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UNESCO Transdisciplinary Chair
Human Development and Culture of Peace
University of Florence

Potentialities and criticalities of the Community of Practice (CoP) for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa

Proposal 2014/2015

UNESCO Transdisciplinary Chair Human Development and Culture of Peace
University of Florence, Director Prof. Paolo Orefice

After the phases of installation, activation and initial testing of the Cop (September 2013 / September 2014), for its full implementation (2014-2015) the following proposals are submitted to the discussion and approval of the *Reseau de Fondations Institutions et de Recherche pour la promotion d'une Culture de la Paix en Afrique* (Yamoussoukro, September 23, 2014):

1) **Methodological level:** Confirming the validity of the method of RAP -Transdisciplinary

The CoP as a transdisciplinary research (RT) participate (P) on line with results expendable (A)

Phases of the CoP as RAP-T:

- Topic / Focus
 - Issue / problem
 - Analysis of the problem
 - Hypothesis emerging from the analysis to solve the problem
 - Test of hypothesis
 - Evaluating solution of the problem
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- ✓ In the early stages of activation and first test of the CoP, early participants have given contributions about the Focus on different levels and fields
 - ✓ Fundamental it is to verify the possibilities and modalities of the real participation of partners who subscribe to CoP

2) **Technical level:** the technical solution should be simplified and more contextualized to the Network

2.1. It is proposed to tackle a specific problem at a time (presented as particular question)

- ✓ It is proposed to follow RAP phases step by step, one at a time with specific questions to which participants offer answers, possibly with the help of the attached documents;
- ✓ The answers are discussed and summarized in a Forum for each phase of RAP
 - the reason is both functional then practical respect to the method of research,
 - but also to respect the orientation shared by the Movement for the Culture of Peace in Africa and by the Network and confirmed by the documents of the first partners of the Cop, according to which the Culture of Peace, conjugated to Sustainable Development, is by its nature interdisciplinary, but also transdisciplinary and

requires that the different components of inquiry and action of actors and multiple interventions should be clarified at a time and put in relation to each other.

2.2. Therefore, the methodological and technical flow of CoP according to the RAP-T is the following:

- ❖ Specific Problem:
 - To put a question
- ❖ Analysis of the problem:
 - Participation to the analysis: participants make contributions to reply possibly including relevant documents
 - Synthesis Forum is implemented to formulate solving hypothesis
- ❖ Interpretive hypothesis:
 - reporting solving hypothesis
- ❖ Verification of the hypothesis:
 - contributions are offered for the solving interpretation of 'hypothesis: participants offer contributions to response, with possible attached documents
 - Synthesis Forum is implemented to formulate final solution to the problem following the hypothesis
- ❖ Evaluation of the solution of the problem:
 - the final solution is discussed
 - Participants offer contributions to its assessment in relation to the final interpretations and actions to be implemented
 - the next stage of development of the CoP will provide.

3) **Contents level:** it is confirmed that the contents are stored and used as a basis for reports and publications online:

- ✓ The content developed and summarized in the Forum are the documents of the RAP-T,
- ✓ The papers are made available in the website
- ✓ Archived documents are the basis to construct one or more online publications
- ✓ And to share for other uses (exhibitions, activities and Peace Development, ...)

4) **Technology level:** access, enlargement and management of the site of the CoP

- ✓ It is necessary to check the possibilities and problems of participant to access to the site of the CoP and to find solutions and technological facilitation of access via Internet
- ✓ The UNESCO Chair at the University of Florence confirms its willingness to manage the site for all 2014
- ✓ By 2015 it could be considered technological management of the site of the CoP directly by the Network (transfer platform in Network website or management platform with Planet with an agreements with the provider)

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5) **Human and economic resources management:** after the initial stages of CoP in 2013-2014, for its proper *take-off* it is essential to check and ensure the management system, participation and economic coverage of the CoP for 2015

- ✓ On the base of the contribution of reflection and evaluation by the UNESCO Chair in Florence after on the management of the CoP during 2013-2014, some suggestions on the skills for implement the CoP can be found in the next schedule.
- ✓ In any case, it is recommended that the Network takes the decisions necessary for the development of the CoP in 2015 after the discussion on this proposal.

Statistics of the Community of Practices :

Institutions of the network involved into the Cop: 6

Singular Members: 15

Professional skills needed:

- ✓ Web designer
- ✓ web master
- ✓ web writer
- ✓ researchers (pedagogical area)

Actions for the Cop management:

- ✓ Data processing
- ✓ Translation to French and English
- ✓ Drafting of documents (project, guidelines, texts for website, ..)
- ✓ Constant updating of the web site
- ✓ Permanent relationship with participants for implement CoP activities
- ✓ Periodical coordination meetings (programming, monitoring, evaluating)