

# Minutes of UN SDSN Mediterranean General Assembly

## 16 February 2016

Venue: CRUI, Piazza Rondanini 48, Roma

### Agenda:

1. Presentation of SDSN Greece, SDSN Spain, SDSN Turkey and SDSN Italy
2. Educational Initiatives to promote SDGs implementation in the MED Area
3. 2016 SDSN MED Conference in Greece
4. Presentation of PRIMA initiative
5. Enlargement to new Partners
6. SDSN MED Governance
7. Regional consultation for EU SD strategy
8. SDSN Youth - Empowering youth globally to create sustainable solutions
9. AOB

### Participants:

Angelo Riccaboni – SDSN Mediterranean Chair; Maria Cortes Puch – UN SDSN global; Andreas Papandreu – UN SDSN Greece; Bahar Ozay – UN SDSN Turkey; Fabrizio Saladini – UN SDSN youth; Pedro Pereira Leite – Centre for interdisciplinary studies in education and development – Lisbon; Eugenia Ferragina – CNR; Silvana Di Bono – Consorzio Arca; Sabina Ratti – FEEM; Isabella Alloisio FEEM; Cristina Zago Perillo – Fispmed; Gianluca Breggi – Fondazione Achille Sclavo; Anna Ruggerini – Fondazione Barilla; Luca Virginio – Fondazione Barilla; Davide Usai – Fondazione Monte dei Paschi; Sarah Lupu – Politecnico di Milano; Carmen Torres – UNIMED; Edoardo Croci – Bocconi University; Maria Dolores Sanchez Galera – University Carlos III of Madrid; Antonio Marzocchella – University Napoli Federico II; Giorgia Giovannetti – University of Florence; Laura Viganò – University of Bergamo; Gianni Gilioli – University of Brescia; Darren Fa – University of Gibraltar; Arianna Facchi – University of Milan; Simone Bastianoni – University of Siena; Cristina Capineri – University of Siena; Alessandra Viviani – University of Siena; Maurizio Cellura – University of Palermo; Irene Litardi – Tor Vergata University; Ilda Mannino – Venice International University; Alessandra Fornetti – Venice International University; Luigi De Chiara – Ministero degli Esteri

The Assembly starts at 10.00 a.m. and it is chaired by Angelo Riccaboni, SDSN Mediterranean Chair.

After the participants' presentation and a brief introduction, the Chair informs the Assembly that the presentation of Regional SDSNs (point n. 1 of the Agenda) is postponed and invites Prof. Cristina Capineri from Siena University to describe the educational initiatives settled by the SDSN Med partners (point n. 2 of the Agenda)

### **2) Educational Initiatives to promote SDGs implementation in the MED Area .**

Educational activities are a tool and a resource of the Network and can be considered one possible solution to improve knowledge and sustainable practices. Prof. Cristina Capineri addressed the topic first showing some background thoughts with reference to some results obtained by the Sustainability Literacy Test which was carried out in 2014: sustainable development is generally included in university courses where sustainability is a related topic and the issues which obtained the best students' performances concern consumers' behaviour and fair practices, while issues on environmental trends and economics achieved the worst results. These two simple examples could be taken into account when planning courses syllabi and topics. Then the results of the Survey carried out by Siena University among SDSN Med partners on educational activities were briefly presented. The survey aimed at evaluating ongoing or planned educational activities run by the partners, their interest both in the dissemination of SDSN MED resources and in creating a new MOOC more focused on the Mediterranean area. The 23 answers obtained show that most activities are in a planning phase and that a new Mediterranean oriented MOOC would be appreciated. USiena proposed to create an open repository which could gather and monitor in a systematic way the educational activities of the partners.

The Institution's Representatives underline their activities on SDGs.

Carmen Torres from Unimed declares the availability of Unimed to help in disseminating, by their network, the information on educational initiatives to the students of States of Mediterranean southern shores.

Sabina Ratti, executive Manager of Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), underlines the importance of MOOCs also for the employees of Institutions.

Simone Bastianoni presented a draft of a monitoring system for the PRIMA Initiative. The SDGs are the basis for the selection of indicators for the assessment of the progress due to the PRIMA Initiative. The indicators (12 for now but they could become 15) have been selected in order to cover the goals n.2 and n.6 dedicated primarily to food and water but also to have impact on several other of the SDGs. The selected indicators consider the biophysical limits, the nexus food-water-energy and are both at the national and sectoral level. They should be used to monitor the behavior of a system in time rather than to compare countries or regions.

#### **1) Presentation of SDSN Greece, SDSN Spain, SDSN Turkey and SDSN Italy**

Andreas Papandreu, Co-chair of SDSN Greece, presents the overall goals of the new born network, the planned activities, the Network Governance, Leadership Council, Executive Council and the Project Manager. He also confirms availability of SDSN Greece to host next SDSN Med Conference in Greece illustrating the possible Venues.

Maria Cortes Puch from UN SDSN global presents SDSN Spain on behalf of Co- Chair Miguel Angel Moratinos, and informs participants that in addition to other activities this network has set up two MOOCs in Spanish opened both to students and all those from civil societies interested in the topic.

She takes also the opportunity to inform that recently has been constituted also UN SDSN Germany.

Prof. Riccaboni, to summarize, underlines the importance of all the new Regional Network and more and more tight cooperation among them with the aim to promote SDSGs working with European Commission.

Bahar Ozay presents UN SDSN Turkey describing the network, the overall aims and ongoing projects. She underlines the composition of Executive Board built up from the business, NGOs, professionals and academicians.

Isabella Alloisio from FEEM presents UN SDSN Italy. Its formal constitution will be ratified on 14 March in Milano during the Conference *"La ricerca e l'innovazione per gli SDGs: verso una crescita verde ed inclusiva"*, event where it is expected the participation of Prof. Jeffrey Sachs.

Sabina Ratti takes this chance to introduce the *"Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile"* coordinated by Prof. Enrico Giovannini.

Darren Fa from University of Gibraltar proposes Gibraltar as a Venue for the UN SDSN Mediterranean Conference on 2017. The University of Gibraltar is interested in becoming a Member of UN SDSN Mediterranean and Prof. Riccaboni underlines the importance of having also UK in the network.

#### **4) Presentation of PRIMA initiative**

Alessandra Viviani from Siena University makes a short presentation of PRIMA Initiative, that is an integrated programme on food systems and water resources for the development of inclusive, sustainable and healthy Euro-Mediterranean societies.

Next steps of this important Initiative are: stakeholder consultation, adoption by the EC and final adoption of the proposal by the Council and the European Parliament in the first half of 2017 under the Malta Presidency.

Alessandra Viviani takes also the chance to briefly present the conference ISCN 2016 *"Leadership for a Sustainable Future"* that will be held in Siena on June 13- 15, 2016.

#### **5) Enlargement to new Partners**

Professor Riccaboni explains that the association of a new partner to a Regional or National Network is not made directly but it is to be accepted by UN SDSN global. This is why the procedure can be sometime long.

Regional network helps in giving visibility to the initiatives and project of partners, but to better work the network needs to receive suggestion from the members.

SDGs index is important because the attention from politics can be obtained only if you show them a real performance. Attracting their interest it is not easy and so we have to do something visible at regional or city level.

It is necessary to work with local Authorities for the implementation of SDGs and we have to direct their attention to the SDGs issues through solutions and ideas or educational Initiatives.

We also have to show to potential partners that there is a real advantage in becoming a member of the network.

#### **6) SDSN MED Governance**

Prof. Riccaboni explains that the issues related to the UN SDSN Mediterranean Conference will be discussed during the Conference in Greece. In that occasion statute and leadership will be defined.

#### **7) Regional consultation for EU SD strategy**

On this issue are working UN SDSN Germany and UN SDSN Spain in prevision of the meeting on SDGs index with European Commission scheduled in Brussels on 30 – 31 May 2016.

They are considering whether to proceed with regional consultations for the different zones (north-south Europe).

#### **8) SDSN Youth - Empowering youth globally to create sustainable solutions**

Fabrizio Saladini, Youth Representative of Mediterranean Network describes what is SDSN Youth, its mission, aims and objective, organization and projects. He underlines the necessity of individuating and recruiting the Campus Coordinators. Carmen Torres declares the availability of Unimed in helping to involve representatives of Southern shore of Mediterranean Universities.

The Chair thanks all participants for their presence and commitment to UN SDSN Mediterranean and takes the chance to inform them that public consultation on PRIMA is ongoing and invites everyone to promote the Initiative.

All documents presented during the Assembly are available on the UN SDSN web page at: <http://www.sdsn-mediterranean.unisi.it/sdsn-general-assembly/>