



Programmes supported by the voluntary Italian contribution to the Hub for Innovative Partnership/ART Trust Fund

Action plan for 2008

Introduction

The UNDP has asked various donor governments to contribute to the Trust Fund run by the Hub for Innovative Partnerships which manages, amongst others, the Art Initiative. The aim is to:

- a) strengthen collaboration with governments to promote cooperation in support of national decentralisation and local development policies in line with the MDGs and, in general, the new world development platform, the result of 17 years of United Nations summits and the Millennium Assembly;
- b) strengthen decentralised cooperation by harmoniously mobilising regions, local authorities and public and private social actors in donor countries to establish territorial and thematic development partnerships with local structures in cooperation countries

To achieve this, the UNDP collaborates with several United Nations organisations: UNDP, UNESCO, UNIFEM, WHO, UNOPS and others, promoting a new type of multilateralism in which the United Nations system works with governments in fostering the active participation of local communities and social actors of the South and North. The strategies used by the UNDP to promote more effective MDG interventions are based on the notions that:

- each of the eight MDGs is closely connected to the others and can be fulfilled only by an inter-sectoral approach, getting interested operators and social groups to work together, avoiding strictly sectoral projects or those involving only one social category;
- that poverty, illiteracy, discrimination, disease, environmental degradation, social breakup and violence can only be effectively combated by acting not only on the manifest effects but also the causes of these phenomena, that is the mechanisms of social exclusion that characterise unequal and unbalanced development;
- that to overcome the structural obstacles to development a joint effort is needed from local, national and international actors.

The UNDP valorises the active role of local communities in development processes and supports national government policies aimed at democratic decentralisation, providing appropriate resources and supporting the development of the country's local communities. These policies are encouraged and supported because they generally constitute a sign of political determination to achieve a more sustainable, participated, equal and peaceful development.

Country framework programmes

The UNDP promotes and supports national framework programmes in countries for governance and local development cooperation, known by the acronym ART GOLD and another name. They are called framework programmes because they create an organised institutional context for national and international actors to contribute to human development in a co-ordinated and

complimentary fashion. Donor countries, United Nations agencies, regional governments, cities, local governments, decentralised cooperation organisations, associations, universities, private institutions and non-government organisations all take part. The framework programmes provide each of these actors with an instrument to boost the sustainability and impact of their initiatives, without sacrificing identity and visibility.

At the country level, framework programmes are run by a *National Coordination Committee* (CNC), set up by the government with the participation of the UNDP, United Nations agencies and the donors involved. The CNC directs various projects and systemises them into a programme, thus considerably improving international cooperation results and impact. Framework programmes provide an opportunity to translate the need for coordination, expressed with insistence by donors in different institutional organisations, into a concrete operational strategy.

The CNC identifies the regions of the country that will take part in the framework programmes, based on national priorities and the interest expressed by donors. *Local working groups* are set up in regions (departments, provinces) and municipalities, involving the area's public organisations, associations and private enterprises and representatives of ministries and the state's central structures. The local working groups are responsible for drawing up action plans for international cooperation contributions, which are then channelled into the framework programme's periodic national plan of operations.

The CNC and local working groups programme the resources provided by international cooperation, ensuring that they complement the resources set aside in budgets. This makes the projects more sustainable and the dialogue approach can gradually change current approaches to public expenditure planning and also provide guidelines for private investment.

The CNC makes sure that local initiatives are linked to national development policies; it is responsible for disseminating the most effective work methods in other areas of the country and promotes the involvement of new donors. Local working groups coordinate the implementation of different initiatives, avoiding overlaps and gaps, and maintain relations with donors in the area.

Framework programmes, using an intersectoral approach, operate in the following complementary fields of action:

- Governance: improving public administration; supporting institutions in the programming of territorial development; training administrators and technicians; promoting rights and an active citizenship; fostering dialogue to improve relations between institutions and social actors; promoting the gender approach and innovation.
- Environment and territory: plans and projects to valorise the area's historical and cultural heritage; plans and projects for the sustainable and rational use of natural resources, improvements in the urban habitat, the production and distribution of clean energy, communication and transport, the reduction of vulnerability to natural disasters.
- Local economic development: plans to valorise endogenous potential and projects capable of creating job opportunities for all social groups and improve territorial competitiveness; collaboration between public and private actors in economic development agencies, which provide integrated services to local enterprises and cooperatives, strengthening territorial value chains and competitiveness, and promoting international partnerships and outside investment.
- Local health and welfare systems: integrated plans and projects to improve the population's health and social well-being; improving the organisation of basic services and programmes so that they are also accessible to rural populations, people with no insurance cover and the most vulnerable groups.
- Local basic education and training systems: integrated plans and projects to make schools accessible to all children; links between the school and the area; adapting school programmes to cultural specificities; improving professional training and university education; spreading the culture of human development.

In agreement with governments and as part of the framework programmes, the UNDP supports local communities of the South and North in the construction of development partnerships within the framework programmes. Decentralised cooperation projects may involve all or just some fields of action in the framework programmes. What is important is that they are defined in collaboration with the local working groups and that they are within the framework of regional and local plans for international cooperation.

Local communities of the North, and their public and private actors, are making an important contribution to local development processes, not only because they provide new funds but also, and above all, because they provide know-how and experience. Everywhere, decentralised cooperation projects represent laboratories for innovation in different fields of human development, animated by a spirit of equal dignity and mutual learning. They are also used to promote solidarity, and scientific, cultural, professional, educational, economic and commercial exchanges and initiatives that foster an open and internationalised view of development.

International activities

At the international level, the UNDP provides support to country framework programmes; specifically it:

- provides any necessary technical and organisational assistance; promotes South South exchanges among programme countries; organises international events and guarantees the circulation of information and documents; provides international technical assistance in various fields of action, through its staff and by mobilising centres of excellence;
- offers technical, organisational and administrative support to local communities that wish to establish decentralised cooperation partnerships; disseminates territorial marketing documents in the local communities of the North and organises reciprocal visits;
- provides specialised technical assistance to set up local economic development agencies and get them networking; promotes partnerships among local economies for production projects of common interest, mixed capital enterprises, commercial and technological exchanges, and training activities for operators and entrepreneurs;
- Identifies human development innovations and disseminates them in programme countries, in collaboration with national scientific institutions; mobilises technical assistance to transfer innovations to interested countries, through South South and North South cooperation mechanisms;
- provides specialised technical assistance in the fields of basic health and welfare policies and practices, especially for territorial services and for people in difficulties; supports governments interested in promoting the closure of segregative institutions;
- Promotes links between the universities of the North and South and fosters involvement in innovative international cooperation practices for human development; creates and implements university and refresher courses for operators involved in the programmes and action research to gather and spread the knowledge of quality experiences.

The UNDP carries out the above activities through its Geneva based Hub for Innovative Partnerships (HIP), which, for initiatives supported by Italian government contributions, works through the UNDP/UNOPS team at the FAO offices in Rome. It mainly provides support to Italian territorial and thematic decentralised cooperation, innovation, promotion of the culture and practice of human development, through an international network of universities, research centres, and training centres, promotion of the social economy and local economic development agencies.

Collaboration with Italy

Italy has contributed over 17 million US dollars to the ART/HIP Trust Fund for interventions in Albania, Serbia, Lebanon, Central America, and the Latin American countries of Bolivia, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. Discussions on new collaboration agreements are under way in several other countries, including Mozambique, Uruguay and Morocco, between the UNDP and Italy. It is precisely to strengthen international support to interventions in the above

countries and promote international thematic activities and the mobilisation of Italian decentralised cooperation that the UNDP is asking the Italian government for an annual contribution to the ART/HIP Trust Fund.

The UNDP will use the contribution to consolidate and boost Italian participation in the ART Initiative (support to territorial and thematic human development cooperation networks), especially to support the countries in working towards MDGs, striving to improve operational strategies to reduce fragmentation, in application of the Paris Declaration and bearing in mind inter-donor dialogue on United Nations reform strategies.

With the Italian contribution, the UNDP aims to encourage Italian actors (regions, provinces, municipalities, social public, associative and private actors) to take part both in country programmes and in the various international activities, particularly in the themes of innovation, local economic development, training for participated, inter-sectoral and internationalised territorial development officials, and in general, the spread of human development culture and the practices for the MDGS.

The international programmes below will all be carried out under the supervision of the ART Scientific Committee for human development cooperation, which is an interagency organisation operating contemporaneously for the UNDP, UNESCO, UNIFEM, ILO, WHO, ACNUR and other United Nations organisations. The supervision guarantees that special attention is given to three fundamental aspects of cooperation, of particular interest to the Italian government:

- a) the need for bilateral and multilateral actors to operate in harmony to achieve the aims of the world development platform established in the UN summits of the last few years and the Millennium Assembly, reducing the risks that little impact is made on complex questions and that resources are wasted;
- b) The need to operate in a technical and organisational fashion that is more coherent with the above goals; in many cases, in fact, the instruments available to cooperation are obsolete or are based on concepts that have not kept up with international debate; it is therefore necessary to concentrate on innovation, training for development officials and continuous verification and adjustment of working instruments so that they are really effective in attaining the new aims that are being pursued;
- c) The need to fine-tune and harmonise work methods among different decentralised cooperation actors, to reduce the risks of fragmentation and stimulate joint action to obtain a significant impact on large complex themes such as the reduction of poverty, social exclusion, environmental degradation and violent conflict.

The contribution of the Italian government will be utilised by the HIP to set up the following four international programmes, which are part of a single strategic intervention.

1. Support to country programmes and decentralised cooperation

Activities within the framework of this programme will involve international technical assistance, monitoring, guidance and documentation on country interventions supported by Italy, as well as boosting support services to Italian territorial decentralised cooperation.

This activity, which will be carried out by the UNDP/UNOPS team in Rome, will guarantee intensive support to country programmes funded by Italy, whether they are in the implementation or preparatory stage, to:

- a) provide technical assistance to country programmes supported by Italian contributions in drafting periodic plans of operation (POP) so that they include all elements that can promote decentralised cooperation
- b) Collaborate in monitoring, internal evaluation, the documentation of all activities, also through joint technical missions.
- c) collaborate in fine-tuning assessment and monitoring systems that take into account programme specificities and in drafting periodic technical financial reports on all activities, also in Italian
- d) carry out joint technical missions to verify the POPs before they are approved in tripartite meetings

- e) collaborate in identifying and formulating new initiatives (both in the countries and at the international level), including the production of any necessary technical documentation
- f) collaborate with focal points designated by international organisations for them to participate in the definition of initiatives and subsequently in the formulation and implementation of the POPs, which are to be formulated with national working groups and territorial working groups, coordinated by the project managers.

The programme also guarantees support services to Italian decentralised cooperation actors, which will be organised bearing in mind past experience. This service will be used to activate the participation of local administrations (Italian regions, provinces, municipalities and their associations) in decentralised cooperation activities within country framework programmes for governance and local development supported by Italian cooperation. There are already over 100 decentralised cooperation partnerships in different countries, especially Albania, Serbia, Lebanon and Morocco. In other countries partnerships are in much demand, especially Uruguay, Mozambique, the Dominican Republic, Central America, Bolivia, Colombia and others. Activities include: promotion of programmes to Italian regions and local authorities, the production of informative materials, organisation of meetings between country partners and local Italian administrations, help in missions to countries to formulate decentralised cooperation projects, links between Italian decentralised cooperation and those of other countries, especially in Europe, technical support to decentralised cooperation delegations to identify, draw up and manage projects in the country programme framework.

Support to decentralised cooperation includes co-funding for the first mission and activities and events in Italy, including the reception costs and travel expenses of delegations from participant countries coming to meet Italian decentralised cooperation partners.

The ART Scientific Committee and the Geneva HIP will devote particular attention, putting in work time and carrying out missions in support of country interventions supported by Italian contributions, discussing information and guidelines with the central UNDP office and in the countries, supporting interdonor dialogue in the countries and at the international level, efficient administrative practices, which in the case of co-funding of decentralised cooperation projects involves particularly hard work, and in the preparation and organisation of international events in the countries and in Europe.

2. IDEASS Programme

The UNDP, in collaboration with UNOPS, ILO (with previous experience in the field of innovation), UNIFEM, UNESCO other international organisations, will carry out the IDEASS Programme (*Innovations for Development and South-South-North Cooperation*), which promotes the dissemination of innovations through South South and South North cooperation projects, especially through thematic partnerships between actors of the South and the North.

IDEASS identifies and promotes internationally innovations that have contributed to human development, the valorisation of environmental resources, the reduction of exclusion, unemployment, and poverty. IDEASS has involved numerous local authorities that operate through decentralised cooperation in human development programmes. These local authorities, through the specialised structures in their areas, have identified numerous innovations which contribute to territorial development processes, improving technical solutions and intervention methodologies in different fields of action. In this case too, *IDEASS* supports the creation of specific South South North cooperation projects in countries with human development programmes, with the technical backing of decentralised cooperation actors.

IDEASS has an international dimension and complements the activities carried out by promotive programmes in the countries. It has an international secretariat and a national secretariat in each participant country. The international secretariat is in Rome, in the UNDP/UNOPS offices at the FAO.

Below is a list of some of the institutions that take part in IDEASS: Albanian Academy of Science; Nicaraguan Science and Technology Council, CONICYT; Cuban Academy of Science; "Tunis al Manar" University, Tunisia; "7 Novembre à Carthage" University, Tunisia; Mother and Child Hospital of Bogota, Colombia; COE NGO; Tuscany Region Environment Agency ARPAT, Italy; the Municipality of Quito, Ecuador; Education Department of the City of Bogota, Colombia; "Edgar Morin" University of Hermosillo, Mexico; various Cuban institutions (National Agricultural Health Centre CENSA, National Centre for the Development of Traditional Medicine and Nature; the Office of the Historian of the Historical Centre of Havana; Laboratorios Biológico Farmacéuticos LABIOFAM); Herbal Folklore Research Centre (HFRC), Tirupati, India; 'Fior di Prugna' Traditional Chinese Medicine Centre, Florence, Italy, National Confederation of Brazilian Municipalities; Federation of Latin American Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations (FLACMA).

IDEASS main activities involve:

- **preparation of an international innovation offer**, through research carried out at the international level and in participating countries. The countries can also point out specific fields of interest and needs, which can help direct the international identification of innovations.
- **promoting innovations** among interested actors, producing brochures presenting the innovations, in collaboration with the authors, disseminating the brochures internationally on the web, and in the countries with the collaboration of the institutions that sponsor IDEASS
- **Formulating and producing South South and South South North cooperation projects** in the countries, with actors interested in adopting specific innovations promoted by IDEASS. The projects are produced with the technical assistance of the authors of the innovations, with the technical and financial support of the promotive programmes, international cooperation and decentralised cooperation
- **organising meetings and events on the themes of human development culture and practices**, both in the countries and at the international level, and collaborating in the production of high profile documents and publications on the subject, highlighting the innovative character of the themes and practices which are being proposed.

Each will be presented in a brochure produced by the international secretariat, with the collaboration of the authors. The brochures are promoted internationally on the Internet at www.ideassonline.org

In the countries, the brochures are disseminated to create a greater demand for information on the innovations, and if they can help resolve problems in national and local contexts, cooperation projects are drafted to use them. The brochures are disseminated in the countries in many different ways: directly among potentially interested actors, through specific events, innovation exhibitions, national institutions, United Nations agencies and national universities

IDEASS would use the Italian contribution to involve administrations and local actors that operate, through decentralised cooperation, in country framework programmes. Through specialised territorial structures, these administrations will help identify qualified innovations which can be included in the International IDEASS Catalogue, disseminated and transferred to applicant countries with the financial and technical support of Italian administrations and actors.

IDEASS will include a component for the dissemination of innovation culture and practices aimed achieving the goals of the world development platform that have emerged from the United Nations summits of the last few years and the Millennium Assembly. This component, which will be coordinated by the ART Scientific Committee, will support exchanges in innovative experiences between Italian actors and actors in the countries, also by means of training activities, and will help to produce documents aimed at illustrating and systemising the knowledge which emerges from the innovative practices that are coherent with the above-mentioned platform and the MDGs, and then circulate them in the United Nations system.

3. ILS LEDA Programme

This component aims to consolidate and spread local economic development agencies (which represent one of the most important innovations in the field of social economy, the fight against poverty, and the link between the economy and sustainable territorial development) in areas that run multilateral and bilateral country programmes supported by Italian cooperation, linking them to other agencies that operate in Italian regions and provinces. So far multilateral programmes supported by Italy have activated 50 agencies in numerous countries in Latin America, Africa and the Balkans. Activities include: technical assistance missions in countries to set up LEDAs; the promotion of LEDAs in similar structures that operate in Italy to promote technical twinning arrangements; the production of educational and informative material, and the organisation of training courses in the countries with the support of specialised Italian structures; organisation of meetings between LEDAs and technical assistance to develop and implement projects of common interest. The ART Scientific Committee, which has a network of links with prestigious Italian, European and international institutions involved in different aspects of the social economy and the fight against poverty, fosters high profile educational exchanges and the production of documentation which, by systemising knowledge on advanced experiences, can help train officials and disseminate social economy experiences.

4. UNIVERSITAS Programme

. It is open to university structures that wish to:

- link their academic work to the concrete practice of human development and international cooperation to help meet the development needs of their own and other local communities;
- internationalize their curriculum and engage in mutual learning processes with colleagues from different cultures and developmental contexts;
- adopt a participatory, intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach.

Universitas Programme that is conceived as a tool for university and post-secondary partners in the global South and North to link their education and research activities to concrete programmes of international cooperation for human development and to global and national development priorities.

UNDP, and its ART Initiative, thus opens up an avenue for them to engage concretely in these processes and to participate in joint initiatives and mutual learning processes with partners and colleagues from a variety of cultures and developmental contexts. It is also intended as a tool for donors who wish to support a coordinated strategy for university-level capacity development for present and future development professionals, and who wish to do so in a way which complements their investment in a country's wider human development process.

As part of the ART Initiative, several activities to involve universities from both donor and programme countries have been initiated. At the international level, a series of agreements with universities in Italy (University of Florence, Polytechnic University of Marche Region, University of Insubria, University Carlo Bo of Urbino, University Federico II of Naples, Bicocca University of Milano and others), Spain and Canada have been underwritten, with the aim of developing joint initiatives of research, teaching and dissemination. These have led to several joint initiatives, including the design and piloting of a Masters programme in local human development at the University of Florence with the participation of the above Italian universities, the development of related Masters at the University of Havana, York University in Canada and the International University of Andalusia in Spain, the development and management of a specialized information gateway and electronic library on human development and international cooperation, housed at York University in Canada, policy dialogues among academics, practitioners and policy makers related to urban poverty, decentralized cooperation and other issues as well as research to systematize and disseminate teaching material related to gender and human development from a southern perspective. Beyond the above activities, Italian universities, in particular, have been actively engaged in projects realized through decentralized cooperation with local partners in several countries. These experiences are being transformed into territorial training and research

alliances (TeTRAs) in several Italian provinces and regions (Salerno and Campania Region, Florence and Tuscany Region, Ancona, Urbino and Marche Region).

Given the positive results achieved and the enormous interest expressed by universities both in donor and programme countries, Universitas would:

- Provide technical assistance to country programmes for the establishment, monitoring and internationalization of country Universitas components;
- Support the networking of these activities and the universities involved in programme and donor countries, through specific joint initiatives of research, teaching, policy dialogues and others;
- Make available international tools and opportunities for the circulation and dissemination of knowledge related to local human development and international cooperation to which academics will contribute, with the aim of contributing to a global culture and practice of human development;
- Be financially supported by bilateral, decentralized and private donors on a multi-annual basis

The purpose of this phase of work is:

- to consolidate and systematize the method for constructively involving universities in country programmes;
- to further develop the international tools required for the networking of the involved universities through joint initiatives at the international level and for their contribution to disseminating the culture and practice of human development;
- develop, through international consultations, a project document for a multi-donor and multi-year programme provisionally entitled Universitas, managed by UNDP in collaboration with other interested UN organizations and institutes;

Expected results are:

1. to have implemented/consolidated and systematized at least two pilot Universitas programmes as part of ART GOLD framework programmes, as methodological models for future Universitas country initiatives;
2. to have consolidated and formalized the international network of university partners who wish to engage in Universitas, with their respective areas of interest and expertise;
3. to have established and formalized a research network comprised of an initial number of territorial training and research alliances (TeTRA) involving local governments, social actors, universities and research institutes. These TeTRAs will serve as “organized laboratories” for, inter alia, practical student and professional internships that are part of the network of post-graduate teaching programmes associated with ART. As a result of this project a plan of research, training and dissemination activities in the framework of ART/Universitas will be elaborated;
4. a core curriculum on local human development and international cooperation that could be adopted by post graduate university programmes for training managers and leaders of local and global human development processes associated with ART and UNDP Programmes;
5. to have consolidated and improved HDRNet as an international tool for knowledge dissemination on local human development and international cooperation and as a bibliographic resource for archiving teaching material to support the core curriculum;
6. to have developed an electronic journal on local human development and new multilateralism, using open-source publication software and published at least one issue;
7. to have created a web page for Universitas linked to the UNDP and ART web sites;
8. to have promoted Universitas through national and international events in at least Italy, Spain and Canada through events organized with interested universities and other actors;

All the above-mentioned actions will be supervised by the ART Scientific Committee. In particular, Universitas will use the Italian contribution to get Italian universities involved in formulating and carrying out research activities, training and communication, namely:

- promote and support the participation of Italian universities in country programmes to get the above results and create stable links with universities in the countries, especially Serbia, Albania, Lebanon, Morocco, Mozambique and Uruguay
- Coordinate universities in Italy that have three-year, specialised or postgraduate courses on the theme of development cooperation to fine-tune a core curriculum that can be adopted in all university courses that wish to establish a link with the United Nations and offer students and researchers internships in UNDP and ART Initiative multilateral country programmes
- collaborate with Italian universities that wish to organise postgraduate courses offering specialised training for international development managers, on the basis of previous experience and guaranteeing high profile international lecturers for these courses and the participation of students from interested countries

Utilisation of resources and conclusions

The Italian contribution will be used to fund the above programmes and support expenses regarding:

- international technical assistance, including international and country missions
- concrete interventions and operational missions by Italian decentralised cooperation
- country activities: educational activities, innovation competitions, concrete innovation transfer projects, exchange of experiences, activities in the fields of social economy, environmental interventions, support to democratic governance and other activities programmed by national and local working groups.
- international and country monitoring
- documentation and reporting
- logistic and administrative support

The annual Italian contribution to the HIP TF be used as follows:

Programmes and activities	Percentage of the total amount, without the over head of 7%	
Support of Geneva HUB to the ART Programmes financed by Italian contributions	5,6%	
Programme in support of country programmes and decentralized cooperation financed by Italian contributions	42,7%	
IDEASS Initiative and Scientific Committee activities	25,8%	
ILS LEDA Programme	12,3%	
UNIVERSITAS Programme	13,4%	

To conclude, the UNDP will use the Italian contribution to carry out complex support activities to country programmes that are a priority for Italy, bringing concrete benefits to populations in terms of capacity building and responses to the needs of the most vulnerable sectors, using the contributions of highly qualified Italian experts and institutions and territorial and thematic decentralised cooperation mechanisms, harmonising the various contributions and improving impact and sustainability, producing documentation on the results and guaranteeing visibility for Italian cooperation.