



UNIVERSITY COOPERATION
PROMOTING PEACE
IN THE BALKANS AND THE MIDDLE EAST

2014

BEST PRACTICES

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UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROGRAMME PROMOTING PEACE IN THE BALKANS

INTERNATIONAL MASTER ON "STATE MANAGEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS"

Prof. Massimo Maria Caneva, MD, PHD

SUMMARY: THE UNIVERSITY COOPERATION IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO HELP PROMOTING RECONCILIATION BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE DIVIDED BY CONFLICTS. THIS COOPERATION ALSO BE VIEWED AS AN ESSENTIAL MEANS OF CONTRIBUTING TO INTERCULTURAL AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE. THIS MASTER IN THE BALKANS BEEN A SORT OF LABORATORY AND RATHER USEFUL FOR PROJECTS THAT WOULD SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME LATER ORGANIZE IN ISRAEL, PALESTINE AND LEBANON WHERE SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME IS ORGANIZING TWO OTHER MASTERS PROGRAMMES IN BEIRUT AND JERUSALEM - FROM 2005 UNTIL NOW.

THE FIRST VISIT OF SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME TO SARAJEVO had occurred after the conflict on September 1999, when Prof. M. Caneva and Gen. R. Martinelli, on behalf of the Sapienza University of Rome, had a meeting with the University of Sarajevo Rector, Prof. N. Mulabegović, the Italian Peace Military Force Commander (SFOR) in Sarajevo and the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Amb. J.P. Klein.

Sapienza University of Rome initiated a unique program after the Dayton Peace Accords, which allowed graduates to engage in the Master Program. Upon completing the Master, graduates would stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina and help the process of BiH institutions reforming. For the first time, this project gathered at one place representatives of former belligerents, provided the first post war contact between Sarajevo and Belgrade students and was a kind sort of laboratory and rather useful for projects that would Sapienza of Rome later organize in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon.



AMB.J. P. KLEIN - SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNITED NATIONS IN SARAJEVO



ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN SARAJEVO AND EUFOR FORCE COMANDERS (ITALIAN AND AUSTRIAN) AT THE RECTORATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

The Master Program itself represents a unique example of cooperation among the academic community, Italian Embassies in Sarajevo and Belgrade, Peace Corps, the UN and EU (later). In the Italian system, there is no such program like this one in the Balkans.

FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER THE DAYTON AGREEMENT, the Balkan Rectors' Conference was held in 2000, funded by the DGCS MAE in cooperation with the United Nations and Italian Peace Corps Command in Sarajevo. All Rectors save the University of Belgrade, which was still controlled by then Serbian President S. Milošević, attended that Conference. Preparation activities for the future Master program **"State Management and Humanitarian Affairs"** were the purpose behind holding this Conference.

Organized by Sapienza University of Rome in 2001, the first post-war meeting between Rectors of Sarajevo and Belgrade Universities took place in Sarajevo in the Italian Peace Corps Command: the participants were Prof. Dr. Boris Tihi and Prof. Dr. Marija Bogdanović.

In 2002, Rectors of Sarajevo and Belgrade Universities and "La Sapienza" University of Rome representatives reached agreement to organize the Master program entitled



(LEFT) FIRST RECTORS' SARAJEVO AND BELGRADE MEETING AT THE ITALIAN PEACE FORCES 2001 IN SARAJEVO -
(RIGHT) EUFOR FORCE COMMANDER GEN. CASTAGNOTTO WITH THE FORMER RECTORS OF SARAJEVO AND BELGRADE ON 2010



BELGRADE - UNIVERSITY RECTORS AGREEMENT FOR THE MASTER PROGRAM WITH PROF. BURGIO

“State Management and Humanitarian Affairs”, which represents the first post-war cooperation between the University of Sarajevo and University of Belgrade. Achieved by the virtue of signing of an Academic Cooperation Agreement, the renewal of collaboration between the University of Sarajevo and University of Belgrade that was halted in 1992 is the outcome of this cooperation.

Following the aforementioned agreement and the Master program kick off, the first generation of students was enrolled in the MA program, in which participated students from all BIH Universities and Belgrade students. The last generation was enrolled in 2006 and a total of 105 students enrolled in Sarajevo completed the master program students:

- ▶ **The first generation: 26 students**
- ▶ **The second generation: 21 students**
- ▶ **The third generation: 21 students**
- ▶ **The fourth generation: 18 students**



The fifth generation: 19 students The following professors were coordinators of 7 Sarajevo modules:

1. Prof. Dr. Boris Tihi - Rector, coordinator for the field of Economics
2. Prof. Dr. Slobodan Loga – coordinator for the Health and Environment field
3. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Premec - coordinator for the Methodology of Research field
4. Prof. Dr. Enes Karić - coordinator for the Intercultural Communications field
5. Dr. Žarko Papić - coordinator Humanitarian Affairs - Crisis Management field
6. Prof. Dr. Jadranko Prlić - Coordinator for International Relations field
7. Prof. Dr. Zdravko Grebo - Institutions and Constitution

After the financial assistance provided by Italian Cooperation had been ceased, the University of Sarajevo continued the Master program “State Management and Non-Governmental Organisations” by enrolling in one more generation, while the University of Belgrade continued to implement the program by enrolling in several more generations.

GRADUATES OF THIS MASTER PROGRAM HAVE VERY SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED THEIR CAREERS. Consequently one of students who were enrolled in the program was Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo; one is the current advisor to the BIH Presidency member Mr. Izetbegović. A former Master program student is Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina in New York, whilst former students are working for the OSCE, the UN, the Directorate for European Integration in BIH, and hold many other important functions, which clearly indicates the success of this Master program.



SARAJEVO – (LEFT) MEETING WITH THE MAYOR OF SARAJEVO – (RIGHT) DEPUTY MAYOR HAS BEEN GRADUATE OF THE MASTER PROGRAM WITH PROF. CANEVA

The Master program was being carried out in cooperation with:

- ▶ **The Universities Of South-Eastern Europe**
- ▶ **United Nations**
- ▶ **Sfor - Peace Force in Sarajevo**
- ▶ **Dgcs - Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- ▶ **Italian Ministry of Defence - Difeciv**
- ▶ **Italian Ministry of Education, University And Research**
- ▶ **Italian Embassies in Sarajevo And Belgrade**
- ▶ **Diplomatic Institute - Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Significance of this Master program reflects in establishing of the cooperation process between the University of Sarajevo and the University of East Sarajevo for the first time and its participating in the project. The importance of this Master also reflects in University of East Sarajevo's very first taking part in some international project as a results of efforts invested by its then Rector Prof. Dr. B. Starović.

At the initiative of Sapienza University of Rome, the meeting of BIH Rectors under the title of **"Conference of BIH University Rectors"** was held in Rome, Italy on 16 October 2007, following the Sarajevo Master program's ending.

Acknowledging that the role of scientific cooperation, as expressed by inter-university initiatives, stands for a drive to enhance the peace and economic development in post-war environment in both Bosnia and Herzegovina and in SEEs, the UNESCO BRESCE the proposed strategic actions for Strengthening Research and Higher Education Capacity of BIH and SEE Countries and for promoting Their integration in the European Research Area (Lisbon Strategy 2000):

- ▶ **Promoting joint educational Programmes, mobility of researchers and wide access to European Programmes**
- ▶ **Identifying Priorities for inter-university cooperative actions**
- ▶ **Improving access of BIH Universities to research infrastructures in Italy and to scientific information**
- ▶ **Developing a national e-learning networks in BIH capable to integrate and to strengthen inter-university cooperation effectiveness:**
- ▶ **Developing the BIH and the Italian inter-university cooperation initiative on a Regional basis:**
- ▶ **Defining partners' Roles and Functions**
- ▶ **Implementing an Action Plan for the Development Programme and its final submission:**



SARAJEVO – ITALIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRATTINI WITH THE RECTORS OF BIH AND PROF. CANEVA PRESENTING THE MASTER PROGRAM

According to subject of discussion and reaching of final agreement upon them in Rome, roles and functions were specified for UNESCO BRESHE, Sapienza University of Rome, University of Sarajevo and Marco Polo System. Soon after that, the first Memorandum on Cooperation between BIH University Network and Italian University Network, along with UNESCO BRESHE and Marco Polo System were signed. That event was the very first networking and cooperation of BIH universities and their collaboration with a university network from some country.

UN CONFERENCE RECTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALL WORLD ON 2004 IN UN BUILDING NEW YORK important international event has been the participation of the Rectors of Belgrade and Deputy Rector of University of Sarajevo to UN Rectors' Conference in New York for presentation of university cooperation programmes for peace and democracy in crises areas, promoted by the UNDESA with the Italian Cooperation MAE and Italian Representation to UN in New York and coordinated by Sapienza University of Rome.

The collaboration with Italian universities is rather important. The Magistralis Lecture delivered at the University of Sarajevo on 13 April 2010 by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Franco Frattini during his official visit to BIH is particularly worth of mentioning. In that meeting, the Rector of the University of Sarajevo invited also Prof. Massimo Caneva



THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO PROF. AVDISPAHIC WITH PROF. CANEVA



PALESTINE – ITALY – LEBANON – ISRAEL UNIVERSITIES – SARAJEVO 2012

PROF. DAJANI OF AL QUDS PALESTINE UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM, PROF. CANEVA OF SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME, PROF. GEMAYEL OF LEBANESE UNIVERSITY IN LEBANON AND PROF. MENACHE OF HAIFA UNIVERSITY IN ISRAEL

to participate to the event as academic actor of peace in the BIH for the University Cooperation Programme of Sapienza University of Rome.

The Conference under the title of “University Cooperation Promoting the Peace and Integration in the Balkans” was held in the UNSA Rectorate’s Ceremonial Hall on 22 May 2013. UNSA Rector Prof. Dr. Muharem Avdispahic, H.E. Raimondo de Cardona, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy in Bosnia and Col. Christian Pöckl, General Counsel EUFOR delivered opening speeches and marked the beginning of the Conference.

In his welcome speech, UNSA Rector Prof. Dr. Muharem Avdispahic said that the Conference was focused on strengthening collaboration among the universities as important peace, solidarity and tolerance promoting means to and its contribution to the interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Having emphasized the University of Sarajevo’s achievements in the area of international cooperation, he said that University of Sarajevo had carried out numerous projects with the support of the Republic of Italy and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense. Rector Avdispahic noted, as particularly important, the cooperation among the University of Sarajevo, University of Belgrade and "La Sapienza" University of Rome in founding the Master Program by the name of “State Management and Humanitarian Affairs”. Having expressed his



CONFERENCE - SARAJEVO 22 MAY 2013

“UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROMOTING THE PEACE AND INTEGRATION IN THE BALKANS”

satisfaction for this meeting, as well as many of them to come, Rector Avdispahic expressed the hope Conference would contribute to the cooperation continuing among those three Universities and international organizations that would also be successful as the one that had been established twelve years ago.

E. Raimondo de Cardona, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to BiH in his address said how that organized Conference represented a one of traditions of university cooperation, which was also supported by the Italian Government, and pointed out that Italian authorities and academics since 1999 had been investing their efforts and that during these long years there were indeed memorable moments. "After the fall of the Milosevic regime in Belgrade, a group of about 10-11 Rectors from the region, including the Sarajevo Rector, visited Belgrade and establish a community spirit that had been present here a long before the collapse in 1990s. People who work in the field of culture prove in the best way the fellowship. The culture connects, whilst politics, unfortunately, often divides people" said Ambassador de Cardona and stated that those efforts were invested with the goal of finding areas of collaboration among the Universities. Having emphasized that Italy, like most European countries, is affected by the economic crisis which results in Government's lesser financial capacity, Ambassador de Cardona said: "There isn't any doubt that financial situation is not ideal. Yet, we here are today and will continue to promote the program between University of Sarajevo and "La Sapienza" University of Rome. We continue to support this kind of cooperation. My message is that we, despite all difficulties, are still here. I would use this opportunity to thank the Associazione Nazionale Banche Popolari of Italy for the support they provided for organization of this important Conference and to assure you that Italian Government will continue to provide its support".



SARAJEVO - ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO AND EUFORMAYOR

Within the framework of the Conference, whose holding initiated “La Sapienza” University “La Sapienza” of Rome, the values of the Master Program “State Management and Humanitarian Affairs” were presented as well as experiences of alumni how the aforementioned Master Program helped them in contributing to the development of society and in making of their respective careers. The hope that these presentations by Master Program alumni, professors and coordinators will contribute to the development of future projects, was expressed.

“La Sapienza” University of Rome Professor, Dr. Massimo Maria Caneva said that the goal of the Conference, among other things, was to see where were today students from Bosnia and Herzegovina who had been enrolled at postgraduate studies in Rome. “We were also interested to see are they still working in this or in some other country. We know that one of them was the Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo, which is especially important for us” said Professor Caneva adding that through this Master Study it was attempted to create a way of thinking and actions of students to solve problems peacefully, without conflict. Professor Caneva recalled the attendees of the 2000 when “La Sapienza” University of Rome had invited Rectors of all Balkan Universities at the Conference, but the Rector of the University of Belgrade was not present, since Slobodan Milosevic was still in power. However, today there is cooperation with that University; former Rector of the University of Belgrade, Prof. Dr. Marija Bogdanovic also attended the Conference.

Prof. Dr. Marija Bogdanovic pointed out that the program which Sarajevo and Belgrade graduate students attended at “La Sapienza” University of Rome was very important. “Under this program, our students were able to go to Sarajevo, and students from Sarajevo to go to Belgrade. It was important that they socialize and work together” said Prof. Bogdanovic.



SARAJEVO – INTERVENTION OF PROF. MASSIMO CANEVA - SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME



SARAJEVO - PROF. MARIJA BOGDANOVIC AND PROF. BORIS TIHI

Former UNSA Rector, Prof. Dr. Boris Tihi said that this Conference was also an opportunity to renew the long-initiated collaboration among those three Universities. "We had good cooperation, were exchanging teachers, our postgraduate students spent some time in Rome and this Conference today is a chance to rebuild it all under much better conditions" said Professor Tihi.

Mr. Miroslav Zivanovic, former Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo, attended the Master Program "State Management and Humanitarian Affairs" in 2001. He said the following about his experience: "My generation was the first one in that program. These were exclusively positive experiences, a good chance to get into the field of public administration that use the interdisciplinary approach, which had its segments of legal, economic and humanitarian nature. It is about a great experience where we could see how the system works in Italy and to compare it to something that were our needs in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the time. The best indicator of this program's success is that the entire first generation dealt with and still deals with those matters".



SARAJEVO – FORMER MASTER STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSITIES OF SARAJEVO AND BELGRADE

PEACEKEEPING IN LEBANON THIRD ITALIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION'S MASTER TO UNITE THE COUNTRY

by Sveva Borla

The Italian Development Cooperation, through the University Cooperation's Coordination, has developed a program aimed at promoting the integration of cultures and religions in Lebanon. There are two Lebanese universities involved: the Lebanese State University (LU), a strong expression of Muslim, and the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), Christian Maronite. Both of them see teachers and students working together on important issues for the country's peace processes and development such as international law, economics and environment, water resources and public health, international university cooperation for peace and human rights.

The **Master in Cooperation for Peace and Development**, now in its third year, is sponsored by the Italian Development Cooperation and is coordinated by the **University of Rome La Sapienza**, in collaboration with the **Universities of Pavia and Palermo**. A massive assistance is given also by the military mission of **UNIFIL**, which provides support for all the education activities focused on security and international cooperation issues, in aid of all the activities promoted by the Southern Lebanon University and to the advantage of people.

As **Professor Massimo Caneva** (head of the University Cooperation's Coordination at the General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) says, «in several countries, Italy promotes education initiatives and masters aimed at including young graduates in stability and integration processes. Especially in those



countries which suffer traumatic consequences of internal conflicts we have to bet on young people because they are going to be the main actors of a future dialogue».

Peace, what a valuable asset. Becoming peace promoters means to break down heavy and entrenched barriers that segment our society, especially when these are built for religion reasons. The deep meaning of this Master is embedded in its innovative cultural approach offered to young students: the opportunity to attend a joint training program, to work together and to make true the human sense of being part of the same society, from which no one should feel excluded. An academic course that teaches how to recognize and build peace and solidarity, values which must be protected in a world pervaded by great uncertainty, thus, extremely changeable.

So this Master aims to provide an in-depth expertise in peacekeeping and development issues, in order to train professionals who will be able to fight corruption, to promote social justice and to use the acquired knowledge, making it available to a Nation that needs a wide participation of young people with a genuine sense of belonging to their Country and which may contribute enthusiastically to the reconstruction of the latter.

As one student has said, «well, you have given us the light and showed us the path. Now it is our turn to promise you to take the light and walk down the road not taken».

This initiative is quite unique, due to its multicultural and multidisciplinary approach that allows students with different backgrounds to gain a broader view of the concepts of peace and cooperation.

The partnership with United Nation Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which also saw the deployment of Italian troops, is the added value of the project. As explained by **Major General Paolo Serra**, «for over sixty years, United Nation peace operations have been seeking to achieve one of the most important aspirations set out in the United



Nations charter, namely “to maintain international peace and security”. Peacekeeping operations have proved to be one of the most effective tools in assisting countries in post-conflict reconstruction. The Security Council established UNIFIL in 1978 in order to reach such goal. Nearly six years following the adoption of resolution 1701 (2006), we are witnessing the most peaceful period Southern Lebanon has seen in many years. Much of this is due to UNIFIL’s close collaboration with the Lebanese Armed Force as well as the Government and Lebanese people. The youth of today have an important role to play in this regard. Youth, peace and development are closely interlinked: peace enables development, which is critical in providing opportunities for young people. Healthy and educated youth are, in turn, crucial to peace and sustainable development».

Cooperation between Universities and other civil and military institutions demonstrates the increased value of the initiative fielded by the Master: it becomes an important sign and obvious promotion of a culture of peace in Lebanon; it also attempts to prepare a new generation of men and women able to highlight the importance of the integration and of the synergies between different actors.

Also the **Italian Ambassador in Lebanon, Giuseppe Morabito**, at the opening ceremony of the third edition of the Master for Peace and Development, (Beirut November 12 2012), has emphasized the importance of the commitment of the University in initiatives aimed at preserving peace and stability: «the main reason why this program was conceived for Lebanon is our belief that it is a Country that may represent an excellent example of peace and tolerance in the Middle East, a bridge with the Mediterranean».

Among others, the event has been attended by the Director of the Local Technical Unit of the Italian Cooperation in Lebanon, Guido Benevento, by the Presidents of the LU and USEK, Professor Adnan El Sayed Hussein and Reverend Father Hady Mahfouz and also by students of previous editions of the program.



FROM LEFT REVEREND FATHER HADY MAHFOUZ (USEK), PROFESSOR ADNAN EL SAYED HUSSEIN (LU), ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GIUSEPPE MORABITO (MAE), MAJOR GENERAL PAOLO SERRA (UNIFIL) AND PROFESSOR MASSIMO CANEVA (DGCS)

One of them has so encouraged younger colleagues: *«in a world of social, political and cultural disagreements, few people have the courage to say No! No to the reasons of war, No to the violent solutions, No to the pain caused by human vengeance. Dear Friends and colleagues, by saying Yes today to this opportunity, you will be committing to say No to the world of destruction and face wisely and academically the engineering of conflicts. Your commitment today will make you much more than university students. With your Yes today, you will be able to get a mission, you will have the responsibility to build up a better future for your society. Finally, your are about to become a peacemaker. From now on, the peace of the world is also your responsibility; join us in building a better future».*

Professor Gianni Vaggi (Pro-Rector for International Relations at the University of Pavia) and **Professor Ennio Cardona** (Pro-Rector for Cooperation at the University of Palermo) have given important support to the teaching of the university cooperation program in Lebanon: at the University of Pavia, fostering knowledge in the field of development economics; from the University of Palermo in the field of development cooperation and environmental remediation and promoting the integration of Mediterranean cultures.

Professor Manuel Castello, Academic Coordinator of the Master from the University of Rome La Sapienza, says that it *«promotes long-university cooperation programs in the areas of crisis in favor of peace processes and post-conflict integration, with an important support of the Forces International Peace United Nations, as UNIFIL in Lebanon, UNTSO in Jerusalem and EUFOR, under an EU flag, in Sarajevo. Students become the protagonists of peace, especially through their job placement, after the Master, in state and private structures of the Countries involved. An example: one of our former student is now Vice-Mayor of the city of Sarajevo».*



MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY COORDINATION'S PRO-RECTORS WITH THE MAJOR GENERAL OF UNIFIL PAOLO SERRA.
ALSO IN THIS PHOTO: PROFESSOR ENNIO CARDONA, UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO AND PROFESSOR GIANNI VAGGI.

The Master Programme

The Master in Peace and Development organized by University Cooperation is a relevant opportunity for students and teachers from different universities and research institutes. It offers to all participants an high level of interest thanks to its approach that aims to stimulates the spirit of understanding in research projects.

This Master aims at training "Cooperation Experts" who will be able to work in developing countries to follow the projects in field, moving across multiple sectors (economy, health, society, politics) and in several different organizations (universities, international organizations, ministries).

Each area of specialization is organized to provide Lebanese students an immediate access to a multinational working environment, thanks to the experience and skills offered by this course

The course is divided into 4 parts because of its multidisciplinary approach:

- ▶ from October to March: Basic courses in Lebanon about the main thematic areas: Cultural Heritage and Development, Anthropology and Ethics, Law and Theory of International Politics,
- ▶ Economics and Public Administration, Public Health, Humanitarian Emergencies (30 ECTS)
- ▶ 2 weeks in April: Specialized courses in Italy (Rome, Pavia and Palermo) about scientific topics: Public Health, Humanitarian Emergencies, Anthropology and Ethics of Cooperation, Development Cooperation and Cooperation in the Mediterranean Environment (20 ECTS)
- ▶ from May to October: Internship in Lebanon at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) with intensive courses (20 ECTS).
- ▶ November-December: Preparation of final thesis in Lebanon (20 ECST)



FROM LEFT: PROF. PHILOMENE NASR, DEAN OF FACULTY OF LAW (LU), PROF. HODA NEHME, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF LETTERS AND PHILOSOPHY (USEK) AND PROF. MANUEL CASTELLO, ACADEMIC COORDINATOR OF MASTER OF SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME

UNIVERSITY COOPERATION: EDUCATION AS A TOOL TO ENSURE A FUTURE OF PEACE

by Sveva Borla

The commitment of the Italian Cooperation in the field of training and education goes on, through programs of University Cooperation.

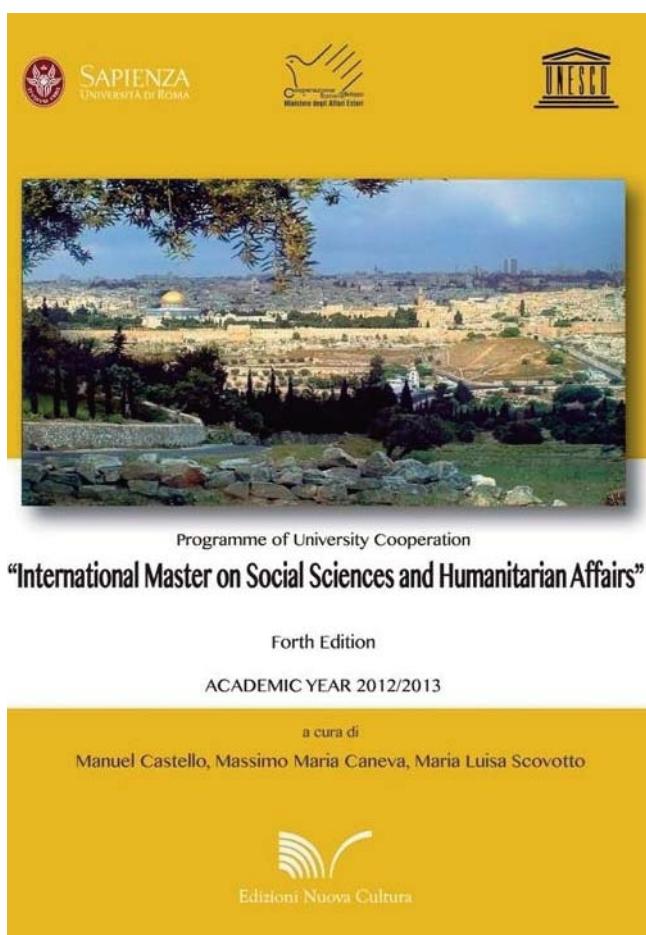
The “International Master’s on Social Sciences and Humanitarian Affairs” is now in its fourth edition. Organized in collaboration with the University of Rome La Sapienza and with the support of UNESCO, the initiative stands out among the major programs aimed at developing and promoting a culture of peace and dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian students.

Actually, we can talk about something that goes beyond a simple course of study: it is a real tool for intercultural exchange, an important brick in building a culture of peace and tolerance.

The Master comes out from the idea that education is essential: such as lime to construct a building, it plays an important role in ensuring future generations the tools

and the proper sense of awareness in order to become forward-looking citizens, solid pillars of the society.

As explained by the Director General for Italian Development Cooperation, **Giampaolo Cantini**, «The concept is very simple: investing in education means investing in peace. Learning, studying,



developing a mental attitude based on critical analysis, getting accustomed to discussion and exchange of ideas while fully respecting other people's views, are crucial steps in building a future of hope and making today's youth the leaders of the fundamental change for tomorrow. What a fascinating challenge, at a time of turmoil, unrest and uncertainty in a region crucial to peace and security. The UNESCO Master's at Sapienza is a cornerstone in the effort to promote education for the sake of mutual understanding and peace. It is a model to be replicated in other countries and diverse cultural contexts in the region. The regional approach is indeed a distinctive feature of Italian university cooperation within the overall framework of Italy's commitment to peace and security».

This commitment continues and improves with time and experience, also due to the achievements of previous editions and the positive feedback of the beneficiaries of the program.

Professor Manuel Castello, academic coordinator of the Master, explains that «The dual aims of the fourth edition of the University Cooperation Programme are, on the one hand, to continue the academic Master with a deep understanding of the most challenging issues relating to social sciences and humanitarian affairs, by using a multicultural and multidisciplinary approach and by providing students with specific periods of specialization in Rome, where they will be trained in Humanitarian Affairs and Crisis Management, International Relations and Conflict Resolution, and Education and Community Development. In Rome they live together and gradually become friends. On the other hand, the second aim is to encourage the students of previous Master's degrees to develop university cooperation through micro common projects on the field in order to offer practical solutions to the needs of both Israeli and Palestinian civil societies».



UNTSO, JERUSALEM, Ms ALVAREZ LAZO, UNESCO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL, WITH PROF. CASTELLO, PROF. CANEVA, THE ITALIAN VICE CONSUL GENERAL AND AN UNTSO OFFICIAL

Due to an intense academic program and to the promotion of joint projects on the field, the fourth edition of the International Master in Social Sciences and Humanitarian Affairs seems to deepen the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the mechanisms that regulate regional institutions, the national and international ones. In this sense, it opens concrete professional means for young Israelis and Palestinians, formed specifically to operate in contexts as public policy and political science, environmental protection, public health, economics and humanitarian affairs.

«To ensure the highest level proposed by the Master, the approach remains the multidisciplinary one, which characterized the earlier editions», emphasizes Professor Massimo Caneva, coordinator of University Cooperation of the General Directorate for Development Cooperation, who, for over ten years closely has been following the different phases of the program, fostering institutional meetings between the presidents of the Israeli and Palestinian universities. Prof. Caneva says: «It is not easy to give continuity to university cooperation programs like these. The renewed crisis, such as the recent conflict in Gaza, have put at risk the collaborative efforts between the parties. As often the Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See in Jerusalem, SE Archbishop Pietro Sambi, used to repeat to me (I still remember him with emotion after meeting him again at the Nunciature in Washington before his death), we have to trust in personal and in small steps of solidarity that are the future of peace in this region. I still remember the look of astonishment by professors of American Universities at the Italian Embassy in Washington, gathered in an Academic Seminar organized by Ambassador Giulio Terzi in November 2010, where we presented the concept of peace. Yes, peace is possible if everyone builds it personally every day with small acts of friendship and understanding of the parties, with a culture of solidarity that puts science at the service of the human being, of every human being who seeks a future of peace. For this reason university cooperation is the new foreign policy of our country, where the university is at the service of society».



EMBASSY OF ITALY IN WASHINGTON. WORKSHOP IN THE ACADEMIC COOPERATION OFFICE FOR PEACE BETWEEN THE ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY COORDINATION COOPERATION OFFICE OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

To date, the above-mentioned Master has contributed to the formation of more than 80 graduates from the Israelis and Palestinians universities, motivating them to study in a spirit of mutual understanding. Each field of specialization is organized in order to prepare students for easy access to any workspace multinational.

Despite the political and social situation in the Palestinian Territories remains alarming, this Master seems to be a gap in the layer of intolerance and hostility that still divides many people.

PROJECT TITLE

University Cooperation Programme "International Master's on Social Sciences and Humanitarian Affairs" (Fourth Edition)

BENEFICIARIES

Graduate students from Israeli and Palestinian Universities, research institutes and Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)

DURATION

1 Academic Year 2012/2013 (Fourth Edition)

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Italian Embassy in Tel Aviv, Italian Consulate General in Jerusalem



**THE RECTOR OF THE ISRAELI HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM WITH THE RECTOR OF THE PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM
WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND PROF CANEVA IN A CONFERENCE IN ROME**

STRUCTURE OF THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME

The Master's will be jointly coordinated by all the participating Universities:

Palestinian universities:

Al Quds University in Jerusalem (the students came also from other cities of Palestine)

Israeli universities:

- 1. Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Bersheeva**
- 2. University of Haifa**
- 3. Hebrew University of Jerusalem**
- 4. Tel Aviv University**

European Union universities:

Sapienza University of Rome



THE CERIMONY OF DELIVER OF THE MASTER DIPLOMA WITH ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN MASTER STUDENTS
RECTORATE - ACADEMIC SENATE OF SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME

“THE NEW CHALLENGES OF THE UNIVERSITY COOPERATION FOR PEACE”

Intervention of Prof. Massimo Caneva, PhD, MD
St. Johns College - University of Oxford – 11 May 2013

Summary: *The intervention will focus on university cooperation as an important tool to help promote reconciliation between young people divided by conflicts (such as in the Middle East and in the Balkans) . This cooperation will also be viewed as an essential means of contributing to intercultural and interfaith dialogue. The presentation will provide an opportunity to present respective experiences in this field, focused in particular on the Middle East and Balkans . There will be considered commitment to fostering reciprocal knowledge and respect, both on a national and on an international level. Therefore to analyze the roles of education and Academic Institutions as crucial tools of public diplomacy in action for young people. Tools which, from each country’s domestic perspective, are also vehicles of integration for an effective management of cultural and religious.*

INTRODUCTION

One of the basic challenges for the XXI Century is international peace and development in the light of the new world balance. Today, there are problems that can only be solved by action at the global level. New strategic thinking is required to approach global issues and advance “global public goods”. Consequently, international communities must become protagonists of a new strategy to intervene in crisis areas and to promote peace, development, a strategy based on realistic and effective foreign common policy.



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Such a strategy must include the collaborative efforts of diplomatic, economic and peace forces actions, while being rooted in the common goal of development of a strong cooperation culture of solidarity capable of understanding local needs and providing quick and efficient solutions that are at once professional and respectful of human dignity.

New problems when addressed with new sensibilities can lead to truly effective solutions. Such a strategy must rely on cultural expertise and include expert knowledge of the theoretical elements of crisis and development management, and the capability to understand the real comprehensive needs of the populations, and their historical and cultural roots in order to give effective answers to them and to promote peace and development even in the first phases of the interventions.

UNIVERSITY COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES

A competent and comprehensive response requires a multidisciplinary approach. In every university cooperation programme for peace it is necessary to take into account that the objective of an action aiming to analyse the situations must take into consideration the cultural context, in order to advance the technical and cultural objectives of the cooperation.

Universities can play a significant role in this new strategy, if they build partnerships with other relevant actors, including international organizations, diplomacy, peace forces and NGOs. Universities should not act as an elite, far removed from real problems and challenges. On the contrary, universities and their faculty should be engaged in the field and share their expertise and knowledge as well as learn from other actors.

The traditional “academic collaboration” is distinct from the “university cooperation for peace and development” understood as a strategy of action aimed to build a more developed and peaceful society. In fact, university cooperation needs to manage and deal with a double problem of independence in order to face the challenges to which it is called: from one side, it has to tackle the problem of research, didactics and operational services naturally built into the academic structure; from the other, it has to deal with the necessity of reconciling technical-scientific interventions, that must be tailored to the real demands of the local populations whose needs become are gradually discovered as the project proceeds.

When we speak about university cooperation we don't refer only to the exchange of lecturers and researchers - which is usually the objective of traditional forms of academic collaboration - although this kind of activity may be very useful. University cooperation implies a more general strategy based on both analysis and action, of training and research in the field, of cooperation among the academy and civil institutions, diplomats and international organizations, volunteers and peace forces, in order to provide support in both the prevention and solution of crisis promoting future development.

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www.uniroma.tv/video.asp?id=18582/http://www.uniroma.tv/?id=19858;

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