



World Food Day 2017: Change the Future of Migration

The CIHEAM organises a concert to raise awareness among youth on relationship between food security, agriculture and distress migration

Press Release, Saturday 28 October 2017
Concert for the Earth, Teatro Petruzzelli (Bari, Italy)



For the second consecutive year, the Concert for the Earth, organised by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, Institute of Bari (CIHEAM), was held today at the Teatro Petruzzelli in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (FARNESINA) and with the support of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). With the participation of the President of the Apulia Region, the Mayor of Bari, Rectors of Universities, the CIHEAM Vice-President, Gianni Bonini and the Director of the CIHEAM-Bari Institute, Maurizio Raeli, this event celebrating the WORLD FOOD DAY was related to the theme "Changing the Future of Migration, Investing in Food Security and Rural Development". The FAO Director-General, José Graziano Da Silva, also addressed a [video message](#) in which he hailed the partnership between the FAO and CIHEAM and commended the engagement of Cosimo Lacirignola, Secretary General of the CIHEAM "to make our world fairer and safer, especially for young people in the Mediterranean region".

The concert brought together an audience of more than 1,400 spectators, including 700 students, who enjoyed the music of artists like Michael Jackson, Lucio Dalla, Ennio Morricone or the Pink Floyd and listened to the moving and poignant stories of refugees. Participants engaged in the field of cooperation also invited the young spectators to consider professional careers in the service of cooperation.

Intended for students, this event was the occasion to explain the importance of strengthening livelihoods of rural and coastal communities, improving incomes of small-scale farmers and fishermen, employment opportunities and thus contribute to making migration a voluntary, safe and informed choice. Indeed, it had been recalled that migration must not be synonymous with suffering and must be safe to contribute to sustainable development and lead to better living conditions.

In the Mediterranean region, economic and social inequalities remain between and within the countries; natural resources, including land and water in a context of demographic growth, are depleting and climate change impacts livelihoods of the poorest and the most fragile populations more severely.



Regarding these strategic issues, strengthened dialogue and increased cooperation at the Mediterranean level in Africa, Asia and Europe are becoming a necessity. As it has been mentioned by the SG of the CIHEAM, "Food security, agriculture and rural development are closely related to peace and stability. They should be considered a priority in order to prevent forced displacements and migration".

More about rural migration issues in the Mediterranean www.ministerial2016.ciheam.org

Related news :

G7 Agriculture ["THE CIHEAM fully involved to tackle the root causes of rural migrations"](#)

Cosimo Lacirignola, SG of the CIHEAM's article ["Rural Migration: Agriculture and Inclusive Development for a Resilient Mediterranean"](#)

CIHEAM

Created in 1962, the CIHEAM is a Mediterranean organization which works for improving sustainable agriculture and fisheries, for ensuring food and nutrition security and for developing rural and coastal territories. The organization gathers 13 Member States from both shores of the Mediterranean (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) and works with several international and regional institutions. CIHEAM's actions rely on a bottom-up collaboration and are problem-solving oriented, connected to the peculiar needs of the countries. With its Member States, public and private partners and academics the CIHEAM strive to meet the 4 following challenges:



Struggling against "triple waste" (Knowledge-Natural Resources-Food)



Boosting Sustainable Agriculture and Food



Investing in new generations and fragile territories



Preventing risks and managing tensions

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