



ENVIRONMENT & FOOD: AN ALTERNATIVE TO FORCED MIGRATION

Integrating environmental sustainability with food safety and security

Key idea. An open seminar, at its IV edition, set up to study, in the frame of a participatory method, how to best enhance the environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources. It aims at supporting the international cooperation and specifically the system of the Italian Cooperation in facing the complex framework of strategies and global / national planning, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the agendas for the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement, the Aichi Targets and the respective agenda and national plans. The increase of global phenomena, such as the negative effects of the climate changes due to greenhouse gases, migrations, especially those due to environmental causes, or the so called “eco-mafias” (criminal organizations making business on environment) make this challenge even more arduous.

Date. Rome, May 25th 2018.

Venue. Rome, Piazza Oderico da Pordenone 3, Polo Didattico – Training Center.

Executing Organisation. VIS online, Training Center for Human Development.

Promoters. Massimo Zortea (University of Trento) and the students of the online course “Environment in International Cooperation” 2018 edition.

Beneficiaries. The event is open to whatever practitioners of international cooperation, professionals, PA officers, entrepreneurs, students of the online course, both from present and past editions, other students.

Context. The attention to environment is an essential theme for any type of intervention by international cooperation actors. The **global environmental crisis**, that is nowadays an evident matter of fact even for the greater sceptics, is a leading geopolitical and economic challenge, not only ecological. It's not by chance that the new horizon of the **global security** finds its place not only in a military context but even more clearly in an environmental framework. Also **migration problems** are strongly affected by environmental factors: more and more cooperation researchers and practitioners focus on the existing relations between environmental decay and climate changes, on one hand, and on migration flows, caused also by environmental conflicts, on the other.

In the meantime, the **bi-univocal causal chain** between environmental decay and poverty and between human well-being and environmental quality is evident and universally acknowledged. In order to divert this vicious circle, it is necessary to deeply and crosswise introduce a specific attention to the environmental outlines and impacts, not only in environmental policies and interventions but in all policies and interventions that specifically aim at fighting poverty and creating development. E.g. include attention to and enhancement of the environment even in projects that relate to health, education or productive sectors, and not only in projects that take care of the protected areas or safeguard animal and vegetal species.

Opportunities and Challenges. Will there be prosperity and justice for everyone without a healthy and well-preserved environment? The 2018 edition of the Online Course, like the previous editions, aims to argue the negative response by fostering the culture and the method of Environmental Mainstreaming.

Mainstreaming Approach. The transversal and inter-sectoral integration of environmental protection and environmental opportunities in all development policies and development planning. Moreover, the content of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** is all set with an obvious environmental mainstreaming approach, which is now in the agenda of all international cooperation at every level, global, national, and local. Students were actively confronted with mainstreaming and real projects during the 2018 edition of the course and had the opportunity to interact with several PDO (Planning and Development Offices) officers from Asia, Africa and Latin America, belonging to the world's largest PDO network of the Salesian Family. These are real local development agencies, many of which are also involved in a project for institutional strengthening funded by Europe Aid and promoted by the VIS and DBN, an international NGOs network.

Students worked together within 4 Working Groups and with the support of the Learning Coordination Team consisting of the teacher, the tutor and the focal point.

During the course, students have made progressive exercises in which they worked to develop shared **environmental mainstreaming** proposals for the most diverse territorial realities, starting from the bottom to focus on a useful tool to design and manage development processes inspired by the sense of environmental responsibility.

The aim of the course is also to share the results of this research and experimentation path with several actors of Development Cooperation, both public and private. The tool is an international workshop which has a light structure and is contained in times, but largely participatory.

Results. The Rome event is traditionally concluded with a **final synthesis document** prepared by the online course trainees, containing concrete proposals for implementing environmental mainstreaming in strategies and activities of Development Cooperation. The results of the seminar will be, as usual, transmitted to relevant reference institutions.

Methodology of the workshop. The event lasts just one day. It's structured in 4 thematic panel sessions and dialogues. Experts on development cooperation and environmental protection have been invited to the sessions, but with a pragmatic and results-oriented approach: they are involved as experts in the field and not as formal representatives of the respective institutions of origin. Some presentations are also provided by the online course trainees. Coordination and support roles – Moderator, Rapporteur – are entrusted to online course trainees.

How to participate. The seminar is open to all those are interested in making it and express their availability to iscrizionecorsi@volint.it.

Audience will also be able to follow it online *in streaming* by making request at the same e-mail address.