

## THE EXPERIENCE OF THE KIP PAVILION AT EXPO 2015 HAS NOW CONCLUDED

October 31 ended the experience of the KIP Pavilion at EXPO 2015. The KIP International School is especially proud to have built the Pavilion exclusively with private funding and that it was made available to governments, international organizations, ninety-four groups and networks bringing together several thousands of public, private and associative organizations from forty countries.

All the partners self-financed their participation, making EXPO also an opportunity to inform and mobilize their respective territories. They exhibited their products, photos, videos and documents about their best experiences, and organized creative events that drew thousands of visitors and animated the KIP Pavilion.

Representatives of EXPO 2105, the Governments of Italy, Senegal and Mali and International Organizations such as SICA (Secretaría de Integración Social Centroamericana), the UN Team at Expo, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, IFAD and UNAC participated in and co-organized many of these events.

The Local Economic Development Agencies of over twenty countries organized by the ILS LEDA network, and many LEDAs of European countries organized by EURADA, fuelled exchanges and new partnerships with many other groups around the world and led to an agreement with the Governments of Senegal and Mali to help them in their national policies in support of local development.

Several international networks displayed some of the best results of their work: Slow Cities, in enhancing quality of life, proximity agriculture and cultural heritage and traditions; Emblematic Communities of the Mediterranean Diet, in facilitating collaboration among farmers, tourist operators, small businesses, services, public administrations, associations and citizens; Eco-



Regions and Bio-Districts, in illustrating the experiences of organic productions and sustainable territorial development; Social Economy, in strategically activating social enterprises to combat poverty and exclusion; Local Action Groups of Spain, in their local development schemes; International Slow Tea International and Italian association; The World Agricultural Heritage Foundation, in supporting the *Globally and Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems*; Rincones del Atlántico, disseminating knowledge on natural and cultural heritage of the Canary Islands (Spain).

Many cities, local communities and their associations illustrated some of their good development experiences based on the sustainable use of natural resources, local food, promotion of human rights and citizen participation, as well as art and international cooperation activities. More than 23 associations and NGOs that participated had the opportunity to highlight some of their innovative activities of development and international cooperation. Many companies supported activities and illustrated their products of excellence.

In its outdoor spaces, the Pavilion hosted the UN Garden, built with private financing mobilized by the KIP International School, and proudly displayed Marco Cavallo led by the Permanent Conference for Mental Health Worldwide *Franco Basaglia*, the Social Flight One, a plane built in jail through the project *Wings of Freedom* of the Mediterranean Social Consortium, and the ancient trees of the biodiversity project of the Maioli Group. The restaurant managed by the Cramst Cooperative associated in the international CittàSlow movement was not only a place to eat well at affordable prices, but also a lively gathering place. In the square and open spaces cultural events, theatre, music, tastings and many other activities took place.

The Project *Patch for Future* of the Symbola Foundation, through which school children and visitors to EXPO expressed their ideas on the future of development and ended with the creation of a Globe, the largest structure made with children's drawings produced by the artist Howtan Re. Famous Chinese musicians, painters, sculptors, potters, tailors, calligraphers and filmmakers made their best works known to an international public.

KIP and its partners have helped to show that the EXPO could be a great opportunity to learn about many experiences that show that the intelligent production and consumption of food can be an opportunity for local, peaceful, sustainable and quality development. Many activities increased cultural and political awareness that development



of the future must be based on partnerships between local experiences of all countries that seek to build attractive and inclusive territories, as indicated by the words of the UN Secretary General in the closing ceremony of EXPO.

Building on the experiences that animated the Pavilion, the KIP International School launched the idea of creating a global system of cooperation for territorial development around which an international group was constituted. The next meetings will be hosted by the City of Naples and UNESCO's Venice office.

In this context the IDEASS Programme actively participated with the objective of promoting innovations for a more attractive and sustainable territorial development. The innovations published on the IDEASS website were diffused among experiences and networks participating in the KIP Pavilion exhibitions to provide new and accessible solutions for improving territorial quality of life. In this framework, 25 technologies and methodologies for territorial development exhibited in the different Pavilions of Expo Milano 2015 were also identified and published in the IDEASS website.

The KIP Pavilion has now closed its doors, but its message will continue.

