During 2017, CISP’s members, experts and partners have worked together and elaborated a new Declaration of Intent, titled ‘Rights, Change and Sustainability’. CISP adopted the Declaration, available on the website www.cisp.ngo, on January 2018, in conjunction with its thirty-fifth anniversary.

The Declaration sets shared strategic horizons and general objectives that characterize the action of CISP, without prejudice to the necessary efforts to make the action of our association tailored to the specific settings and consistent with the dynamics, needs, and priorities of the areas in which it operates.

In 2008, a similar collective exercise produced the Declaration of Intent entitled “For Rights and against Poverty”, which defined our priority operational areas, and combined the fight against poverty with the affirmation of denied rights. The ideas and values expressed in that Declaration still remain a source of inspiration for CISP, but this new version stems out from the awareness that the international context of reference of our action has changed profoundly since 2008. In 2008, we were halfway through the Millennium Development Goals Agenda; since September 2015, the international community has a new agenda, which foresees the affirmation of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Against the background of this global change, some facts can no longer be denied. One of them is the emergence, on the world stage and within each country, of inequality and exclusion as social, political and economic emergencies.

The new Declaration of Intent takes up the basic indication of the Agenda 2030: sustainability must be simultaneously applied to all aspects: environmental, social, economic, institutional. A development model that fails to consider the progressive depletion of natural resources and climate change is unsustainable, as well as is an economic growth that produces wealth for the few, leaving millions of people in poverty, and a system of international governance that is incapable of affirming international law, condemning communities shaken by armed conflict to humiliation and suffering.

All CISP projects can be associated with one or more of the SDGs, so as to achieve the maximum possible impact and concreteness.
People’s lives cannot be changed with irrelevant rhetoric; it is water, credit, access to education and health, the possibility of getting organised, have a voice, obtain supportive public policies that can make the change. These are the areas where we must assess our credibility.

CISP is committed to evaluating the impact of its projects. This commitment has characterised us since our foundation, and has been articulated over the years in collaboration with partners, universities and research centres. The impact assessment of projects, together with transparency in administrative and financial management, are assumed by CISP as central commitments and tools for accountability.

The Declaration of Intent updates our mission, strategies and objectives. The criteria and rules to which we adhere are defined in the Management System. These are different documents, yet united by a concrete thread. We are convinced that the way in which an organisation works, manages its financial resources and, above all, values human resources cannot be separated from its general values.

CISP is above all the whole of the people who work for it. These are people who speak, think and dream in at least 30 different languages, practice different religions, and are inspired by various cultures and visions of the world. A small segment of humanity, united by common values and objectives. The Declaration of Intent is the work of all of them.

The Declaration of Intent, “Rights, Change and Sustainability”, identifies the following strategic and operational priorities: Promoting dialogue and integration; Social justice and inclusion; Access to quality services; Equal opportunities; Right to humanitarian protection; Support to vulnerable and marginalized groups; Developing innovation and seeking new solutions; Gender Equality; Migration and Migrants’ Rights; Promotion of Peace; Support to the development of inclusive policies; Environment and climate change; Attention to cultural heritage.
LEGAL STATUS, OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF ACTION

CISP is a non-governmental organization (NGO) established on January 10, 1983, with its headquarters in Rome. Through partnerships with international agencies, companies, public institutions, universities, research institutes, associations, international and local NGOs, CISP has implemented and continues to implement humanitarian aid and rehabilitation and development projects in more than 30 countries in Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, the Middle East, Asia and Eastern Europe. In Italy and in the countries of the European Union, it promotes initiatives of cultural policy, promotion of international solidarity and support to social inclusion.

CISP projects are designed to respond to priority needs and solve concrete problems and to identify, formulate and consolidate specific sectoral policies of a general nature and with reference to specific countries and geographical areas. These are two interdependent goals, because the possibility that a project inspires or strengthens a policy depends on its impact, its effectiveness and the credibility of the actors who implement it. In our practice, protecting human rights and responding to individual and community needs are integrated into coordinated operational strategies with the partners with whom we work.

THEORETICAL WORK, PUBLICATIONS AND IN-DEPTH STUDIES

CISP produces publications and audio-visual material and promotes opportunities for meetings and in-depth study to inform public opinion on the most significant experiences of cooperation. In addition, as part of its programmes, it organises events, seminars and conferences to exchange experiences and promote innovations and public policies of interest for the countries in which it operates. Our main publications are available online on CISP’s website (www.cisp.ngo).

STATUTORY AND OPERATIONAL ORGANISATION

The Member’s Assembly meets at least once a year to deliberate on the planning and the final balance sheet. Every three years, it elects the President, the Director, the other members of the Board of Directors and the Auditors. The President is responsible for the political representation of the Association, the coordination of relations with institutional interlocutors and the exercise of supervision activities. The Director is the legal representative of CISP and coordinates the management control. Every year the Board of Directors defines the roles and responsibilities of the staff of the Rome office, monitors its work and takes decisions of general importance. The operational coordination of the activities is ensured by the Executive committee, which is formed by the President, the Director and other managers appointed by the Board of Directors. The projects are coordinated at the Rome headquarters by the Directors of the Geographical Areas of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Asia, Middle East and the Mediterranean, Italy and the European Union. In addition to its Rome office, CISP also has other regional offices in Italy and, in the countries where it operates, national offices coordinated by Country Representatives. The organisational and administrative life of CISP is regulated, in addition to its Articles of Association, by a Management System composed of three parts: the Administrative Manual, the Code of Behaviour and the Verification System.
The annual financial statements are audited by an independent firm. CISP is an association with legal personality recognized by the Italian State. In the countries where it operates, it is usually recognized under national laws.

COOPERATION RELATIONSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

To give more effectiveness to its action, CISP collaborates with other organizations and participates in different associations and thematic and geographical networks. These include: Link 2007 Cooperation in Network (which in turn is part of the Permanent Forum of the Third Sector, the Network for Peace and the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development), the European NGO Confederation for Humanitarian Aid and Development (Concord) and the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR). In 1997 CISP, together with other NGOs and universities, founded the Cooperation and Development Network (CDN), a network oriented to training leaders and professionals who are committed to sustainable human development.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

CISP projects are supported by financing and contributions from private citizens, associations, foundations, companies and public institutions in Italy and abroad. Among the latter, we list: European Union, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Italian local authorities, United Nations agencies, and government agencies of OECD countries (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), national governments and local governments of the countries in which CISP operates. CISP audited annual financial statement is available at www.cisp.ngo.
In Sub-Saharan Africa, programmes were implemented Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya in East Africa; Malawi and Mozambique in Southern Africa; the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Mauritania in Central and Western Africa. Activities were also carried out under multicountry programmes in Ghana and Nigeria. In other countries, such as Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau, cooperation relationships have been established with national entities. The key themes of CISP’s action in Africa have been health, access to water and health care, education, food security, economic and social development, protection and prevention of the violation of women’s and children’s rights and the enhancement of environmental and cultural resources.

In Niger, we have also strengthened and developed a comprehensive support programme for displaced people, refugees and returnees to the Diffa area following the conflict in the Lake Chad region. Activities in urban planning programmes with local authorities are focused on the building of housing using traditional techniques. The programme is part of the out-of camps assistance strategy promoted by UNHCR and strongly focused on the Humanitarian - Development Nexus.

In Ethiopia, in 2017, the commitment to the theme of migration was reinforced, with three aims: strengthening the capacities of institutions and civil society to analyse and manage the issue of irregular and unprotected migration; extending opportunities for income and social inclusion to benefit groups of the population currently deprived of opportunities and access to vocational training and credit; and protecting the most vulnerable groups.

In Somalia and Niger, in particular, CISP has continued to work on the theme of the connection between culture and development, in terms of safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage, enhancing these resources as opportunities for development and income for communities and rehabilitation of the social and institutional fabric. In Kenya, a support programme for dialogue between citizens, civil society associations and local institutions was concluded, which led to a great effort to capitalise on the experiences and methodologies of promoting effective dialogue and public participation.
In Kenya, with the support of UNICEF and as part of the Maternal and Child Nutrition Programme, we have continued to promote community participation and accountability of local institutions for the improvement of behaviours and access to nutritional support services for mothers and children. Also in this case, an important work of analysis and capitalization was carried out in collaboration with Pwani University and local institutions. In 2017, relations with universities and research centres such as Kenyatta University and Tangaza College in Kenya, Oda Bultum University, Adigrat University, Makalé University and Assosa University in Ethiopia, and Johns Hopkins University, were further consolidated.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, CISP has operated in Guatemala and Honduras in Central America; Cuba in the Caribbean; Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Peru and Venezuela in South America. There have been two levels of intervention. On the one hand, our collaboration continued with government authorities in various countries to define and implement processes for the reforming of public policies on social protection, education and employment (including countries such as Chile and Peru, where we do not have permanent offices). In this context, a particularly important work has been carried out with the Mesa regional de cooperación técnica sobre competencias transversales y socioemocionales - MESACTS ¹, in which 9 Latin American countries participate and where CISP is responsible for the technical secretariat; the promotion in Brazil of the initiative “la Baixada que Queremos”, a network of private, public and civil society actors to counter the social and human drift of the Baixada Fluminense in Rio de Janeiro and with many initiatives in Venezuela for the promotion of active policies for a proper waste management practices through the 3R methodology. CISP has also become an active member (by providing an expert consultant) of the Latin American section of the Global Network for Disaster Management and Reduction - GNDR (www.gndr.org), an area of great importance for the region.
On the other hand, activities in support of local communities continued with new projects. Today, CISP’s commitment to uphold and promote rights and equality of opportunities for all individuals is confirmed in Honduras and Guatemala through projects and initiatives designed to improve the effectiveness of services and policies for the promotion of inclusive development; in Brazil, we carry out activities aimed at enhancing democratic participation and the leading role of young people in social policies; in Colombia, we have projects conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Prosperidad Social and the European Commission in support of the poorest communities and victims of conflicts; in Cuba, we have projects in the field of Culture and agricultural development as a driving force for local development. CISP has also acted to provide concrete and effective responses to the victims of the earthquake in Ecuador and is providing assistance and support to the populations affected by the earthquake. Also worth mentioning is the continuity of training activities on disaster prevention and reduction, carried out mainly in Argentina. CISP continues to be particularly active in accompanying the Colombian institutions and communities who are victims of the conflict, in the firm conviction that peace can bring a new historical phase for the country and renewed opportunities for redemption and development, especially for the realities that have been more involved than others in the conflict. In this context, at the end of last year, we promoted and signed a project agreement financed by the Trust Fund for Peace of the European Union, to which we symbolically gave the title of PUEDES - Paz Unica Esperanza para el Desarrollo Economico y Social (Single Peace Programme for the Economic and Social Development). The project will be implemented in the Department of Putumayo.

In Eastern Europe and Asia, CISP has operated mainly in Armenia, Georgia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Albania, through the implementation of projects in the fields of migration and development, education, food security, protection and promotion of natural resources and sustainable local economic development. In Armenia and Georgia, technical assistance was provided to national governments, civil society associations and local authorities to define actions and policies on migration and development, and to strengthen the link between local realities and the Diasporas of the two countries.

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1 | The objective of MESACTS (established at the end of the EuroSocial II programme) is to promote the deepening and exchange of experiences on the role of soft skills in social policies related to work, education and social protection, starting from the tools developed and promoted by CISP experts.
In Armenia, moreover, interventions for local economic development were carried out through the empowerment of small entrepreneurs. Furthermore, in Armenia, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, a programme of technical assistance to the government on food safety was implemented, in particular aimed at developing a strategy for the implementation of school feeding programmes. In Bosnia Herzegovina, collaboration was established with institutions, universities, schools, economic and civil society actors in the Canton of Tuzla in the fields of environmental protection and the development of responsible tourism. In Albania, a project to support community development in the Shkodra Region in the north of the country was launched in partnership with VIS. In Myanmar, a dialogue has been initiated with the most important representatives of the world of NGOs and local associations on actions to be supported for the promotion of democracy and peace. In 2017, in Kyrgyzstan, CISP opened channels of cooperation with representatives of local authorities and civil society associations in the field of policies to protect the most vulnerable groups of the population. Finally, CISP, in collaboration with CIPSI, has realized a training course on the planning and evaluation for cadres and officials of the Ministry of Plan of Bangladesh.

In the Mediterranean and the Middle East, CISP was active in 2017 in Algeria, in the Sahrawi refugee camps in southern Algeria, in Lebanon and in Palestine. In Algeria, CISP continued to promote human rights and activities to strengthen civil society and associations. A territorial development project was also launched within the framework of bilateral relations between the European Union and the Algerian Ministry of Social Affairs. In the Sahrawi refugee camps, in the Tindouf area in southern Algeria, actions continued in collaboration with United Nations agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP), with funds from the European Union, Italian Cooperation and the French Embassy. The main areas of intervention were: strengthening the school system, prevention of viral hepatitis, support to the computerized system of the central health archive, protection, development of youth associations, distribution of food and non-food items, support to the justice system and the system of defence of human rights, rehabilitation and reconstruction of basic infrastructure (schools and health centres) damaged by several floods that hit the camps during 2016. In the Saharawi camps, CISP’s office in
Emilia-Romagna coordinated territorial projects with Italian local authorities and associations and the University of Bologna.

In the Middle East, CISP’s commitment focused on Lebanon and Palestine. In the view of the continuing crisis in Syria and its effects in the country and the region, CISP continued its humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon in the framework of the international response coordinated by the United Nations. A number of interventions - with EU, UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA funding - were undertaken to assist Syrian refugees and host Lebanese communities to improve hygiene, water and living conditions of refugees and to ensure their right to education. Rehabilitation projects - especially in the water sector - also continued for the host Lebanese communities. In collaboration with local communities and institutions, an intense assessment and identification of new needs was carried out in order to develop new initiatives. In Palestine, in 2017, a socio-educational project funded by the European Union and launched in 2015, continued in favour of Palestinian children and young people living in East Jerusalem. The intervention is carried out in collaboration with the Burj Luq Luq Centre, which offers various social, educational and recreational services to young people and their families in the Old City of Jerusalem. Among the activities carried out, there is the setting up of a ceramic workshop that represents a space for training, socialization and potential employment opportunities for the young people of East Jerusalem.

The intervention was supported by other projects backed by the Emilia Romagna Region, in collaboration with the UISP Network, for the improvement of educational techniques for early childhood and the promotion of sport as a means of education and cohesion among young people. CISP also continues to pay particular attention to the Bedouin and livestock farming communities in the Jericho area (Area C), working with local communities and institutions to identify interventions to respond to the chronic water shortage situation. In particular, in 2017 a project was launched - in collaboration with DISVI - to improve access to water and to maternal and child health services in Area C. Finally, an international partnership has been built with institutions and associations in Italy,
Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan to prepare a project on the promotion of sustainable tourism as a tool for the socio-economic development of territories, within the framework of the European ENICBCMed 2014-2020 programme.

In Italy, in 2017, CISP consolidated its participation in SDGs awareness and education strategies within the framework of the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), to which it adheres through Link 2007 Cooperation in Network. This commitment is also reflected in the participation in the steering committee of the protocol signed between ASviS and the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) and in the coordination of the national competition on SDGs for Italian schools, “Facciamo 17 Goals” (Let’s score 17 goals). The commitment to the integration of migrants and asylum seekers continued, through training for staff working in assistance centres and the start of collaborations with local authorities in the Rome area. CISP is also a partner in a project to fight educational poverty in the Lazio Region.

In the European Union, in 2017, we saw the start of the European project GET UP AND GOALS! Global education time: an international network of learning and active schools for SDGs, which is implemented through an extensive network of partnerships in Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Ireland, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom and Hungary.

In the field of higher education, the network of relations and alliances with NGOs, universities and research centres is becoming increasingly solid. The Cooperation and Development Network (CDN), founded in 1997 by CISP together with the University of Pavia (UNIPV), the Institute of Higher University Studies of Pavia (IUSS), International Cooperation (COOPI) and International Volunteering for Development (VIS), consolidates the activities of academic exchange and research, highlighting the ability to build bridges between people and countries. The CDN network includes, in addition to the Master in Cooperation and Development held in Pavia (Italy), now in its twenty-first edition, ELACID (Escuela Latino-Americana de Cooperación y Desarrollo) in Colombia with the University of San Buenaventura in Cartagena des Indias, the MICAD (Master in International Co-operation and Development) in collaboration with the University of Bethlehem in Palestine, the MECOHD (Master of Economics Cooperation and Human Development) in collaboration with Kenyatta University, Tangaza College and the United Nations Development Programme in Kenya, and the MICD (Master in International and Cooperation Development) with the Mid-Western University in Nepal. Each of the network’s poles has established relations with various types of local and regional partners.

In the light of Agenda 2030, the teaching programmes of the various Masters courses have been updated and innovations have been made in teaching and research activities on human development. CISP, together with the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) and the University of Pavia, organizes the NOHA Winter School, whose activity in 2016 focused on Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD), and in 2017 on the Humanitarian-Development NEXUS.
CHILDREN RIGHTS

1. Right to
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10. Right to

- education
- food
- shelter
- medical care
- security
- play
- worship
- respect
- rest
- personal association
- parental love and care
CISP STRENGTHENS ITS COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ALSO IN EUROPE

In 2017, started the project GET UP AND GOALS! Global education time: an international network of learning and active schools for SDGs, co-financed by the European Union. The project aims at supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030 in European schools.

CISP is the general coordinator of the project, in partnership with 13 other entities from the following countries: Italy, Austria, Bulgaria, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Romania, Spain, Hungary and the United Kingdom. The Ministries of Education of the 12 European countries involved have also joined the project, as have several universities (in Italy, the Department of Education Sciences of the University of Roma Tre; Alma Mater Studiorum of the University of Bologna; the University of Macerata; the University of L’Aquila) and Local Authorities (in Italy, the Municipality I of Rome Capital; the Metropolitan City of Bologna; the Municipality of Ancona; the Municipality of Avezzano,AQ, and the Municipality of Porto San Giorgio). Collaborative entities also include universities and research centres from partner countries, particularly in Africa and Latin America.

The project will be developed in 120 schools over three years, and will target school stakeholders: teachers, students, school leaders, families, communities, local authorities, social media and public opinion.

The main activities are expected to be:

• Teachers’ training on Agenda 2030 and Global Citizenship Education.
• Training and exchange of good practices among teachers, at national levels and between countries involved in the project.
• Experimentation of Learning Units on SDGs issues.
• Preparation and dissemination of a global geo-history manual.
• Awareness-raising actions on SDGs addressed to the local community, carried out by pupils of the schools involved.
• Application and testing of a method to measure the impact of global citizenship and sustainability education initiatives.
• Activation of a specific European project website where innovative teaching materials and results of activities carried out in schools will be published.
• European campaigns to raise awareness among teachers and young people on the objectives of sustainable development (SDGs) and global citizenship.