



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

GESAAF
DIPARTIMENTO DI GESTIONE
DEI SISTEMI AGRARI,
ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI



TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

Presentation on COSPE

MSc in Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development

Maria Donata Rinaldi

COSPE Academy

www.cospe.org

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About COSPE Onlus

COSPE is a private, non profit organization founded in 1983 and working over the past 30 years in 30 countries worldwide to promote change, ensure fair and sustainable development, respect for human rights, peace and justice, together with thousands of women and men in Italy and throughout the world.

PRIORITIES:

- ▶ Women
- ▶ Water and Food
- ▶ Environment and Natural Resources
- ▶ Intercultural Dialogue, Rights and Social Justice

Vision and Mission

VISION

COSPE works to build a world in which diversity is considered a value, a world with many voices, influenced and enriched by confrontation and exchange, where social justice is based on the equal access for everyone to the same rights and opportunities.

MISSION

COSPE works to support dialogue among the people, sustainable and fair development and human rights, to achieve peace and justice.

Values

- ▶ Democracy and Participation
- ▶ Autonomy
- ▶ Transparency
- ▶ Diversity
- ▶ Planning and efficiency
- ▶ Solidarity
- ▶ Efficiency and Quality

autonomy
democracy and participation
solidarity diversity
fairness and transparency
effectiveness and quality of the action
planning and efficiency

Diversity of Work



Associated to



Stakeholders



Domain of works



*Ecological conversion
and transition*



*Gender equality
and democracy*



*Citizen's rights
and plural societies*

COSPE's Footprints



COSPE Projects: A Few Examples

ECUADOR

CACAO CORRECTO

Reinforcement of cocoa and coffee sectors for food sovereignty in Ecuador

We are involved in 5 provinces in the north of Ecuador with a beneficiary population of 3 000 families. Here the way towards food sovereignty depends on the improvement of high quality sectors in which prevail small-scale productions. These sectors are linked to the territory through cultural traditions, climate and environment factors, within agroforests of rich biodiversity, and responding to demands of the organic market. The intervention adopts an integrated approach, which includes agro-ecology, valuation of the biodiversity, participatory management, social and solidarity economy, gender equality.



LEBANON

LEBANON MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Conservation and development of economic opportunities of mountain trails

The rapid development process of infrastructures in Lebanon since the end of the civil war (1990) has often ignored the necessity to preserve natural and environmental resources of the national territory. The Lebanon Mountain Trail (LMT) has lost about 100 km during the last 8 years because of the uncontrolled construction of buildings.

Beyond affecting the living conditions of local populations, this flawed management has seriously deteriorated the beauty of the landscape along the trail, requiring the adoption of corrective measures and reconversion of damaged sections as a priority. The project works with communities, organisations and local authorities to reassert the value of the natural, cultural, and landscape heritage, as well as promoting a sustainable rural tourism capable of providing new opportunities of economic growth for the population.



COSPE Projects: A Few Examples

AFGHANISTAN

VITE PREZIOSE (PRECIOUS LIVES)

Integrated project for getting back Afghan women's dignity

Afghanistan is the most dangerous country in the world for women. Since childhood, women are discriminated against in all social and public environments: access to health, to education, to justice, to economic opportunities, to political representation. In addition, they are subject to physical, psychological and sexual violence. Harming and killing a woman remains an unpunished crime, even in the presence of laws formally condemning such acts.

The project "Vite preziose" enables the activities of the Safe House and of the Women's Centres, structures which two women associations manage in Kabul, as well as a Women's Centre in Herat.

They offer protection and physical, psychological and legal support for Afghan women who are in danger of death, and an adequate training to give tools to women for them to become owners of their own lives.



EUROPE

PARTICIPATION MATTERS

Promote civic and political employment of "mobile" citizens in Europe

Over the last years, the presence in Italy of citizens from other European Union countries has considerably increased, with their number reaching almost one-and-a-half million people today. Although



these flows give way to a significant increase in the number of potential European voters for the European administrative elections, the percentage of voters is in reality very low. Likewise, the number of mobile European citizens presenting themselves as candidates for the local elections, or having a direct involvement in political parties, is very limited. The aim of this project is to favour inclusion, participation in civic and political life of non-Italian European citizens in Italy, to improve their understanding and raise awareness on the political rights derived from European citizenship. As part of the project, several conferences were organised and a guide to elections for European citizens was created (in Italian, Romanian, Polish, and English).

COSPE Projects: A Few Examples

BRAZIL

TERRA DE DIREITOS

Defence and protection of political and civic rights of the Quilombolas, afro-descendant communities in Recôncavo Baiano

Brazil has experienced, recently, an important economic growth that has improved the living conditions of a part of its indigenous populations. This growth, however, has also confirmed the inequalities in the distribution of economic wealth and decision-making power in the country.



Land and natural resources are elements of conflicts in the asymmetry of power, which determine the development model and the occupation of the land. The formation of the Quilombola communities represents an important act of black resistance to the slavery regime, at a time when slavery was legal: the Quilombola community defines itself ancestrally and on the basis of its political actions and organisation, its relation with the earth and territory, its social and cultural practices.

In the Quilombola Bacia and Vale do Iguape territories (Bahia state), where the project is implemented, the communities live in harmony with nature and value their ancestral cultural traditions through the social and solidarity economic model. The project aims to contribute to make effective the political and civic rights of the Quilombolas communities, providing tools for action and capacities to increase their impact and influence on the design of public policies. This is necessary because, still today, the communities have a low human de-

MALI, SENEGAL E NIGER

TERRE ET PAIX

Support for the employment of the young and access to land as conflict-prevention in Senegal

In the Sahel, the youth of rural and peripheral zones are not involved by politics and consequently feel isolated and frustrated. The events of these past few years in Mali and the rebellion in Casamance in Senegal



reflect these feelings. To add to these conflicts, the Sahel is impacted by the migration routes (which increasingly pass through Niger, which has become the southern border of Europe thanks to the recent agreements with the EU), the massive youths' migration towards Europe, and the risk of their 'radicalisation' and enrolment in jihadist groups.

The strongest motivation to join these fundamentalist groups remain economic. Creating an economic alternative is thus a fundamental strategy to prevent conflicts, mass migration and to create peace. Our project also monitors the effects of European agreements on migrants and the dynamics of new migration routes, which will surely lead to new forms of sufferings and rights' violations, especially for the most vulnerable, women and unaccompanied minors.

COSPE Academy

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, HUMAN RIGHTS, GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION, INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE, ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING, PROJECT DESIGN, MONITORING & EVALUATION TECHNIQUES, COMMUNICATION & FUND RAISING, MANAGEMENT OF NON PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

- ▶ Two main Diplomas: **PROJECT OFFICER** and **PROJECT MANAGER**
- ▶ Thematic Focus on Women's Rights, Migrations, Equal Opportunities, Socio-Political Activism, Food Sovereignty, Water Resources management, Land and Water Grabbing
- ▶ Geographical Focus on Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean and Middle East, East Europe
- ▶ Personal Branding & Job Search, Fund raising & Web-marketing, Participatory Action-Research
- ▶ Logical Framework Approach (LFA), Theory of Change (ToC), Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

COSPE Academy

- ▶ Cooperation with Universities in Italy and abroad: Internships – Researches – Thesis
- ▶ **WORK WITH US:**

PROFILES (PROJECT ASSISTANT – PROJECT OFFICER – PROJECT MANAGER)

University Degree

Languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic)

Volunteer Experience (Civil Service, Erasmus, Student Exchanges...)

Previous working experiences abroad and/or in Italy on Local Development/Migration

Motivation – Passion – Flexibility – Availability....

Contacts:

Headquarter:

via Slataper 10, 50134
Firenze
Tel. 0039 055 473556
email info@cospe.org

Other offices:

Emilia-Romagna

Via Lombardia 36, 40139 Bologna
Tel. 0039 051 546600

Liguria

% Legambiente Liguria
Via Caffa 3/5b, 16129 Genova
Tel. 0039 3294878724

Marche

Viale della Vittoria 127, 61121 Pesaro
Tel. 0039 0721 30600

Veneto

Via Citolo da Perugia 35, 35137 Padova
Tel. 0039 3357490329