

Enhancing educational and formational activities in human rights, peace and international solidarity

UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and Peace

UNIVERSITY OF PADUA, ITALY

The UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, established in July 1999 at the University of Padua, has further developed its activities in close cooperation with the Inter-departmental Centre on Human Rights and the Rights of People of the same University. The Chairholder is also Director of the Centre.

The present Report refers to significant activities and events organised in 2004 and in the first months of 2005.

The Chair's commitment was especially devoted to enhance educational and formational activities on human rights, peace and international solidarity in the framework of universities and within the Italian secondary school system, always in cooperation with the organisations and movements of civil society as well as with local and regional authorities, in particular with the Region of Veneto.

□ Specific Course in Human Rights” and Peace”

As regards the **university system**, the UNESCO Chair has been active in **mainstreaming peace and human rights knowledge and awareness** primarily in the Faculties of Political and Social Sciences. A major task has been to contribute to further mark the “peace human rights” identity of the new degree courses that have been established in several universities in conformity with the Bill that reforms the university system in line with the principles of the so-called Bologna Process.

In particular at the University of Padua, the **Degree Course in “Political Science-International Relations and Human Rights”** (three years) and the **advanced Master in “Institutions and Politics of Human Rights and Peace”** (two years) have further improved their respective *curricula* by offering specific courses on international Law of Human Rights, International Humanitarian and Criminal Law, International Organisation for Peace and Human Rights, Sciences for Peace, Sociology of Human Rights, Peace and Security Policies of United Nations and European Union, Human Rights and Vulnerable Groups, National Human Rights Institutions, Human Rights Monitoring and Electoral Observation, etc.

What is going on is a real educational investment the success of which is proved by the fact that, out of the seven new Courses established by the University of Padua in the social and political disciplinary field, the two above-mentioned Courses have the highest number of enrolled students: more than 35% of the total figure. Now, the big challenge is to further develop *curricula* in order to increase the professionalizing impact.

The **XV Post-graduate Course on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples**, organised in the academic year 2003-2004, was devoted to the specific subject of “European Citizenship and Human Rights”. It was attended by a selected number of school teachers from primary and secondary schools of the Region of Veneto, who already participated in a basic course for teacher's education on human rights, peace and intercultural dialogue.

In the academic year 2004-2005, the **XVI Post-graduate Course** has been devoted to “Human Rights, Human Security and Participatory Democracy from the City up to the United Nations”, with the active participation of graduate students coming from different disciplinary fields.

active citizenship, human rights, peace and interculturality

□ National Project on active citizenship, human rights, peace and interculturality”

As regards the **Italian school system**, the project of the Ministry of Education aimed at forming teachers on “active citizenship, human rights, peace and interculturality” is now being carried out in all Regions. The UNESCO Chair and the Interdepartmental Centre of the University of Padua are playing an active role in providing continual expertise for the improvement of the ministerial project. Organised by the Ministry of Education, the first National Conference of 400 teachers from all over Italy took place in Venice in November 2003. The second National Conference on “Education to citizenship and solidarity” was held in Taormina in November 2004. In both Conferences, as well in a National Seminar convened in Perugia in April 2005, the UNESCO Chairholder offered the introductory speech. The third National Conference is scheduled to take place in Venice in October 2005.

Short courses for teachers were jointly organised by the UNESCO Chair and the Human Rights Interdepartmental Centre in several cities, in cooperation with local government institutions: among others, in the Provinces of Rovigo (region of Veneto) and of Ragusa (region of Sicily).

□ European Master Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation

The 8th annual Course of the **European Master Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA)**, supported by the European Union, the Region of Veneto and the Municipality of Venice, was regularly held in Venice-The Lido with the participation of 90 graduate students from 30 Countries. After having founded and supervised the E.MA for 6 years, the Interdepartmental Centre of the University of Padua and the UNESCO Chair are now actively participating together with other 36 European universities. The E.MA permanent structure is managed by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation, a consortium of European universities with legal personality. Within the broader E.MA network, the “European Joint Degree” is presently awarded by an “inner circle” of Universities still coordinated by the University of Padua. Since 1997, the E.MA laureates in “human rights and democratisation” have now reached the figure of 600. The UNESCO Chairholder offered lectures on the present situation of the international political system and on the recent official Reports on the reform of the United Nations. In the 2003-2004 E.MA academic year, he supervised the preparation of the following E.MA Theses: “*Corruption, human rights and good governance*”, “*Intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention*”, “*Conflict resolution in the border conflict between Ecuador and Peru*”.

📖 Publication

The UNESCO Chair, jointly with the Human Rights Interdepartmental Centre, has promoted several **publications**. Among others:

- “La Difesa Civica in Italia: le leggi regionali” (*The protection of human rights in Italy: the regional bills on the Ombudsman*)
- “I diritti del bambino tra protezione e garanzie” (*Children’s rights promotion and protection*)
- “Raccolta di strumenti internazionali sui diritti umani” (*Collection of international instruments on human rights*)
- “A scuola con i diritti dei bambini” (*At school with children rights*)
- “La politica della Regione Veneto per la pace i diritti umani e la cooperazione allo sviluppo” (*The policy of the Region of Veneto for human rights, the culture of peace, and development cooperation*)

📖 Issues of the Bulletin “Archive peace human rights” devoted respectively to:

- “Disabilità, dignità, eguaglianza” (Disability, dignity, equality)
- “Donne e bambine: presente e futuro di pace e giustizia” (*Women and young girls: present and future of peace and justice*)
- “La riforma delle Nazioni Unite alla luce del paradigma pace diritti umani” (*The United Nations reform in the light of the peace human rights paradigm*)

The UNESCO Chair is going to be formally involved in the editing of the quarterly Review of the Interdepartmental Centre: “*Pace diritti umani-Peace human rights*”, published by Marsilio, Venice.

✳ International Conferences on the reform of the United Nations

The reform of the United Nations has been the subject of several meetings, conferences and seminars. Among others:

- International symposium “Tribute to Truth: Human Rights, Arms of Mass Destruction, Disarmament in the United Nations Agenda”, on the occasion of awarding to **Hans Blix** the *Laurea Honoris Causa* by the University of Padua, upon proposal of the UNESCO Chair and the Interdepartmental Centre (October 2004)
- International Conference “Reclaim our United Nations”, in cooperation with the “Peace Roundtable”, the International Committee of the World Social Forum, the Region of Veneto and the Municipality of Padua

The UNESCO Chairholder provided speeches in both Conferences, as well in the Barcelona Conference, September 2004, on the **Reform of international institutions** and in the World Conference organised in Brussels (30 November - 1 December 2004) by the European Community Studies Association (ECSA) and the European Commission on **“New World Orders: strategies and perceptions”** (key-note speakers were, among others, Federico Mayor Saragoza and Boutros-Boutros Ghali).

On the very subject of the UN reform, the UNESCO Chairholder is cooperating with the “Peace Roundtable” (a network of 800 civil society organisations and of 700 local governmental institutions in Italy, based in Perugia) to prepare the **6th edition of the “Assembly of the UNO Peoples”**, that will take place in Perugia, from 8 to 10 September 2005.

✠ Project for intercultural dialogue and mainstreaming humanism

Upon agreement with the Municipality of Padua, the Chair’s labelled project of the “Three Religions” (for the intercultural dialogue) and “Harmonia Mundi” (for mainstreaming humanism) have started. Inspiration is peace, human rights and cosmopolitan democracy. The activities are jointly organised by the UNESCO Chair and the Interdepartmental Centre on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples.

Prof. Antonio Papisca
Chairholder

Director of the Interdepartmental Centre on Human Rights and the Rights of People