

## Rome, Sub-Saharan Africa. National structural issues in the never ending "questione meridionale"

by Matteo Bocci



Exactly two years ago I was in Kenya for a meeting with some colleagues.

After a few bottles of local beer, a clever lady from Zimbabwe finally took the courage and asked me: "how comes you Italians are not even capable of managing urban waste?" That remark sounded particularly embarrassing to me, as in those days two issues apparently were spreading in newspapers worldwide [...]

## The Politics and Economics oh Happiness: a new approach to existing problems

What should societies – and policy makers – look for? Is "progress" still a valid notion towards which science and economy should be oriented? Can happiness be an effective alternative to GDP when it comes to measuring quantity of well being and the fairness of its distribution? These are some of the basic questions at the basis of Vision's [new project](#).

## Events

On February the 12th, in Birmingham, Vision took part to the English follow up of "The B Factor". Click [here](#) to watch the conference.

## We Want You!



Would you like to be part of Vision's network? Please send an email to: [info@vision-forum.org](mailto:info@vision-forum.org)

## Next Issue

Within the next issue of Vision's web magazine we will focus on communication technologies, and the way **social networks** in particular are changing the relationship among people and the concept of "Democracy" itself. You can write to [info@vision-forum.org](mailto:info@vision-forum.org) should you like to write an article or know more.

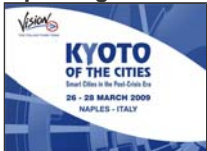
## University performance in the 21st century



Next event on University is planned to be held on **2010**

**October 18th**, in Turin. Last April conference produced very good results both in terms of media coverage ([here](#) you can see Vision's press coverage ) and products (you can download the paper [here](#)). You can send an email to [university@vision-forum.org](mailto:university@vision-forum.org), should you like to take part to the project.

## Intelligent Cities in the Post Copenhagen Era



After the launching, "framework" conference held in Naples last

April, the project "Kyoto of the Cities" continues its activities. Following next is the conference focusing on the first of the three areas of intervention that Vision identified in order to tackle the problem of Climate Change: "Intelligent Cities" and the issue of Public Participation as a solution to the urban congestion. [...]

## Vision in Facebook



Now you can join the Vision Group on facebook and be constantly updated in real time on all projects and initiatives underway. The facebook group is "Vision - The Italian Think Tank".

**If you want to join Vision's projects or be author of Vision web magazine write to: [info@vision-forum.org](mailto:info@vision-forum.org).**

## Africa, Happiness, Italy from outside



Within this issue we analyze the question of Africa, questioning the concept that transferring resources to less developed areas is useful for them, or to broader and inter-connected surrounding systems. The western debates on the future of Africa have been focused on "aid" for years, but recently new theories have been gaining popularity, some arguing that aid could even be damaging for example.

The questions are: how can we transfer "capacities" together with resources? Is there any sense for one "model" to still exist, or would it be better to encourage diversity? Which structural rigidities do we need to combat in order to make the change more effective? Which potential role does culture play within these processes? How could we transform the concept of "aid" into development opportunities, also for more advanced societies?

We also release the new version of the position paper of the project on "The politics and economics of happiness". The evidence and the questions of the paper will be discussed at the event to be held in Rome on May 13th and organized by the British Council and Vision in partnership with the American Embassy, the UK Embassy, the Canadian Embassy, Rena, TN2020. Whoever is interested to the Vision project can write to [milica.cirovic@vision-forum.org](mailto:milica.cirovic@vision-forum.org).

We also propose two articles on Italy from an external point of view - by Bill Emmott and Geoff Andrews.

In the next issue we will focus on communication technologies, and the way social networks (such as facebook) in particular are changing relationships among people, societies, and the concept of Democracy itself. You can write an email to [info@vision-forum.org](mailto:info@vision-forum.org) should you like to contribute with an article.

## Looking for positive viruses

by Bill Emmott



One of the most persistent stories about Silvio Berlusconi is that he is a popular Italian hero, most successful when he is out on the campaign trail and among his adoring public. The regional elections revealed that story to be

false [...]

## "Governance" matters

by Flavius Stan and Michael Kutner



'Good governance' trumps it all: it forms reasonable, common sense hypotheses to

solve the ills and improve future potential of societies big and small, developed and underdeveloped, democratic or authoritarian, peaceful or violent. [...]

## Europe beyond GDP: well being and equality

by Marianna Madia



GDP increase, GDP decrease, GDP is steady. Everything revolves around GDP. Nevertheless, when growth and equality go inversely, quality of life gets worse, even if traditional economic indicators are positive. The more unequal a society is - regarding incomes and opportunities - the greater the problems. For everyone (*article n Italian*) [...]

## From "Aid" to "co-development": towards a new paradigm of cooperation

by Ilija Gaglio



The shift from century XX to XXI, after ten years appears to be so non-linear that we can actually talk about a real transition. Concepts, policies, tools have changed and objectives too, despite skepticisms (*article in Italian*) [...]

## When You're Rich, They Think You Really Know

by Michael Kutner



After centuries of very uneven economic growth, societies in the wealthier parts of the world have been churning out controversial and contradictory theories in the struggle to understand why they were so successful when societies in so many other parts of the world were not

## Italy Locked in an Impasse

by Geoff Andrews



Last week's regional elections in Italy provided an opportunity for a change of direction that could lead to a new season of reform.

Berlusconi came through the elections relatively unscathed, the official opposition made virtually no impact, the main "victors" being Umberto Bossi's regionalists and small protest parties. This means that a country that desperately needs political reforms to revitalise an ailing economy remains locked in an impasse [...]

## China's road to next Super-power through Africa

by Asif Parvez



The continent of Africa is home to around 15% of the world's population and has more developing countries than any other continent. Africa's growth is indispensable to development of the today's world economy especially when all the

economies of the world are interlinked. The Chinese interest in Africa is of great importance in the shaping of new world and its future. [...]