



Italian Catholic Action intervention
for Fiac on Global compact on education

Azione Cattolica Italiana and Global Compact - Fifth point

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The global panorama of fragmentation, conflict and disorientation - exasperated by the current pandemic that spares no one - evoked and narrated by the Encyclical "Fratelli tutti", which dedicates the entire first chapter to it, makes evident the goodness of the relaunch of the initiative for a Global Compact on Education wanted by Pope Francis.

The sudden change of epoch in a context of unhinging social, cultural and economic paradigms, favoured by the impressive speed of technological evolution, and by the *digital and educational divide*, calls for a synergic and globalised agreement on the educational front. We therefore adhere, with conviction and enthusiasm, to the project of an alliance that ideally transforms humanity into an educational village, in which we feel involved with and for young people, in inclusive terms. We want to generate - starting from the disadvantaged and discarded - a fraternal, just, supportive and reconciled humanity that has at heart what is beautiful, noble, true (Rom 12:2).

We like the prospect of a synergistic work, of a multifaceted and non homologating co-planning, which keeps away from naive forms of utopia, from conformism that flattens and steals passion, from rampant individualism. The musical metaphor - indicating aims, motivations and method - of harmony and symphony, which expresses the purpose of holding together all that is good, was evocative.

- How is CA moving in Italy specifically on the fifth point: "To educate and be educated on the need for acceptance and in particular openness to the most vulnerable and marginalized "?

For years, and now in conjunction with the magisterium of Pope Francis with greater vivacity, CA has promoted a "policy", that is, a culture and a practice, of alliances, within the ecclesial world and even beyond its precise fences, going to activate cooperation with the territories, the third sector, scientific institutions and basic aggregations, with the spirit of a true "ecumenical" openness.

Italian CA has often led alliances, or responded to the call to co-found them or unite around a common goal. On the national CA website you will find a page entirely dedicated to the chapter on alliances <<https://azionecattolica.it/lac-costruisce-alleanze>>. There are 12 alliances in place. We would like to point out by way of example and in line with the theme in question: *L'Alleanza contro la povertà in Italia - The Alliance against Poverty in Italy*, which has also succeeded in promoting legislative measures to combat social exclusion; *Bambini d'Italia - Children of Italy*, for which Pope Francis has become a public supporter, whose aim is to consider all children born or attending school in Italy as Italian citizens; *Chiudiamo la forbice: dalle disuguaglianze al bene comune, - Let's close the Scissors: from inequalities to the common good*, which aims to promote social integration by paying attention to food, the right to mobility and peace; *Ero straniero - I was a foreigner*, who joined forces to formulate a law of popular initiative for social and labour inclusion; *Questo è il mio corpo - This is my body*, which aims to combat the phenomenon of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Together and alongside these alliances of strong institutional and long-term value, the Italian CA in recent years has mobilised itself to establish closer forms of educational co-working - dealing with some sensitive and strategic issues - together with the Agesci and the Focolare Movement. On this tapestry of national level we also weave scenes on which parts of the Italian CA are involved from time to time.

As an example, the *Workers' Movement* is strengthening the "*Bando di Progettazione Sociale*" (Call for Social Planning), in dialogue with Caritas Italiana and the National Office for Social Problems and Labour of the Italian Episcopal Conference. It is a proposal that, both upstream and downstream – thinks of the synergic and virtuous impact on the territories -, marries the logic of networking.

Or, the Family and Life Area supports and encourages good practices of relational and economic solidarity between families and for families, in the fabric of the parishes where CA acts. These practices could be symbolically called "Adopt a family".

As we approach the fabric of alliances and shared educational projects in the territories, we notice a fruitfulness that encourages and amazes. It fills with consolation to know of the birth of a Prison Section of the Catholic Action of Rossano (Cs), which has succeeded in creating within the maximum security prison structure - among the inmates - a group of 27 members of the association who follow the training method set up by the Adult Sector;

For the *Forum Lampedusa solidale* we spend a few lines of in-depth analysis. The Lampedusa Solidarity Forum <https://www.facebook.com/ForumLampedusaSolidale/> was started and established (informally) thanks - first of all - to the initiative of Lampedusa Catholic Action and its Assistant, who 5 years ago managed to catalyse Catholic associations, evangelical churches, voluntary organizations, institutions, ordinary citizens... believers and atheists, islanders, tourists and people passing through. The Forum invests energy to coordinate the hospitality and possible integration of migrants, to promote a culture of solidarity and rights, actions of closeness to the sick and disadvantaged, recovery of the stories of those who lost their lives buried in the sea during the journeys of hope.

The last idea was baptized "Yusuf's blanket". On the 11th of November, little Yusuf, 6 months old, left Guinea together with his very young mother, he was unable to survive the umpteenth shipwreck of the dinghy on which he was on, off the coast of the island. The blanket, sewn with scraps of blankets coming from all over Italy accompanied by stories of hope and solidarity, has already reached extraordinary dimensions.

The dream of a new humanism cannot be left to the political elites or international institutions (top down), it must be cultivated and pursued first and foremost with a movement that starts from the bottom, the result of a dynamic and active citizenship (down top), in which the Church and the CA exercise a forerunner service, similar to the yeast in the dough of history, calling together every healthy force to enter into the prophetic intuition had by its pastor: the Global compact on education. As Italian Catholic Action, we do not want to waste time, we want to gird up our loins and meddle, with humility and trust.