Book Reviews

Cooperazione universitaria e interdipendenza per lo sviluppo. *Atti del 2A Colloquio Internazionale sulla cooperazione universitaria con i Paesi in via di sviluppo*. Firenze/Roma, Le Monnier/Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria, 1989, 164 p. (Lire 18,500)
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For a second time in Italy, a colloquium was organized in May 1988 at the University of Bari to discuss the state of affairs and outlook for the future in the area of higher education cooperation with developing countries. It followed an earlier, similar event which took place in November 1985 at the University of Trieste.

The Bari Colloquium was organized by the Italian Institute for University Cooperation with financial support from the Italian government and the EC Commission. It brought together some 135 Italian participants, mostly from the various universities throughout the country, and 50 participants from abroad, i.e. from international organizations active in this field.

The colloquium, of which the proceedings have now been published by the Institute for University Cooperation, underlines the importance that Italian universities, as well as the Italian government, want to attach to the role of academic cooperation within the larger context of development aid policy. In the proceedings, reference is made again and again to the considerable increase of activities in this field, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, which was experienced in the second half of the 1980s. This increase is also marked by a substantial growth of funds made available by the Italian government, which in 1988 had reached a total of Lire 80 billion. (approx. £40 million). The Colloquium might, however, also be understood as an effort to catch up with other European countries, who for some time now have set up more structured forms of planning and implementing the involvement of universities and other institutions of higher education in development aid activities.

The proceedings give access to a broad range of contributions, most of them relatively short, made to the Bari Colloquium. Contributions were given by various Italian university leaders, by rectors of African and South American universities and by representatives from some of the relevant international organizations and agencies based in other countries. One major chapter summarizes the results of a study, conducted by Umberto Farri and Giovanni Finocchietti for the Institute for University Cooperation, on European experiences in the field. The study undertakes to analyse motivations and objectives as well as the various acting bodies involved in higher education cooperation with developing countries in the EC member states, as well as in Switzerland and Canada. It distinguishes between various typological models of interaction between these bodies and of the forms of contents of cooperation.

Farri and Finocchietti identify the Italian situation where the public administration responsible for cooperation interacts directly with the individual university as being most adequate, with a view to maintaining university autonomy and to avoiding a purely quantitative and economic approach to higher education cooperation with developing countries. In other countries, such as Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, mediating and coordinating agencies exist. The question of whether the establishment of such an agency in Italy would improve or endanger the quality of higher education cooperation was one of the main topics of discussion during the Colloquium, a topic which was taken up in the final conclusions in a somewhat vague and non-committal way, expressing thereby the distinct differences of opinion stated.

Another 'Leitmotiv' in the proceedings, addressed in a number of contributions, is the perceived need for more balanced participation in higher education cooperation with developing countries of subject areas such as technology and natural sciences on the one hand, and humanities and social sciences on the other. Here, quite

unanimously, the pledge is for what is understood to be a truly academic concept of cooperation, where the universities act as catalysts for a comprehensive process of development in which there is no short-sighted and possibly selfish focus on the transfer of skills and knowledge which are of immediate industrial and economical use.

The reader who is expecting to find extensive evidence of facts and figures on Italian university cooperation with developing countries, will probably be disappointed by the Bari Colloquium proceedings. It becomes clear from some of the contributions that in fact there is an urgent need for collecting such data, which to a large extent are not yet available on a national level. The interest of the proceedings, however, lies in reflecting a broad spectrum of points of view, ideas and concepts, stemming from different backgrounds – some conventional, some bold, some challenging and stimulating. The contributions are in general marked by the humanistic self-concept of Italian universities and can thereby offer a valuable balance to technocratic approaches as they might be prevalent in other countries.

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Tent (James F.) *The Free University of Berlin: A Political History*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington/Indianapolis, 1988, 507 p. (\$37.50)

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