

# PARTICIPATORY LOCAL DEMOCRACY A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICES

**April 2013**

A seminar entitled *Participatory Local Democracy: A Global Community of Practice* was held in Rome on 11 April 2013, at the building of the European Parliament. The seminar was organized by the KIP International School and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in collaboration with United Nations Fund for Democracy (UNDEF) - The Hunger Project (THP).



The seminar was part of a UNDEF/THP collaborative project which general objective is to promote an international network of practices and policies of local development based on democratic participation, especially in rural areas. Although numerous experiences exist in this field, they are still poorly understood and have little influence on policies. For this reason THP/UNDEF Project aims to make their innovative contributions better known and to influence the wider debate on development.

Similar meetings have been organized by The Hunger Project in Washington, Mexico City, New Delhi and Dhaka. Their purpose was to introduce the project to the experts who, at various levels and in various institutions, associations, universities and international organizations, are working for a democratic and participatory local development, to exchange experiences and to discuss proposals to foster a *global community of practice*.

The project aims at providing the participants with: a web portal, weekly e-mail communications on news and resources, reviews and other tools. Among them, the project includes the proposal of a format to be used to assess, with commonly agreed indicators, the effectiveness of local governance. Finally, the Project has a mandate to draw up a *State of Participatory Democracy Report*, to be presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2013 and 2014 that will contain, amongst other things, case studies and experiences from various countries.

The seminar in Rome, chaired by John Coonrod, Director THP; Luciano Carrino Co-President of the KIP International School and Vice President of the OECD/DAC Poverty Group and Famiano Crucianelli, Co-President of the KIP International School and former Under Secretary of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was attended by the following persons: Jowert van Geene, Institutional Fund Raising and Program Development, THP Netherlands Office; Gildo Baraldi, Director of the Italian Inter-regional Observatory for Development Cooperation (OICS); Simonetta Paganini, Head of Decentralized Cooperation of the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI); Stefano Zucchetta, Department for International Relations, Veneto Region; Carlo Rossi, Director of the Area of Policies for Decentralized Cooperation, Lazio Region; Giovanni Soda, Director, Planning and Internationalization Sector, Province of Cosenza; Felice Spingola, Mayor of Verbicaro, Cosenza; Antonio Blandi, Slow Food-Cosenza and President of *L'Officina delle idee*; Giorgia Foscarini, International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight against Poverty in the Mediterranean- Black Sea (FISPMED); Vincenzo Pira, Armadilla NGO; Sorinel Ghetau, Responsible for International Cooperation, OXFAM Italia; Francesco Petrelli, OXFAM Italia; Lorenzo Marcolini, Agency for Province Development of Roman Ills (ASP Roma); Federica Di Pietrantonio, iNExT Local Planning Company; Andrea Ferrannini, ARCO Lab, University of Florence;

Maurizio Del Bufalo, Human Rights Film Festival, Naples; Prof. Enzo Nocifora, Faculty of Sociology, *La Sapienza* University, Rome; Massimo Allulli, ANCI Research Foundation Cittalia.

In addition, for the KIP International School, attended: Giancarlo Canzanelli of Coordinator ILS LEDA Network; Sara Swartz, Coordinator of Universitas Programme; Piero D'Onofrio, IDEASS Programme; Carla Farina, administrator and Luciano Gonnella, Coordinator of KIP Services for International Partnerships, UNOPS.

The seminar in Rome provided an important opportunity for a mutual knowledge between the various participants and learns about their different practices, as well as to discuss the strategies and actions to build this *Global community of practice* and to encourage the participants to join it.



**To know more about the Hunger Project**

[www.thp.org](http://www.thp.org)  
[www.localdemocracy.net](http://www.localdemocracy.net)

Hunger project in Nederland  
[www.thehungerproject.nl](http://www.thehungerproject.nl)  
[www.twitter.com/THPNederland](https://twitter.com/THPNederland)