



Chart of Sassari for a Community-University alliance

The "Chart of Sassari for a Community-University alliance" has been proposed for the first time as an instrument of dialogue at the July 15, 2010 meeting on "The education system and socio-educational services for families, schools and communities".

An extensively revised version is presented again for further discussion at the conference on "The University for the territory and development" (Sassari, 3 and 4 May 2011). This is an in progress working document to establish a pact between a plurality of actors who share its principles and are willing to put it to work, as well as to create occasions for dialogue and cooperation.

Sardinian citizens are living with anxiety and suffering the heavy repercussions of the international economic crisis. The communities of our Island are in a process of depauperation because of the closure of facilities, businesses, public services and the progressive downsizing of employment opportunities and welfare benefits for families and persons.

There is a vital need to **enable positive synergies among agents of change** to overcome the scarcity of individual resources, as well as the situations of disadvantage, structural weaknesses and the system of inequalities.

By reaffirming its autonomy and its resistance capacity, the University of Sassari confirms its will **to find solutions**, giving its contribution to the growth and well being of people and communities. Consequently, the University of Sassari chooses to put its specific capacities to the service of its territory for the definition and implementation of **a shared social contract** that enhances the specificities and overcomes all forms of localism and particularism, in order to create a sustainable world in which economic development is combined with the respect of citizenship, of the environment, of cultures and peoples.

Historically, the academic institution performs public interest functions by developing, transmitting, applying and preserving knowledge through the interplay between teaching, research and **service to the community**. This service is the so-called "third mission" of University.

Consistent with this mission, the University of Sassari is the bearer of a **strategic vision of development** that can create a participated, inclusive and supportive **knowledge society**, in which the tension towards the promotion of excellence does not conflict with the development and consolidation of widespread and shared intelligence.

This vision is to be achieved by means of a **constant and equal relationship** between all the forces of civic, institutional, economic, cultural, social and territorial solidarity, with regards to the respective roles and responsibilities. The **strategic objective** that follows is to establish means of consultation that are participated and respectful of contractors. Such means of consultations shall have analysis, programming and policy functions, and shall be able to allocate adequate resources to the objectives to be defined as well as to identify operational synergies.

Operational objectives and consistent actions should therefore be jointly determined, among which:

A. To coordinate the activities of parties adhering to the "Charter of Sassari for a Community-University alliance" and **be accountable** to the communities and citizens through:

- a **regular conference** of local and regional, profit and non-profit entities, voluntary associations, in order to create opportunities for open dialogue and to find common development perspectives;
- forms and instruments of **evaluation and valorisation** of processes and outcomes of the activities carried on for citizens' welfare and social cohesion, in order to account for actions to the main stakeholders in the area (and not just accounting to lenders).

B. To create, share and disseminate forms of knowledge which can provide real support to the practices and policies for social, occupational and economic development, that are needed to improve the living conditions of Sardinia's people and communities, by means of:

- **educational programs and didactics careful for persons** and conceived to develop imagination, critical knowledge and active citizenship;
- an educational offer for the **formation of European and world citizens**, to be articulated into curricula and degree programs that meet the real needs of young people, of the territory and intercept the directions of development, and which shall properly take into account the links between training and work, as well as between professionalization needs and employment opportunities;
- the enhancement and strengthening of **innovative teaching experiences** capable of providing a diffused scientific research service in support of productivity and active citizenship;
- the elaboration of organizational and institutional solutions in the new academic structure that can exploit and not waste the **patrimony of expertise and experience** that has been developed along the years within Faculties and Departments, thus maintaining their professional and human capital alive and active.

C. To overcome all forms of particularism and localism through:

- the establishment of **consortia and partnerships** with business and civil society organizations, also through specific organizational forms with the double academic and non-academic characteristics in order to develop operational responses to the needs;
- an **internationalization policy** not only for scientific collaboration agreements, but also turned towards **international cooperation**, open to other continents, to be run with agencies and organizations that are present on the Sardinian territory;
- closer adherence to **international community-university relationship experiences** that practice publicly engaged science and which adopt forms of participatory action research.

Sassari, May 3, 2011