



People for development



Development is either for everyone, or no one

AVSI recommendations to the next European elections candidates (June, 6-9 2024)

- ✓ DEVELOPMENT AND PEOPLE
- ✓ EDUCATION
- ✓ DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY
- ✓ MIGRATION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN
- ✓ THE GLOBAL GATEWAY AND MATTEI PLAN
- ✓ CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- ✓ HUMANITARIAN AID AND NEXUS
- ✓ DECENTRALIZATION/LOCALIZATION



DEVELOPMENT AND PEOPLE

Migration and the demographic evolution of Europe and Africa are just two among the many factors indicating that we are all facing the same challenges. Integral and sustainable development can only be pursued by sweeping away old reference categories. If we want to grow and develop, we cannot do it alone. The ambition to compete with other major world powers in a race to exploit Africa, its energy resources or raw materials has no future. Let's decolonize aid once for all and build the foundation of a new approach to development cooperation, based on equal partnerships and with integral care for the person (starting with the most vulnerable, such as children, women, and disabled people) and their community as its centerpiece.

As a Member of the European Parliament, how will you commit to promoting and adequately funding this new approach to development?

EDUCATION

AVSI sees education as a path accompanying people to discover their own dignity, leading to self-awareness, awareness of others, and understanding of the world. In this sense, education serves as the foundation upon which to build every intervention for peace building, social cohesion, and global citizenship against all forms of extremism. It is necessary to work with a multi-stakeholder approach, involving civil society organizations, to assist Member States and Partner States in bridging structural and educational gaps and developing programs for child protection, education in emergencies, and teacher training.

As a Member of the European Parliament, how will you commit to supporting education as a driver for authentic development, that begins with the promotion of human dignity?

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society organizations hold immeasurable value because they understand the local context and thus, thanks to this characteristic, they can implement programs rather than simply overseeing the work of the institutions. Therefore, it is necessary to continue supporting their growth and autonomy by making funds available, institutionalizing their advisory role, and promoting subsidiarity and co-design. The EU's Global Gateway strategy must also consider civil society as an actor that connects local communities and businesses, supports the private sector in integrating into the local context, and values existing productive initiatives.

Philanthropic organizations, as independent and flexible entities, can collaborate to promote collaborative, innovative intervention practices quickly and effectively. In this context, the cuts to the NDICI-Global Europe financial instrument (envisioned by the recent Multiannual Financial Framework revision agreement) will hopefully not penalize the most vulnerable countries.

As a Member of the European Parliament, how will you commit to engaging with civil society and supporting its inclusion in the debate on European and non-European policies?



MIGRATION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

Innovative approaches are needed to facilitate the reception and integration of migrants in the countries of destination, both in the education and employment sector. Bureaucratic and administrative procedures for residence permits should be streamlined and expedited. The issues of children migration and family reunification must be radically addressed. Vocational training in partner countries should be further supported through personalized pathways and mentoring, both for manual labor and for jobs related to the digital evolution. Furthermore, external cross-border programs should be promoted to increasingly alleviate the pressure exerted by migration flows. In this respect, the Mediterranean area should be valued in view of its great potential in terms of culture, economics, and even biodiversity. It should be considered as an asset that can bring people together, rather than separating them.

As a Member of the European Parliament, how will you commit to ensuring that migration is addressed as an opportunity rather than as an endless emergency? What

is your stance regarding the recently approved New Pact on Migration and Asylum?

THE GLOBAL GATEWAY AND MATTEI PLAN

The Mattei Plan could be considered by EU institutions as an opportunity to adopt a new approach to development cooperation. Its success will nonetheless depend on the fact that its implementation should be in synergy with the Global Gateway strategy and the Team Europe approach. This process should follow the principles of transparency and co-design with all actors involved (from local communities and authorities to civil society organizations, the private sector, development banks, governments, academia, etc.). Synergy could be achieved primarily on topics such as education and vocational training, starting from countries where successful cases and good practices are already present and can be scaled up.

As a Member of the European Parliament, how will you commit to ensuring that the development of a new partnership between Europe, Italy, and Africa plays a central role in the European Union's external action policy?

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The EU Green Deal strategy continues to play a crucial role in these regards: Member States will need to undergo a series of internal reforms and support partner countries in undertaking the same path to limit environmental degradation, promote respect for human rights in supply chains, and pay greater attention to pursuing a comprehensive approach to ecology and resource conservation. It is therefore essential to promote a mindset change in partner countries to reduce, for example, the use of coal and rather promote cooking practices based on green energy sources, such as clean cooking.

As a Member of the European Parliament, how will you engage with partner countries to valorize and promote alternatives to coal, such as clean cooking in Africa?

HUMANITARIAN AID AND NEXUS

The gap between the necessary funds and those available for chronic crises remains considerable. Crisis management should start with a clear identification of needs through a participatory approach, recognizing the active role of beneficiary communities in emergency management to prevent crises from becoming endemic and prolonged over time. Even where humanitarian intervention is urgently needed, it is always preferable to look beyond the present moment and start promoting the involvement of beneficiaries in a long-term development perspective.

For example, the extremely serious humanitarian crisis happening in Haiti certainly calls for an emergency intervention by the international community. However, this should not prevent from simultaneously laying the foundation for future programs focusing on education, agriculture, and food security, thus offering the population an alternative to violence.

In Syria, the European Union could play a more decisive role in finding long-term solutions: emergency interventions need to be turned into development and reconstruction programs. Therefore, sanctions should be urgently eased, as they end up affecting the most vulnerable, and early recovery actions should be implemented, starting from the education sector.

As a Member of the European Parliament, how will you commit to maintaining high interest in humanitarian aid and supporting the nexus approach in contexts of protracted crisis?



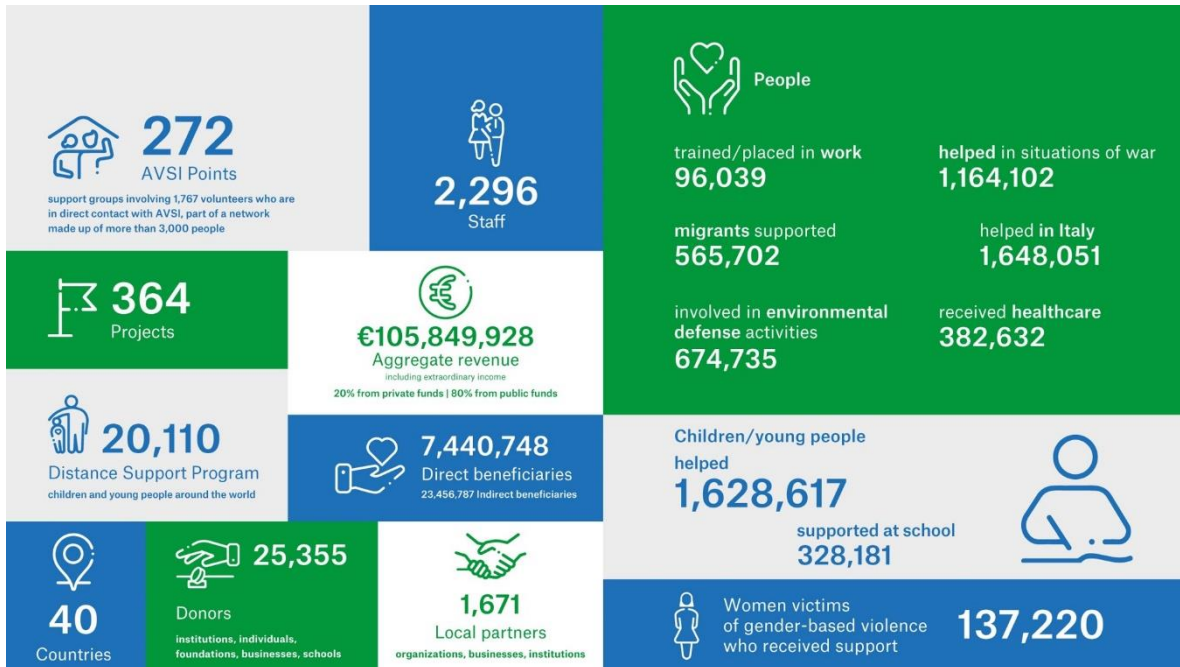
DECENTRALIZATION/LOCALIZATION

The decentralization of decision-making to EU Delegations worldwide does work if they engage in a productive dialogue with the institutions in Brussels, have adequate human resources, and consult with the

local civil society. Localization should promote the growth of local actors, create networks between NGOs, the private sector, institutions, and universities. This will allow interventions to be tailored to the context and reward experienced organizations, operating in the field, that have distinguished themselves in empowering local actors.

As a Member of the European Parliament, how will you commit to supporting localization in EU foreign policy?

AVSI carries out development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects in 40 countries, including Italy.



AVSI works for a world in which every person can be the protagonist of their own integral development and that of their community, even in emergency situations.

AVSI implements cooperation projects in various sectors with a preferential focus on education, meaning that the person is accompanied towards self-discovery and recognition that the other person is a resource. Each project is conceived as an instrument to promote this awareness in everyone involved, has in itself a need for communicating and sharing, and creates an impact capable of generating a positive change.

Where we work

Latin America and the Caribbean Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela **Africa** Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Lybia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Repubblica of Congo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda **Middle East** Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria **Europe** Albania, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine **Asia** Kazakhstan, Myanmar



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Fondazione AVSI

20131 Milano — Via Donatello, 5B — Italia
Tel + 39 02 6749881
Fax +39 0267490056
milano@avsi.org

47521 Cesena (FC)
Via Padre Vicinio da Sarsina, 216 — Italy
Tel +39 0547360 811
Fax +39 0547611290
cesena@avsi.org