

NATIONAL PLAN OF ITALY

FOR THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

May 2010



This document contains the Italians best practices on intercultural and interreligious dialogue. It has been written by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Labour and Social Politics; the Ministry of Education, University and Research; the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities.

The presentation of the Italian projects is structured accordingly with the four main fields of action of the Alliance of Civilizations: Youth, Education, Media and Migration. A section on the initiatives launched at international level is also provided.

1. BACKGROUND

The Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) aims at improving understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions. It contributes as well to counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism.

The Alliance was established in 2005 at the initiative of the Governments of Spain and Turkey, under the auspices of the United Nations. In April 2007, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal, as High Representative for the Alliance. The AoC is supported by a Group of Friends – a community of about 100 member countries and international organisations and bodies.

The First Annual Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, held in Madrid in January 2008, adopted a recommendation concerning the draft by the participant States of a National Plan. This document should contain the best practices implemented in the field of intercultural dialogue by each Government, both domestically and at the international level. In particular, the National Plan should contain the projects (planned or already implemented) and all the initiatives promoted by the different branches of the Government, in order to pave the way for the execution of the AoC main goals.

Like many other societies throughout the world, Italian society has undergone significant changes during the last few decades, as a consequence of increased mobility of people across the globe. These on-going transformations are creating a richer and more diverse social fabric, in which different cultures, ethnicities and beliefs continuously interact in a largely peaceful and constructive manner, but not without tensions and misunderstandings.

There is a real danger that the difficulties involved in establishing a peaceful and fruitful coexistence of diverse identities, coupled with exogenous tensions, will fuel stereotypes, intolerance and extremism. Such tendencies, although confined to marginal groups, may eventually degenerate. Thus, no effort should be spared in fostering mutual knowledge among cultures and

faiths both at a national and international level, for ignorance is the essential breeding ground for extremism to thrive.

In this endeavour, Italy draws on a long tradition of liberal and democratic values and institutions; on a unique history of coexistence and dialogue among the peoples and cultures of the Mediterranean. The democratic values enshrined in our constitution are the very foundations of our society and inform the laws of the State as well as social customs and norms.

In Italy, religious freedom is one of the fundamental rights granted by the Constitution and ordinary laws. All citizens are entitled to profess their own religion, any religion, and to celebrate their worship without any restrictions unless they are offensive to the public morality. The Constitution grants to all the religious denomination the rights of assembly and association and it protects all the citizens from any form of discrimination based on religious reasons. In addition, the relationship between the State and the Catholic Church is governed by the Concordat of 1929, revised on 1984. After the revision, it states the principle of secular State but maintained the State support for religious practises (optional teaching of catholic religion at school, civil effects of religious marriage, spiritual assistance for people living in places physically confined, financial support detract from taxes). Moreover, the relationship between the State and other religious Denominations, different from the catholic one, is largely based on bilateral agreements, called "Intese". The Intesa grants to them some of the privileges recognized to the Catholic Church, according to the Constitution and to the national and international legislations on fundamental rights (spiritual assistance to sick people in the hospital and to people in prisons or in the army, recognition of special festivities and religious marriage, etc.). To date, six *Intese* with religious denomination have been approved by law, six more, already signed, are on the process.

2. THE ITALIAN NATIONAL PLAN

The Italian national strategy aims primarily at promoting an effective intercultural and interreligious dialogue in the society. Furthermore, this approach stems from the conviction that no top-down initiative will ever be able to replace action at the level of civil society.

Italy fully subscribes to the principles and objectives underpinning the work

of the Alliance, in the belief that in today's world there is an increasingly pressing need to develop a close and constructive dialogue among cultures. Such a dialogue should be grounded in full respect for human rights, recognised by all to be universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. And it should be encouraged to take place at both the institutional and civil society levels.

In line with the same philosophy of the principle of subsidiarity, where society and diverse local traditions can be taken into account consistently with national and international initiatives, Italy supported the creation by the Alliance of the online Clearing House of best practices. This is proving to be a very effective instrument in pooling different experiences and fostering a continuous exchange of best practices.

3. PROJECTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

• YOUTH AND EDUCATION

"Friends...FEI – Actions for the improvement of the welcome and integration culture"

The project - developed by the Italian Youth Department at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - intends to support the social inclusion of young migrants, paying a particular attention to minors and women, through the introduction of an intercultural perspective in the information and counselling services offered by the Italian Youth Information Centres called "Informagiovani".

Its main objectives may be summarised as follows: a) Improving welcome and care services for migrants; b) Providing young migrants with a clear and complete information on the Italian culture and Constitution; c) Supporting the young migrants' access to the educational and vocational training opportunities and to the legal labour market; d) Promoting the intercultural exchange and dialogue in a level playing field; e) making the "Informagiovani" a touchstone for all young migrants; f) Bringing young people up to be good citizens able to dialogue with people belonging to different cultures, religions and social contexts, respecting them and recognising their values.

The above mentioned objectives will be achieved throughout the following activities: 1) Planning and experimentation of intercultural workshops aiming at empowering the Informagiovani's operators; 2) Collection of good practises on the redefinition of counselling and information services in an intercultural approach; 3) Development of tools and documentations (fliers, country sheets) to support the Informagiovani operators to set up a territorial network for the information and counselling of young migrants; 4) Implementation in the Informagiovani website of the contents of the activities carried out during the project; 5) Production of multimedia material on the project's results; 6) Organisation of national workshops to disseminate the results of the project, the good practises identified especially on the topic of integration and intercultural dialogue.

"Youth Leaders"

The aim of this project – funded by the Italian Youth Department at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - is allowing young Italian and foreign students, and more in general, youth leaders to attend a course at the CISP (Interdisciplinary Centre for the Science for Peace at the University of Pisa) for promoting the intercultural dialogue and stimulating the exchange of experiences among young students coming from different Euro-Mediterranean countries (Italy, Algeria, Egypt, France, Spain and Tunisia).

The formative process of the degree course in Science for Peace aims at providing the necessary knowledge and competences to operate within these areas: a) Mediation and amicably composition of conflicts; b) Cultural and social mediation; c) International cooperation; d) Promotion of peace and of cohabitation in pre- or post-conflict situations (confidence-building, peace-building); e) Third sector and non-profit economy; f) Education to peace, to non-violence and to human development, social and economic.

Moreover the project offers the opportunity to other young Italian and foreign students to visit Italian private companies and Public administrations.

In September 2009 the advanced course in "Culture of peace and sustainability" was held in the University of Pisa. Another course in "Culture of peace and sustainability" will be held in June 2010.

Second Generation-Immigrants

The Italian Youth Department at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers has launched a "Monitoring Project" in the second level schools of some Italian regions. The initiative is aimed at strengthening second generation immigrants' identity through intercultural dialogue. A web site will be created as a tool of information and analysis on immigration as well as a communication platform for subjects belonging to different cultures.

"All the languages of the Sport"

This ongoing project, funded with 500.000 euros, has been launched by the Ministry of Education, University and Research in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior. It is addressed to students of primary and secondary schools in Rome, Milan, Parma, Genoa, Florence, Ancona and Palermo and it involves sport clubs and voluntary associations active in the field of intercultural dialogue. The aim of the project is to promote the sport as a common language, in order to facilitate the interaction of young people through shared rules and values.

Intercultural libraries in schools

The initiative of creating "intercultural library" in the schools started experimentally in the regions of Piemonte and Veneto. The aim is to provide students with bilingual or original language books and documents (also multimedia) written by authors with different cultures and faiths. In order to strengthen mutual understanding and to better know our historical roots, significant space is devoted to experiences of immigrants living in Italy and to testimonials of Italian migration abroad.

National Plan for the teaching of Italian language to recently immigrated students¹

The National Plan, funded with 6 million euros within the general programme called "Open Schools", was created in 2007 by a special commission set up by the Ministry of Education, University and Research ("Observatory for the Integration of Foreign Students and for Interculturalism"). The Plan concretely started in 2009 with the introduction

¹ Foreign students that have joined the Italian school system in the last two years

of over 1500 projects throughout the country and the involvement of more than 3000 teachers. The initiative consists in teaching Italian to recently immigrated students and in intensive learning courses to be held before the school year's start, also through summer camps.

Training for managers of multicultural schools

This training activity, called "How to direct schools in multicultural contexts" is addressed to managers of schools with the highest percentages of foreign students. In Italy there are currently almost 500 schools exceeding the percentage of 50% foreign students.

The purpose of the initiative is to increase the school managers' skills in the promotion of "educational agreements" and arrangements with other schools, local authorities and associations in order to promote integration and to avoid the concentration of foreign students in a small number of schools. Several national meetings and training have been organized since 2007. The next event will take place in September 2010 in Emilia Romagna and it will be attended by about 150 school managers.

MEDIA

"Geco": support for intercultural communication projects promoted by young people

The project aims at promoting the active participation of young second-generation people in local activities in the field of journalism and communication, supporting them with experiences of professional collaboration with journalists of local newspapers. The initiative has been deployed in the Emilia Romagna region and it has involved up to now 60 young immigrants and sons of immigrants, 30 journalists of local newspapers, local authorities, the Association of Journalists, universities, schools of journalism, associations of immigrants, the web site network "Informagiovani", students and people taking part to the public events. The activities organized by "Geco" are: a) meetings between journalists and second generation people, with the participation of associations and informal groups of young people working in the field of communication and media; b) working sessions with the media dedicated to the topic of second-generation people's integration and to the related instruments of communication and self representation; c) two days of meetings and

thematic workshops for the creation of a special television channel and of a radio documentary; d) the creation of a "Regional Protocol" on the intercultural communication between the multicultural media, local mainstream media and institutions aimed at increasing the pluralism in the field of the information on immigration e) paid internships at newspapers offices for young people of second generation.

The most important aspects that emerged from the project were the dynamics and the great potentialities of the group of young people of foreign origin, immigrants and sons of immigrants involved. In particular, the territorial meetings gave the opportunity to a group of young people with various backgrounds and origins to get to know themselves and to confront their thoughts and experiences on the topic of communication. The instruments that have been used were: newspapers, video productions, radio programs and TV, with a prevalence of the web. The methodology of participation and the role of protagonists played by young people were element of particular interest and reflection, which gives encouraging perspectives for the follow up of future activities and, in a larger scale, to push the society in an intercultural direction.

CITIZENSHIP AND INTEGRATION

Charter of Values of Citizenship and Integration

The Charter is a declaration of principles to which citizens as well as new immigrants are free to subscribe. The document allows immigrants to begin a path of integration that eventually leads to citizenship. It was written by a panel of scholars established by the Minister of the Interior after in-depth consultations with representatives of different ethnic and religious communities in Italy.

This initiative responds to the pressing need to explain and set out clearly our constitutional values and apply them to the challenges posed by the social norms and cultural traditions of new immigrants. In its seven chapters, it states the values enshrined in the Constitution and explains how these basic principles inspire national legislation on sensitive topics such as education, family and women's rights.

The document has been translated into eight languages in order to reach the widest possible audience.

Religions' Desks

Following the initiative on "The Inter-religious dialogue as a factor of social cohesion", launched by Italy in 2003 and approved by the Heads of States and Governments of the European Council on December 2003, the Italian Ministry of Interior has promoted since 2004 the creation of "Religions' Desks" in the Prefectures' territories. The aim of the Desks is to facilitate projects that can strengthen a systematic dialogue between public institutions and cultural communities, on the assumption that social stability largely depends on peaceful cohabitation of different religions.

In this context, a particularly positive example is represented by the Padova's Desk, where representatives of the Municipality, the Province, the University, as well as of the religious communities of the territory (Catholic, Evangelical, Methodist, Orthodox, Jewish, Baha'i and Islamic) have undertaken many initiatives. Among them, there has been the publication entitled "Interreligious dialogue and universal values", inspired by the above mentioned "Charter of Values of Citizenship and Integration". The document contains a collection of national and international declarations on human rights, as well as a description of the religious communities living in the territory and participating at the Desk's work.

The Italian Committee for Islam

The "Italian Committee for Islam" is an advisory body, made up of 19 members, established by the Ministry of Interior in February 2010.

The prominent figures invited to join the Committee have different nationalities, are experts of religions and Islamic world and are well integrated into the Italian society. Selected members of the Committee include representatives of Islamic organizations and communities, academics teaching Muslim law, Islamic culture, ecclesiastical law as well as journalists and writers who are experts in this matter.

As set forth in the decree on its establishment, the Committee is charged with providing elements on immigration-related issues, by drawing special attention to integration and exercise of civil rights. In order to achieve this purpose, the Committee expresses opinions and proposals on specific issues indicated by the Minister, with the aim to improve cohesion, shared values and rights, in compliance with the Italian Constitution and laws.

The "Dosta Campaign"

The Italian National Office against Racial Discrimination (UNAR)² is carrying out the "Dosta Campaign", an initiative promoted by the Council of Europe aimed at fighting prejudices and stereotypes against Rom and Sinti. The initiative has already been introduced in six eastern European countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovenia.

The "Dosta Campaign" involves journalists, teachers of primary and secondary schools, students, businessmen, decision makers and representatives of local institutions and services. It is addressed to a larger public at national level, but it includes also events targeted at groups related to local realities.

This initiative will include: the launch of a web program for promoting Roma and Sinti culture, art and music on the social network "MySpace"; the spread of traditional music on local radio stations; the airing, in cooperation with "Rai Educational", of the documentary "Me, my Roma family and Woody Allen" by the director Laura Halilovic. The Campaign will also provide itinerant events, such as concerts and photo exhibitions, aimed at promoting a better knowledge of Roma artistic and cultural expressions and also at increasing local institutions' awareness on the main problems faced by Roma in work-access, health services, housing-policies.

Seminars and sports events are also planned, while a particular attention to schools and media will be paid through two specific initiative: "Roma Friends" and a journalistic award.

The competition "Roma Friends", opened to students of every class and grade, will evaluate documentaries, videos, photos, compositions and poems devoted to the fight of stereotypes and discriminations against Roma people. As far as the media sector is concerned, a national award for professional and trainee journalists will be launched in order to promote a better knowledge and appreciation of Roma communities living in Italy. Moreover, a training programme, realized in cooperation with the Italian National Press Federation and with the Italian Order of Journalists, will give the chance to improve the knowledge on this theme through lectures and workshops by international journalists and experts.

In order to discuss and to share its policies, with particular regard to the

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² In the implementation of the UE Council Directive 2000/43/CE ("Implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin"), the Department for Equal Opportunity at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers created the "UNAR" as a special Office charged with combating racial discrimination.

above mentioned campaign, the UNAR has set up a technical panel for a permanent coordination with the associations of Roma and Sinti. The aim is to outline the profile of the campaign by gathering ideas, projects and initiatives to be organised throughout the country.

The first activities of the campaign, funded with a budget of 200,000 Euros, started in April 2010.

"A home for everyone"

A "home for everyone" is an example of associated self-build initiative deployed in the period 2001-2011 in three different municipalities of the Umbria region (Perugia, Terni, Marsciano). The project supports the right to have a dignified accommodation for both Italian and immigrant families, creating the conditions for a good integration and peaceful cohabitation by promoting the sense of belonging to a single, intercultural community. The specific objective is to support the assignment of 97 new flats to families with difficult economic conditions. 58 of these families come from different foreign countries: Albania, Algeria, Benin, Brazil, Cameroun, Colombia, Congo, Ivory Coast, India, Morocco, Romania, Peru, Dominican Republic, Tunisia. The project was financed with 150,000 euros provided by the Umbria region, credit institutions and the Municipalities of Perugia, Terni and Marsciano. On the basis of the successful experience in Umbria, a second project of self-build is ongoing in two municipalities in the southern region of Campania.

The Week of the Islamic Culture

The city of Rome, in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will organize in 2010, at the end of the Ramadam period, the Week of the Islamic Culture. The aim of the initiative, as announced by the Mayor of Rome on the 8th of September 2009 during his visit to the "Grande Moschea" in Rome, is to better know the Islamic culture and to promote the mutual respect between Christians and Muslims. Hopefully the organization of the Week of the Islamic Culture will take place every year and during the event a twinning between Rome and the Islamic capital designated by the Arab League (Nouakchott in 2011) will be announced.

4. PROJECTS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

CITY DIPLOMACY

Under the auspices of the Alliance of Civilizations, Italy organized on 19-20 October 2009 in Reggio Calabria the first "Meeting of the Mediterranean Coastal Cities". Because of its history and the deep-rooted ties with the countries of the southern shore in the Mediterranean, a crossroads of diverse cultures and religions, Italy has responded immediately to the request of President Sampaio with an initiative aimed at involving the cities. The event of Reggio Calabria, co-chaired by the Mayor of the host city and the Mayor of Rabat, represented a significant example of "city-to-city cooperation" or "city diplomacy", providing an important tool for creating dialogue and peace among divided societies. In the Final Declaration, the mayors reaffirmed their commitment to promoting intercultural dialogue and cooperation in Mediterranean region by promoting the respect of cultural diversities as well as by eradicating cultural prejudices.

During the Conference the idea of a second edition in 2010 has also been launched.

INTER-ETHNIC CITIES

On 28 September 2009 Italy put forth - in cooperation with the AoC, the IOM and Canada – an event devoted to "The interethnic city: management and policies for a better integration of migrants". The event focused on urbanization and migration, with the central challenge of "how to reshape cities so as to foster integration". The assumption of the initiative was that large cities currently represent the major arena for challenges such as the peaceful coexistence of different ethnic communities and the management of religious and cultural diversity. The participants (representatives of governments, international organizations, municipal authorities and academics) discussed the results of research, best practices and experiences in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue at municipal level. They also explored new possible forms of cooperation that can foster the integration, in line with the idea of creating an "AoC Model City".

The initiative on the Inter-ethnic cities will have an important follow-up on the occasion of the World Conference on the "The crisis of the city" that will take place on November 2010 in Turin. The Conference will be organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with national and international partners. The participants will discuss ideas for the creation of an urban network able to adapt services and activities to social changes and, particularly, to the confrontation of different ethnic communities. This would foster the dialogue, the common growth and the peaceful coexistence while respecting diversity. In view of the Conference, several working groups have been established in the universities of the main Italian cities. They have been charged of preparing a contribution to the debate on the crisis of the cities and on the possible solutions for an "ideal inter-ethnic city".

SEMINAR ON RELIGION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Italian Institute of International Politics (ISPI) and the Province of Trento, organized on 22-23 October 2009 in Trento a seminar on "Religion and International Relations: opportunities and challenges". The main issues addressed by academics, representatives of the Italian institutions and civil society were: the role of religions in international relations theory; the possible function of religion in conflicts prevention and resolution. In particular, participants agreed on the fact that the interreligious dialogue can further the creation of a global civil society, contributing to peace and security worldwide.

The second edition of the International Seminar on Religions and International Relations will take place in Trento on October 13th - 14th 2010, within the framework of the "Religion Today" Film Festival. The event this year will focus on "Religion and global governance" and will deal with two main themes, to be discussed during two different sessions: the relationship between religions and global public goods; the relationship between religions and human security.

During a third session, open to the public, a small selection of short movies of the Festival will be presented. The films will be chosen on the basis of their relevance to the subjects dealt with in the first two sessions.

CONFERENCE ON "RELIGIONS, CULTURES AND HUMAN RIGHTS"

The Conference was held in Rome, on 12-13 May, 2010, at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The conference was promoted by Religions for Peace/Italy, Amnesty International/Italy, ASUS (Human and Social Sciences Academy), ISPI (Institute for International Politics Studies), AJC (American Jewish Committee) / Italian representation, Islamic Cultural Centre of Italy, "Italians for Darfour", Tiber Institute, Jurist Women Association, Italian Women of Faith, D.I.A.L.O.G.U.E. association, "CasaAfrica" association, Glocalforum/Italy, in cooperation with the Policy Planning Unit of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The goal of the conference is twofold. On the one hand, it aims at fostering a multidisciplinary reflection on "Human Rights" from an historical, philosophical, anthropological and legal point of view, in order to develop a deeper understanding with regard to human rights assumptions and applicability towards different cultures. On the other hand, it provides the audience with the opportunity to listen to testimonies on critical violations of human rights and to proposals for possible solutions. The first session (May, 12) is devoted to a philosophical and legal introduction, with specific focus on the links between religions and: cultures, atheism, secularization, human rights and jurisprudence.

The second session (May, 13) provides a more centred outlook on the relations between religions and human rights. Speakers deal with the views of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity with regard to Human Rights.

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The Mediterranean region is a priority for Italy also from the point of view of AoC activities. For the next period, Italy intends to focus on the strategic and sensitive issue of "human rights and intercultural dialogue " (including its interreligious elements) through well known institutions of the civil society and academy. The overall objective is to establish a Summer School specifically dedicated to this item involving scholars, public Authorities at every level, students and representatives of communities. A group of professors led by the Teramo University will work on the project.

The sub-item "minority rights and migrant rights" will be developed by Comunità di Sant'Egidio both in connection with the Summer School and

through a series of conferences and seminars already well established and known in the international community, such as the coming meeting in Barcelona on "Peoples and Religions", or events on Christians and Muslims in the Middle East. All the relevant religious communities of the region such as the Italian Jewish Community will be involved.

The impact of migrations and movement of people in the Mediterranean on cultural values, society and environment will be dealt with as well. To this end Italy will host a meeting in 2010 or 2011of the Mediterranean Committee of the International Geographic Union, in order to promote scientific contributions to the subject.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will promote the establishment of an informal Working Group for the Mediterranean on AoC, with the aim of ensuring exchange of information and planning of projects focused on intercultural dialogue in the region, thus bringing together the non-governmental actors. City diplomacy will be also included in this frame.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN MONZA

Since 2009, the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities has promoted an International Forum in Monza with the aim to underline that culture is at the basis of development and social cohesion. The Italian government is deeply committed in increasing the knowledge, the protection and the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

"The International Forum on Culture and the Cultural Industries" has been organized by the Republic of Italy represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, the Region of Lombardia and the City of Monza. All these institutions are committed in their respective capacities and responsibilities to the recognition of the role played by culture in national and local development policies and strategies, on the assumption that cultural diversity represents a source of exchange, innovation and creativity that should be recognized and protected for the benefit of present and future generations. The Forum has been organized in cooperation with the UNESCO. The issues addressed during the last meeting were art crafts, fashion and design (24-26 September 2009). The speakers that took part in the discussion were: Koïchiro Matsuura (Director General, UNESCO); Françoise Rivière (Assistant Director General for Culture,

UNESCO); Roberto Formigoni (President, Region of Lombardia); Massimo Zanello (Regional Minister for Culture, Identity and Autonomy, Region of Lombardia); Sandro Bondi (Minister for Cultural Heritage and Activities); (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Italy); Alfredo Mantica Franco Frattini (Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Italy); Thomas A. Aageson (Executive Director, Museum of New Mexico); Sara Abera (Designer and General Manager, Muya); Alberto Abruzzese (Professor, IULM University of Milan); Mona S. Almunajjed (Senior Adviser, Ideation Center, Booz & Company); Cheick Diallo (Designer); Aissa Dione (Textile Artist, Senegal); Cecilia Duque-Duque (Former Director, Artesanías de Colombia); Marcella Echevarria (Director of SURevolution); Cándida Fernández de Calderón (Director of Banamex); Giuseppe Guzzetti (Presidente, Fondazione Cariplo); Usha Krishna (President, World Crafts Council); Emilienne Limon de Leon (Executive Director, Semillas); Eber Lopez Ferreira (Executive Director, Coexis); Emma Marcegaglia (President, Confindustria); Piergaetano Marchetti (Presidente, RCS Media Group); Milia Maroun (Designer); Anne McCreath (President and founder of the Festival for African Fashion and Arts); David O'Connor (President, Aid-to-Artisans); Tony Pigott (Cofounder of BrandAid); Elisabeth Ponsolle Des Portes (Déléguée générale, Comité Colbert); Shri Pradyumna Vyas (Director National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad); Giovanni Puglisi (Chairman of the Italian National Committee for UNESCO); Jonas Riddestrale (Visiting Professor at Ashridge Business School, UK); Gianni Riotta (Editor, Il Sole 24 Ore); Agatha Ruiz de la Prada (Fashion Designer); Severino Salvemini (Bocconi University, Milan); Vandana Shiva (Founder of Navdanya); Fons Trompennars (Founder and Director, Trompeenars Hampden-Turner); Wang Xiaoming (President of Shenzhen Creative Culture Center); Rebecca Wurzburger (Deputy Mayor of Santa Fe, New Mexico).

The next edition of the meeting will be devoted to the issue "Publishing industries with particular regard to the digital culture".