



## **A comment to the 2016 edition by Giovanna Guzzetti, journalist and auditor at the school**

"A true melting pot of opinions and different – never predictable – points of view about the topics discussed all along the different sessions. This is the picture of the third edition of the Summer School on Gender Economics and Society which took place at Campus of the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin, from July 4 to 8, 2016, thanks to the cooperation between Università di Torino, Politecnico di Torino, CeRP/CHILD-Collegio Carlo Alberto and ITCILO.

Eleven countries, plus two international organizations (UN Women and Commonwealth Secretariat), were represented among the 20 participants: nineteen very deeply motivated women and one man from Benin, neither daunted nor *tamed* at all by his classmates, ignited interesting and forward thinking discussions on different aspects of gender policies, with a sort of (virtual) *fil rouge* linking all of them: how and to what extent *diversity* in a very broad and inclusive meaning (culture, latitude, education, social norms, way of living) can affect and foremost enrich the debate about equality in opportunities (for women first but not only...).

Year 2016 is a major milestone in Italy's women history: seventy years of female right to vote have been celebrated. Recently within the Lower Chamber's Building (Palazzo Montecitorio where Italy's Camera dei Deputati is located) it has been inaugurated a room (Sala delle donne) devoted to women who left significant traces in the country's story and institutions. To fill the gap with the high number of male busts showing off in rooms and corridors.

Nevertheless, these acknowledgements do not mean everything is *bread and butter* (in Italy and elsewhere) while talking about women, equal opportunities, gender measures ecc. Gender bias aspects came out in every lecture we listened to during the Summer School, in any kind of activities has been mentioned and analyzed. Should it be economy, finance, innovation, research, work, family policies and welfare, presence and role in migration flows - in other words social justice as many key note speakers said - women still lag behind. It is a matter of fact: nothing to complain about, just a huge pitch of rights, likely and wishful achievements, and endless commitment where to play, as women, by a) contributing to change the rules of the game with transparency and fair play; b) leveraging talent, qualities and the wide (almost immeasurable) capacity of being resilient in any situation."