

Seniors Centric eCollaboration: Perspectives from Diverse Professors Emeriti Networks

[Dr. Luigi Campanella, Professor Emeritus](#), Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
& [General Secretary, European Association of Professors Emeriti](#)
Luigi.Campanella@UniRoma1.it

Let me start from some concerns apparently, but only apparently, very far from the focus of this my participation. They refer to knowledge, economy, policy. The sharing of knowledge considered as essential condition to the growth of the society and to a more balanced international system was managed for long time according to the so called Christmas tree model: knowledge comes from the star of the Christmas tree and from up to down it is transferred to a limited number of users. Today the sharing of knowledge, also due to innovative technologies is entrusted by the network of the data banks. Passing to economy its model considered prevalent has been till last century the linear one according to which raw materials are used, exploited and disposed at the end of their life cycle. This model is going to be progressively changed to the circular one: so, similarly to the networks of the knowledge, we have networks of users and stakeholders to extract from any raw material the most of its composition, so that the wastes are minimized. Passing to policy strength and power of a Country were for long time measured as number of colonies, see English and Russian Empires: today the same capacity is measured by the vastness of the net and of connections built around them.

The same process, I think, has to be applied to the Associations of the Old Cultured Persons, Emeriti, Retired, Old active Researchers: till now they worked separately each one by itself. In many countries the need to have this kind of association was claimed by their members looking at attracting the attention of the institutions and of society to them.

The step forward we propose is a net of the associations around the world acting to promote the integration into the society of emeriti and other old cultured persons. The advantages of this network are several: exchange of expertise and experiences, sharing of positive ways to respond to the aims of each component of the network, sharing of the teaching moments dedicated to the young generation and to the senior component of the civil society (permanent education). By this way this action helps to increase the degree of education of the not insider citizens, so their capacity to take part to the life of the society especially in the occasion of choices, such as for referendum, that is a primary requirement of democracy.

Related to the institution of such networks is the politic point of having a Minister of seniors, as already it occurs in some countries where this institution results to be able to promote silver economy. Having a political entity ensures that policies of health care, safety, medical welfare, financial security are the same goals for all the single components of the above discussed networks. The differences in the demographic situation can bring to different choices concerning the policy toward seniors; in order to avoid the subsequent discriminations among old persons living in different countries the above discussed net can play a fundamental role.