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The UNESCO Chair in Population, Migrations and Development established in 2008 at Sapienza University of Rome, aims to further develop the long term objective of building capacities in teaching and researching, promoting a multidisciplinary scientific approach in the field of development, population and migrations.

The UNESCO Chair involves researchers and scholars from different disciplines and fields of competence working on migrations, demography and development. The Chair will act as a laboratory creating new knowledge and ideas in order to promote cultural diversity and to work out new scenarios for the future of international migrations. Based on a network of high level scholars and researchers from different universities and research centers, the UNESCO Chair in Development, Migrations and Population represents a significant arena for the production and dissemination of new knowledge, promoting a center of excellence for further researches and a laboratory supporting the decision making process.

The main disciplines and fields of competence are:

Demography: the demographic analysis underlines causes and implications of population movements and international migration flows highlighting the relation between population changes and economic and social development.

Political Sciences: recently the debate on migrations has been subject of new interest, from political sciences and international relations, as well as economic and social analysis.

Economics: economic analysis evaluates the impact of international migrations in sending and receiving countries with particular attention to the positive impact on the development of migrants’ origin countries.

The establishment of a Centre of Excellence represented by the UNESCO Chair includes:

- A Scientific Committee composed by Raimondo Cagiano de Azevedo (Director), Ana Cabré, Graziella Caselli, Paul de Guchteneire, Serge Feld, Janez Malacic, Antoine Pecoud, Catherine Withol de Wenden, Guillaume Wutsch. Its first meeting will take place in Paris, July 2009, on the occasion of the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education.

- A General Secretariat of the Chair is established at Sapienza University of Rome together with a Rome Chapter of researchers supporting the Chair. It has been also activated a Paris Chapter and it is planned to activate a Brussels Chapter too.

- Researchers and post graduate students involved in high level training with the aim to gain a special expertise in the field of development and migrations.

- Production of updated scientific papers and reports on international migrations and strategies for new developments. The research papers will be proposed to Scientific Institutions, such as IUSSP and EAPS; to the main scientific reviews as well as “Unesco Chair Series”; according to the evaluation of Scientific Committee including representatives of partner institutions.

- Guidelines for policy makers and structured analysis. The Chair will produce a set of orientation guidelines in lines with UNESCO general objectives on migration and development for policy makers. The guidelines will be arranged in consultation with the most relevant stakeholders in a participatory planning.

- Chair Website: the activities of the Unesco Chair will be constantly updated and disseminated through the Chair website that will be managed by the General Secretary (www.unescochair.eco.uniroma1.it).

- An International Conference will be organised at the end of the three years of activity. It will convene representatives of Governments of partner Institutions to highlight differences and consequences in facing the problems of migrations and development. Objective of the conference will be to publish and to disseminate the scientific results of the project; and also to propose new models to design and manage population, migrations and development policies suitable to represent examples of “best practices”. Representatives of the main international Institutions (UN, EU, UNESCO, Council of Europe, WTO) and of the main active NGOs will be invited to take part to the sessions.

- Interim Workshops: the Chair will organise workshops in several cities (at the end of each year) with the aim to present the on-going work and results; to analyse the situation of migration in the partner countries and how they can be addressed in light of the results of the Chair studies; to devise the appropriate methods and tools to address the issues concerning different contexts. The workshops will be carried out in several partner cities (Buenos Aires, Ljubljana, Paris, etc.).

- Unesco Chair Networks: in order to create a network of Chairs insisting on the same topics, the Chair liaises with other Unesco Chairs of the Universities of: Venice, Casablanca, Santiago de Compostela, Madrid and Seville.