

## UNICOO: THE UNIVERSITY OF TURIN FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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Uni.Coo (UniTo for International Cooperation) is a mobility program of the University of Turin that aims to stimulate the engagement of students in international cooperation, and to promote initiatives and efforts towards sustainable development in least developed countries. Furthermore Uni.Coo supports the engagement and critical contribution of the University of Turin's researchers in international development cooperation, by sharing competences and knowledge among the University of Turin, other development cooperation actors in the Piedmont region and Italy, and their partners in the Global South (Universities, local and national governments, international organizations, and NGOs).

Mobility projects and students are selected through different rounds of open calls. The students spend up to six months doing field research in closed collaboration with local organizations, institutions and universities, which are, together with the students, the main beneficiaries of the program. The whole mobility program involves a plurality of stakeholders: the student, the University both as sponsor and as academic supervisor of the research, the hosting institution offering tutorship and logistic support on the field, and eventually other local or international organisations.

An in-deep description of Uni.Coo approach, can be found in the paper "Development competences for development cooperation" (Fantini et al.), that follows this introduction.

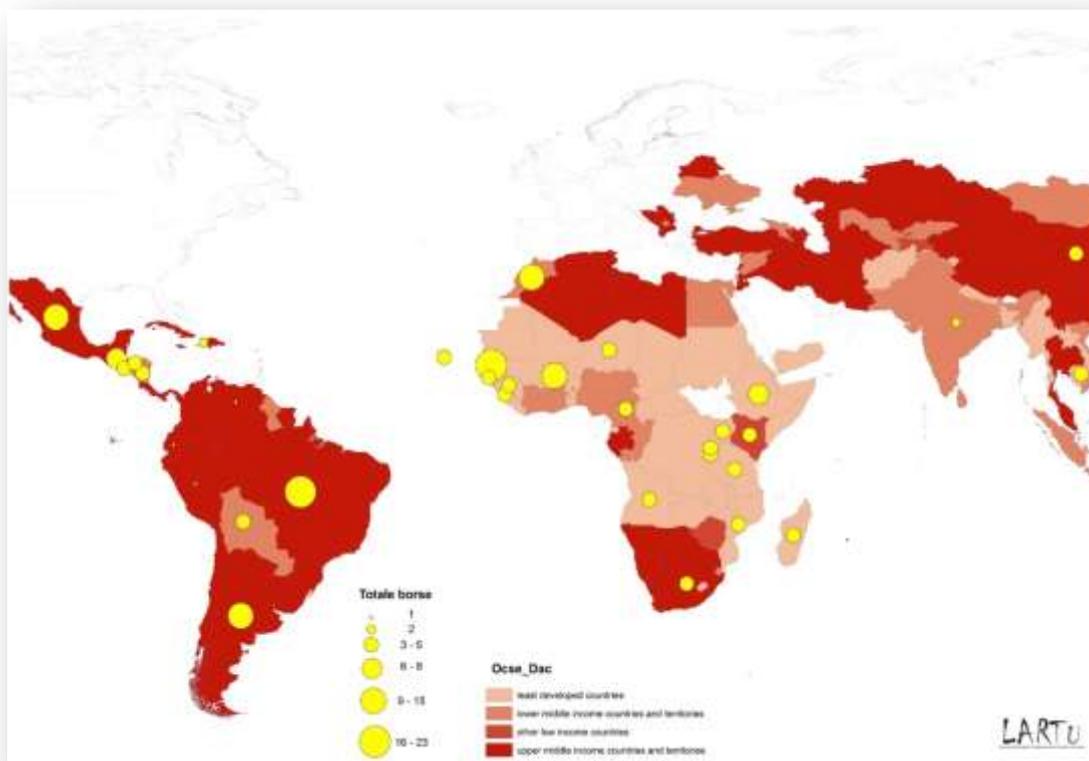


Figure 1 – The World of UniCoo: number of scholarships and countries of destination

Uni.Coo has three main features:

- it is inspired by an idealist understanding of university internationalization;
- it adopts a territorial and community engaged approach to development cooperation;
- it promotes students civic engagement by offering them an opportunity of international service learning.

The project begun in 2012 and up to September 2015 has granted 178 mobility scholarships to 40 countries: 23 in Africa, 13 in Latin America, and 4 in Asia (Figure 1). Uni.Coo is open to master level, post-graduate, PhD students, residents and post-doctoral fellows from all University's Departments.

This number of JUNCO presents 12 papers, selected among the best contributions presented by the students as final essay. The papers vary in terms of disciplinary background, geographic area, topic and methodology, but they all represent the results of the work done during the mobility project.