

## The multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach of the CISAO of the University of Turin for development cooperation

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Established in 2004, the Interdepartmental Centre of Research and Technical - Scientific Cooperation with Africa (CISAO) of the University of Turin was born from the need to group under a single centre the various cultural, scientific and technical competences available in some Departments of the University of Turin. From the very beginning, the departments (that are currently the Departments of: Chemistry; Culture, Politics and Society; Economics and Statistics "S. Cogneetti de Martiis "; Law; Agricultural, Forestry and Food Sciences; Earth Sciences; Veterinary Sciences; Inter-University Department of Sciences, Project and Territorial Policies; Humanities Studies) had as main objective making effective collaboration with African partners in the field of research, education and training, in coherence with the Millennium Development Goals.

This objective is totally included in the internationalization mission of the University of Turin. Specifically, the activities of CISAO aims to support local "capacity building", coordinating and encouraging the meeting not only between the academic and research world, national and international public and private institutions, but also NGOs, the businesses and civil society.

Since 2016 the CISAO has expanded its area of intervention to all Africa, and now it boasts consolidated collaborations in Senegal, Cape Verde, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Chad, Mauritania, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Tunisia on issues concerning the agricultural and food sector, production and animal health, water and renewable energy management, waste management and waste reduction, but also on social, economic and development strategies.

In these specific sectors, the CISAO was one of the main actors for the execution of the decentralized cooperation projects of the Piedmont Region, of the MAECI-AICS calls and of the European Union programs. The education and training activities carried out by the Centre aim to satisfy the growing demand for advanced education, which in many African countries is still insufficient in terms of quantity and quality. This is the case of the project CLICHA (Climate Change in Agriculture) implemented in the ERASMUS+ programme (Key Action 2 - Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices - Capacity Building in Higher Education) that aims to create qualified scientists who will contribute to the development of an environmentally friendly and sustainable agriculture, with a climate change adaptation and mitigation approach. The project activities are being developed by ten Partners from four Countries: Greece, Italy, Latvia and Tunisia.

As part of the third mission of the University of Turin, the CISAO has favored and encouraged the contact between the demand for local development and the offer of specific calls through collaborations with local public bodies, NGOs and companies on training issues, research and sustainable technological innovation. All this involves the dissemination of information to educational institutions and universities, through the organization and participation in conferences, seminars and informative events.

In this case we can cite numerous projects implemented by CISAO as partner of NGOs or public institutions:

- Reduction of agro-pastoral vulnerability and improvement of resilience in Hodh el Chargui (Mauritania), funded in an European Union programme (2015). Leader: Terre Solidali Onlus.
- New technologies and ancient jobs for youth employment in Niger, funded by the Italian Ministry of the Interior - programme on Migrations (2016). Leader: NGO CISV.
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- Innovative creative and future paths for Senegalese and Ivorian youth, funded by the Italian Ministry of the Interior - programme on Migrations (2016). Leader: Piedmont Region.
  - Women empowerment and sustainable agricultural development for achieving food security in South Sudan (WOSA), funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (2016). Leader: VIDES Onlus
  - Support program for social enterprise and migrant initiative in the Saint Louis, Louga and Thiès regions of Senegal - PAISIM, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (2016). Leader: NGO CISV.
  - Integrated Support for the Right to Water, Hygiene and Nutrition in Central Tanzania (SANI), funded by the the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (2016). Leader: NGO LVIA.
  - YOUTH AT THE CENTER: territorial partnerships for policies, services and youth entrepreneurship in Burkina Faso, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (2017). Leader: Piedmont Region.
  - Milk & Honey: two high value-added supply chains as a response to food and economic insecurity in urban and rural areas in Niger, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (2017). Leader: NGO Africa '70.
  - Harmonization of peri-urban dynamics for a participative ecology of communities Sam Notaire, Ndiareme Limamoulaye, Whakhinane LanzatNimzatt and Yeumbeul Nord - ECOPAS, funded by an European Union Programme (2017).
- All these projects strengthen the role of the University of Turin in supporting the production of new scientific knowledge in Africa and their transfer to civil society with a sustainable approach to increase the exchange of technical and scientific knowledge.

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