

CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES
Endorsed by CISP on April 7, 1997

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CISP applies a Code of Conduct consistent with its strategic and methodological guide-lines when formulating and implementing its humanitarian, rehabilitation or development cooperation projects. The Code of Conduct enhances the work of the managerial staff and of all those who, in Italy and abroad, identify, implement and monitor the projects.

1. Projects must be designed to meet the real needs of the people and be defined in accordance with the economic, social, and cultural characteristics of the different contexts. This means always ensuring that projects are implemented in respect of local cultures.
2. Cooperation intends to enhance local technical, professional and material resources. This means, for example, that the functions assigned to expatriate personnel must not mortify or marginalize the role and contributions of local personnel, which, on the contrary, must be promoted and supported. Within this context, the promotion of South-South regional cooperation actions is crucial.
3. Activities undertaken in third countries tend to strengthen, improve and, if necessary, modify national development plans, that, in any case, must be taken into account when cooperation activities are planned. As a matter of fact, cooperation cannot substitute or replace the role of local planning authorities and agencies. On the contrary, only by acting in total respect for the role of these authorities and by a continuous dialogue with them, cooperation can have the authority and the status required to negotiate, whenever necessary, the introduction of corrective measures into local policies and plans.
4. In order to guarantee a high effectiveness of the projects implemented, attention must be paid to their identification, planning, monitoring and evaluation. Beneficiaries must be involved in the different phases of such activities and be informed on their results.
5. Professionalism is a fundamental ethical principle which characterizes the relationship existing between CISP, the countries and the communities with which it works. It is also a precondition for the establishment of sound and effective relationships based on mutual respect and cooperation.
6. Always in respect of the principle of non-interference in the political and religious life of third countries, CISP considers it appropriate the promotion of the role played by institutions and organizations, which actually contribute to development and democratisation processes, also through the implementation of specific and operational collaborations. In this regard, CISP gives particular importance to the enhancement of the role of the associations of women, small producers and other marginal individuals and groups (refugees, indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, etc.).
7. In order to guarantee transparency, governments, partners and local communities must all be fully informed on funding sources that make it possible the implementation of projects.
8. Projects must be managed in order to ensure economic, social and institutional sustainability and guarantee long-term benefits. At the same time, financial resources must be used appropriately in order to guarantee the achievement of benefits for local populations.
9. Coordination between international cooperation agencies and organizations and the institutions in the recipient countries is an important means of ensuring greater effectiveness to the work and the policies implemented. At this regard, CISP is willing at all times to disseminate information on its activities.
10. With regard to humanitarian activities aimed at overcoming complex emergency situations, CISP acts in accordance with the Code of Conduct elaborated by the International Committee of the Red Cross which affirms, among others, the following principles: the universal right to humanitarian assistance without any restriction due to ideology, religion, race, sex or other considerations; the political and operational independence while implementing relief actions in order to avoid any possible support of one of the opposing factions, especially in situations of conflict; respect for the rights of the individual, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



CISP HEADQUARTERS

VIA GERMANICO 198 - 00192 ROME - ITALIA
T. +39 06 3215498 - F. +39 06 3216163
Email cisp@cisp-ngo.org - WWW.CISP.NGO