The new Fondazione Di Vittorio (FDV) is the result of the gradual unification of some previous CGIL-related institutes (ABT, IRES, ISF, SMILE) and is now going to become the only national Confederation’s institute both for historical, social, economic research and for trade union education and training.

edited by Fabiana Lippa
The CGIL has decided to strengthen and re-launch its investment in trade union research and training, aware of the delicate phase that the country, like society and the trade union movement itself, is going through in the broadest European and international context. The aim is to put people and their rights back at the centre, along with their living and working conditions, the interests and demands they express, linking all this to the values and ideals that make the CGIL one of the most important social and political subjects in Italy.

An autonomous activity of trade union research on the one side and an effective, continuous and capillary training of officials, trainers and shop stewards on the other, are considered an essential part of union activity today. Knowledge and skills – their popularization at an in-depth level – are considered a fundamental objective for modern unionism. The new FDV aims to contribute in responding to such a need, one that has been repeatedly insisted on by the CGIL.

The FDV reaffirms and strengthens the centrality of its activities around the core issues of work and employment, economics and welfare. Based on studies, research and targeted surveys, it aims to develop proposals on the great issues of the country, organising public conferences and seminars for debating and rethinking public policies, in collaboration with the other bodies in the Confederation at all sectoral and territorial levels. A goal to be achieved using the existing internal expertise and enhancing networking linking up with the resources and relations offered by the CGIL, movements and actors in civil society, universities and other trade union related institutes of research and training, in Europe and Italy. With such an aim, it will be crucial to develop new forms of coordination with similar associations, both at national and international level.

In order to improve skills and expertise of trade unionists at all levels, the FDV intends to strengthen continuous trade union education and training, on the basis of CGIL strategies and priorities. Inspired by some of the most meaningful experiences of other trade unions, the FDV aims to play an important role at European level. The international dimension is, in fact, considered a key issue of the new Foundation, through all kinds of partnership and networking. FDV intends to confirm and strengthen a tradition of previous co-operation with other trade union related institutes, as in the case of the ETUI European network (TURI), which it is already part of.

The new FDV is organized in three main areas of activity: **History and Memory; Research; Training and several thematic observatories and sections**

- **The History and Memory Area** mostly focuses on the study of the history of the CGIL, of the working class and labour movement in Italy and other countries.
- **The Research Area** intervenes in the following thematic sectors: economics, employment and labour market, working conditions, industrial relations, welfare, territorial development and sustainability.
- **The Training Area** focuses on the fields of trade union higher-level education, and the training of specialists and trainers.
In this presentation we have selected some of the research and training activities that have been carried out recently, mostly at an international level, as coordinating organisation of or partner in European projects or networks in the areas of labour, welfare, environment, and sociodemographic trends. We have given a brief description of each of these projects or provided a specific link. This list does not include the bulk of the research and educational and activities that take place exclusively within the trade union at national and domestic level.
Research
Final report is available on the website

www.ires.it/files/upload/Euracta2_Final%20report_0.pdf
Within the framework of the new European economic governance, neoliberal views on wages have further increased in prominence and have steered various reforms of collective bargaining rules and practices. As the crisis in Europe came to be largely interpreted as a crisis of competitiveness, wages were seen as the core adjustment variable for ‘internal devaluation’, the claim being that competitiveness could be restored through a reduction of labour costs.

This book proposes an alternative view according to which wage developments need to be strengthened through a Europe-wide coordinated reconstruction of collective bargaining as a precondition for more sustainable and more inclusive growth in Europe. It contains major research findings from the CAWIE2 – Collectively Agreed Wages in Europe – project, conducted in 2014–2015 for the purpose of discussing and debating the currently dominant policy perspectives on collectively-bargained wage systems under the new European economic governance.

- Full text (EN)
- Guy Van Gyes and Thorsten Schulten: Introduction (EN)
- Guy Van Gyes and Sem Vandekerckhove: Chapter 1 - Indicators of collectively agreed wages in the euro zone: a quality report (EN)
- Noélie Delahaie, Sem Vandekerckhove and Catherine Vincent: Chapter 2 - Wages and collective bargaining systems in Europe during the crisis (EN)
- Jesús Cruces, Ignacio Álvarez, Francisco Trillo and Salvo Leonardi: Chapter 3 - Impact of the euro crisis on wages and collective bargaining in southern Europe - a comparison of Italy, Portugal and Spain (EN)
- Søren Kaj Andersen, Christian Lyhne Ibsen, Kristin Alsos, Kristine Nergaard and Pekka Sauramo: Chapter 4 - Changes in wage policy and collective bargaining in the Nordic countries - a comparison of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden (EN)
- Szilvia Borbély and László Neumann: Chapter 5 - Similarities and diversity in the development of wages and collective bargaining in central and eastern European countries - a comparison of Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic (EN)
- Lewis Emery: Chapter 6 - Multi-employer bargaining in the UK - does it have a future? (EN)
- Torsten Müller, Thorsten Schulten and Sepp Zuckerstätter: Chapter 7 - Wages and economic performance in Europe (EN)
- Maarten Keune: Chapter 8 - Less governance capacity and more inequality: the effects of the assault on collective bargaining in the EU (EN)
- Odile Chagny and Michel Husson: Chapter 9 - Looking for an 'optimal wage regime' for the euro zone (EN)
- Thorsten Schulten, Torsten Müller and Line Eldring: Chapter 10 - Prospects and obstacles of a European minimum wage policy (EN)
- Thorsten Schulten, Line Eldring and Reinhard Naumann: Chapter 11 - The role of extension for the strength and stability of collective bargaining in Europe (EN)
- Thorsten Schulten and Guy Van Gyes: Concluding remarks (EN)
A Labour Perspective

Minimum Wages, Collective Bargaining and Economic Development in Asia and Europe offers a labour perspective on wage-setting institutions, collective bargaining and economic development. Sixteen country chapters, eight on Asia and eight on Europe, focus in particular on the role and effectiveness of minimum wages in the context of national trends in income inequality, economic development, and social security. Two chapters on Asia and Europe compare and contrast national experiences and discuss the relevance of a redistributive wages policy for worldwide as well as national economic recovery. Demand or wage-led economic recovery is explored as an alternative to the export-led strategies currently pursued by leading Asian and European countries. In light of the slow pace of recovery from recession in Europe, the renewed recession in Japan and the weakening growth rates of major Asian countries, this book provides a timely reconsideration of the macroeconomic policy options. As such, it contributes to the wider debate on sustainable economic growth and income inequality.

Salvo Leonardi, from ABT, and Riccardo Sanna, from CGIL, are the authors of the chapter on Italy.
The New European Economic Governance (NEEG) began to emerge in 2010 with the adoption of a “European 2020 strategy”, which included the introduction of the “European Semester” as a yearly cycle of European economic policy coordination. This was the point of departure for a set of initiatives and rules developed in the following years, aimed to strengthen economic and budgetary coordination for the EU as a whole and for the euro area in particular. The consequence of this process is that, in barely three years, the concepts of what the EU and the Euro zone need to do to reform economic governance have undergone a radical change, as well as the framework of public action at national and European level.

The process of design and implementation of the NEEG has been highly controversial with regard to various aspects. One particular element of debate concerns the impact of on the national collective bargaining systems. The comparative analysis shows that the Labour Law reforms implemented by European governments under the new supranational interventionism launched by the NEEG, have substantially altered the landscape of the collective bargaining in the EU (particularly, in the southern countries). The enacted measures have targeted not only bargaining outcomes, by putting direct pressure on wages, but also bargaining procedures by pushing more flexible wage-setting arrangements. More specifically, a clear policy goal can be identified in many European governments: fostering the decentralization of the collective bargaining. Any general assessment about the NEEG must take into account, however, the specific developments and impacts of its implementation at national level.

This premise is the point of departure of the research project “GOCOBA”, financially supported by the EU, aimed to analyze the impacts of the New EU Economic governance on the national collective bargaining systems in six countries: Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy (ABT), Portugal and Spain. The project has been carried out by five Trade Union related Research Institutes, and coordinated by the Fundación 1º de Mayo (Spain).

Broadly speaking, it can be affirmed that the combined effects of the downturn of the economic activity due to the crisis, and the austerity policies and structural reforms enacted under the NGEE, have caused significant impacts on the collective bargaining developments, although with a different degree of intensity among the six countries. More specifically, the following trends can be remarked:

Firstly, the dynamic on of the collective bargaining in the private sector has noticeably worsened. This is shown by the decline in the number of collective agreements, and also in some countries by the radical fall in the number of extension decisions of collective agreements

Secondly, the process of decentralization of the collective bargaining has been accelerated through a twofold track: on the one hand, the rising in the number of company-level agreements, and the decline of the sectoral ones. On the other hand, it can be noted a significant increasing of the derogations of sectoral collective agreements at company level, favoured by the new regulations introduced by the legal reforms of labour law.
Thirdly, trade unions have denounced that the legal reform implemented under the NEEG has launched a radical change towards the **consolidation of an authoritarian model of industrial relations**, which exalts unilateral employer decision in working regulation as a principle of new labour law, impacting as above noted to the information, consultation and negotiation rights.

Fourthly, the **economic and financial crisis has put industrial relations in the public sector under strain**.

Finally, the austerity measures and structural reforms of labour markets have led to a **profound internal devaluation, based on a downward spiral of wages**. This trend has had negative consequences both at microeconomic level –due to the decline of the incomes of people and households– and at macroeconomic level, due to the accumulative effect over the aggregate demand, leading to the current risk of deflation.

Against this background, two key proposals arise from the findings of the present research:

a) the need to keep the multi-employer bargaining arrangements, as a cornerstone of labour market regulations in various European countries;
b) the reinforcement of the coordination and articulation through the different levels of the collective bargaining, in order to favour a fair trade-off between the demands of higher flexibility at company-level, and the preservation of the substantive standards established by sector and inter-sector agreements.
**Agree Project**

Agree Project is co-funded by the European Commission under the program “Prevention of and fight against crime”, which funds research and training in the field of fight to trafficking and exploitation of workers.

The contrast to the exploitation of workers in the agricultural sector and impact of actions on the economic and social growth of the local contexts are the themes of the project Agree (agricultural job rights to the end foreign workers exploitation), officially started on 9 January 2014 and lead by Associazione Bruno Trentin, a center for research and training initiative of the Italian trade union CGIL.

Creating a new culture of work against all forms of exploitations and lawlessness through the promotion of the rights and opportunities of redemption is the theme that the project aims to raise at European level, developing recommendations that will be presented at the final conference in Rome at the end of the project activities.

The aim of the project is to share good practice in combating forced labor and promoting the contrast to is focusing on a range of local contexts in which workers and unions will be involved authorities and local stakeholders to implement interventions aimed at improving the living conditions of workers.

Agree Partners at work on local research on exploitation of agricultural workers: Cittalìa and Associazione Bruno Trentin are carrying on interviews to stakeholders in Latina area to identify the main characters of workers exploitation in this area in order to give a structure to the territorial network on this topic. In 2015 these actors (local authorities representative, unions and job inspectorate) will be involved in training activities and public events. Romanian-CPE and Spanish-CCOO Partners are working on the same topic and the report will be available by the end of this year on Agree website: www.agreeproject.eu
Vulnerable Workers in Times of Social Transformations Discrimination and participation of Young and Older Workers, and Social Dialogue Stances
Edited by Olga Jubany and Fabio Perocco

Contents of the book
The book contains the results of a research project entitled "Labour Market Integration of vulnerable Age Groups through Social dialogue" (LINKAGE), 2014. The research is funded by the European Commission (DG Employment) and was carried out by academic teams from Austria (ZSI), Belgium (ULB), Italy (Ca’ Foscari Venice University), Spain (UB Project Coordinator), United-Kingdom (Aston University), and trade union structures from Poland (Solidarnosc) and Italy (ABT Ires-Cgil). This project was dedicated to the issue of vulnerable age groups (under 25's and over 55's) and its treatment in the Social Dialogue. Its main objective was to explore in what extend interests and needs of younger and older workers are represented in a context of economic recession and challenges posed by changing dynamics in declining labor markets and social policies in the European Union. One of the main question was the role played by the Social Dialogue in this context. The book analyzes the current intersections of economic and demographic transformations across Europe that have produced major patterns of inequality with an uneven impact on vulnerable age workers. The dismissal of older workers and the blockage on work integration of youngsters have led to a downfall participation at both ends of the age spectrum; leaving unions as their shielding tool. Grounded on ethnographic insights from workers, unions and employers, this book explores discrimination of vulnerable workers and unions’ approach to it through questions like: how are welfare retrenchment policies confronted? Is a zero-sum approach a cost-distribution strategy? Does social dialogue integrate the age/gender intersection? To expose the way social and work transformations are impinging on vulnerable age workers, and on society as a whole.

The book contains a chapter written by Francesca Carrera (researcher ABT) with Tania Toffanin, entitled “Innovative Approaches to Age Diversity. Management through Social Dialogue. An Immersion through Case Studies”.

Chapter abstract
The chapter aims at presenting the analysis of programs and innovative practices in the six national contexts examined, focusing on support to younger and older workers at risk of labour market exclusion. Along these lines, the chapter highlights some innovative practices implemented through social dialogue in the six national contexts, addressed to young people, older workers and both target groups.

Chapter summary

The book is available on the website
http://virgo.unive.it/ecf-workflow/upload_pdf/STS_2_DIGITALE.pdf
Violence and harassment in European workplaces: Extent, impacts and policies

Violence and harassment are attacks on personal dignity, the right to equal and non-discriminatory treatment and often a person’s health. Workers affected by it feel insecure about their work; they are more frequently absent and may even be unable to work, with consequent impacts on productivity and corporate and public costs. Some national-level surveys point to a long-standing increase in reported violence and harassment. Certain European countries, such as the Scandinavian countries, have more coordinated, established policies on preventing and tackling violence and harassment. Awareness of the topic at the national level, its inclusion in legislation and the degree of the social partners’ involvement in policies and interventions all contribute to the effectiveness of policies to address it.


Working conditions in the retail sector

This report examines trends in working conditions and employment status in the retail sector in the EU27 countries and Norway between 2001 and 2010. The considerable expansion of the sector over the past 20 years or so is associated with a transformation in its competitive structure, greater use of technology and changes in the regulatory framework. Large companies now dominate at the expense of the numerous small and micro businesses that once characterised the sector in most countries. One result is a significant decline in the number of self-employed workers and a substantial increase in the number of part-time jobs (many held by women) and non-permanent contracts. These changes have affected career patterns and introduced new risks to employees’ health, especially psychosocial ones. Recent initiatives by the social partners have aimed above all to regulate flexibility and working time arrangements, promote training, reduce the risk of robbery and enhance employee well-being.

The study was compiled on the basis of individual national reports submitted by the EWCO correspondents. The text of each of these national reports is available below. The reports have not been edited or approved by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. The national reports were drawn up in response to a questionnaire and should be read in conjunction with it.


http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/it/observatories/eurwork/comparative-information/working-conditions-in-the-retail-sector
**Young people at risk: how changes in work are affecting young Italians’ health and safety**

This report looks at the problems young people have getting a job in Italy, and the particularly poor employment and working conditions of those who do manage to get one. It is not a recent problem in Italy, but the crisis has made matters worse according to the figures collected by the report authors, researchers at the Italian Institute of Economic and Social Research (IRES). The participation rate of Italians aged 15-24 has fallen by 10% between 2000 and 2010, dropping to below 30% since 2008. This compares with an EU average for the same age group of more than 40%. "The youngest workers have borne more of the brunt of the crisis even when in stable employment", note the authors. The jobs available to young people are all insecure: agency work, fixed-term contracts, too low-paid to achieve financial independence, etc. The report includes the findings from a survey of 1,000 workers aged 15 to 34, principally on their working conditions. The plight of younger workers is not one to be envied: higher work accident rates, unsocial hours, excessively fast work paces, low job discretion, etc. It comes as no surprise therefore to find that a third of Italy’s youth would be willing to emigrate for a better life. While the problem cuts across all categories of young workers (graduates/unskilled, white/blue collar, etc.), young people from the lowest socioeconomic groups seem more permanently beset by insecurity than those from more well-to-do backgrounds.

Di Nunzio D (ed.). Brussels, ETUI-European Trade Union Institute, 2013


**The New Challenges to Individual Working Conditions in European Public Services: A Comparative Study of Global Restructuring and Customization**

The article draws on the results of the WORKS European research project. The survey analyses the relationship between global processes of change and changes in one’s working life and working conditions at the workplace. The work starts by presenting a theoretical framework, focusing on the conceptualisation of globalization and value chains in relation to the public sector. An analysis is then provided of empirical cases from different European countries in which we conceptualise the changes in public service in Europe in the form of value chain restructuring. A discussion follows of the impacts of the restructuring processes on work, employment conditions, work identity and job security. The last section of the paper highlights the common characteristics of the new public customer-oriented companies, along with how these characteristics can help us understand the changes taking place in working conditions and working life.


New frontiers and daily challenges for the unions in the work fragmentation

The article presents the main findings of a research on the experiences of new unionism supported by CGIL in the contexts of work fragmentation, scattered and precarious work (Brunetti A., Di Nunzio D., Mancini C., “Storie di frontiera e sfide quotidiane della CGIL di oggi”, Associazione Bruno Trentin, 2015). Analysis takes in consideration obstacles, limits and drivers of these experiences. In conclusion, the article offers some reflections on the impacts of these experiences on the organizing model of the union, in particular considering the relations with the democracy.


Vulnerable Workers in Action: Self-Organization and Unionism in the Work Fragmentation

In the present paper we discuss the main findings of a research project on “vulnerable workers and subjectivity”. Goals of the project are: a) the analysis of the working and living conditions of vulnerable workers; b) the analysis of the vulnerable workers’ collective actions to affirm their rights and their idea of society; c) the analysis of the relationship between vulnerable workers’ actions and the union actions. Our research methods are: analysis of data and literature; in-depth interviews with unionists, activists, workers, unemployed people; workshops; participative observations. In Chapter 1 we analyze the link between vulnerability and flexibility, considered as the main trend in the contemporary world of work; in Chapter 2 we analyze some experiences of vulnerable workers’ collective actions in Italy; in Chapter 3 we analyze the vulnerable workers’ meaning of action, considering the need to socialize and to share the experiences and the need to affirm the democracy taking into account: a) fundamental and universal rights; b) participatory and deliberative democracy at company, local and global level, also considering the renewal of trade union organizations and strategies.

Di Nunzio D., paper, XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Yokohama, Japan, 2014.

http://www.ires.it/evento/xviii-isa-world-congress-sociology
Main aim of this book is to discuss the role played by culture in regional endogenous development and sustainability. For the first time, we are bringing to the fore of Anglo Saxon literatures the concept of territorialisation as a new frame to understand regional development. The very word territory has an etymological link to “terrain”, through the Latin terrēnum (ground) and terra (earth). It therefore offers a clear reference to the natural features of places, offering a stronger semantic efficacy, compared to the notions of region and place.

The role played by culture in regional development and sustainability is discussed in this book using 15 case studies from North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. This role implicitly and explicitly relates to what we intend by territorialisation providing us with a lens to understand how culture influences multi-scale spatial development. Among the Authors from all around the globe we count Michael Redclift and Michael Woods.

The international cases discussed here make clear that there exist different natures and cultures in relation to diverse territorialisation processes. We could therefore assert that the conceptual strength of territorialisation lies precisely in the possibility that it could frame different coproductions of nature–culture within specific strands of time and space. Unlike other broader and normative concept of sustainable development which could be located in any place and at any time, territorialisation offers an improved understanding of the process underlying regional development, allowing scholars to better analyse the interests at stake, the stakeholders in play, the valued resources to be taken into account for sustainable development initiatives and paths.


The book is available on the website

http://www.tandf.net/books/details/9781138830080/
BOOK CHAPTER

**Nature and culture in the territorialisation processes. Challenges and Insights from a case-study in Serbia**

This chapter challenges the normativity inherent in the conceptual nature of sustainable development and its globalising logic addressing to the debate on the “territoriality” and “territorialisation” of regional development, for its conceptual strength in framing place-based trajectories. Main aim is to understand how culture interacts with natural hybrids within the development trajectories. Empirical evidence is given on the basis of a case-study developed in a rural region of Serbia.


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BOOK CHAPTER

**Assessing culture in sustainable development**

This publication defines and describes the three roles of culture in sustainable development and illustrates them with real-life cases. Furthermore, it reflects the implications for policies and developing assessment frameworks. The publication is addressed to scientific community, policy-makers and practitioners interested in the field.


This book is downloadable from the following link:

[http://www.culturalsustainability.eu/conclusions.pdf](http://www.culturalsustainability.eu/conclusions.pdf)
In this chapter farm resilience is evoked as an inner dimension of ‘territorialisation’: this is a process in which the communities settling in a place perceive the specific nature of that place, attributing symbols to resources and to local peculiarities, and thus reifying, structuring and organising the space. Resilience, in our understanding, emphasises forms of learning and processes of development based on local priorities and needs, as identified by the communities through territorialisation patterns and as pursued in their daily food production practices. Empirical evidence stemming from a case study run in the Zlatibor region (Serbia) is supporting our analysis.

BOOK CHAPTER

Territoriality and urban policy. Addressing territorial complexity

How do we deal with territorial complexity in present urban territorial policies and practices. What is territoriality and what are the dimension of territorial production? In order to explore this issue the contribute will unpack in the first paragraph the notion of region, territory, place, territoriality, and territorialisation. In the second paragraph it will outline the dimension of territorial production that inform urban and territorial policies as emerged from the conference parallel session on Territoriality and urban policy. These dimensions might inform future approach in territorial policy making.


BOOK CHAPTER

Analysing public intervention on tourism: methodological perspectives and applications

Main purpose of this article is to present an empirical supportive method to the assessment of tourism public policies. It is focused on an analysis of public spending in a case–study: the Sardinia region. This study is aimed at: 1) illustrating a method of assessment of expenditure, called ExeT – Public Expenditure for Tourism; 2) by applying the ExeT methodology, highlighting the overall quantitative and qualitative picture of public spending for tourism on a regional level. The implementation of the new tool is motivated by the fact that Public Administrations’ accounting documents are not very suitable for the purpose of analysing efficiency and effectiveness of spending, as they are structured according to “accountancy” criteria. The application of ExeT methodology to the balance sheets of the selected case-study, provided some interesting insights and empirical findings related to the need of innovative regional interventions supporting the Local Touristic Systems (the Italian STL) and the environmental quality certification systems.

The analysis of the place-based sustainable development: concepts, techniques, findings

Current debate on local development highlights the importance of the place-based dimension within development processes and policies aimed at promoting them. The emerging endogenous approaches (see Stimson, Stough and Njikamp, 2011), while recognizing that development is framed by exogenous factors, attribute a much more significant role to endogenous forces introducing an explicit spatial variable into economic development which was a mostly ignored element in neoclassical economic growth theory.

In this presentation, I build on the notion of sustainable place-based development linked to: 1) the social processes of spatial identification and appropriation of space, 2) bonds that tie up actors’ identities with their local heritage; 3) sense of place and attribution of values to local heritage. Main aim of the chapter is to describe how the concept of place/territory is the inner dimension of sustainability and which are the methodological challenges that concepts as sense of place, values and bonds bring along. Empirical evidences based on our research experience is supporting the analysis.

Public funding for green energy in a context of crisis

The research report, published by the ETUI (European Trade Union Institute) and edited for the Italian side by FdV (already IRES), examines the way in which the financial and economic crisis has affected the financial support from public authorities for renewable energy in six European countries (Germany, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom, Sweden and Bulgaria).

The report examines the policy and regulatory framework, the current situation for renewable energy in Europe and the impact on employment and jobs that the development of the sector has had and may have in the future, against the background of the continuing need to fight climate change and to switch to a low-carbon economy.

The study explores the different types of financing instruments, with a focus on the ones that encourage innovation.

The work is based on six reports of case studies coordinated by the ISTAS - Instituto Sindical de Trabajo, Ambiente y Salud with the help of energy experts of the various countries involved in the project

The report concerning Italy is edited by Serena Rugiero, researcher FdV

To download and order the general report and individual country reports Click here
Educational and Training
Participatory and Appreciative Action and Reflection In Adult Learning: Transformation As Appreciative Reflection

Participatory and Appreciative Action and Reflection (PAAR) is a specific approach to learning, reflection and change. In this chapter we are going to identify the characteristics of PAAR approach within the adult learning context. Starting from the relationship between types of learning and types of reflection, we will analyze in particular the differences between critical and appreciative reflection and transformative and generative learning. Then we will explain some theoretical and methodological origins of PAAR approach: Appreciative Inquiry (AI) and Participatory Action Research (PAR) highlighting, in particular, four important shifts that characterize this approach: from deficit-based to strengths based discourses; from self-learning to collective learning; from a one way of knowing to a more pluralistic one; from cycles and spirals of reflection to reflective learning framework with specific intentions of learning, action and change. Finally, we will consider a possible coexistence of critical and appreciative reflection, generally considered antithetical, or difficult to put in practice, in PAAR approach.


Participatory and Appreciative Adult Learning and Reflection in Virtual Environments: Towards the Development of an Appreciative Stewardship

Information Communication Technology, largely thanks to the development of web 2.0 resources, has encouraged the development of participatory learning processes beyond the logic of the individual learning/learners. Moreover, it has allowed the transition from a learning approach based on the development of individual capacity of critical reflection on experiences to an appreciative approach of learning, based on value creation, creativity, innovation, and based on the valorization of the positive aspects of individual and collective experiences. These aspects will be approached with regard to the contribution offered by PAAR’s (participatory and appreciative action and reflection) theoretical and methodological perspectives and to the most recent contributions coming from learning in virtual environments. Eventually, we will suggest a facilitating model of learning partnership development in online environments.

Login and logout: practices of resistance and presence in virtual environments as a kind of reflective learning activity

Learning processes are closely connected to the contexts in which professional and day-to-day practices are conducted, and to the characteristics of those contexts. These processes develop through and between different systems of activities, established by actors operating on the basis of explicit and implicit rules in order to achieve certain goals. They do so through the use of artefacts and knowledge, within a system of labour sharing, role definition and specific power mechanisms. What happens when the rules of these systems, or the roles, artefacts or knowledge, change? What happens to learning processes if the contexts in which the practices are implemented happen to be online, for example in a blog or a virtual community of practice (VCoP) or on social networking platforms? When we speak of learning in Web 2.0 environments created ex novo within a project, we are speaking of a type of participation and precise presence that does not manifest itself through a nomadic, solitary journey around the web. It is, rather, considered as one of the ways of being, learning and working together within a given project. This is, therefore, a very powerful option: learning together online through the use of ICT and in a given space of time.

Our intention in this paper is to develop a two-fold reflection on learning modes in virtual activity systems: the importance of learning as participating (learning to participate); the importance of learning to learn together in virtual environments (learning together). In so doing, we refer to the experience of using web instruments in the context of a European project in which guidance practitioners from a number of different countries took part. Lastly, the general lines of a participatory and appreciative approach to facilitating online reflective learning will be proposed.

Co-constructing an appreciative and collective eye: appreciative reflection in action in lifelong career guidance

That which has been given becomes a starting point for a quest, a starting point for a task that is by no means one of ownership. It is a task, rather, that revolves around a desire that will continue to learn that each of its forms of expression is a disappointment. This is not a paper, it is a space where the experiences of the participants can be read directly. As a selection, albeit an agreed one, it is by definition a biased product and is influenced by the point of view of the person who, in one way or another, has organised it as a text. If we set out the criterion adopted, the process can be seen to be less partial. Of the many choices available, I preferred a narration/listening structure focusing on the concept of appreciative reflection. Taking this as my starting point, I adopted a second criterion: to include the greatest possible variability in the positions expressed on this subject. The third criterion was to group these in three thematic areas: (1) developing a collective and participatory appreciative memory; (2) discovering the richness and strength of the group to foster well-being in work; and (3) adopting the organisation’s viewpoint to move on from a conflictual approach to change. These are the crucial issues on the road to developing an appreciative eye. The voices speaking here can be read as reflections on appreciative reflection in action.


Reflection on building appreciative memory

The pathways embarked upon in a reflective practice approach presuppose a constant focus on the narratives, processes and shifts that occur along the way. These elements are not always expressed and do not always become objects for systematic reflection. The risk, for both participants and facilitators, is that of losing the sense of the lived experience. The need to avoid losing the memory of these events and to enhance and build upon them led us progressively to an awareness of the need for a new instrument that would help us in this work of archiving and developing stories, processes and shifts. The dimensions that this instrument has enabled us to explore concerned the development of an appreciative memory, a way of representing experience and creating a space for relationships that remains stable over time. We called this weaving/mapping instrument – which in effect consisted of more than one instrument – reléchange.

Temporariness in appreciative reflection: managing participatory and appreciative, action and reflection projects through temporary organisations

The time dimension has become increasingly important in organisational management studies. Various concepts have been developed: temporary work, temporary systems, projectification and temporary organisations. Many aspects have already been studied; for example, relationship structures, the characteristics of projects that temporary organisations (TOs) intend to implement and develop, legal forms, the different sectors in which TOs have been disseminated, and the degree to which they have been formalised. However, one aspect that has still not been studied in depth is the specificity of their temporariness and the specificities of the organisational, social and learning systems that this encourages.

In this paper, we consider a temporary organisation as an organisation composed of teams belonging to two or more non-temporary organisations (NTOs) collaborating to achieve a certain objective and giving themselves a precise structure and roles and a set timescale established ex ante. The paper seeks to answer the following questions: (1) What kind of relationships take shape in TOs between the two qualities of persistence and temporariness, and what effects do these have on individual and organisational learning? (2) In what way does the ex ante limited timescale affect participants’ empowerment? (3) How does the specificity of the TO affect social processes and the results achievable? (4) What characteristics should a participatory and appreciative, action and reflection (PAAR) TO have, i.e., a TO that helps generate systems of activity within which learning and reflection can be appreciative, democratic, participatory and ethical? (5) What kind of project management do TOs require?


Hypertinence, Serendipity or Elicitation of Passion for Knowledge? Some critical elements of online learning by using web 2.0 resources

Learning processes depend on the socio-technical and regulatory contexts in which professional practices and daily new online environments.

History and Memory Area

Since 2009, the CGIL has charged the Foundation with coordinating the network of Historical Archives, Libraries and Document Centres of local trade-union organizations belonging to the General Italian Confederation of Labour.

Here the core activity is the study of labour and trade union history in Italy and Europe – the actors, the processes, the cultures – with a special focus on the role played by Giuseppe Di Vittorio in trade-union history and Italian democracy. This is a constant commitment that will continue in time.

Besides that, the new FDV aims to tackle the current economic and institutional issues, comparing national and European models of economic and social integration.

Special emphasis will be given to the anniversaries of important historical events, particularly those concerning trade-union history, the Resistance and the creation of the Republican Constitution, as well as further study of the main personalities who have directed the CGIL since its foundation, along with their works.

In this context, there is also special significance in considering present and future scenarios of international and European politics, as well as observing, analysing and discussing the system of information, culture and communications.
Federico Caffè: the freedom of utopia for the courage of reformism *

By Giuseppe Amari **

Standing alone among those who believed it harmful to correct a system that would be rapidly overtaken, and among those who instead believed it useless because the system was capable of finding its best equilibriums on its own, Caffè had the courage to propose concrete solutions to the most urgent problems, starting with full and high-quality employment. However, together with his friend Bruno de Finetti, he believed a utopian vision was necessary in order to give free way to his reformism. He considered economic policy as being an intermediary and a bridge between pure economics and applied economics, in a unitary conception of the economic discipline. Caffè identified himself in the ideal program of the Constitution that attempted to substantiate as “civil servant”, teacher and “adviser to the citizen”.

KEYWORDS: Utopia, Reformism, Capitalism, Economic policy, Decent work, Full employment, Economic philosophy, Constitution.

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