



Collana Convegni 52

# Sapienza for International Development Cooperation

Strategies, Projects, Actions

*edited by*

*Carlo Giovanni Cereti and Francesca Giofrè*



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In copertina: elaborazione grafica a cura della prof.ssa Francesca Giofrè.

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# Cooperation Maps

*Francesca Giofrè* – Sapienza University of Rome

Sapienza's effort in the sector of cooperation is long and consolidated. In 2010, it witnessed the foundation of a dedicated sector "Development cooperation, networking and support for the planning of financial resources", as a part of the International Area. This sector defines cooperation strategies and future guidelines. It promotes quality and innovative partnership initiatives to focus on Sapienza strategic areas of excellence. Within this framework, many activities are implemented: mobility of professors and researchers to and from developing/emerging countries; exchange of skills; synergy and optimization of resources and objectives; improvement of access to technological know-how and financial opportunities; enhancing/strengthening decentralized cooperation forms, with particular attention to the most vulnerable groups, as well as the long-term sustainability of the development actions.

The Sapienza actions and activities fit within the broader process of implementation at the global and national level of the Agenda 2030 adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. The Agenda has the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its core, and it puts at the base the five 'P': People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. The Agenda puts the people at the center of attention as the main promoter of sustainable development actions. It considers the local governments the most important partner for the implementation of its stated principles.

Academic institutions play a strategic role in this process. The interdependence between the North and South of the world is evident, and despite the differences between 'local' and 'global', North and South,

there is a principle of interdependence among the various policies that can no longer be neglected in academic cooperation. Within this scenario, Sapienza offers various financing channels to support cooperation activities, according to its three main missions – teaching, scientific research and third mission- and its strategic plans.

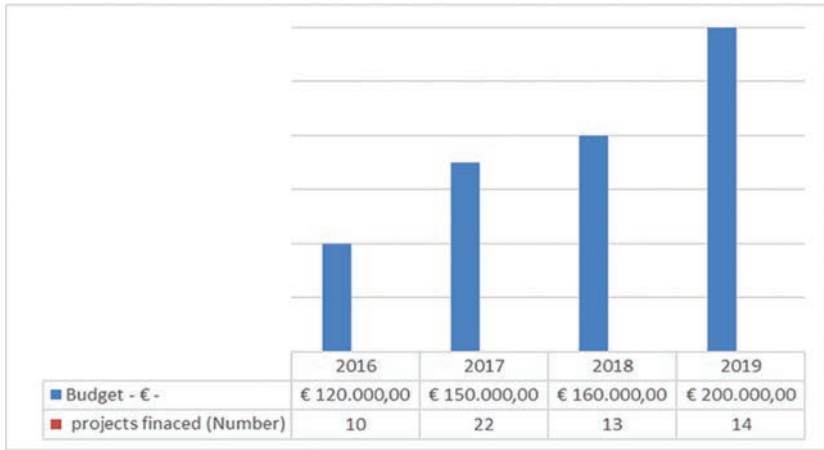
This paper aims to provide a picture of the cooperation maps and the networks through the elaboration of the data given by Sapienza International Office International Office. In particular, the article discusses two typologies of data: 1) the results of the yearly call for funds open to all Sapienza professors and researchers for development aid programs, between 2016 and 2019; 2) the number and typologies of general framework agreements, the executive agreements and other agreements, made with countries of the Global South, before 2014 and in the period from 2014 to 2019.

## **Sapienza and development aid programs**

Every year Sapienza finances the development aid programs/projects proposed by researchers and professors, on a competitive basis. The eligible countries and territories are those recognized at the international level as low and middle-income countries, based on the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. The principal sources of the list (table 1) is the Development Assistance Committee (DAC-OECD) list, it maps all countries and territories eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA) according to GNI per capita published by the World Bank; this list also includes the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as defined by the United Nations. Sapienza updates this list every year, including some countries as a priority for its cooperation strategies, for example, the countries of the Balkan area in the 2017 call.

The funds' availability increased constantly between the years 2016-2019. By comparing the grants available in 2016 and 2019, it increased by 67% (table 2), highlighting major attention on this strategic sector, and a will to reduce the number of financed projects and increase the budget/financing of each project.



**Tab. 2.** Development aid programs budget: years 2016 – 2019.

The typologies of projects financed are:

- pilot projects or feasibility studies aimed to support the submission of project proposals - in which Sapienza is coordinator or co-coordinator - to the European and international calls for funding.
- complementary activities aimed to co-finance additional actions not foreseen in projects that were financed by national, European, or international bodies.
- networking and best practices exchange between European universities and partner institutions in developing countries, aimed to set up short or intensive courses, also winter/summer schools, as well as advanced training for students, graduates, young researchers, and Ph.D. students.

The projects eligible must include actions of capacity and institutional building, according to the definition given by the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

The elaborated data shows that the 59 cooperation projects financed (2016-2019) are distributed in the following areas and countries:

- n. 33 projects in Africa (Benin, Cameroon, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ruanda, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa);
- n.6 projects in the Middle East and North Africa (Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia);

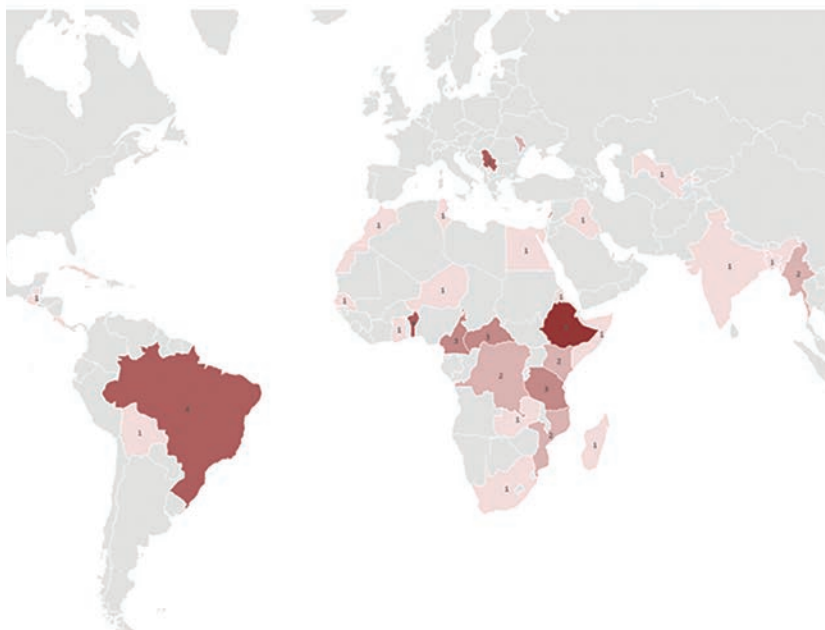
- n. 8 projects in Latin American (Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala);
- n. 5 projects in Asia (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Uzbekistan);
- n. 7 projects in Europe (Serbia, Moldavia, Kosovo).

It is interesting to notice the strong presence of Sapienza in Africa, especially with 5 projects in Ethiopia, 4 projects in Benin, followed by Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Tanzania, where 3 projects are activated in each country.

It must be taken into consideration that some of these projects are one-to-one national projects. Others are multi-country projects that include a network of multiple partners. To simplify and avoid double-counting, each multi-country project was listed/counted only one time in the first country listed in the project's list of partners. Accordingly, that project was demonstrated in that country's position on (Map 1).

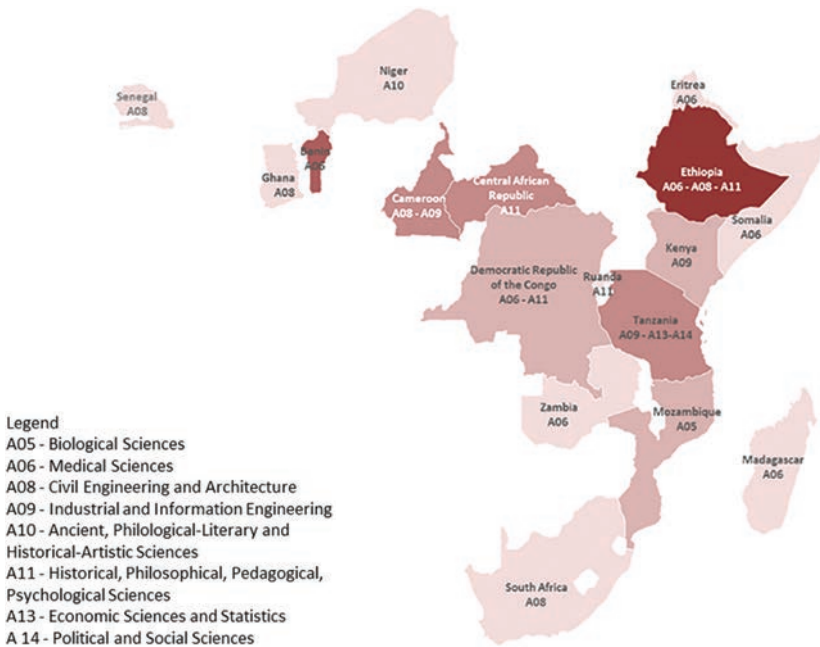
This, however, indicates that these 59 projects are not limited to the countries mentioned above and that Sapienza is present - through its projects - in many other locations.

**Map 1.** Sapienza in cooperation: countries and number of projects financed (2016 - 2019).



Mapping the projects' titles and the scientific profile of Sapienza's coordinators, the analysis shows the projects' distribution according to the wider scientific and teaching macro areas of interest. The results, represented in the following maps, show that typically some disciplinary areas and their topics, are developed in a specific country for the long-term. This trend can be read positively through the strengthening of each project's results and enhancing academic cooperation in its broader sense.

**Map 2.** Sapienza with Africa: scientific and teaching macro area.



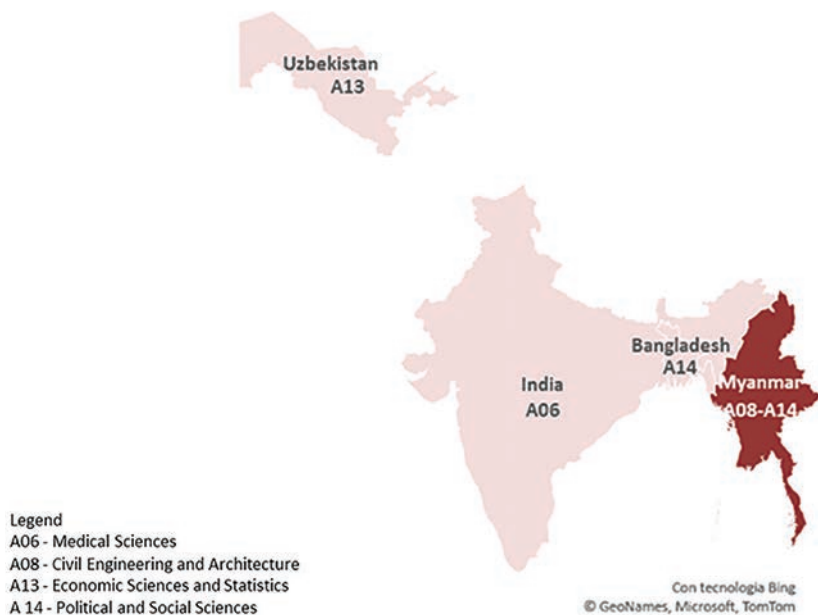
**Map 3.** Sapienza with Middle East and North Africa: scientific and teaching macro area.



**Map 4.** Sapienza with Latin America: scientific and teaching macro area.



**Map 5.** Sapienza with Asia: scientific and teaching macro areas.



In Europe, the scientific and teaching macro-areas are physical sciences (A02); medical sciences (A06) and civil engineering and architecture (A08) in Serbia; physical sciences (A02) in Moldavia, and political and social sciences (A14) in Kosovo.

**Tab. 2.** Sapienza and development aid programs in the world: scientific and teaching macro areas.

Scientific and teaching macro areas	Africa	Middle East and North Africa	Latin America	Asia	Europe
A02 - Physical Sciences					
A05 - Biological Sciences					
A06 - Medical Sciences					
A08 - Civil Engineering and Architecture					
A09 - Industrial and Information Engineering					
A10 - Ancient, Philological-Literary and Historical-Artistic Sciences					
A11 - Historical, Philosophical, Pedagogical, Psychological Sciences					
A13 - Economic Sciences and Statistics					
A 14 - Political and Social Sciences					

The projects focus on the area of Civil Engineering and Architecture followed by the area of Medical Science that sees a wider presence around the world.



## Sapienza in agreements: the network

Sapienza International Agreement Unit, a part of the International Relations Area, promotes, manages, and supports, among other activities, the development of different kinds of agreements with institutions, mainly academic ones, all over the world. This analysis shows only the quantity of agreements and their typologies aiming to picture the current networks of Sapienza. Every year Sapienza opens a call to finance researchers and professors' mobility within this network and to fund the projects they present based on a competitive evaluation process/procedure.

Sapienza identifies five typologies of agreements, as follow:

1. General Framework Agreements, promote, and develop collaboration between Sapienza University and its partner institutions. Under the umbrella of the Framework Agreements, usually signed by the Rector. Different kinds of Executive Protocols can be developed in specific areas of interest.
2. Executive Protocols define the mobility rules for researchers, teachers, and PhD students within one or more teaching and/or research areas, directly through faculties, departments or research centers;
3. Agreements for Cultural and Scientific Cooperation, promote cultural and scientific collaboration with partner institutions on specific research and/or teaching area, regulating the mobility conditions of teachers, researchers, and PhD students;
4. Multilateral Agreements, subscribed with multiple partners;
5. Other agreements, subscribed with a range of institutions (i.e., ministries, international organisations, etc.).

The maps discussed below, show Sapienza network in terms of current agreements, not only in the countries as shown in table 1, but considering a wide range of countries in the geographical areas of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia, the so-called Global South. Some of the countries in these areas are not considered developing countries or emerging countries anymore, and for this reason, the emphasis should be placed on 'internationalization' instead of 'cooperation'.

The data gathered include two typologies of agreements: The General Framework Agreements (GFA), and all the others as the Executive Protocols, Agreements for Cultural and Scientific Cooperation, etc. (EP+Others).





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The volume presents the interventions of the speakers and the posters of the professors of Sapienza University of Rome as evidence of the results achieved in international cooperation with a special emphasis on capacity building actions in the main geographical areas identified as: Africa, Mena countries and Latin America and Asia. The materials were presented at the University Conference “Sapienza in International Development: Strategies, Projects, Initiatives” held in Rome, at the Aula Magna of Sapienza University of Rome, on 11 December 2018 and organized with the collaboration of the Roma Sapienza Foundation.

The volume also presents in its introductory part a moment of reflection on the geographical areas of cooperation of greatest interest and strategic for Sapienza.

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