

NEWSLETTER

▶▶▶ ROUTES from 2012 to 2014

The opening ceremony for the new academic year held on the 31st of October 2014 marked the foundation of *Routes towards Sustainability*, a Network formed by the UNIVERSITY OF FERRARA, the AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, Nablus, Palestine, the HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITÄT, Berlin, the PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE, Santiago, Chile, the PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA DO PARANÁ, Curitiba, Brazil, the SOUTH CHINA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, Guangzhou, Cina, the UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CORDOBA, Argentina, the UNIVERSITÉ GASTON BERGER, Saint-Louis du Sénégal, the UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI, Warsaw, and the WASEDA UNIVERSITY, Tokyo.

The underpinnings, structure and aims of the University Network were discussed at the **First International Symposium: Sustainability, Research and Teaching after Rio. Challenges for the Future**, hosted by the University of Ferrara on the 29th and 30th of October 2012 and coordinated by Gianfranco Franz, urban planner at the Department of Economics and Management. At the end of 2013 Paola Spinozzi, scholar of British literature at the Department of Humanistic Studies, was appointed co-coordinator of the Network. One of her first tasks was the elaboration of a theoretical and methodological framework encompassing present and future research projects.

In 2013 representatives from the University of Ferrara, the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Curitiba, and the Universidad Católica de Córdoba met in Brazil and worked on joint teaching projects which led to the design and launch of double degree courses in Architecture, Industrial Design, Economics and Management, and Foreign Languages and Literatures. Moreover, the University of Ferrara and the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná set up agreements regarding teaching staff mobility. The administrative documents finalizing the double degree courses were jointly signed in Ferrara in March 2014 during the visit of a group of delegates from PUCPR.

The projects fulfilled by the University of Ferrara in 2014 are:

- the **launch of the web site** in April 2014;
<http://www.unife.it/international/networks/routes-1/routes/>;
- the **Summer School on PLANNING MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION: ISSUES OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT** organized by CRUTA - Centro Ricerche Urbane Territoriali e Ambientali at the University of Ferrara and coordinated by Gianfranco Franz as part of a project funded by the Emilia-Romagna region in order to support the territories hit by the



The opening ceremony for the academic year 2012-2013 and the foundation of *Routes towards Sustainability*

earthquake in 2012 and the flood in 2013,

<http://www.rebuilding-er.it/summer-school/>;

- the **International Conference on MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION: A CHALLENGE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND SAFETY** held on the 29th and 30th of September 2014, coordinated by Gianfranco Franz and involving important Italian institutions and international experts,
<http://www.laboratoriricostruzione-er.it/international-conference/>;
- the **Second GENERAL MEETING** of all the partner institutions, aimed to strengthen the Network by increasing the number of partner universities and to discuss the participation to Horizon 2020 calls,
<http://www.unife.it/international/networks/routes-1/network/events/>;
- the **International Symposium ROUTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS A CULTURE OF WELLBEING**, held on the 1st and 2nd of October and coordinated by Paola Spinozzi. The aim of the symposium was to discuss notions and paradigms of sustainability related to wellbeing in economic, environmental, political and cultural terms. Thematic sessions on interdisciplinary topics included the production, use and consumption of natural resources, the management and recycling of waste, the preservation



At Palazzo Tassoni Estense in October 2014

of habitats and biodiversity, the scope and agency of international law, gender equality, health, risk society, the sustainability of cultural identities and memories,

<http://www.unife.it/international/networks/routes-1/network/events>;

- **Routes Talks**, a series of public lectures and round tables held on Saturday 4 October at the Festival Internazionale in Ferrara, <http://www.unife.it/international/networks/routes-1/network/events>;
- the strengthening of the collaboration between the coordinators of Routes towards Sustainability and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Sustainable Policies, Vincenzo Guidi, aimed to implement policies and good practices for a **Sustainable Campus**, a goal shared by partner institutions;
- the successful submission of an application for a **project entitled Communication Strategies, Policies and Models of Behaviour as Agents/Vehicles of Sustainability** coordinated by Paola Spinozzi, funded by the University of Ferrara and involving the An-Najah National University, the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná and the University of Hanoi. One of the main objectives of the research and teaching project is the organization of a workshop and a summer school at the University of Ferrara in the summer 2015;
- A visit to the **University of Hanoi** in the first week of September 2014, which marked the beginning of a scientific collaboration. On the 2nd of October 2014 **an agreement concerning the mobility of students** from the Departments of Humanistic Studies and Economics and Management at the Universities of Ferrara and from the Faculty of Foreign Languages and International Studies at the University of Hanoi.
- A visit to the **Univerzita Karlova** in Prague from the 2nd to the 4th of December 2014, which was aimed at meeting the Pro-Vice Chancellor



International tribute to the Cathedral in October 2014

for International Affairs and representatives from various departments in order to discuss topics for **Horizon 2020 calls and other EC-funded research programmes.**

- A visit to the **Uniwersytet Warszawski** in Warsaw from the 15th to the 19th December 2014, which was aimed at meeting the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice Chancellor for International Affairs and representatives from various departments in order to discuss topics for **Horizon 2020 calls and other EC-funded research programmes.**
- Experts from universities of various European countries (Germany, Poland, France, Portugal, Serbia, United Kingdom, Africa (Senegal), Latin America (Chile, Brazil and Argentina) and Asia (China, Japan and Vietnam) have been invited to participate in a series of events addressed to students and academics as well as to the whole town of Ferrara. The Network has increased the number of partner institutions and numerous workshops have been organized in order to select topics of sustainable development and resilience in Horizon 2020 calls and other EC-funded research programmes.

▶▶▶ **ROUTES** Strategic Plan for 2015

In 2015 *Routes towards Sustainability* will increase the number of partner institutions from all the continents and will submit Horizon 2020 applications to be coordinated by Ferrara. Each partner university will be strongly encouraged to promote projects and activities focusing on research, teaching or mobility. The topic of sustainability will be investigated in a multi and interdisciplinary perspective in order to foster a productive exchange of methodological and theoretical frameworks. In particular:

- *Routes towards Sustainability* will approach universities which have committed themselves to supporting sustainability as the main underpinning of research and education as well as governance of the university;

- The two coordinators will publish a volume on the prevention and mitigation of multiple hazards and a volume on sustainable development and wellbeing;
- The next international Symposium will be planned and organized. Both the Pontificia Universidad Católica do Paraná and the South China University of Technology in Guangzhou have offered to host the symposium. The choice of the venue will be announced shortly.

For further details:

<http://www.unife.it/international/networks/routes-1/routes>

The coordinators Gianfranco Franz and Paola Spinozzi can be contacted at: routes@unife.it