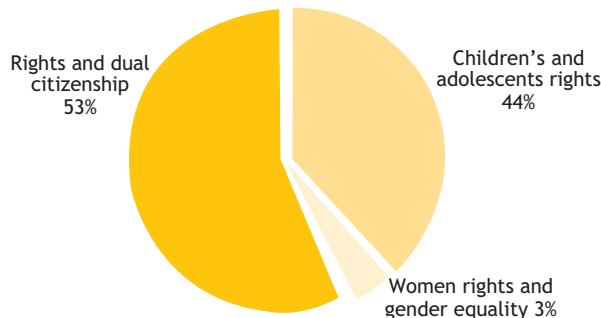
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - PRIORITY THEMES



DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION - PRIORITY THEMES



INTERCULTURAL AND RIGHTS OF PLURAL CITIZENSHIP - PRIORITY THEMES



* Rounded off to thousands funds

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

• AFRICA

In 2008 COSPE reinforced its activities in sub-Saharan Africa, both in terms of projects number and incidence on policies. Namely in Tuscany, COSPE performs a leading role towards institutions and civil society organizations in the three thematic working groups organized by the Region on "AIDS", "Water" e "Local Governance". On the theme of governance COSPE is realising a pilot action in Ghana on solid waste management and the valuing of environmental resources as income generation. At the national level it is responsible for the coordination of the Italian Observatory for Global Action against AIDS, and performs a leading role in the Coordination of the International Struggle Against AIDS. An increased presence has been recorded also in Liguria, with the strengthening of the institutional relationships and the activities in the territory. Finally, COSPE has consolidated its role in the working group on "Senegal" in Emilia Romagna, with a strong presence on the territories and a wide and historical set of institutional relationships with the local entities. In Senegal and Somalia the incidence of policies on the theme of the rights and empowerment of women has grown. The campaigns, "Women, Rights, Work", and "+ Women, - War", were launched this last year to support the group of Somali associations that are united under the Somali Women Agenda, which struggles for the rights of women in Somalia and for the approval of a law against female genital mutilation.

In contrast to the image of Africa as starving, COSPE is committed to the support of local farming systems because they succeed in guarantying conditions of self sufficiency and food sovereignty. The five countries in which we mainly operate in this field are: Senegal, with the project "Filiere Food" funded by 4 Italian Bank Foundations (a strategic intervention financed entirely from the private sector) and with the project on the role of women in the fishing sector realised through FENAGIE (Federation of Fishing); in Niger with the promotion of the family granaries and the recognition of the value of local produce; in Angola, with a project aiming of the protection of the environmental resources and the promotion of agricultural production as an alternative to the cutting of forests; in Capo Verde and in Swaziland, through projects promoting rural tourism and the value of local products, following interventions on the protection and valorization of natural, social and cultural resources.

In the African context, a policy of cooperation centred on the theme of empowerment must be measured against the insufficient representation of NGOs and structured institutions and the weakness of the grass-roots organisations. In this respect COSPEs work favours the construction of local "networks of partnerships" as tools of empowerment and promotion of political actors in the community, organisations, and movements. The construction of local networks in Africa sits alongside the creation of networks in Italy that become references and speakers for the former.

Main Partners:

IIDA, SWEA, SWA - National platform of association of women in Somalia, APAD and the network of women producers and judges in Senegal, ROPPA and national platform of farmers in the food sovereignty in Niger and Senegal, Ghana Wildlife Society in Ghana, COOP, Consorzi Vino, NATURA SI, Comune di Lamon, Comune di Peccioli, Legambiente, Università La Sapienza e Pisa, Anlaids Lombardia, Circolo Alex Langer.

• LATIN AMERICA

During 2008 COSPE consolidated its presence in Latin America, through actions and activities that focused on the cultural sector, sustainable tourism, governance and local development, social economy, and the defence of the rights of children and adolescents, with the ultimate objective of realizing a more equitable, open and democratic society. Participation, involvement of civil society, actions shared with local and international partners: these are the ingredients that define the strategy and the interventions of the organisations.

On the theme of social economy in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, the relationship with the main local partners has generated the regional initiative of the Red del Sur, as a new mean of different social economy actors' representation in Mercosur. To realize economic initiatives that guarantee a major social cohesion and a distribution of a more equitable income (for example, sustainable tourism) the reinforcement of the organisations that operate in the sector of the social economy has been stressed, focusing on technical support to management and policies of recuperated social enterprises and their representatives.

In Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras e Nicaragua, the planned interventions for food sovereignty are rooted on one hand on the support of small producers in the agricultural sector to improve their productive capacity and their access to markets, and on the other on the promotion of sustainable access to irrigation resources for human and agricultural use.

The promotion of the rights of children and adolescents has seen COSPE committed in Brazil to activities concerning education, traditional knowledge, and art, like the "Circo de todo mundo" in Belo Horizonte, and to campaigns of awareness rising. In Italy and in Brazil, focused on the struggle against violence to minors in the coastal metropolis. In Argentina and Cuba, projects funded through the URBAL EC budget line support local efforts in territorial participative planning of local development.

In Cuba, in the framework of Habana Ecopolis consortium project, COSPE intervenes promoting the youth participation in cultural activities and reinforcing their participation in the process of local development.

Main Partners:

Facta, Ferycotra, Consorcio Productivo del Sur, Fecotra, Redesa, Unisol Brasil e FCPU, Hermandad de Honduras, Fondazione Xochil Acatt, IRPAA e SDT PIAUI, Legacoop Bologna, Cooperativa Samarcanda, Associazioni Together to remember Sara e Franco, Consorzio Habana Ecopolis, ICEA, Comune S.Gimignano (SI), Scuola Circo Flic, Universities of Bologna and Firenze.

◦ ASIA

The activities in Asia in 2008 were characterised by projects aimed to sustain the minorities and their patterns of alternative and sustainable development.

A new project in Afghanistan contributed to strengthen local woman associations, promoting women education and training and increase their struggle against fundamentalism. In this field, it is worth to note the positive partnership with the Region of Tuscany, and various local authorities (namely the Council of Florence) and Tuscan associations. The other side of this intervention involve to denounce the international responsibilities in the legitimization of fundamentalism and in the social and political instability that weighs heavily on this country.

In India the project on 12 rural settlements of Tibetan refugees were concluded successfully. The project had the objective of supporting the development of organic agriculture, through the improvement the knowledge and technical competency in the agricultural field, increasing the level of productivity of the land and of family incomes. In parallel in Italy the campaign "Adopt a settlement" was run to support Tibetans in India.

A project of responsible tourism that involves various Italian and Asian operators has favoured the opening of new collaboration and partnerships in Nepal, China and Mongolia. Even here the common guideline followed is valuing cultural identity and the advocating for the rights of minorities, with a cross cutting approach based on environmental protection and gender equity.

The campaign "Everyone at school in the land of Miao" was also pursued, to raise funds for the reconstruction of a school in a village in the Miao minority and support the right to education in the poorest Chinese rural areas.

Main Partner:

Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan - Rawa, Organization for the Promotion of Afghan Women Capabilities, Xiang Yuan You, Mongolian Academy of Science, Mongolian Discovery Network, BIRD, Comune di Firenze, Coordinamento Italiano Sostegno Donne Afgane - CISDA, Arci - Circolo Isolotto, Associna.

◦ MEDITERRANEAN AND SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Facing a widespread image of the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean and of south East Europe as characterized by crisis and conflicts, COSPE deems necessary to commit to the promotion of real process of democratization, fostering dialogue and confrontation amongst people. A great result in this sense in 2008 was the involvement of organizations from civil society of various countries in the Mediterranean area in the framework of collaboration and cross-borders partnerships. Namely COSPE worked on the themes of: responsible tourism, gender policies and woman rights, information, sustainable local development, enterprises social responsibility and rights, urban regeneration and safeguarding of cultural heritage. In Egypt the presence was consolidated thanks also to the approval of new and important projects on the promotion of the rights of refugees and migrants, and the struggle against poverty, social exclusion and environmental degradation. During this year to the support to urban regeneration and cultural heritage in the Medina of Tangier was resumed.

Moreover a transnational project to promote the safeguard cultural heritage in the Oasis of Siwa in Egypt and the Medina of Tangier was approved. Projects focuses on the protection of environmental resources and valorization of local production have been pursued in Tunisia with positive outcomes, while in Algeria COSPE supports initiatives related to the protection of the rights of the young and women. In Albania the work of promotion of the role of women in public politics and local development went ahead, as well as the continuous support to the experiences of the "Intercomunale of Zadrime", an association of small rural communities. In Lebanon the work continues to support its local partners. In Palestine the historical partnership with the Palestinian Youth Union was reinforced, and new project submitted to emergency line of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs allowed COSPE to send an expatriate staff. In Bosnia Herzegovina COSPE pursued the action of reinforcement of the Association Link, which is a tool of promotion of pacification and dialogue involved in labour policies. The same in Croatia, where COSPE was committed to the Adriatic projects, focused on micro enterprise and local development, activating interested partners both institutional (Marche Region) and in the eco tourism sector. COSPE has chosen to invest in Italy on strategic partnerships with local authorities that share political objectives and activities. One of the field of action is the social responsibility where private enterprises are working together with NGOs sharing a common vision and contributing with strategic synergies and competency in all areas. Another theme that has allowed strategic alliances with local Italian authorities regards social policies in a vision of rights of citizens.

Main Partners:

Palestinian Youth Union (PYU), Association Link, Women Centre "Passi Leggeri" of Scutari, Intercomunale della Zadrime- north Albania, Associazione Al Boughaz of Tangier, Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE), Siwa Community Development And Environment Conservation (SCDEC), Community Development Associations (CDA), Tadamon, New vision, News Horizon, Artigiancredito Toscano, Circondario della Val di Cornia, Livorno Province, Casa delle Donne of Pisa, LeMat of Roma, Marche Region, Association Woman.



■ ■ INTERCULTURAL AND RIGHTS OF PLURAL CITIZENSHIP

In this sector the main activities were realised in the areas of **Promotion of the Rights of Citizenship** and **Interculturality** and the **Rights of Children and Adolescents**. The initiatives and the projects implemented cover a local, national and European dimension and are orientated to the raising of public opinion on the themes of racism and discrimination, and the support of the rights of plural citizenship for immigrants and the diffusion of an intercultural approach, through activities that favor social, school and working inclusion for immigrant people.

In particular COSPE is the Italian focal point for the network RAXEN (Network of European Information on Racism and Xenophobia) managing the collection of data and the draft of reports on the situation related to racism and discrimination in Italy. On behalf of local authorities and Public Health Services, at territorial level, in Emilia Romagna and Tuscany, a research was conducted on the social and cultural integration of families of foreign origins, with the aim to help to improve the services offered. On the plan of school inclusion policies of foreign students COSPE has assumed a relevant role, realizing numerous courses for teachers and educational workshops in several tens of schools. COSPE also provided services of linguistic and cultural mediation and pursued the collaboration with Chinese schools for the realization in Florence of a Chinese language school. Moreover COSPE collaborates with the Social Cooperative Tangram that plans and manages intercultural and linguistic services in the education environment.

During 2008, with the worsening of the climate of xenophobia, the active role in the campaigns against discriminatory practices in the local and national context was accentuated by actions relative to intercultural communication and to the media. This has carried the reinforcement of strategic partnerships with antiracist associations at the national and local level, aimed to promote actions of contrast to the racism and to the discrimination through the growth of the qualitative level of information. In this direction goes also the intense survey activity conducted on the media and the representation of the migrant phenomena. A number of pilot actions were performed involving consultation between local media, and operators in the field leading to as an example, the approval of the first protocol of understanding between local authorities and associations of category (Journalists Association - ODG, Press Association, Corecom) to encourage multicultural media and the correct representation of immigration in the media. At the end of 2008 the constitution of the network of Intercultural Media of Emilia Romagna (MIER) was achieved. COSPE was an active promoter of the constitution of the "Osservatorio nazionale della Carta di Roma" - a deontological protocol promoted by the National Italian Press Federation - FNSI, the Journalists Association - OdG and UNHCR.

COSPE has become a focal point of intercultural communication thanks to the management of the portal www.mmc2000.net (selected in 2008 among the 30 best practices on media and cultural diversity in Europe).

During the year COSPE realized various initiatives namely contributing to the organization of the Meeting promoted by the Tuscan Region at San Rossore (in 2008 dedicated to antiracism) and Porto S. Elpidio where it participated at a large seminar for the revision of educational curricula adopting an intercultural and pluri-linguistic approach. Among the events also it is worth mentioning "Secondi a Nessuno" (Second generations and communication) and "Altra Voce" live transmissions open to the public of Bologna. In 2008 a thematic bookshop initiative "Libri in movimento" (Books in movement) has been launched. It organises events and meetings with authors, in collaboration with local entities, schools, publishing houses and territories. For the promotion of themes tied to interculturality COSPE has produced and distributed a series of educational materials that are relevant for schools of every level, starting from pre-primary schools.

Main Partners:

Emilia Romana Region; Tuscany Region, ODG (Journalists Association) FNSI (National Federation of Italian Press), FRA (Fundamental Rights Agency), Cestim, Asgi, Naga, Miramedia, Mediacoop, Associna, G2, Public Health Service - Tuscany Region, Felsimedia, Tangram Social Cooperative, schools.

BOOKS IN MOVEMENT...COSPE editorial offer

COSPE set up in 2008 a new initiatives to promote the distribution of book on themes that originate from the production of the Cospes-Hibiscus Series for the second languages teaching, proposing a selection of texts dedicated to antiracism, interculturalism, and to the rights of citizenship. With publishers such as Sinnos Editrice, "Idest", "Emi", "Babalibri", "E/O", they prepare the stand of the proposed thematic bookshop. These initiatives realise a concrete commitment to the activity of "books in movement" in multiple initiatives at the regional and national level for the diffusion of the missions of COSPE: antiracism, defence of vulnerable people and children at risk, environmental protection, water access - a right for all, desertification, food sovereignty, gender issues, development education, promotion of the rights of citizenship. From the meeting of San Rossore of the Tuscany Region, to the fair trade fairs like 'Solidaria direzione sud' at Lecce, to the seminars held in the Marche Region for the revision of school curricula adopting an intercultural approach, to the XI edition of the theatre programme 'Utopia del Buongusto' that moved through the Tuscan and Ligurian provinces. In this latest manifestation COSPE made available every evening, books on intercultural dialogue related to the topics of the shows in program. Every initiative of COSPE bookshop is supporting the association's projects in Italy and abroad. Among other things it carries our also a function of dissemination of the publications that have originated from the projects and which are distributed for free.



DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

The team working in the organizational areas of Development Education and Training realized several activities networking with Italian and European NGOs, Universities and associations, aimed to disseminate information to activate policies and behaviors for a more equitable and sustainable world, raise public awareness among students, media and institutions on the themes of global citizenship. Besides the continuous collaboration with The School of Peace in the Savena quarter of Bologna, in 2008 was opened the opportunity to work in synergy with the Vico Network comprising 35 associations at national level which adhere with COSPE, to a Manifesto of principles and objectives for the civil society in Italy on information, awareness raising and advocacy. Together with the Vico Network several important initiatives were realized within the campaign on water as a right for all, where relevant results in terms of policy incidence have been achieved: the participation to national and international conferences, the promotion of the Water Caravan in Central America, the inclusion in several municipal statutes of the water as a right for all. In 2008 in the area of the initiatives for Millennium Development Objectives of the United Nations, COSPE pursued to work on the themes of the right to education, the cancellation of debt for impoverished countries, the promotion of fair trade and food sovereignty, namely through activities of awareness raising with the campaign "Italy Africa - Farmers Land". It is however through the projects "Terra di Tutti Film Festival" (a competition for documentaries and cinema from south of the world) and "Milleunavoce" (150 radio programs diffused in 8 Italian regions) that COSPE strongly committed to the fields of social communication and information realizing important partnerships and significant impact, in terms of policy and visibility in the territories. COSPE has also consolidated its commitment to the promotion of responsible tourism which resulted in the creation of a European network (EARTH) in which it has a more active role and in the organisation of responsible tours in countries largely involved in international cooperation.

Concerning the issues of Rights to Education, two seminars were realized (in collaboration with the University of Bologna and within the annual convention of Italian NGOs of Sant'Elpidio) addressed to researchers, students and teachers and that contributed to special November issue of the "Volunteers for Development" magazine entirely realised within the project "Vorrei sapere, vorrei essere" (I would like to know, I would like to be). Moreover thanks to the project "4fondazioni", the bases to continue to develop activities on the issues of co-development were put in place.



Main Partners:

Rete di Vico, Scuola di Pace, and a rich net of relationships with partners and NGOs at the European

TRAINING

COSPE school of training for international cooperation has reached and exceeded in 2008 the quota of 300 matriculations. Since the beginning of its formal activities in 2004 it has brought more than 300 people, with a large prevalence of young women closer to their degree, but with an important presence also of man and women of all ages and all education and work conditions. The demand for certification of attendance to courses and for diplomas on the part of the students has increased over the years. The value of the courses is gaining important recognitions and has brought to the introduction of formal exams, written and oral. The school has contributed to the internal training of COSPE operators and has provided in large part new collaborators at the offices and a significant part of expatriate. Some courses and some teachers of the school have been sourced out to other schools or organisations of decentralised cooperation. Thanks to the definitive recognition by the Region Tuscany as an accredited training entity, obtained in 2007, the courses have been inserted in the EDA (education for adults) catalogue of the Province of Florence, resulting in the opportunity to obtain a training voucher that contributes to the cost of the course for economically disadvantaged persons who could not otherwise attend. The relationship of continuity and quality with the teachers has been consolidated and a package of teaching material for distribution to the students has been defined while for the coming years, books of texts produced by COSPE are being elaborated. The on-line distance learning courses, already included in 2007 on the platform "Sapete" will be soon incremented with the "Budget and Financial Report" course, together with other courses prepared by other COCIS NGO, with which COSPE collaborates for the NGOs staff training.



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