## The Mediterranean in the period of globalisation

Extract of Giuliano Della Pergola's script, Progetto Arte Journal 7, 2002

There is a sole horizon possible for the countries of the Mediterranean: to conceive a form of shared solidarity, employing the positive aspects of the New Information Technologies to their advantage, in a project of common interest: a meta-national, meta-territorial, meta-linguistic project: Mediterranean, precisely.

## Co-operation

Many form of economic, cultural and touristic co-operation are already on-going. Many form of bilateral relations between countries are rapidly being consolidated, and with them preconceptions, prejudices and stereotypes are in part melting away.

The universities of the various countries time ago set up reciprocal exchanges at the levels of research and teaching, but perhaps the time has come for a deeper form of cooperation, the sort that starts out from conceiving the Mediterranean as an area shared by all the peoples who look out on it. More that a single "common city" separated by agricultural areas, canvassed by some but frankly abstract, lacking political of sense, an area that fills the term "Mediterranean basin" with new meanings.

Conceiving the Mediterranean as a homeland, and as citizens those who live by its resources and its hinterland. Conceiving the sea as the common centre of different countries that if they go towards the sea go towards their centre. A common central sea, inventing a new political geography, today still all anchored to the use of the dry land, but tomorrow instead conceived as the hinterland of a sea centre. From this standpoint, co-operation would not be just a set of economic, cultural and touristic exchanges, but more properly the form of an overall, diversified and manifold economy, conjugated in the plural.

Giuliano Della Pergola, Prof. of Urban Sociology, Faculty of Architecture, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy