

# *Annual Report*



# Introduction

With the publication of its own annual report, COSV intends to give a concrete follow-up to the „Charter of Accountability“, signed in 2013 with the other NGOs belonging to Link2007.

Accuracy and transparency, with reference both to the management of resources and to the communication of the results achieved by projects, are undertaken by the NGOs participating in Link 2007 – Cooperation in Network, as fundamental elements of their identity, their culture and their strategic vision. Publicly accounting for our management, the activities carried out, the methodologies used and the results achieved, becomes a non-formal obligation that we feel we must comply with.

Communicating international cooperation in an authentic way is a commitment that COSV will not shirk, especially during this long period of serious crisis, where conveying positive features is even more necessary. Who has had the opportunity to follow the evolution of Italian non-governmental cooperation knows the merits of a history made of people, commitment, continuous corrections and errors, successes and motivation; but also the limits of sometimes marginal experiences, unknown to a wider audience.

It is said that media don't talk about the problems of the world and NGOs are not able to tell what they do; this also ends up being a superficial statement, the result more of a complaining habit than an objective assessment. If anything, the problem is the quality of communication, yet rough, tied to stereotypes and to the belief (now consolidated) that hard topics need to be romanticized to make the audience, depicted as unprepared and distracted, able to digest them.

Publishing an annual report then means – among other things – to try to tell, clearly and without waivers, the most significant aspects of a working methodology, highlighting reasons and purposes behind actions. Once having decided to prepare our Annual Report, we clearly defined certain criteria: a comprehensive, but concise and accessible document; able to reflect our achievements over a year full of commitments and activities; to allow all readers – even those who do not know us – to understand what we do, why, how and with what prospects. Finally, we would like it to be interesting also to other actors and stakeholders working in development cooperation.

We tried to avoid a self-referential document, in order to describe the cooperation in which we believe. Our approach is not necessarily the best or the right one, but it's the result of a constant confrontation with the reality and the experiences that we have dealt with. It's a cooperation that gives rise to methodologies of intervention, not thought the endorsing of theories but verifying practices, that result from a constant attention to experiences. In this process we are not alone: the relations with our partners, from the South and the North, is increasingly significant and important to define our cooperation strategy.

While choosing the tool to publish our 2013 Annual Report, we decide on an friendly and easy to share product that we wish could meet the objectives that we have set.

## BACKGROUND

The economic and financial crisis that continues to affect Italy and Europe is not facilitating investments in international cooperation. Even the UN agencies, that until 2012 seemed fairly able to keep their commitments, are now a source of concern for NGOs, because of the unacceptably long time in the payment of installments agreed upon in the contracts signed with them.

The organizations that deal with international cooperation persist in wanting to remind, not only to the Government and Parliament, but to each institution, that international cooperation is not the „charity fund“ of a country, but rather a crucial element of civilization: it's the essential basis for building coexistence and well-being, in respect of the dignity and rights of every human being.

In times of economic crisis, politics that invests in social and international cooperation decisively contributes to address social problems, both nationally and internationally. The cuts to cooperation, conversely, increase problems and tensions, resulting in higher costs.

In our country, in particular, the amount of allocated funds was systematically cut off, with serious damage not only to the initiation of new projects, but also for the continuation of ongoing activities and for the international obligations Italy would be required to.

After the end of Monti Government (April 2013), the Ministry for International Cooperation has not been reconfirmed. Development cooperation returned to the ranks of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, appointed to a Deputy Minister (Mr Lapo Pistelli), an important point of coordination for all matters of policy and strategy of the Italian Cooperation.

After not accepting new projects throughout 2012 due to the inconsistency of funds, a long period of meetings between representatives of NGOs and the DGCS (Directorate General for Development Cooperation) has begun to define new procedures for the approval and management of projects. COSV has represented LINK2007 NGOs in the procedures table.

The new procedural system cannot be said to be definitive, but it's a step forward in clarifying the relationships with the DGDC. In June of 2013 the first call for the allocation of the promoted projects was launched and a project in Mozambique has been assigned to COSV. At European level, the impact of economic hardship can be now drastically felt. The competition among actors who have access to European funding makes it difficult to assert ones strengths. In this context it is important to explore new possibilities and new lines of funding defined within the European Commission.

With regard to local institutions, it is necessary to emphasize the drastic change of the position of the Lombardy Region: the office in charge of cooperation was practically dismantled and after the establishment of the new council, the entire international regional policy has suffered heavy setbacks. Regione Lombardia has no longer a fund for international cooperation, but participate in joint calls with Fondazione Cariplo (who is the leader) and the Municipality of Milan.

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# About COSV

COSV is a non-profit association with legal personality, established in 1968, which operates in international cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Since 1972, COSV has the recognition by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs both for designing and implementing projects and programs of cooperation, and for training and realizing development education and awareness-raising activities.

Starting in the '80s, COSV works with the main UN agencies and numerous offices and funding of the European Commission. According to the Italian law, it is also a non-profit association of social utility (ONLUS) and it regularly collaborates with other Public Bodies and Local Authorities that support and complement its projects with initiatives of decentralized cooperation.

COSV is independent from other organizations, political parties, governments or the state apparatus and it operates in accordance with the purposes of solidarity, in respect with fundamental human rights, developing partnerships and local realities, as expressed in the statute, and rejecting those behaviors that compromise its decision-making autonomy, not properly representing the reality of projects and countries or disrespectful toward the dignity of people.

In addition to operating in accordance with its statutes, COSV implements its activities, in all areas of competence, in compliance with the principles of its [Code of Conduct](#); the [Ethics Chart of the association of the Italian NGOs](#), the [Chart of the European NGOs](#) (Elewitt chart) and the [Code of Conduct of the International Red](#)

[Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#) for NGOs in Disaster Relief.

As requested by donors, COSV collaborates to audits and controls. The annual balance is moreover certified by an external auditor.

COSV adheres to numerous networks (being often amongst the promoters) that link actors and subjects different for identity and purpose. We are convinced that forms of aggregation and collaboration, that allow to share skills and competencies, are essential to improve the quality of cooperation initiatives and to address the complex problems posed by the needs of partners and beneficiaries.

In particular, COSV adheres to Link2007 – Cooperation in Network





## MISSION

**COSV intervenes on issues of peace, for the defense of the environment and basic human rights (life, health, justice ...) and for social, equitable, sustainable and economic development.**

**The approach applied in the projects aims at:**

**Promoting lasting and sustainable local development, rather than give answers in emergency situations.**

**Supporting local partners (public or private) and create multi-stakeholder networks, with collaboration and trust.**

**Encouraging the participation of the local population towards goals of peace and dialogue, in respect of people's rights.**

**Improving the living conditions of vulnerable groups. Enhancing local skills and cultures, while respecting the political, cultural and religious dialogue.**

**Creating the conditions for a responsible sustainability of the Action by the local community, once the external project is completed.**

# VALUES AND IDENTITY

## AUTONOMY AND NETWORK

COSV belongs to itself, it is not tied to political parties or groups of interest and works in partnership with several national and international networks and coordination.

We address the problems arising from poverty adopting a “culture of cooperation”, understood as solidarity among peoples and fight against the mechanisms that create inequality. We defend the right of every person to a decent life. We shy away from the idea that cooperation is “charity” bestowed by the richest to the poorest, our vision of development goes “beyond the gift.”

## COOPERATION, NOT CHARITY

## NEITHER “RAMBO” NOR “MARTYRS”

But “normal” people. Solid in their motivations and constantly focusing on developing the necessary skills and improving their professionalism.

In countries under emergency conditions, and often plagued by conflicts between parties with opposing interests, our role is to be a “third party.” We are on the side of civil society and its values, which we represent and interpret even with Italian and European institutions.

## THIRD PARTY





# Strategy

In 2013, the context in which COSV operates has not undergone any specific enhancement, but it continues to suffer the effects of a deep world crisis. In addition, the international scene is experiencing such a serious and continuous turmoil that it's very difficult to draft a medium to long term forecast. For this reason, COSV has continued in searching for a strategy that would have to deal with an expected worsening of the political and economic situation in general, with the progressive disinterest of the political forces towards international development cooperation and with a substantial reduction of both private and public financial resources to be allocated to international solidarity.

A fortiori, in this context, COSV has participated during the year to those instances that favor collective analysis able to produce new types of intervention in support of its local partners, more and more often victims of poverty, injustice, wars and environmental degradation.

In particular, we try to always take into account our role in Italy, within general or thematic networks and tables, in order

to increase the incidence of Italian NGOs at the local, national and international levels. Participating to the many collective has certainly been a huge undertaking, with strong political overtones, but at the same time allowed the association a favored position to read well in advance the ongoing changes, providing therefore the possibility of in progress adjustments – even at operating level .

In particular this applies to the active and proactive participation to Link2007, the Middle East and the Mediterranean NGOs Platform, the Somalia Table and the DGCS Procedures Table. In addition to this active participation, being available to cover institutional roles, COSV has maintained a regular relationship with institutions, with particular reference to the Vice-Minister with responsibility for international cooperation and the DGCS (Directorate-General for development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Italian and European Parliamentarians.

# WHAT NEXT?

Looking at the past decades, we understand the failure of repeated „decades for development“, to the serious delay in the achievement of many of the „millennium goals“. Why? The causes are multiple. But in our opinion there is one to highlight: the lack of vision and overall consistency in policy decisions. It is necessary to give meaning and political value to cooperation, creating relationships: between people, communities, public and private entities, states ... placing at the center people, their wellbeing, their social, economic, cultural and political development and pursuing the common good in a vision of mutual benefit, growth and peaceful coexistence. The intervention strategy that should be the basis of international cooperation for the near future should be clear and ambitious: contribute to peace and cohabitation through

- the reduction of global poverty,
- the promotion of economic social and environmental justice,
- the reduction of inequalities,
- the affirmation of human rights and equal dignity of persons,
- humanitarian relief,
- building partnerships for sustainable development.

The key words are known and often ignored, but remain a focal point of reference:

## EFFECTIVENESS

prosecuted with maximum integration of the tools and the collaboration of the actors of cooperation.

## CONSISTENCY OF POLICIES

of poverty reduction and sustainable development, in the common interest.

## PARTNERSHIP

respect and mutual interest for the common good.

## DEMOCRATIC OWNERSHIP

of countries, communities and individuals, emphasizing the subjectivity and the capacity of local actors, establishing relationships that respect the primary entitlement in their own countries.

## TRANSPARENCY

AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY

## ADEQUATE

FUNDING

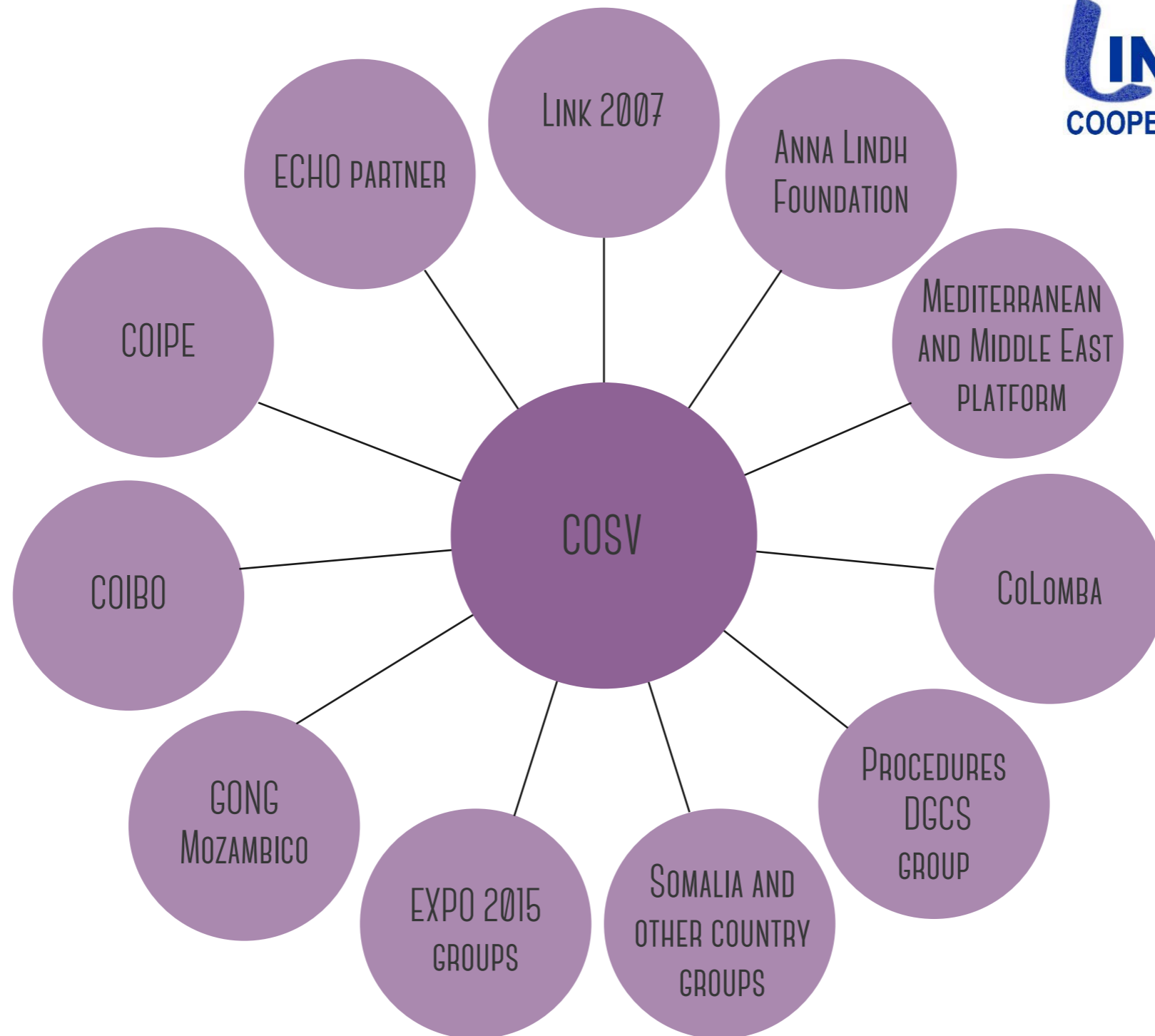
For our part, even in 2013 we have not missed an opportunity to reiterate our belief that development cooperation should be the hallmark of the vocation and mission of Italy in the world, because it makes authoritative Italian international action and strengthens its credibility and role in the international community.

It is a proper and necessary operation of public policy to give credibility, relevance and recognition of the role of Italy in the world. Without a serious, responsible, permanent and effective commitment on global issues of general interest, this role is likely to disappear or to be reduced to the military component that, in addition to be exercised with ambiguities, has demonstrated all its limits. This is the instrument, therefore, by which Italy participates in the coordinated efforts of the international community to achieve the goals of reducing poverty and injustice, and the promotion of human rights and peace.

NGOs have also to adapt their role to new challenges: with the end of the bilateral competition, the world is going through a phase of extreme global competition, driven by special interests rather than the general ones and the common good. Precisely for this reason it is necessary that an NGO has principles and values to be pursued as a guideline, today even more than in the past, with commitment, determination and accountability at every level.

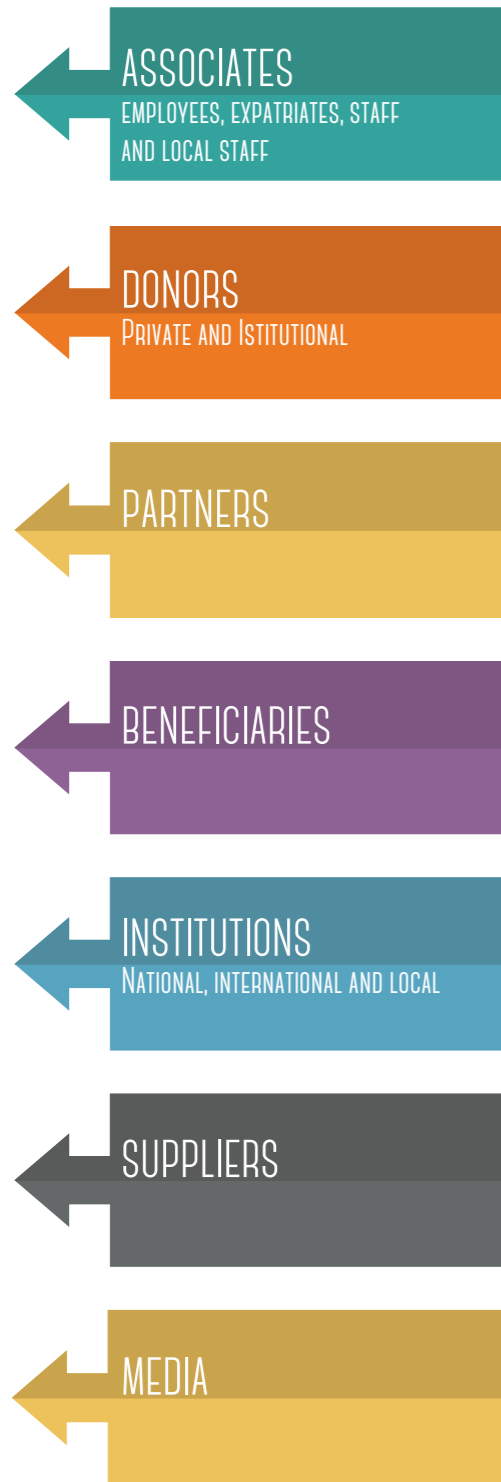
# Network

Cosv adheres to numerous coordinations, including Link2007. LINK 2007 – COOPERATION NETWORK – IS AN ASSOCIATION OF COORDINATION GATHERING 9 OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ITALIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. IT REPRESENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE EXPERIENCES TO GIVE STRENGTH TO OUR ACTION, MAINTAINING THE DEEP MEANING AND ENHANCING THE VARIOUS IDENTITY. LINK 2007 IS A TOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, TO ENHANCE THE „REALIZED COOPERATION“ AND TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN VALUES, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERTISE DELIVERED DAILY FROM NGOS.



# Governance

## MAP OF STAKEHOLDERS



**D**uring 2013 it has been substantially revised the institutional structure of the Body. The new Statute in fact provides for the formal inclusion of the figure of General Director who shall be the legal representative of the organism, as already implemented by several NGOs. It seemed appropriate that COSV adopts the solution to entrust the formal direction of the body to a General Director, since this exercise requires a detailed knowledge of the daily management, which can only be ensured by those who perform management functions. The Presidency takes on a more political, regulatory role and verifies that the activities of the Association are consistent with the purposes intended by the Statute and the decisions taken by the statutory bodies. Paolo Comoglio was appointed by the Council as General Director.

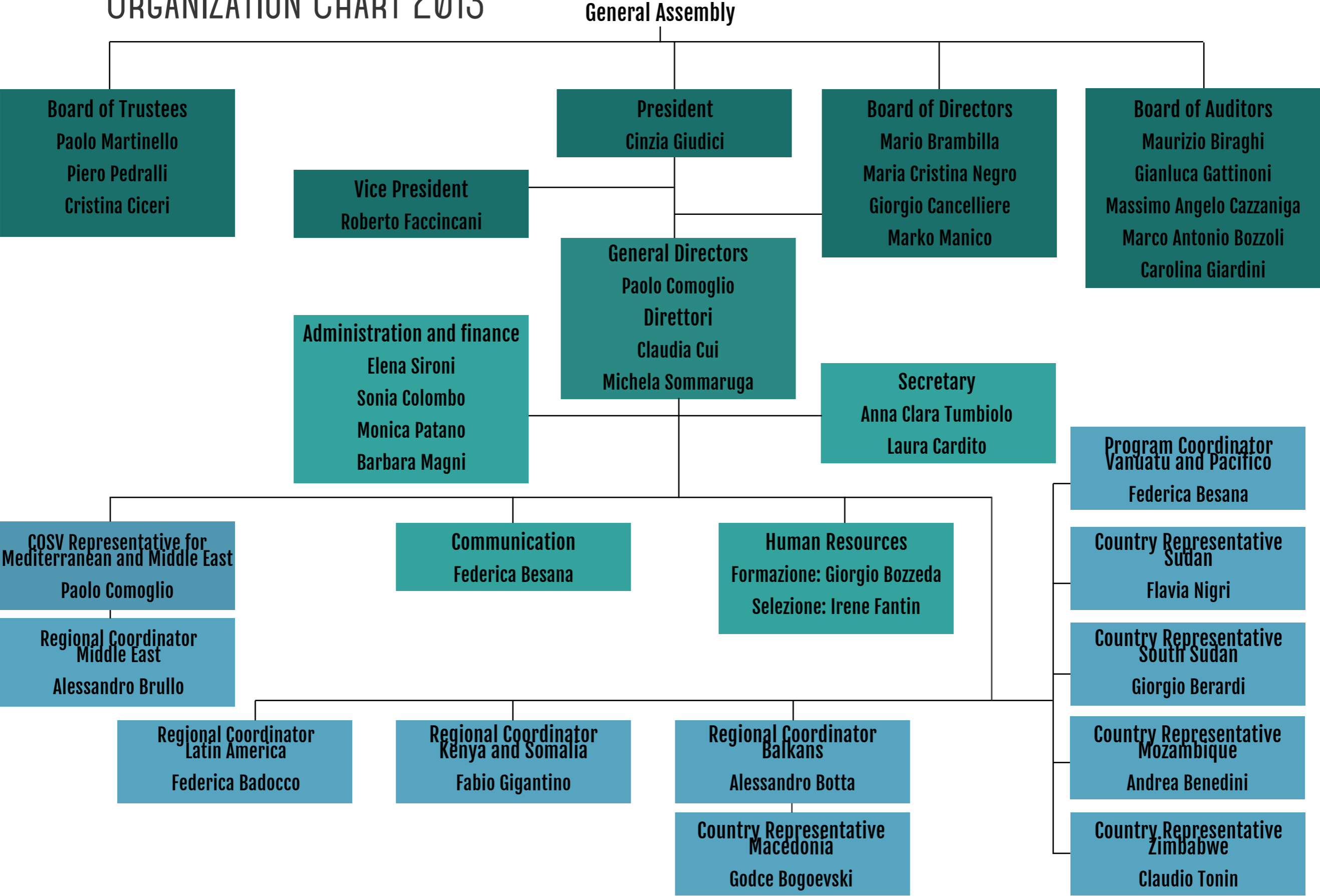
The current institutional bodies of COSV are:

- Assembly;
- the Board of Directors;
- The President and the Vice President;
- the General Manager
- the Board of Trustees;
- the Board of Auditors.

## ORGANIZATION

DURING 2013 THERE HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED CHANGES TO THE ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE: THE PROCEDURES MANUAL HAS BEEN COMPLETELY REVISED TO MAKE ITS CONSULTATION AND THEREFORE ITS APPLICATION EVEN EASIER FOR OPERATORS IN THE FIELD. ITS IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF THE IMPRESSIVE COMMITMENT TO TRAINING THAT HAVE STARTED BEARING VERY INTERESTING RESULTS. A SIMILAR REVIEW HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH REGARD TO THE ROLES AND PROCESSES OF THE KEY FIGURES OF THE MANAGEMENT BODY. FINALLY, IT HAS BEEN DRAWN THE GENERAL PART OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MODEL PROVIDED BY LAW 231 ET SEQ. WHICH WILL BE APPROVED IN THE FIRST COUNCIL OF 2014. IT IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR.

# ORGANIZATION CHART 2013



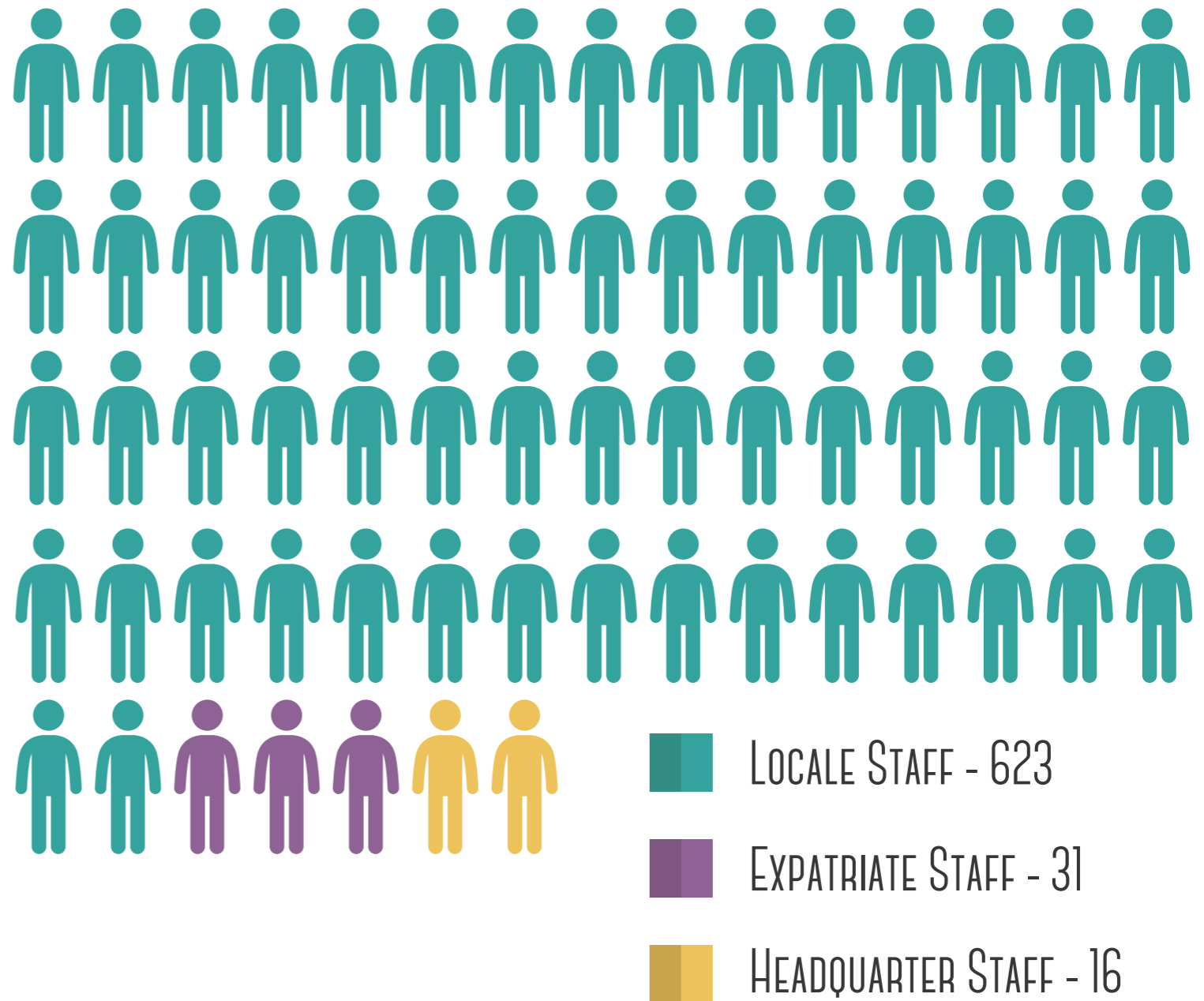
# Human Resources

**N**ella Relazione Sociale 2013 vogliamo evidenziare l'importanza delle nostre risorse umane, perché crediamo che al di là delle risorse finanziarie o degli strumenti metodologici utilizzati, uno degli aspetti fondamentali (se non addirittura il principale) per realizzare la "cooperazione che funziona" dipenda dal fattore umano. Al di là delle fin troppo facili semplificazioni, le risorse umane della cooperazione (volontari, cooperanti, partner o personale locale che siano), oltre a competenze che nulla hanno da invidiare ad altri settori, richiedono una forte motivazione e un atteggiamento maturo nei confronti dell'agire. Ciò significa, per i cooperanti del COSV, consapevolezza dei motivi per i quali realizzano il loro compito, ma anche responsabilità e attenzione nell'intervenire in contesti e situazioni che non dipenderanno in futuro da noi e che – proprio per questo – devono esprimere fin dall'inizio, attraverso i partner locali, un percorso autonomo di scelte, supportato da competenze adeguate e dalla capacità di decidere e di gestire i percorsi di sviluppo che li riguardano (e che forse attraverso le scelte di oggi, segneranno il loro futuro).



# GLI OPERATORI

Per realizzare i suoi progetti e le attività in Italia, il COSV si avvale di un numero consistente di collaboratori. L'analisi dei dati ci permette di affermare che il COSV è un importante promotore di lavoro nelle comunità in cui realizza i progetti. In numerose situazioni, attraverso l'impiego diretto, il sostegno a partners o attraverso l'indotto che è in grado di creare, l'organismo è - nei fatti - la maggior fonte di lavoro e di entrate per una larga fascia di famiglie. Per contro, il numero di espatriati è relativamente basso, a riprova della preferenza data, a parità di competenze, al personale locale. Per quanto riguarda poi il personale delle due sedi italiane, Milano e Roma, si è sempre cercato di mantenerlo nei limiti stabiliti attraverso una precisa, e periodicamente riverificata, analisi organizzativa, in modo da garantire efficienza senza aumentare eccessivamente le spese di struttura.



## IN ITALY

During 2013 in Italian offices 9 people have worked full-time, 3 part-time and 2 fixed-term. In addition, COSV is registered with the provincial labor office for the recruitment of interns under the "law Fornero": 2 interns have worked in the Milan office during 2013.



# EXPATRIATE STAFF

During 2013 expatriates engaged in projects were 31: 17 men and 14 women, 5 operators are not Italian.

The majority of aid workers have been engaged in the roles of representation, which is expressed mainly in coordination activities, rather than direct actions that are entrusted in most cases to specialized local staff.

During the year, was signed the **collective agreement** with the trade unions for the regulation of contracts of operators of NGOs, both in headquarters and expatriates.



# IL PERSONALE LOCALE

The policy of COSV in terms of human resources is clearly based on the use of local resources: always the ratio of expatriates and local operators is strongly in favor of the latter.

In 2014, 623 people were employed. The renewal of the contract of the local staff, from project to project, it is a practice in use at COSV, especially for higher qualifications or for persons who are permanently resident in a specific place. This allowed the body to train workers for good professional level as much as possible and give job security. All workers are hired in accordance with the laws of the country of employment or – where this is not possible (Somalia) – with an internal procedure.

With regard to qualifications, it should be emphasized that, although many operators are employed in support activities (175 people, including drivers, cleaners, guards, interpreters, logistics, warehouse workers, secretaries and auxiliaries of various kinds), the intent of COSV is always to encourage the use of qualified professionals, where the labor market offers such an opportunity.

Although the different school systems make it difficult the categorizations, you can divide the qualified personnel that COSV employs between intermediate technicians (people who have a diploma or a professional qualification at secondary level) and highly qualified personnel (graduates or people with diplomas equivalent to undergraduate courses). From this we note that, during 2013, 412 people were employed as definable intermediate technicians, such as administrators, pharmacists, nurses, qualified trainers, promoters and facilitators of community, nutritionists, site technicians, laboratory technicians, radio operators, etc.. Have also collaborated with the body 36 qualified professionals, such as doctors, engineers, agronomists, economists, hydrogeologists, experts in statistics and finance.



Sudan Cosv staff during the staff meeting in October 2013

# LOCAL STAFF: DATA



64%



36%

LOW  
QUALIFICATION

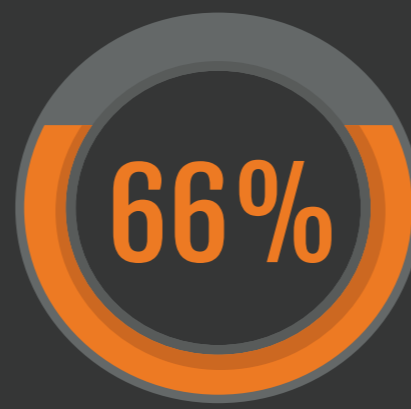


28%



56% 44%

MIDDLE  
QUALIFICATION

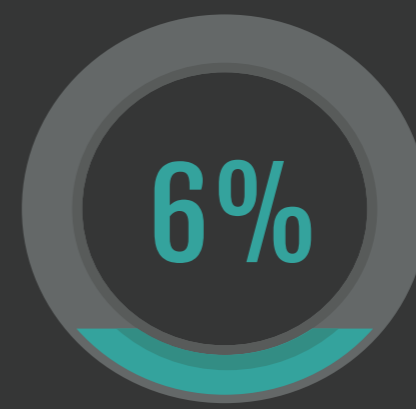


66%



66% 34%

HIGH  
QUALIFICATION



6%



75% 25%

# LOCAL STAFF: IDENTITY CARD

**Doha Farran  
Lebanon**



**Suzana Stijovic  
Montenegro**



**Adam Mohamed  
Abakar Sulemain  
Sudan Darfur**



**Reginald Mhishi  
Zimbabwe**



**Rejoice Opani Donya  
South Sudan**



**Telma de Lurdes  
Chicurrane  
Mozambique**



## WHY WE ARE INVESTING IN THE TRAINING OF PEOPLE

**D**uring 2013 we worked hard on the activation of a training course, taking advantage of the assistance of an external consultant, Giorgio Bozzeda, who for many years worked with both profit and non-profit organizations. This path seeks to improve the whole COSV working process: submit (and then handle!) projects that we hope will be approved to strengthen the presence of the organism in the countries in which it operates. Often, however, the projects are poorly formulated and poorly managed by personnel not adequately prepared to lead them in a satisfactory way and this creates problems of credibility and esteem for the organization. It is a process seemingly trivial but is likely to generate a vicious circle: if we have not rooted and not adequately prepared staff that sometimes works with poor results, that is likely to produce projects that are not funded, the organization interrupts the presence of the expatriate, with a turnover of staff, which in turn is not prepared and produces poor projects that are not funded.

Today in the „profession“ of NGO expatriate it is happening a great new change: the paradigms of social phenomena , the concept of the North

and the South, the direction of cooperation, the identity a developed or developing country, all those are changing. It is therefore strongly urged a change in the approach of NGOs, that should no longer be based on charity and on a superficial form of solidarity.

It must therefore necessarily change the role of expatriate, whose new connotation cannot be left to the initiative of those who leave, nor can it be left to the work of assistance, advice, recommendation that comes from the center. It is necessary to maintain a constant thread of learning, to understand what is changing and how. Training cannot be limited to just a training course aimed at expatriates, but we need to develop a process of continuous learning in order to follow the change. Our current effort (remarkable and not easy) is to agree and then assign defined objectives to our operators covering the roles of representation and coordination, involving them in a process of learning, which becomes functional to achieve the objectives assigned. It is clear that the organization needs to be equipped on how to support its workers so that they are able to achieve their goals, while also providing evaluation tools to measure their achievement.



The training aims to learn to understand the changes taking place, on all fronts, social, political, anthropological, but also to learn how to achieve the objectives agreed jointly. From this point of view it is essential that the organization applies the rules agreed with rigor: the operator must learn to understand the changes in the context in which he/she is inserted and must learn to maintain and achieve the goals that have been established by consensus. Effectiveness in achieving the objectives is a key factor on which the training has to work, provide valuable support. The country representative or the desk should spend his/her time not doing what other people in the team are bad in, but supporting them to perform well for the tasks assigned.

An important tool that we have begun to experiment is the „ distance coaching „; often our operators take refuge in too many operational duties, leaving the attention to the people they work with and they are responsible for to a absolutely residual portion of their activity while accompanying persons should be a major part of their work-time.

The maintenance of a constant learning attitude must be installed not so much in the culture and sensitivity of expatriates, but it must be the figure of the organization.

If effectiveness is crucial, less important in our sector is the efficiency,

which is rather to be replaced in the evaluation criteria from another element, which is innovation: we are in a certain place in order to produce innovation processes, which means managing the processes that should produce new attitudes, new behaviors to leverage the available resources. If the effort must be on innovation, the organization will evaluate the work of its expatriate workers in the light of this element. So it will be evaluated not so much whether a project has been completed as is appropriate (this may have done by anyone, eg, a consulting firm that efficiently carries out the project), but even if they put in place innovative processes appropriate to the ongoing changes.

Needless to say that to manage this process is necessary to consolidate the central government to strengthen the mandate of the country representatives, who otherwise would risk of being awarded a „blank proxy“ dangerously unmanageable.

The path will be neither short nor free of obstacles of various kinds. Starting from the early months of 2013 is already yielding positive results and above all is generating a lot of interest and a strong collaboration from our team.

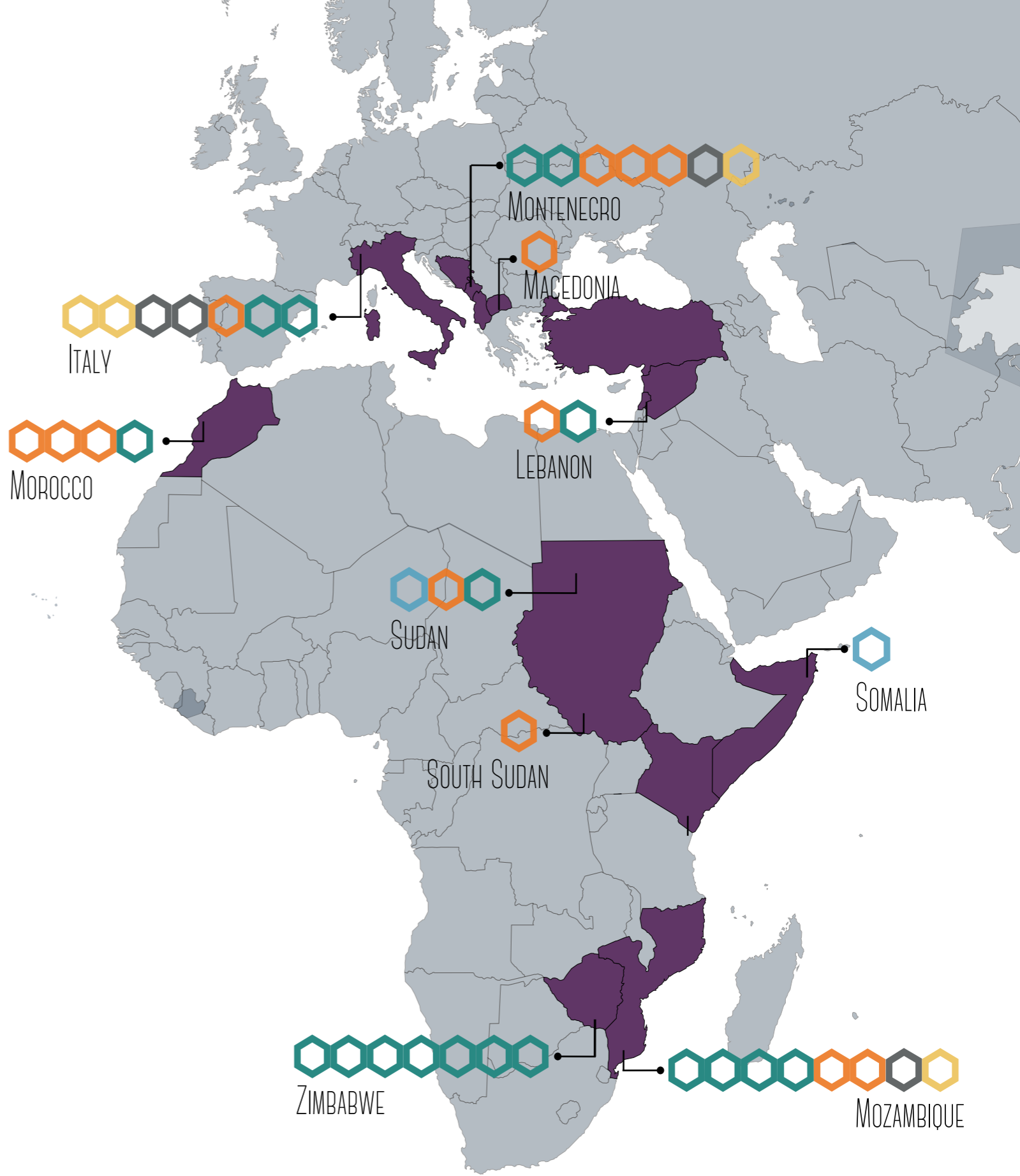
# Partners

**C**OSV continues the consolidation of a strategy that, in any case, can cope with the likely deterioration of the global economic situation, with a predictable discouraging of political forces towards the international development cooperation and a substantial reduction of economic resources, both private and public to be allocated to international solidarity. This strategy is primarily to avoid at all costs the isolation and the search for individual solutions. Therefore, in this context, COSV continues to be part of all those instances in which are elaborated and compared thesis and arguments in support of local partners often victims of poverty, injustice, war, and environmental degradation. The strategic importance of the involvement of strong local partners, in our opinion, is now out of the question, even for the presentation of new types of calls, which are increasingly calling for the participation (as leader) of local actors. In addition to a functional necessity to obtain new financing, the key point, however, remains ever the importance of a real sharing of objectives and activities with respect to the needs of sustainable and shared development. Therefore, it becomes more and more urgent the need for local partners to express figures of project manager, also with the formative and organizational support of international NGOs .



## PARTNERS

-  ASSOCIATIONS AND NGOs
-  LOCAL INSTITUTIONS
-  UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH CENTRES
-  PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
-  INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES





# Focus

## IL SUPPORTO ALLA SOCIETÀ CIVILE: UN ALTRO MODO DI RELAZIONARCI CON I PARTNER LOCALI

**T**o be “third party” where there are conflicts between opposed interest groups, is one of our core values . COSV should always pose itself as a party and not as a foreign body, but in certain contexts, particularly alarming from the point of view of social conflicts, this attitude becomes, in our view, a necessary way. This also means taking a part that precisely in its being „third“ does not take the position of one of the groups involved, but brings other possible values and principles. This does not mean become a „referee“ between the parties to the dispute, but a party that in its own „third party“ does not impose its views, but provides rules for not conflictive relations, without flattening out any position. This belief, in our opinion, defines in a more honest way claims of „neutrality“ or „apolitical“ bandied about too often by NGOs. All this, however, can legitimately work only if you have a strong involvement with the local civil society, to make strong arguments TOGETHER and find unexpected stimuli; civil society is not only a „prop“ to parties (although it can be), but it may play a different role, more autonomous and broad, as a partner that has its own dignity, disconnected from the interests of any party, but more geared to those of community.



Concretely, our role is to provide space in which different stakeholders, often marked by strong differences could talk. In the vast panorama of the differences is often possible to find similarities among some of the parts, which in turn are closer than other parties. Putting in contact different parties, allows the creation of networks that effectively promote a synthesis in a positive sense, a tendency towards a common good for the community.

Being „third party“ allows us to be in contact with all parties and facilitate the transition between one side to the other, to be able to create dialogue among all parties as much as possible. In order to initiate processes of this type, it is essential to know deeply the context in which we operate, including acquiring information and collaborating with people who are able to read the context, such as local partners, researchers, universities with analysis capabilities that enable us to create a network of resources and a framework of referents. Last but not least you have to wonder „who is the civil society“ that is a debated topic in many contexts. Civil society, as we interpret it, is a set of organizations that have an interest in the public and collective good, and then identifies itself as interlocutor of the state, understood as institution. It is far from certain political realities where for example there is a dictatorship; in this case, how does civil society relate to the institution? How does it organize, with whom does it relate? But these questions are based on our concepts of our relationship with the institutions. In other areas and contexts the identity of civil society is based on the community (also understood as groups of different religions, ethnic groups, families ...). It then goes on to a vision of the „common good“ to the protection of the interests of a group. Then we shift from a vision of the „common good“ to the protection of the interests of a group. Does this accord with the civil society that we have in mind? Our interpretation as COSV is that there may be a path to a civil society that starting from community identity, takes advantage of the differences as a positive contribution. It is a complex discourse that cannot borrow our model, but it goes towards the support of a path in positive evolution, with a view that is different from the conflict between different parties.



# Cost offices in the world



## ITALY

MILAN - Via Soperga, 36 Cap 20127

Tel. +39 022822852

ROME - Via Giovanni Devoti, 16 Cap 00167

Tel. +39 066632511

## BALKANS

MONTENEGRO - Ksenije Cicvaric, 30 81000

Podgorica. Tel. 00382 20244322

MACEDONIA - Republikanska no. 39, 7500 Prilep

## LATIN AMERICA

PERU - Av. Paseo de la República 5662 Dpto. 303,  
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ECUADOR - Vicente Álvarez E4-229 Tumbaco,  
Quito. Tel. +593 (2) 2371374

## HORN OF AFRICA

KENYA - Rhapta Road 47, Westlands., Nairobi Tel.  
+254724063415 +254724064028

SOUTH SUDAN - Kees Road (1st block on the right,  
off Airport Road) Tong Ping, Juba

SUDAN - Street 1, House 9, Amarat, Khartoum  
Tel. 00249 183590968

## MIDDLE EAST

LEBANON - Furn el Chabek, Damascus Rd, Eid and  
Hakim Building- 7th fl, Beirut Tel. 009611 283918

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

ZIMBABWE - NO 10 Argyle Road, Avondale, Harare  
Tel. 04- 336026/ 336060

ZIMBABWE - Aloe Close 8, Hwange  
Tel. 0026328130244

MOZAMBIQUE - Av. Ahmed Sekou Tourè 1971  
P.O.Box 1872, Maputo Tel. 00258/21/325133

# Activities in Italy

To ensure a proper flow of information and adequate communication both to the outside and inside the organization, was in the year the main commitment of Cosv activities in Italy. In particular, much attention has been paid to the bi-directional communication headquarters / branch offices, also to give coherence to methods of management of the activities of the body, while avoiding any overcrowding of information.

The Communication that we want highlights the values of partnership, innovation, networking and contributes to the creation of a culture of cooperation, especially highlighting our peculiar concrete action: giving value to the ideas and motivations of our projects, highlighting strategies that move operations in countries or sectors and emphasizing the synergies between projects.

Digital communication is one of the key elements of the communication of COSV: it is low cost, it reaches a wide audience, enabling the deployment of different materials such as images and videos. It is more immediate, therefore requires constant updating.

Among the tools of digital communication COSV are: the website, the facebook page, the mailing list, the Youtube channel.

The poster of the cocktail organized by the restaurant "Da Marcone" in support of COSV.

New COSV website homepage.

## WEBSITE AND CUE COSV

In 2013 has gone online the new website: more agile to visit, with dynamic content, large space for projects, a page specifically for the donor, the center of documentation, images and video. Although in need of some adjustments, the results are already more than tangible. The website brings together all the social channels of Cosv: facebook, youtube and cue COSV.

The cue COSV is a blog of articles from the field: the articles are written by the project managers, they tell about the project without technicalities, describing the context, reason for the intervention, impact, ect. We believe that from the point of view of accountability it is an important tool, because of the concreteness with which he describes the activities and results of the projects.

## MAILING LIST

The mailing list is made up of 64,000 contacts, constantly updated; the emails are forwarded with the email system MailUp, certified for the protection of users against spam: if a user unsubscribe he/she can not be anymore reinserted by COSV in the mailing list.

## FACEBOOK PAGE

The COSV facebook page is managed from the headquarter, is updated daily and offers a series of posts on projects. It is essential the collaboration from the field to keep alive and active the facebook page with news on the activities, photos of beneficiaries, constructions before and after work, places of intervention, etc.. The goal of communication through facebook is to acquaint the public to projects, making people feel and see what really takes place.

## YOUTUBE CHANNEL

COSV youtube channel is managed by the Milan office and all videos are sent to the headquarter and uploaded on the official channel. The videos are arranged with the office, the contracts of the videomaker seen together, and before putting it online and distribution all licenses (including music) are checked and adjusted.

COSV adheres to the project Share Your Knowledge, which promotes the spread of culture through the issuing of content with Creative Commons licenses. All materials produced by COSV (photos, videos, publications, website, etc) are released under Creative Commons licenses. All the people who produce ,creative' materials must sign the release, which allows us to distribute the materials. Particular attention is paid to the use of music and photographs of other people.

# Focus

## MEDEA CONFERENCE: MEDITERRANEAN, EXPO 2015 AND AGROFOOD MILAN - JUNE 24-25, 2013

**B**usiness and sustainable development on both shores of the Mediterranean: this is the theme that Italian and Moroccan entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations and institutions, engaged in socio-economic development of the two countries, have faced in Milan on 24 and 25 June, at the conference MEDEA.

In its first edition, the conference was a unique opportunity to meet and exchange, a two-day meeting to discuss co-development between Italy and Morocco and retrace the concrete experience of the regions of Lombardy and Tadla Azilal.

Tracing a scenario where economic and social development and respect for the rules coexist, the relations between companies in different countries and between profit and non-profit become functional not only to sustainable development, but also to the possible solutions to the economic crisis affecting the European countries. All the actors involved (Italian entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs from other countries, non-profit organizations and institutions) can then be allies in building common rules not only limits, but also protection and guarantees of an open and fair market in accordance with the international guidelines in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility.



Look at the video realized during the event.

The work of MEDEA started on June 24, with workshops on opportunities for business development in Morocco, the Halal market in the Mediterranean, on the opportunities in the agri-food sector in the regions of origin of Moroccan living in Lombardy and examples of networking.

The next day, the major players in the relations between Milan and Morocco, have debated the EU's neighborhood policies, the opportunities that Expo 2015 can give to a more sustainable development and the benefits of a coordinated network, providing examples and experiences of collaboration.

All in the context of the co-development project „From the idea to enterprise“, funded by the City of Milan: continuing a process that began in 2010, the project saw as a necessary starting point the involvement of the communities of Moroccans living in Lombardy for the development of initiatives producing /generating income and the consolidation of a system that is able to offer concrete opportunities to support business creation in the region of Tadla Azilal and investment in Lombardy.

Dense is the network of partners involved: in addition to Medinaterranea, the project leader, and COSV, the most significant contributions came by Artisans of the province of Milan, which has provided their spaces for the conference, the City of Milan, Promos, ISPRAMED, ISMU, ANESSIC, Fondation Creation d'Entreprises, IntEnt Maroc, Centre Regionale d'Investissement Région Tadla Azilal and the Ministry of Moroccans abroad.



One of the workshop and the final conference

# Focus

## LINK2007 EVENTS

EVENTS TO ADDRESS MORE GENERAL ISSUES RELATING TO THE ROLE OF NGOs AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE NETWORK LINK 2007. THESE ARE COLLECTIVE INITIATIVES OF THE THREE NETWORKS OF NGOs ITALIABNE ' AOI-CINI-LINK2007' , SUCH AS SEMINARS, PRESS RELEASES, PUBLIC PLACEMENTS AND SPECIFIC EVENTS OF LINK2007. WE MENTION THE MOST IMPORTANT MADE IN THE COURSE OF 2013:

### **Accountability: a common pathway in international cooperation.**

The focus on achieving results and on the impact of development cooperation interventions is a central theme and must be exercised in a transparent manner. LINK2007 NGOs have made it the assumption in all cooperation projects. For this reason, they decided to promote a public seminar on the theme of accountability, that is the commitment to be accountable for their activities, their effectiveness, modes of action and use of resources, the results achieved, involving in the evaluations partners and communities with which they operate. The seminar was an opportunity to define a concrete path to be shared with other non-governmental organizations, with public cooperation, with the political world, with the people concerned. The positions of the network have been exposed to the Vice Minister. For the enhancement of accountability in non-governmental cooperation and in the public one, LINK2007 NGOs have decided to identify common mode of action, enhancing and consolidating good practices already acquired and offering a path to share, also in view of the reform of the legislation on international cooperation.

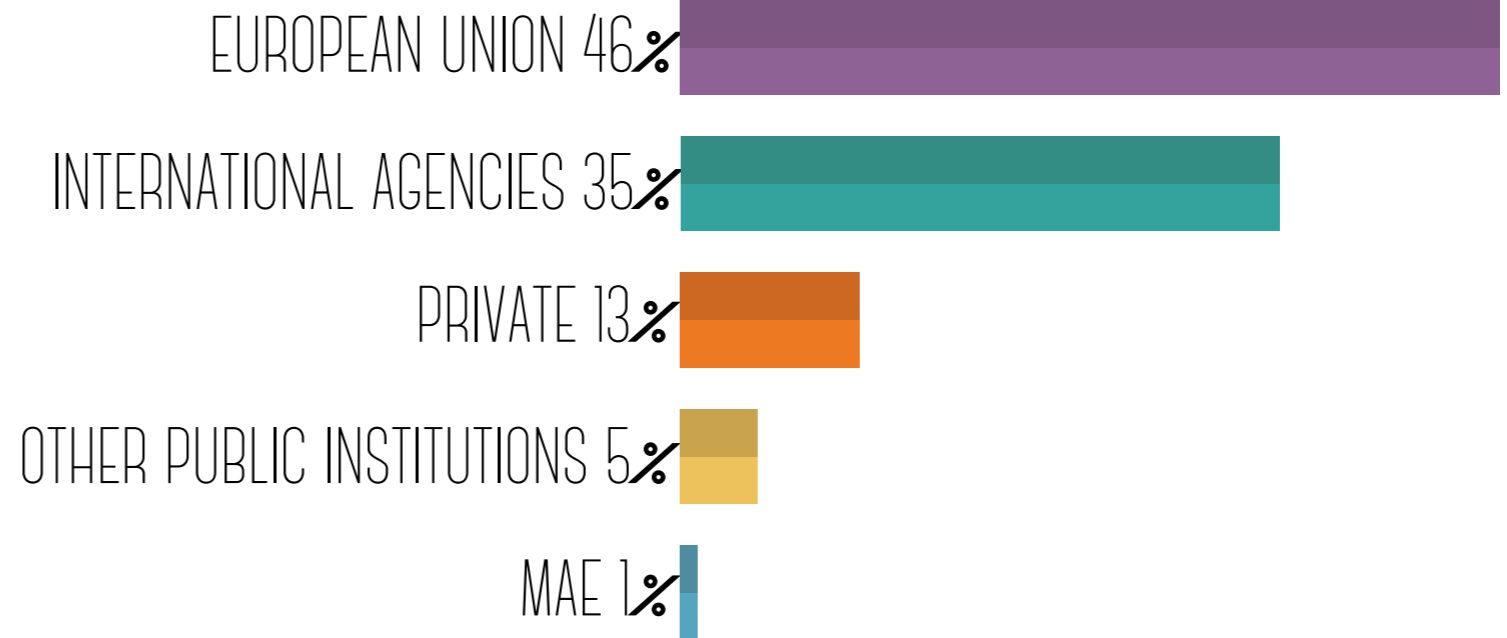
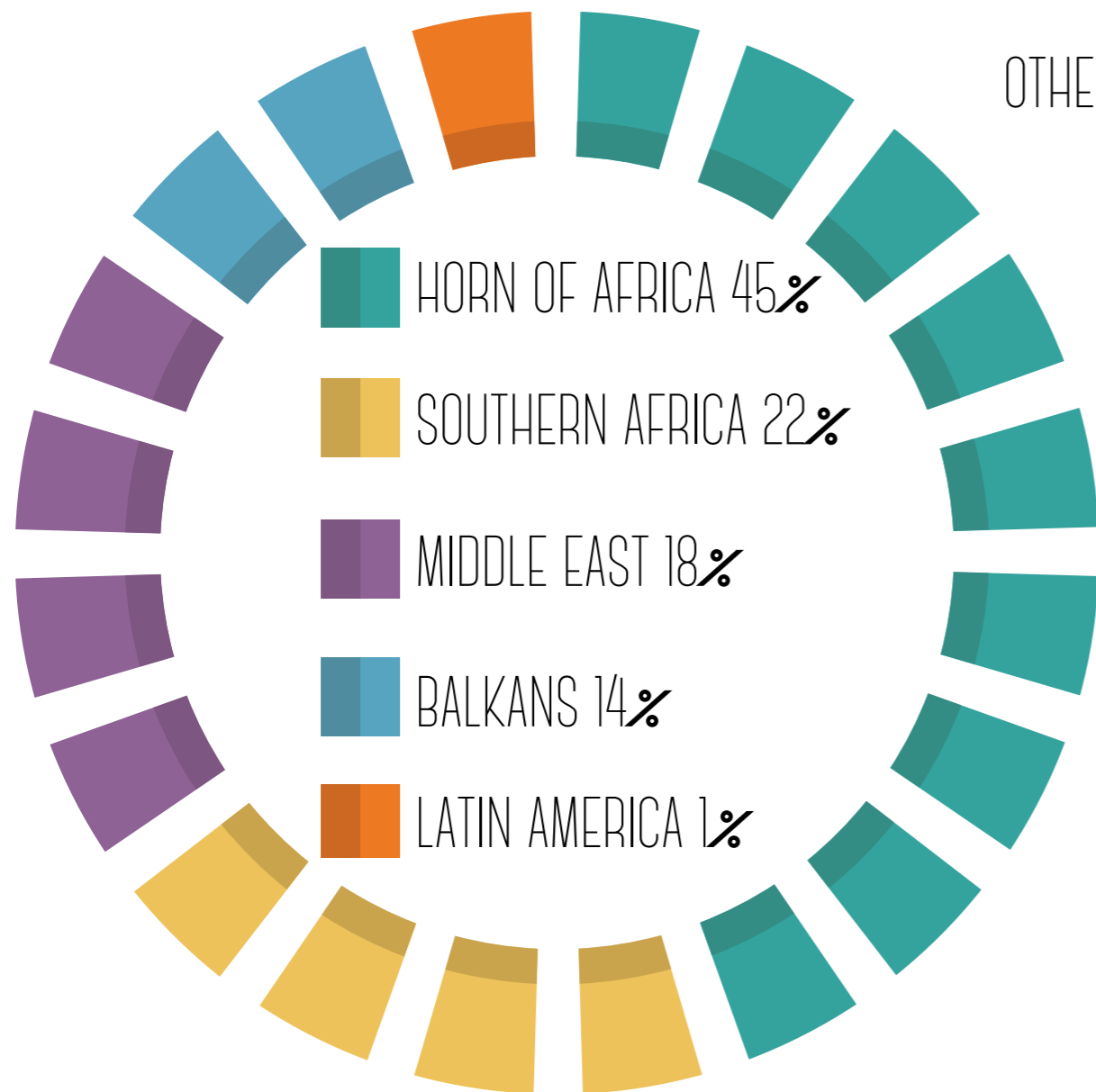
### **Global Hunger Index 2013: When the food is not enough. How to fight hunger by strengthening the community.**

The index is a synthetic instrument to measure a multidimensional and complex phenomenon such as hunger, analyzing the situation in more than 120 countries. Every year the report delves into an aspect of hunger in a specific thematic focus. The theme of 2013 is Community Resilience to malnutrition, which is the capacity of the community to anticipate, respond to and recover from climate change and the causes of food insecurity to exit gradually from hunger and poverty. The report was presented (as has occurred for several years) simultaneously in different parts of the world with the support of the European Commission, the City of Milan and Lombardy Coop. In 2010, the Global Hunger Index was awarded as the best European annual report from the Mercury Gold Award in New York. For us it was an opportunity to reflect on the issues of hunger and food security in the context of the initiatives that the City of Milan has planned for Expo 2015.



# Projects 2013

## GEOGRAPHIC AREAS AND DONORS

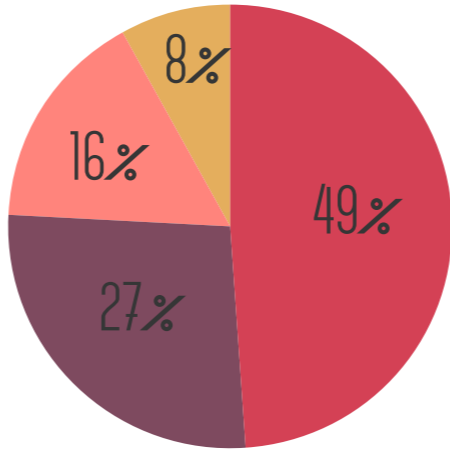




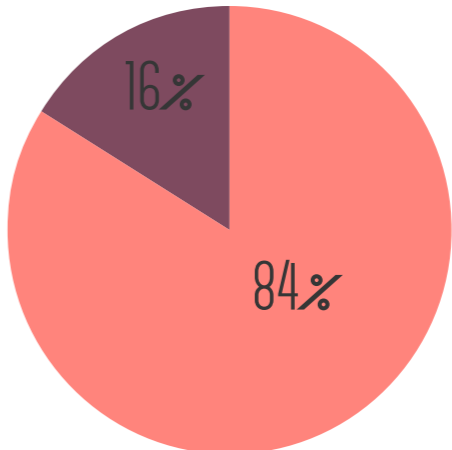
The Horn of Africa has always been, for the COSV, the area of greatest intervention. Despite the continuing difficulties and conflicts, making it almost impossible for long periods, reach villages and remote populations, interventions persist thanks to the close ties with many local partners, able to ensure that aid reaches precisely where it is most needed. In this area we have always tried to go beyond the emergency measures to promote development and involvement of local population in the sectors of education and protection of rights.

### 2013 DATA - FOR AMOUNT FINANCED %

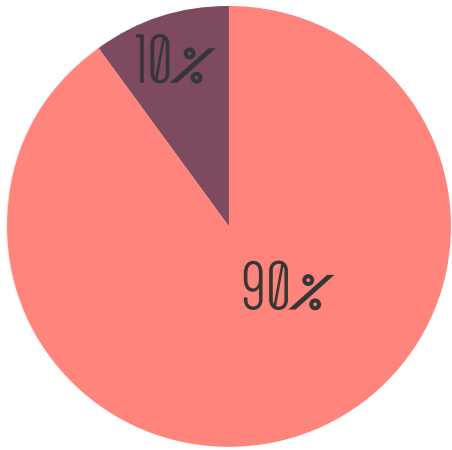
- SECONDARY HEALTH CARE
- HUMAN RIGHTS
- PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
- NUTRITION



Somalia



Sudan



South Sudan

HORN OF AFRICA

# PROJECTS - SOMALIA

## MOGADISHU - 1 PROJECT FOR EACH SECTOR:

- ▶ **Protection:** the beneficiaries are 11,000 (displaced women and children), of which 7,000 women in productive age. The focus is centered on gender violence, for which promoters are trained to give psychological assistance to the victims and to collect the necessary data for the organization of services. With the promoters are organized awareness campaigns in refugee camps. 5 mobile clinics are intended for emergency psychological care.
- ▶ **Global Fund** for prevention and treatment of malaria with reference to hospitals for care and counseling for HIV.



- ▶ **Education:** 2000 displaced children are placed in 5 schools (one per field) in the area of Mogadishu. COSV has built latrines, separate for boys and girls, the lack of which was a strong deterrent to parents towards the inclusion of girls in schools. Meals are given to children and recreational spaces have been created. Incentives have been provided for teachers, training even in the psycho-social field are addressed to them.
- ▶ **Health care:** provision of basic services to reduce mortality among IDPs in camps around Mogadishu, through the implementation of 6 mobile clinics.

# I PROGETTI - SOMALIA

## ■ LOWER SHEBELLE & GEDO - 1 PROJECT FOR EACH SECTOR:

- ▶ **Education:** addressed to 2560 boys and girls (IDPs and returnees in the city recently) inserted in 7 schools in the town of Merka. Provided educational materials, food for adequate nutritional support and incentives to teachers.
- ▶ **Protection:** aimed at reducing gender-based violence and developing a safe environment for girls living in camps for displaced people in the town of Merka. 11 health workers were trained for the care and support to victims of violence in 5 clinics and with the use of 2 mobile clinics.
- ▶ **Nutrizione:** the beneficiaries are 7,000 of which 4,000 children. In the 5 clinics in the city are also assisted malnourished children (identified through screening the area) and breastfeeding women. Hygiene campaigns are carried out and provided written information on nutrition and food hygiene.
- ▶ **Health Care:** project to increase access to basic health care services and improve the capacity of local institutions; 317,800 beneficiaries. The project also includes activities in support of nutrition, health and hygiene.
- ▶ **Health Care:** in the region of Lower Shebelle are also supported 14 clinics devoted to early care and health controls and 3 referral centers for admissions.
- ▶ **Global Fund:** In the Lower Shebelle 3 Global Fund projects are managed in the sectors of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. In Gedo 2 Global Fund projects are managed for the prevention and treatment of malaria and HIV.
- ▶ **Basic Health Care:** in the Gedo and Lower Shebelle (Elwak) (population 278,000 people) in 8 districts is provided basic assistance (especially diarrhea and malaria) through mobile clinics, incentives to health staff and provision of medical supplies.
- ▶ **Health care and Hygiene:** in LS a project to improve access to clean drinking water and promote hygiene practices in health centers, schools, IDP camps, benefiting 57,000 people.

# PROJECTS - SUDAN

## HEALTH CARE'

- ▶ Managed 3 projects for a total of 24,700 direct beneficiaries, in support of the transition from emergency to development in West Darfur. A primary health center in Kulbus and 12 basic health units: the target group consists mainly of women, children, internally displaced persons and refugees from Chad.
- ▶ Basic services: assistance to maternal and child health, support to national immunization campaigns, screening of malnutrition cases, distribution of basic medicines and supplementary food to treat malnutrition.
- ▶ Continuing visits are carried out to monitor the level of malnutrition and perform data collection, addressed to the county and to the national level.
- ▶ Participation in the prevention and alert of epidemics within the cluster of the United Nations.
- ▶ Carried out training activities for the health staff to facilitate the gradual transition towards taking charge of the State of Darfur by the Ministry of Health.



# PROJECTS - SUD SUDAN

## HEALTH CARE'

- ▶ 4 projects in the county of Ayod and in favor of displaced persons, for a total of 28,000 direct beneficiaries. COSV is the focal point for all projects of basic health care in the county of Ayod
- ▶ Support to maternal and child health, control pregnancies, national vaccination campaigns, vaccination and treatment of kala-azar, support for 1 health center and 12 health units in villages, prevention and treatment of TB and HIV prevention, vaccination campaigns against measles.
- ▶ Agreement with the United Nations for the supply of drugs, consumables and “mama-kit” in support of pregnant women and post-rape kits, in accordance with the Health and representatives of the County.
- ▶ Training of village midwives, including the reference to the Health Centres (reference system of the Ministry of Health for more severe cases).
- ▶ Campaigns to raise awareness of hygiene and child malnutrition, with supplemental food and hospitalization of the most serious cases.
- ▶ Participation in clusters organized by the UN.



# Focus

## FOR WOMEN IN KULBUS: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES IN WEST DARFUR

2012 has been a tough year for West Darfur, with a yellow fever outbreak and not enough funds for immunization campaigns. The health situation has further deteriorated for women, already exhausted by living conditions that charge them of all family responsibilities and field works. Women live a daily life made of struggles and insecurity and they often have to cope with health problems; in case of maternity, they are at constant risk of miscarriage. Moreover, maternal and child health is exposed to additional menaces because of the lack of awareness of the importance of pre- and post-natal care and family planning: that's why women and children's care is the focus of THINK project.

Childbirth is a particularly critical for women living in the province of Kulbus, where THINK takes place: for traditional and cultural reasons, women are reluctant to go to health centers and the 98% of them give birth at home, assisted by traditional figures without specific training. Only the most serious cases are addressed to the hospital – the only one in the province, with lack of facilities and scarce staff, but often it is too late for an intervention.

Despite the dramatic situation, thanks to THINK positive results have been registered in maternal and child health. Through awareness-raising initiatives and training courses for health staff, a greater number of local women can and decide to give birth still at home, but with the assistance of qualified staff. Over the past two years, supervised deliveries have increases of 15%, covering 65% of cases in 2012. Women, more aware of the importance of pre- and post-natal care, have begun to ask for these services to the local health units. In addition, last year 526 women



attended family planning programs: an important starting point to break through traditional reserve.

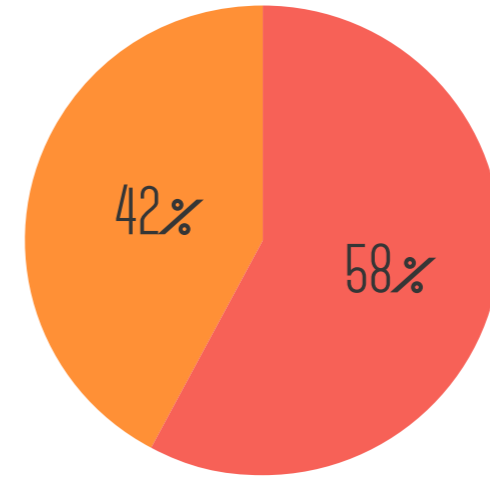
In the province of Kulbus, women's lives are also threaten by gender violence. The issue is very sensitive and with THINK project we have been able to start training activities for health staff and workshops for community leaders. A network for the victims of violence has been strengthened: it's made by the Hakama women, traditional Sudanese figures respected within the community. The Hakama are adequately trained to protect victims against the social stigma and to report cases to the competent authorities.

Although domestic violence is fairly common, the reported cases are few, a dozen in 2012. Women often passively accept violence and do not report it to the police, making it very difficult to implement protection measures. Even if slowly, educational activities will shake awareness within communities and lead to greater protection of women's rights.

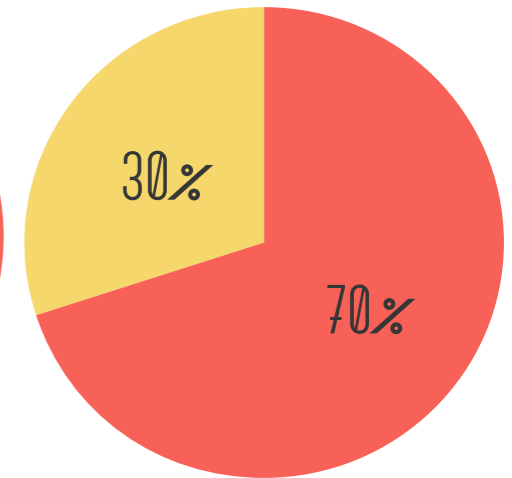
Southern Africa is one of the historical areas in which COSV operates; since the '80 with different interventions we have accompanied the milestones of this countries: independence from colonialism, civil war, emancipation of states and civil society. In addition to interventions in the classic sectors of international cooperation - agriculture, human rights, water and health, COSV is implementing projects in the field of environment, culture and the strengthening of civil society in the democratization process, always keeping as a priority development man and the safeguarding of their rights.

## 2013 DATA - FOR AMOUNT FINANCED %

- CIVIL SOCIETY
- ENVIRONMENT
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Mozambique



Zimbabwe



SOUTHERN AFRICA



# PROJECTS - MOZAMBIQUE

## ■ CENTRE FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - NAMHAI - MAPUTO

- ▶ Trained 10 workers of the Center to improve care services for victims of domestic violence, with courses on resolving family conflicts, on social, psychological and legal aspects of the issue and on administrative management of the Centre.
- ▶ Formed 24 activists and 80 local mobilizers , spread in the 8 districts in which the project operates.
- ▶ Started income generating activities: breeding chickens (with the purchase of 1,800 chicks), tailoring and hairdressing salon with professional equipment, management training.
- ▶ Institutionalized, with local authorities, a system of registration of women victims of violence, in order to monitor the at-risk family situations and sensitize women to access the Center.
- ▶ Realized Community campaigns against domestic violence, through film screenings (Cinema Arena circuit) and theater performances.
- ▶ Supported the local partner to independently manage the Center.
- ▶ Rehabilitated the old structures of the Centre, built the administrative block, acceptance, new toilets, the hairdresser, the poultry house, warehouse and play area for children. Restarted and refitted fields for the cultivation of self-support of the Center.

## ■ ENHANCING THE WATER SYSTEM IN ILE AND LUGELA:

- ▶ 20 catchments of springs
- ▶ 40 hygiene points where showers and sinks for personal use, for washing clothes and dishes without contamination are available.
- ▶ 180 community meetings to raise awareness on the proper use of the water and on the rules of basic hygiene.
- ▶ 2 technicians and 6 operators for the management of water points have been trained. For each catchment management committees were created.

# Focus

## NATURAL RESERVE OF GILÉ - MOZAMBICO'

The National Reserve of Gilé (GNR), in Mozambique, lies on the border between the district of the same name and that of Pebane. It is an important ecosystem undergoing rapid decline due to the indiscriminate exploitation of its resources, some traditional practices (such as the use of fire) and poor management skills on the part of the competent authorities. The park is now the symbol of the continuous attack to the ecosystem brought by man, and the fragile balance that has come to form in the sharing of living space. The area, only officially protected, is in urgent need for action to safeguard the heritage of biodiversity.

The combined efforts of the local authorities together with the organizations, such as the collaboration between the COSV and Zambezia Provincial Directorate of Tourism on the project „Community management and conservation of natural resources in the districts of Gilé and Pebane“, sees its results in the construction of processes of natural resources preservation, able to engage directly with the communities that have always lived in the protected areas.



### Aves da Reserva National de Gilé Uccelli della Riserva Nazionale di Gilé Birds of the Gilé National Reserve



With over 200 species of birds found here, the National Reserve of Gilé in Mozambique is definitely considered to be a haven for 'birdwatchers'. Due to its diversity of environments, the reserve is home to species different from each other, related to the marshy areas and to the forest. COSV staff during the project "Community management and conservation of natural resources in the districts of Gilé and Pebane" has collected a lot of photos of these beautiful animals and realized a poster distributed during the Tourism Fair, which was held last September in Maputo.

# PROJECTS - ZIMBABWE

## FOOD SECURITY - HWANGE E BINGA'

- ▶ Formed 8.000 beneficiaries with training on the techniques of irrigation, environmental and agricultural products conservation, nutrition and the prevention of HIV, with priority given to gender.
- ▶ Trained 100 farmers for the production of improved endemic seeds, certified by the research center of Matopos.
- ▶ Rehabilitated 4 irrigation schemes with 2 wells and the vegetable gardens of public structures (2 hospitals and 1 orphanage), where has been implemented the production of vegetables for consumption and sale.



## STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY

- ▶ Capacity building of 6 partners, very heterogeneous among them (war veterans, young musicians, community radio broadcasting associations, civic education of adults), with management training, technical/administrative training and networking.
- ▶ Made various festivals, cinema, theater, poetry, sports events, a concert of traditional music (mbira) and an exhibition of art from recycled materials, all the events directly involved the population.
- ▶ Printed 35,000 civic education manuals for schools on the new constitution and 10,000 guides for participation in national events, in particular the elections

## Focus

The healing is the process by which we have the objective to „heal“ the psychological and emotional wounds of victims and perpetrators after a violent conflict event.

The two parts are put face to face through community participatory processes to overcome the idea of revenge and compensation. The healing process often accompanies peace-building and reconciliation processes through community meetings, workshops, commemorative ceremonies in the symbolic places of the conflict. The village chiefs, traditional and spiritual leaders of the villages are the first persons that are involved because they can communicate and disseminate the process within the entire community.

# Focus

## LA SICUREZZA ALIMENTARE NEL MATABELELAND - ZIMBABWE

**I**n Matabeleland, where Cosv works with a project of agricultural support, people take their own decisions and plan their life with short-term deadlines (two to three months), and obviously trying to save the most of the money they have. Hence any initiative to solve the problems of this area of savanna, marginalized from the rest of Zimbabwe, and any organization, institution, company or corporation that promises to be of help is welcome. It has always been so since the country became independent, and people know it. Each year, they expect the distribution of food aid, seeds and donations that arrive regularly, feeding a donor dependency.



Our project was able to make sure that a group of one hundred specialized farmers cultivate cereals and leguminous plants, which will give all the necessary seeds for families living in the area and who will buy it locally without waiting for the aid or without falling into the traps of the trade seed companies. The seeds are reusable for several years and therefore food security from a certain point of view is assured.

Thanks to agricultural fairs, dealers from other cities and farmers from other areas can buy the seeds both by producers and farmers who have a surplus of harvest. You can pay either in cash or in kind, free from the logic of the market that require to sell on the outside and with contracts badly accepted by the majority.



The project aims to create the opportunity to break away from dependence on aid: producing their own seeds, cultivate them and sell the crops within the community.

Two facts have happened recently while field visits were carried out. During a visit we met a farmer who exhibited at the entrance of his field the sign of a well known multinational seed company: he was given a certain amount of corn that he would have cultivated on behalf of the corporation in exchange for a profit. The seeds of these varieties can not be replanted (you have to buy seeds every year) and the crop is to be sold or consumed. The fact that the gain is not great, that the corn does not grow if there is little rain, that the reduction of biodiversity in areas at risk of desertification is lethal for the maintenance of the ecosystem, which over the years by growing only one crop is lost soil fertility does not matter: in four months the farmer will happily put in his pocket around 300-400 dollars. Next year we'll see. Meanwhile multinationals ensure the dissemination of their increasingly expensive seeds.

During another visit, passing in an almost uninhabited area, we noticed a car in trouble. Stopping to give aid, we saw that the driver was an Oriental. Very quietly told us that it was around to get an idea of the place, since he wanted to sound out the potential to put several thousands of hectares cultivated with plants for biodiesel. How did he get permission to cultivate all that land?

The simplicity of the peasants, but also their mirage of rapid gain by using any kind of shortcut makes expose them to dangers by far more hazardous than the elephants, that every day move up and down without understanding why.

The COSV is the only foreign NGO present in Matabeleland and then, for now, the only one able to provide to families who live there, the information needed to interpret the signs of the changes that occur and the means not to be merely passive onlookers.

# Focus

## MUSIC BRIDGES, AN INTERLUDE BETWEEN THE PACIFIC, AFRICA AND EUROPE'

**A**n exchange made possible by the music, that between the individual and the group, the past and the present, tradition and modernity, with the juxtaposition of old and new equipment, or even nearly extinct languages. An interchange even between different cultures and geographic boundaries, Europe, Mozambique and Oceania. Or again, between artists with a different professional advancement through workshops and group exhibitions where those who were still beginners were integrated with those who had a more established career.

This is the deep meaning of Music Bridges project, which began in October 2013, which sees three different organizations, Further Arts, Music Crossroads and COSV, coming respectively from Vanuatu (Oceania), Mozambique (Africa) and Italy (Europe), committed for the creation of a network of cultural exchanges between musicians originating from three continents, and for the strengthening of the local music industry of Vanuatu and Mozambique.

In the heart of the activities of Music Bridges there are two major music festivals, one in Vanuatu and one in Mozambique, during which more than a dozen artists from different nationalities are performing in shows and participating in music workshops and training opportunities in an international context with highly innovative features.

The first of the two events, the Singaot Musik Kamp, has already held in October 2013 in Espiritu Santo, an island of the archipelago of Vanuatu. The results went more far than we expected, confirming the pivotal role of music as a facilitator of meetings between different cultures and realities. During the Singaot Musik Kamp, 60 musicians of various nationalities have participated in six days of music workshops, bringing



into play with each other and sharing their artistic experiences.

On the base of what experienced and learned from comparison with others, but also of their traditional repertoire, the musicians performed for several days individually, in groups and in the orchestra in a series of artistic and musical performances, and had the opportunity to participate in training on copyright and Creative Commons, which is essential in order to increase their awareness about the music market.

Thanks to all these activities were realized two essential objectives for the success of the project: on the one hand, the celebration of the individual artistic and musical tradition, and on the other the joint composition of interludes deriving from the distinctive characteristics of each and from the interchange.

This first event of Music Bridges had a brilliant outcome: many skills learned, strong enthusiasm of the participants and the dense network of exchanges created. First of all, the strengthening of awareness of self value, the value of the other and the value of community: the collective cultural heritage is not limited to the sum of the values of individual cultures, but it is much more. A concept that is deceptively simple, which in this case was conveyed by music thanks to a successful intervention of international cooperation, which, in our opinion, should be extended to many more reality, more and more frequently, with adequate funds.



Look at the video realized during the event.

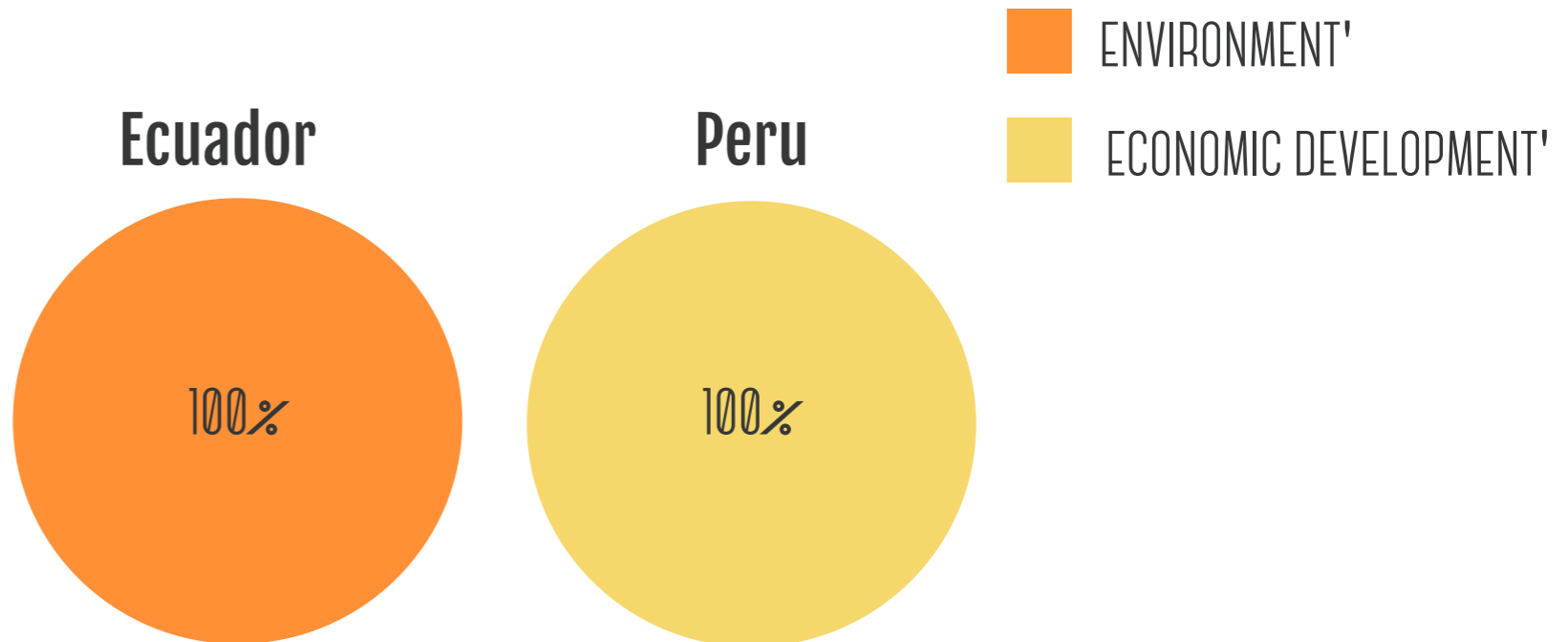
## PROJECTS - VANUATU

- NETWORK AMONG MUSICIANS OF EUROPE, SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE PACIFIC
- ▶ Organized and implemented a music festival in Vanuatu, with the participation of musicians from Mozambique and Europe.
- ▶ Trained the artists involved in the project on the protection of copyright and the relationship with record producers; media training on the use of the media.
- ▶ Opened a web space for the promotion of musicians and festivals.



In South America, the current context has changed our role of international NGOs. Nowadays we are more oriented to the technical support to civil society and local governments in terms of: capacity building for the study, design and implementation of interventions with international donors, the search for public-private partnership on multiple levels and the impulse to South-South cooperation.

## 2013 DATA - FOR AMOUNT FINANCED %





# PROJECTS - PERU



## AGROECOLOGY - PIURA

- ▶ Trained 190 farmers for organic farming
- ▶ Distributed seed corn, beans and broad beans, compost and natural fertilizers (phosphoric rock, guano, etc.) and carried out the training on their production
- ▶ Implemented 20 hectares of seedbeds for the reproduction of native seeds
- ▶ Created a nursery for the production of cocoa.
- ▶ Participated in Ecofiere for the presentation of products
- ▶ Created a revolving fund for the purchase of compost and natural fertilizers

# PROJECTS - ECUADOR

## MUNICIPALITY LA CONCORDIA

- ▶ Technical assistance to municipalities for the creation of a sorting plant for municipal waste
- ▶ Training and awareness on recycling and the positive impact that comes with it



# Focus

## TRADITION AND SCIENCE TOGETHER FOR BIODIVERSITY: THE CHALLENGE OF THE FARMERS OF PIURA IN PERU'

Crop diversification and sustainable use of resources are key factors to survive to climate change. That's why they are at the core of a new Cosv project, co-funded by Regione Lombardia and Fondazione Cariplo, which began last December in the region of Piura in Peru, a rural area characterized by a subsistence economy and a strong land fragmentation.

In Piura, due to agriculture instability and poor infrastructure and services, small farmers live in precarious conditions. On the one hand, they are at the mercy of climatic conditions that can determine bad harvests, and on the other hand they have to deal with traders who buy their product and sell it to large retailers determining prices. In addition, over the past 30 years, crops varieties and self-produced seeds, that allowed the existence of families, have been lost and monocultures from hybrid seeds, purchased by big corporations, have prevailed. Risks connected to the disappearance of native species are serious, in fact, in case of natural disasters or disease outbreaks, food security is put to the test as different genes capable of withstanding these calamities are no longer available.



The project in Piura has two main focuses: it aims at acting on the institutional level to ensure the fulfillment of standards to foster farmers' product direct commercialization and to enhance farmers' associations; on the other hand it supports trainings of farmers on techniques for a sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture.

The 200 beneficiaries will be trained on sustainable farming methods such as the use of natural fertilizers and pesticides, the rotation of crops, the association of compatible crops, and on the rational use of scarce water resources. One hundred of them will then be involved in an initiative for the collection, preservation and reproduction of natural and native seeds in seedbeds to protect the rich agro-biodiversity of the area.

Institutions and local producers have been very sensitive to these issues and the project is part of the same strategic line of the regional association

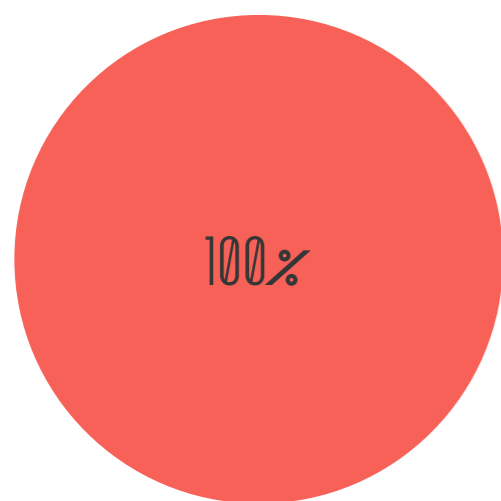
of farmers (ARPPEP) aiming to provide the resources to implement the necessary actions. In this context, the training intervention does not aim to disrupt agricultural traditions, on the contrary it aims at supporting agricultural traditional knowledge with a scientific vision, to systematize the work of small farmers for the conservation of biodiversity and food security.

A survey is currently underway to comprehensively map the region in its climatic, water and agricultural technique varieties and to plan training activities and ad hoc pilot initiatives. Farmers' feedback is very positive: there is a greater awareness on the fact that crop diversification and improvement of irrigation are crucial to meet the challenges of climate change.

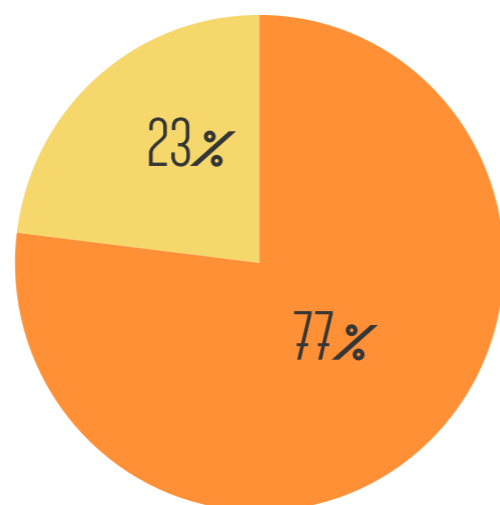


COSV presence in the Balkans traces back to 1999; there we embarked on a path that, starting from emergency projects (with the Balkan wars of the 90s), has followed the development of the region and today takes the form of economic and social interventions. In the Balkans we are experiencing a new and more advanced approach to development cooperation: the focus is always on partnerships with governments and local authorities, universities, national and regional parks and the productive and entrepreneurial sector; we play the key connecting role in interventions and collaborations with Italian and European counterparts.

## 2013 DATA - FOR AMOUNT FINANCED %



Macedonia



Montenegro



BALKANS

## PROJECTS - MACEDONIA



### PROTECTION OF ROMA WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS

- ▶ Training on how to access the labor market (eg. how to manage a job interview) and support to 70 unemployed Roma women; training to mediators of 3 Roma NGOs
- ▶ in partnership with the local office of Social Affairs: opening of a job agency to connect applications and job offers for Roma people

## PROJECTS - MONTENEGRO

### CROSS-BORDER PROJECT BETWEEN THE PARKS OF DURMITOR AND SUTJESKA

- ▶ Pilot project incorporated in the agro-tourism circuit of the area, including 40,000 beneficiaries related in various ways to agriculture, with the involvement of the municipalities
- ▶ 100 small and medium-sized enterprises supported in the agro-food and agro-tourism development. Training to local tour operators and enterprises
- ▶ Organization of Europarc federation missions, to promote the connection of the parks with the European networks.
- ▶ Production of maps and trails for walking and mountain biking



# Focus

## INTERNATIONAL ROMA AND SINTI DAY PRILEP, MACEDONIA, 8 APRIL 2013

Every year on April 8 we celebrate the International Roma and Sinti day, in memory of the first major international meeting organized by Roma representatives in 1971 near London. The international organization Romani Union, born on that occasion, was recognized by the ONU in 1979. During the meeting the official flag was also created: it consists of a background of one blue and one green stripe, representing the heavens and earth; the flag also contains a spoked wheel, in the centre, representing the itinerant tradition of the Roma and Sinti people.

On the occasion of the International day, Laura Boldrini, president of the Chamber of Deputies, has received a delegation of young Roma, aged 14 to 26 who represent the diversity of Roma communities in Italy and their issues and expectations. In Italy were surveyed approximately 170-180.000 Roma, a small number if compared with other countries such as Spain where Roma are 800.000 and Romania where they are 2 million and a half. In Italy one fifth of Roma lives in camps, meaning that the large majority lives in conventional homes.

The main problems concern Roma who live in camps due to a strongly discriminatory and segregative policy which has allowed, from the 90s, the construction of "nomad camps" and that has initiated a process of institutional racism that forces these people to live on the fringe of the cities.

April 8th wants to be a day dedicated to the history, the culture and the traditions of Roma and Sinti. A day to renew our civil commitment to protect the rights of people persecuted for centuries.



As COSV we dedicate this day to Roma women, with whom we are working in Macedonia to accompanying them in the difficult access into work environment.

In the Macedonian context, are Roma women those who suffer most unemployment: 84% of them do not have a job. On one hand the tradition binds them in a role closely related to the family and the community, limiting their access to education, on the other hand public services for employment does not have adequate facilities for including them in the programs of access to employment. Without a qualification and economically dependent, Roma women in Macedonia do not have the conditions to survive outside of the community.

With this project, funded by the European Union, we directly involve 70 unemployed women in the region Pelagonia, with training sessions, personal development courses and workshops on self-confidence and their motivation. We also support the local offices of mediation, in order to improve the quality of services and the effectiveness of activities, designed to the needs of Roma women.

The path of COSV in support of the Roma community in the Balkans began in 2009 with the project „Integration and support of minorities in the South East of the Balkans“, co-financed by the Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and initiated to facilitate interaction between cultures in Montenegro, Macedonia and Kosovo. The Roma community has been the protagonist of this path, made up of activities that ranged from cooking to dance, theater, photography, besides activities in the socio-educational area.

And they were just the two ambassadors of art and culture in the Roma world, Alexian Santino Spinelli and Esmā Redzepova, the main guests of the great closing event at the National Theatre in Podgorica, Montenegro: „Celebrating Communities. Words and Sounds for Integration.“

The work of dialogue conducted in the region, through the strengthening and sharing of traditional and cultural background of each minority, now aspires to grow and spread to other areas. With this project, we want to open the way for new inclusive processes for Roma women in the labor market.

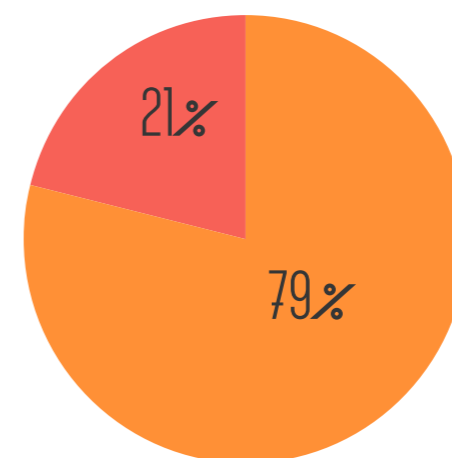


# MIDDLE EAST

COSV arrived in the Middle East in 2003 during the crisis in Iraq, promoting emergency interventions. Since 2005 we begin to be interested to Lebanon, where we start to operate in 2006, and in 2007 we expanded our activities to Syria. The idea is to look for innovative ways to add value to the cooperation between us, international, European and Italian NGO, and the local civil society, assuming a role of support in dealing with local issues that are also linked to the Euro-Mediterranean realities.

## 2013 DATA - FOR AMOUNT FINANCED %

- ENVIRONMENT
- CIVIL SOCIETY'



Lebanon





# PROJECTS - LIBANO

## ■ INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

- ▶ A project that promotes inter-cultural dialogue, with particular attention to the dynamics that the Syrian crisis has created in Lebanon

## ■ BAALBEK: ENVIRONMENT - WASTE

- ▶ Technical part: converting waste into biogas. Pilot project that is part of an extensive program for the integrated management of urban waste
- ▶ Made a plant with 2 biocells for the generation of the gas
- ▶ Participation in the rehabilitation of the historic building of Baalbek caravanserai for the improvement of energy efficiency, through the design of insulation systems and a new roof with solar panels and skylights useful for the production of solar energy



# Focus

## BAALBEK, LEBANON: IF ELECTRICITY COMES FROM CARROTS

On March 18th and 19th, at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut, two girls in red suit surprised the audience of the “EU – Lebanon Cooperation Days” with trays of fruit and vegetables: they were offering carrots, bananas, mandarins and apples and asked the skins and debris back. For every “bio-waste” entered in a container, a small lamp on the tray lit. How can electricity be produced from carrots?

Many people attending the event organized by the European Union Delegation in Lebanon – set up to introduce the cooperation projects that the European Union is funding in the country – came to our stand to know more about renewable energy. We presented the “CleanEnerTec”, the project we are implementing in Baalbek, in the Beqaa Valley, to promote the use of clean energy sources and energy saving measures, through the construction of a biogas plant.

Biogas plants are already active and functioning in Europe and other parts of the world, but in Lebanon this is a pilot and innovative project: in a country where public electricity works only a few hours a day and people must rely on private diesel generators, renewable energy means a real possibility to reduce electricity costs.





Biogas and electricity production from organic waste are new concepts to the Lebanese society, and explained with technicalities and engineering processes details they immediately lose their appeal. What to do, then, to involve local people and make them understand what we are doing at Baalbek? Thinking about the “EU – Lebanon Cooperation Days”, we talked with the guys of Waraq, an association of young artists and creative people in Lebanon. And there we had the idea!

Being able to directly see the lighting of the lamp from the peel of a tangerine, an apple or a banana has intrigued the audience, that came to the stand with interest. We talked about the project with high school and university students, members of NGOs, associations, local authorities, entrepreneurs, experts and consultants of other European projects. Some doubt remained: the owner of a farm in Lebanon which, perhaps not having understood the whole project, insisted on selling us a big batch of apples so that we could produce more electricity!

The involvement of the population is essential for this project, and the “EU – Lebanon Cooperation Days” have been an important opportunity to explain how from entering the organic waste collected by the Municipality of Baalbek in the system, a process of anaerobic fermentation is triggered, methane gas is produced and, stored and burned by a special generator, electricity is produced. And the benefits will be felt by the environment and Lebanese economy.

# Financial Statement

	31/12/2013	31/12/2012	differences
<b>assets</b>	12.242.808,07	15.703.075,17	-3.460.267,10
<b>A) Credits with members for payment of shares</b>			0,00
<b>B) Immobilizations</b>	134.038,63	134.143,85	-105,22
<b>I - Intangible assets</b>	5.823,67	3.829,35	1.994,32
1) Establishment and enlargement costs	5.754,30	3.640,00	2.114,30
2) Leasehold improvements	69,37	189,37	-120,00
4) Concessions, licences, marks and alike rights			0,00
7) Software		-0,02	0,02
<b>II - Tangible assets</b>	112.336,40	111.348,40	988,00
3) Other goods			0,00
- furniture, machinery and plants	86.308,25	80.674,19	5.634,06
- (amortization fund)	-82.361,17	-78.920,64	-3.440,53
- motor vehicles	89.344,92	89.344,92	0,00
- (amortization fund)	-85.956,23	-84.750,70	-1.205,53
- Movable	105.000,63	105.000,63	0,00
4) Current immobilizations and advances			0,00
<b>III - Investments</b>	15.878,56	18.966,10	-3.087,54
- beyond the financial period	15.878,56	18.966,10	-3.087,54
1) Holdings			0,00
2) Credits	15.362,16	18.449,70	-3.087,54
3) Other shares	516,40	516,40	0,00
<b>C) Current assets</b>	12.108.769,44	15.568.931,32	-3.460.161,88
<b>I - Stocks:</b>	0,00	0,00	0,00
<b>II - Debtors:</b>	11.319.116,33	14.871.543,54	-3.552.427,21
1) Partners	0,00	48.511,59	-48.511,59
a) Amounts owed by partner to be reported	0,00	48.511,59	-48.511,59
2) Donors	7.278.911,82	8.302.492,85	-1.023.581,03
- other co-financing donors	4.020.081,63	6.460.455,04	-2.440.373,41
3) Amounts owed by Others	20.122,88	60.084,06	-39.961,18
b) Others			0,00
<b>III - Financial assets</b>			0,00
<b>IV - Liquid availabilities</b>	789.653,11	697.387,78	92.265,33
1) Banking and postal deposits	266.739,34	333.978,94	-67.239,60
2) Cheques			0,00
3) Cash money and values	2.534,17	5.194,19	-2.660,02
4) Banking deposits and cash values	490.240,40	341.481,48	148.758,92
5) Field money transfer (to be reported)	30.139,20	14.809,09	15.330,11
6) Money transfer to local unit received following amount		1.924,08	-1.924,08
<b>D) Prepayments and accrued income</b>			0,00

	<b>31/12/2013</b>	<b>31/12/2012</b>	<b>differences</b>
<b>liabilities</b>	<b>12.222.373,16</b>	<b>15.703.075,17</b>	<b>-3.480.702,01</b>
<b>A) Net patrimony</b>			<b>0,00</b>
<b>I - Available capital share</b>	<b>295.613,15</b>	<b>281.983,21</b>	<b>13.629,94</b>
1) Result for the financial year	13.629,94	42.207,88	-28.577,94
2) Results for the previous financial years	281.983,21	239.775,33	42.207,88
3) Statutory reserves			0,00
<b>II - Fund of the organization</b>			<b>0,00</b>
<b>B) Provision for liabilities and charges</b>	<b>497.668,90</b>	<b>497.668,90</b>	<b>0,00</b>
1) Pensions and similar obligations			0,00
2) Others	497.668,90	497.668,90	0,00
a) Risk Fund	0,00	0,00	0,00
b) Donors Financing Risk Fund	497.668,90	497.668,90	0,00
<b>C) Retired pensions for dependents workers</b>	<b>162.679,06</b>	<b>168.598,18</b>	<b>-5.919,12</b>
<b>D) Creditors</b>	<b>11.266.412,05</b>	<b>14.754.824,88</b>	<b>-3.488.412,83</b>
2) Bank loans	869.513,60	567.409,02	302.104,58
3) Amounts owned to other donors	9.452.977,93	13.333.479,28	-3.880.501,35
<i>Partners</i>	<i>1.116.117,78</i>	<i>290.091,68</i>	<i>826.026,10</i>
<i>Donors</i>	<i>8.336.860,15</i>	<i>13.043.387,60</i>	<i>-4.706.527,45</i>
4) Payments received on account			0,00
5) Amounts owed to suppliers	468.604,11	349.995,93	118.608,18
6) Tax debts	39.242,46	39.452,20	-209,74
7) Taxation and social security	20.651,71	13.808,60	6.843,11
8) Other creditors	415.422,24	450.679,85	-35.257,61
<b>E) Accruals and deferred income</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>

**COSV**  
**VIA SOPERGA 36 MILANO**  
**C.F. 80090670581**

<b>managerial statement - year 2013</b>							
<b>charges</b>	<b>31/12/2013</b>	<b>31/12/2012</b>	<b>difference</b>	<b>proceeds</b>	<b>31/12/2013</b>	<b>31/12/2012</b>	<b>difference</b>
<b>1) Charges from principal activities</b>	<b>8.094.239,64</b>	<b>7.907.114,91</b>	<b>187.124,73</b>	<b>1) Proceeds from principal activities</b>	<b>8.245.887,63</b>	<b>7.838.917,41</b>	<b>406.970,22</b>
1.1) Project's expenses	8.094.239,64	7.907.114,91	187.124,73	1.1) From project contributions	7.078.247,25	7.835.117,41	- 756.870,16
1.2) Services				1.2) From contracts with public bodies	-	3.800,00	- 3.800,00
1.3) Possession of third parties' goods				1.3) Partners' contributions	1.167.640,38		1.167.640,38
1.4) Personnel							
1.5) Amortization							
1.6) Other management charges	-	-					
<b>3) Charges from secondary activities</b>				<b>3) Proceeds from secondary activities</b>			
3.1) Raw materials				3.1) From project contributions			
3.2) Services				3.2) From contracts with public bodies			
3.3) Possession of third parties' goods				3.3) From members and partners			
3.4) Personnel				3.4) From non members			
3.5) Amortization				3.5) Other proceeds			
3.6) Other management charges							
<b>4) Financial and patrimonial charges</b>	<b>48.604,19</b>	<b>39.848,24</b>	<b>8.755,95</b>	<b>4) Financial and patrimonial proceeds</b>	-	<b>3.170,94</b>	<b>- 3.170,94</b>
4.1) On banking loans	48.604,19	31.681,34	16.922,85	4.1) From banking deposits	-	23,16	- 23,16
4.2) On other loans				4.2) From other activities	-	3.147,78	- 3.147,78
4.3) From building property				4.3) From building property			
4.4) From other patrimonial goods				4.4) From other patrimonial goods			
4.5) Banking charges		8.166,90	- 8.166,90				
<b>5) Extraordinary charges</b>	<b>43.343,82</b>	<b>2.004,21</b>	<b>41.339,61</b>	<b>5) Extraordinary proceeds</b>	<b>24.468,46</b>	<b>36.078,85</b>	<b>- 38.357,93</b>
5.1) From financial assets	43.343,82		43.343,82	5.1) From financial assets	17.662,05	31.749,55	- 14.087,50
5.2) From real assets				5.2) From real assets			-
5.3) From other assets		2.004,21	- 2.004,21	5.3) From others	6806,41	4329,3	2.477,11
<b>6) General support charges</b>	<b>594.571,12</b>	<b>684.347,87</b>	<b>- 89.776,75</b>	<b>6) General support proceeds</b>	<b>544.467,53</b>	<b>797.355,91</b>	<b>- 252.888,38</b>
6.2) Services	130.392,86	130.508,40	- 115,54	6.2) Private funds	128.724,88	282.725,09	- 154.000,21
6.3) Possession of third parties' goods	79.140,00	77.156,86	1.983,14	6.3) Other revenues	14.037,29	13.797,14	240,15
6.4) Personnel	357.478,97	466.574,72	- 109.095,75	6.4) HQ cost recovery	401.705,36	500.833,68	- 99.128,32
6.5) Amortization	6.458,14	5.492,23	965,91				
6.6) Other management charges	21.101,15	4.615,66	16.485,49				
<b>7) Other charges</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>7) Other proceeds</b>			
7.1) Risk fund	-	-	147.443,54				
<b>TOTAL CHARGES</b>	<b>8.780.758,77</b>	<b>8.633.315,23</b>	<b>147.443,54</b>	<b>TOTAL PROCEEDS</b>	<b>8.814.823,62</b>	<b>8.675.523,11</b>	<b>139.300,51</b>
<b>Positive managerial account</b>	<b>34.064,85</b>	<b>42.207,88</b>		<b>Negative managerial account</b>			



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### REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF AUDITORS CLOSED AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

To the attention of the members of the assembly of the "Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario"

The COSV's accounting period balance as closed as at 31 December 2013 composed by the financial standing, the profit and loss account and the supplementary note, was voluntarily submitted to the Board of Auditors.

The examination was conducted according to generally accepted auditing standards by reference to correct the accounting standards issued by the National Councils of Chartered Accountants and Public Accountants, and where necessary, international bodies and professional bodies in respect of the document entitled "Independent control over the non-profit organizations and the contribution of professional Chartered Accountant and Accounting Expert" adopted February 16, 2011 by the National Council of Certified Accountants and Chartered Accountants, as well as subsequent revisions or additions.

The accounting balance represents the previous accounting period data for comparative purposes.

The aforementioned budget as a whole has been drawn up clearly and give a true and fair view of the financial position and operating results of the Coordinating Committee of Voluntary Organisations for the year ended December 31, 2013, in accordance with correct principles accounting.

Milan, 10th June 2014

The Auditor  
*dot. Maurizio Biraghi*



[WWW.COSV.ORG](http://WWW.COSV.ORG)