

Italian Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organization Fair University of Pavia

A meeting between the University and Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations.

Besides the possibility of a direct dialogue with the organizations' representatives, the event aims to promote the knowledge of the main fields of intervention, the information on channels for entering the sector and the development of soft skills required to work in development cooperation and humanitarian action, to build a bridge between students and the world of work in NGOs.

Pavia, 21st September 2018 - Bringing students closer to the world of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid; promoting knowledge of the major actors on the Italian scene and fields of intervention; providing competences and instruments to access careers in the sector. These are the main objectives of the **Italian Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organization Fair**, that the University of Pavia will host at the resumption of lectures of the new Academic Year.

The **Italian NGO/CSO Fair** is meant to be a meeting between the University and Italian Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations, offering an occasion to widely promote knowledge of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, a highly dynamic and complex sector, where NGOs and CSOs play a relevant role both in the national and international context.

The fair will be open to the public and will take place at the University of Pavia main building (Cortile delle Statue), together with the closure of the Welcome Week for international students. The event has to be ascribed to the long and valuable tradition of the University in the field of Development Cooperation. Among the 56 participant organizations, there will be Non-governmental and Civil Society organizations, associations and coordinating institutions, all sharing the mission of improving the life condition of people in developing countries, communities afflicted by humanitarian emergencies and other vulnerable groups. The initiative primarily targets students of the University, but at the same time aims for an involvement of all those interested in cooperation and humanitarian aid. The event is organized in collaboration with the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in International Development Studies (GLODEP).

The event format is that of an actual fair: each organization having its stand for presenting itself and, above all, providing information on own projects, fields of intervention, volunteering opportunities, and job vacancies. In its first edition, the **Italian NGO/CSO Fair** wants to experiment the formula of a direct contact between professionals of the sector, students, and the interested public. By fostering the dialogue, the initiative intends to facilitate sharing of important testimonies of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid experts, who will illustrate to the public what working in these fields practically means, as well as what are the channels for entering the sector and the competencies required to work in NGOs/CSOs. In this sense, the added value of the event lies in the possibility for students to access a preferential channel of information on two working sectors that are difficult to approach and characterized by high barriers to entry, due both to the contexts where they operate and to the peculiarity of the paths that allow graduates to enter the sectors. Among the different options available to those interested in a career in the field (internships, work camps, UN Volunteers, European Voluntary Service, the Italian Servizio Civile), the possibility of getting lost should not be underestimated. To this purpose, a discussion with professionals and their past experience can serve as a compass for future aid workers to get their bearings.

At the same time, the event will explore the professional qualities and soft skills necessary for working in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid sectors. Besides scientific and technical competences, knowledge of foreign languages and soft skills (context analysis, work organization, problem-solving, stress resistance, team building, report writing) are fundamental to find a place in such a demanding but satisfying world, like that of NGOs/CSOs.

At the end of the event and for concluding the seminars, the above-mentioned topics will be analyzed in consideration of the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. The need for reinforcing the nexus between humanitarian action—meant as emergency relief intervention— and long-term development represents an international priority, raising complex challenges for the sector. With the objective of offering indications coherent with the present changing context, the representatives of Italian NGO/CSO networks will propose an in-depth reflection on new professions/positions and the related competencies required in the Humanitarian-Development Nexus framework.

For more information:

glodepunipv@gmail.com

relint@unipv.it

0382 98 6462