

WORKSHOP/ AVSI: How does climate change affect our lives?

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Editors



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Lessons learned from a project funded by the EU

A workshop organized by AVSI together with Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei on the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable people, especially in developing countries. In the framework of the lessons learned from a project funded by the European Commission in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, in connection with the Agenda for Sustainable Development. Actual cases to mitigate the effects described in the recently published report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Extreme weather events could lead to a sharp reduction of agricultural crops and to the spreading of diseases, conflicts and population movements. These are the consequences of climate change that will not be limited to the poorest countries due to the integration of the world economic systems and the probability of important migration phenomena at the global level. The workshop "How does climate change affect our lives?" organized under the patronage of the European Commission on April 17th in Milan, tried to focus on these predictions by comparing them to an actual case concerning an area at risk: the Caribbean.

The meeting was attended by about one hundred people ranging from students of concerned faculties to environmental and energy experts, institutions, organizations as well as businesses interested in the issues of sustainable development and environment. The panel was chaired by Alberto Piatti, President of AVSI Foundation and included relevant speakers such as prof. Carlo Carraro, Director of the Climate Change and Sustainable Development program of Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Massimo Tavoni, Deputy Coordinator of the Climate Change and Sustainable Development program of Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Melika Edquist, researcher at Columbia University, Denis Caton, Director of the Pic Makaya National Park, Laura Giappichelli, Policy Officer of the European Union Global Climate Change Alliance, Gerónimo Chotin, from Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI).

While the world is progressing in the definition of the post 2015 Agenda focused on sustainable development, a study carried out by the Columbia University on the "Studies and pilot initiatives to promote environmental sustainability in Dominican Republic and Haiti" project, funded by the EU and implemented by AVSI, highlights that development programmes in areas of climate-related disasters should include the environmental dimension along with the social and economic ones just to prevent these risks. Mitigating climate change's effects means providing services and opportunities such as education as well as addressing energy poverty. Strengthening community ability to adapt or resilience as well as a global attention to human development are key.