

# UNESCO CHAIR IN HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

UNIVERSITY OF PADUA, ITALY

## **Comprehensive programme of Action for human rights and Democratization**

The UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, established in July 1999 at the University of Padua, has pursued its activities in 2002-2003 in the following primary fields:

- Education of high school students
- Teacher training on human rights issues
- Organisation of conferences, seminars and events
- Post-graduate courses
- NGOs database building
- 'Human Rights Archive' updating
- Publication on human rights education.

### **I. 'INTERDEPARTMENTAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLES'**

Main event in this period celebrated in 2002, was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the 'Interdepartmental Centre for Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples' of the University of Padua. In this period, 14 post-graduate courses in Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples had been implemented; the Post-Graduate School in Institutions and Techniques for the Protection of Human Rights was established (1992), and the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation, with 27 Universities of the European Union member countries, concluded its 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle.

Since February 2003, the Interdepartmental Centre has become an autonomous institution in the University's framework, governed by a Technical-Scientific Committee and composed by the following University departments: International Studies, Sociology, Comparative Law, Economical Science, Geography, Surgical Science and Gastroenterology, Mechanical and Managerial Innovation, and Educational Science. Director of the Centre is the Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair.

In 2002-2003, the Chair has cooperated with the Centre to implement the following activities:

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW COURSES

##### **New Degree Course in the framework of the university system reform in Italy:**

Political Science and International Relations - Human Rights (3-years Course)

##### **New Post-Graduate Degree Course:**

Human Rights, Peace Institutions and Politics (2-years Course)

#### CONTINUATION OF COURSES

##### **Post-Graduate Course on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples**

The XIV annual post-graduate course in 2002-2003 dealt with "Human Rights and Intercultural Dialogue" attended by 40 students from different backgrounds and places. The XV annual post-graduate course in 2003-2004 is focusing on "European Citizenship and Human Rights". It is attended by selected teachers from primary and secondary schools, Region of Veneto, who have already participated in a basic course on human rights, peace, and intercultural dialogue.

### **II. EUROPEAN MASTER'S DEGREE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATISATION (E.MA) –**

a major project supported by the EU, the Region of Veneto and the Municipality of Venice

The 6<sup>th</sup> Degree Course was concluded in September 2003, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Course has already started. So far, 455 students from 37 countries were awarded the E.MA Diploma. This multi-disciplinary and intensive one-year academic programme reflects the indivisible links between human rights, democracy, peace and development. It pursues the main aims to form high-level professionals in the field of human rights and democratisation qualified to work as academics, staff members or field workers for inter-governmental, governmental, and non-governmental organisations; to provide its

graduates with practical work experience; and to create a European network of curriculum development and staff exchange among universities in human rights and democratisation.

2002 and 2003 have been decisive years for the E.MA Programme for at least three reasons:

- the extension of the E.MA membership to 29 European Universities;
- the creation of the European Inter-University Centre in Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC): a Centre established by 23 European Universities (out of the 29 of the present E.MA network) to provide for the E.MA Programme an institutional foundation and to further develop jointly human rights educational programmes by the member universities. EIUC is a consortium of universities, based in Venice, with legal personality in accordance with Italian Law;
- the launch of the European Joint Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation: an initiative aimed to award a European Joint Diploma in the E.MA framework, starting with the academic year 2003-2004. The E.MA Diploma which so far was issued as a qualification offered by the University of Padua and recognised by the other participating Universities, is now a really European instrument in the form of a 'single' academic act, signed by the Rectors and Presidents of the participating Universities. This achievement is an advanced step in the so called "Bologna Process".

### **III. NATIONAL PROGRAMME IN EDUCATIONAL TRAINING**

The second intensive course for teachers of the Region of Veneto on "**Education for citizenship and solidarity: human rights and peace culture**" has been carried out from October to June 2003 jointly by the Interdepartmental Centre, the UNESCO Chair, the Ministry of Education and the Region of Veneto. 240 teachers from the seven Provinces of Veneto participated.

Two CD-Rom have been issued containing the educational projects and resulting from the work of teachers attending these two courses:

1. "Abcdiritti umani – Human Rights, Peace, Development, Interculturality and Solidarity at School" (2001-2002).
2. "Education towards Human Rights and Solidarity: Human Rights Culture" (2002-2003).

#### **Course on Human Rights and Solidarity**

On the basis of a formal agreement signed with the Province of Rovigo, a course on human rights and solidarity is conducted for high school students of the entire Province (ca. 300 students of 14-19 years; academic years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004).

#### **Regional and International Seminars/Conferences:**

On 17 June 2002, the Chair organised an international seminar at the University of Padua on *World Order and Security: the Human Dimension*. A book is being printed.

On 19-20 June 2002 the Chair conducted a conference on *The Ombudsman for Human Rights in the System of National Institutions*.

### **IV. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

In the framework of the Regional "Peace and Human Rights Archive", a comprehensive 'NGOs database' has been developed collecting all data related to every NGO in the Veneto Region dealing with Human Rights, Cooperation and Development. All respective records can be consulted on the web site of the Human Rights Centre of the University of Padua (<http://www.cepadu.unipd.it>).

The UNESCO Chair continues to support with scientific advice the Peace Table in Perugia (a network gathering hundreds NGOs and local government institutions). The fifth 'edition' of the 'UN Peoples Assembly' was organised from 7 to 11 October 2003, followed by the traditional Peace March from Perugia to Assisi attended by around 300.000 people ([www.tavoladellapace.it](http://www.tavoladellapace.it)). Main theme of this year' s edition was "Europe for Peace". Speeches and debates dealt with the project of a European Constitution, in particular with the first articles on principles. The participants

unanimously endorsed the proposal to include in the coming Constitution the principle of war repudiation, in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter. The organisers received messages sent by Pope John Paul II, Kofi Annan, and the President of the Italian Republic, Ciampi. The Chairholder delivered a key-note speech in the seminar chaired by the former D-G. Federico Mayor.

On 14 September 2003, a public musical event was organised in the St. Mark's Basilica in Venice performing the "**Music for a profession of peace**", by Wolfango dalla Vecchia, text of Anonimus Patavinus, and the final invocation of Francis of Assisi, in memory of Sergio Vieira De Mello, Nadia Younes, Chris Klein-Beekman and of the other UN civil servants killed in Baghdad on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The same concert, with a children multi-cultural chorus, will be conveyed on 10 December 2003 in Padua.

## **V. PUBLICATIONS**

📖 The Interdepartmental Centre is continuing the publication of its book collection "*Quaderni*" with the fifth issue "*Il sapere dei diritti umani nel disegno educativo*" (*Human rights vision in formational strategies*), by Antonio Papisca.

📖 2 new pocket books have been published and widely disseminated: "*Codice internazionale dei diritti umani*" (*Human Rights International Code*) and "*Educare alla pace e ai diritti umani: il mandato*" (*Educating to peace and human rights: the mandate*).

📖 Moreover, the *Bulletin "Archivio Pace Diritti Umani"* (*Peace and Human Rights Archive*) is continuing to publish its bi-annual issues.

📖 The *Quarterly "Pace, Diritti della persona, Diritti dei Popoli"* (*Peace, Human Rights, Rights of Peoples*) has been resumed, with the support of the Region of Veneto ("Marsilio Publishers").

## **VI. Special Agreements / Contracts:**

The Chair is cooperating with the Human Rights Interdepartmental Centre in implementing formal agreements with the Region of Veneto, the Municipality of Padua and the Province of Rovigo to support their respective peace, human rights and development policies in the following fields:

- Region of Veneto: Regional Ombudsman, Children Ombudsman, Regional Department on Human Rights, Regional Archive on "Peace and Human Rights",
- Municipality of Padua: newly established "Bureau for Peace, Human Rights, International Solidarity" under the supervision of a City Councillor; formational Course on "Human Rights in the City" realised in three different places of the Commune; creation of two new Chairs under the umbrella of the UNESCO Chair and in connection with the Human Rights and Peace Degree Courses at the University: "Chair Harmonia Mundi" and "Chair on Intercultural Dialogue".
- Province of Rovigo: the same or similar fields as mentioned above.

## **Statutory commitment**

The Assemblies of the Regions of the Republic are currently drafting their new Statutes. The Region of Veneto, the UNESCO Chair and the Human Rights Inter-departmental Centre have formally conveyed to the Statutory Committee of Veneto the following proposal for the first article:

*"Art.1: The Region is an autonomous community founded on human dignity, on the inherent rights and fundamental freedoms – as they are recognised by the Constitution of the Italian Republic, by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other International legal instruments on human rights, as well as by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union – on the rule of law, on the principles of democracy, sub-sidiarity, equal opportunities of men and women, and on the best interest of children as proclaimed by the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

*The Region realises its own autonomy in conformity with the principles and norms of this Statute, in the unity of the Republic, in the European Union system, and in all institutional spaces in which human rights and sub-sidiarity should be pursued."*

Prof. Antonio Papisca,  
Chairholder