

CUCS Conference 2019 Trento – Session proposal form

Session title (Italian and English)	<i>Reclaiming spaces: building new narratives for international cooperation</i>
Applicant information: name, surname, affiliation, nationality, email	Rossella Vignola Centre for International Cooperation/ Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa (CCI/OBCT) rossella.vignola@cci.tn.it
Other applicants (name, surname, affiliation)	The present workshop is designed in collaboration with CILD- Coalizione Italiana Libertà e Diritti Civili (Italian Coalition for Civil Rights and Liberties)
Session language	Italian
Session description	<p>Civil society plays a crucial role in development cooperation and more generally in the promotion of fundamental rights. In recent years, despite the role played in promoting inclusive citizenship practices – or perhaps because of this very role – the spaces of action of civil society have been subjected to increasing pressures that limit its ability to act as well as its legitimacy. Part of a global trend – as recently reported by Amnesty International, the issue does not spare the more advanced democracies and member countries of the European Union, where spaces of active citizenship and civic participation are shrinking considerably. As far as Italy is concerned, humanitarian organisations involved in aid at sea in the Mediterranean have been targeted by a defamation campaign, while criminalisation of solidarity has affected those involved in welcoming initiatives for migrants and refugees, with important consequences on the perception by public opinion and the credibility of all NGOs involved in cooperation, solidarity, and the promotion of human rights.</p> <p>In this context, it becomes crucial for civil society organisations to offer new narratives to rekindle public confidence in their work. According to a recent study on Italian public opinion carried out by Ipsos¹, about 48% of the Italian population finds itself in an "anxious" or "uncertain" centre – despite frustration with the stagnant economic situation and anxiety over a perceived loss of identity deriving also from migratory phenomena, it has feelings of</p>

¹The study *Attitudes towards National Identity, Immigration and Refugees in Italy (June 2018)* was commissioned by The Social Change Initiative in partnership with More in Common and carried out by IPSOS

	<p>solidarity, empathy, and compassion towards foreigners and recognises the importance of institutions such as the right to asylum or the value of hospitality.</p> <p>The workshop therefore seeks to provide the opportunity for NGO managers and communication operators to reflect on the construction of a new language, new narratives and communication approaches which, starting from the understanding of the legitimate fears, frustrations, and concerns of this "anxious centre", convey the vision of an inclusive and open society, and return a new image of cooperation and its protagonists in Italian public opinion.</p>
<p>How the session fits into the conference topic</p>	<p>The phenomenon of shrinking spaces – closely linked to the issue of citizenship – is present both in donor and recipient countries, as the European Parliament pointed out in the Resolution of October 3rd, 2017 “Facing the reduction of civil society spaces in developing countries”. This trend weakens the entire process of international cooperation, with actors having to work to counter the growing attacks on their credibility and restore trust and credibility by public opinion and donors.</p> <p><i>The workshop is organised within the project "Winning Narratives" promoted by CILD, Coalizione Italiana Libertà e Diritti Civili</i></p>
<p>If any, indicate already agreed contributions/ interventions (speaker's name and surname, title)</p>	<p>Francesca Vanoni of the Centre for International Cooperation will introduce the topic and illustrate the work carried out to present international cooperation in Trentino its little-known aspects.</p> <p>This will be followed by a practical workshop facilitated by an expert in the communication for the non-profit sector.</p>