

Italian NGOs & IOs Interactive Map

The **Italian NGOs & IOs Interactive Map** is the final result of the project "NGOs Action! Italian Development Cooperation in a Few Shots", personally promoted by Prof. Maria Sassi (Department of Economics and Management, University of Pavia), with the contribution of Ms. Marina Fiorella (Department of Economics and Management, University of Pavia).

The project aims to put in contact students with the world of development cooperation and humanitarian action, through the strengthening of soft skills that can facilitate students in entering the labor market, specifically in Non-Governmental Organizations and International Organizations. The sector of development cooperation is indeed characterized by barriers to entry which are particularly high with respect to other working sectors; this is due both to the contexts where it operates and to the peculiarity of the paths that allow graduates to enter the sector itself.

In light of this, the importance of offering soft skills through *ad hoc* informative tools to students interested in the sector has emerged. The first step in this direction has been the realization of the **Italian NGOs & IOs Interactive Map**, an innovative and unprecedented tool, allowing students to overcome difficulties in accessing and understanding sector-specific information. In particular, its objective is making the official lists of NGOs & IOs by national institutions come alive. The map offers an intuitive graphic visualization of the organization distribution within the Italian territory, enriched with stimulating multimedia contents and high-impact keywords, for more effective information.

The interactive map recollects and geolocalizes all Italian Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations registered in the official list of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), together with International Organizations located in Italy, working in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian action and included in the list of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI). In the map, each organization is signaled with a marker (blue for NGOs/CSOs, pink for IOs). Clicking on the marker, a short descriptive box appears, containing basic information on the organization, such as its name, activity areas and link to the website.

For NGOs/CSOs with starred markers, some short presentation videos that have been specifically produced, are also available in the descriptive boxes. In the videos, development cooperation experts present their organization either in English or Italian language, illustrating the organization's main sectors of activity and projects, vision and mission. Moreover, speakers also provide interested students with

suggestions about professional qualities required by the NGO/CSO system and information on channels for entering the development cooperation world. For IOs, it is possible to watch the institutional presentation video instead.

The interactive map is an open access product, available to students of all Italian and international Universities.