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Cosimo Notarstefano: A Life for the Tourism Law and Ad Maiora

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The fifth Scientific Workshop of the Italian Society of Tourism Sciences (SISTUR) has been the opportunity to remember Cosimo Notarstefano, a SISTUR member and professor at the Universities of Bergamo and Bari, died suddenly January 5, 2012. In his memory and with the participation of his mother, Katia Mastropaolo Notarstefano, a prize was assigned to the two most excellent degree theses on Tourism.

Cosimo (born in Bari, 1966) began his studies in his hometown. During the high school and PhD he received numerous awards and grants. He graduated in Economics and Business (in 1990) with the highest rating, and immediately he became interested in studying law and tourism. He attended the Master in "International Tourism Manager" at the ISDA & People Business Partner (1991, Rome, Italy), the Master in "Cooperation between Tourism and Businesses in the Mediterranean" at the Academy of Mediterranean Studies (1992, Agrigento, Italy), and the PhD in "Law and Economics of Tourism" at the University Aix-en-Provence Marseille III (1996).

During the years in Aix-en-Provence, Cosimo interacted with international scholars, and, thanks to his ability, creativity and passion he was Jean Monnet Professor (Chair of European Union Law, in 1996). He supported the legal and economic consulting, feasibility studies, spatial planning and project financing for international organizations (EU, CMU / UNESCO, WTO, CNR) and local authorities (Regions, Provinces, Municipalities). He became professor of Law of Tourism and of Legal, Cultural and Linguistic Aspects of the European Union.

Cosimo Notarstefano was general-secretary of Union of the Mediterranean Universities (Unimed), and since the nineties he strongly supported the Mediterranean issue at European level and encouraged his students to fight for their ideals and life plans.

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Unimed was undoubtedly his most popular project, which improved the European dialogue through the creation of a European University. The Unimed, founded in October 1991, is an association of Universities of countries bordering the Mediterranean, whose aims are promoting academic research and contributing to the process of integration between the coasts of the Mediterranean. The Unimed's fields of research are the same of Cosimo: tangible and intangible cultural heritage, economy, energy, environment, water resources, transport, health, media, new technology, history and tourism. Thanks to this eminent man, important projects in favor of multilingualism at the university level have been realized by developing the mobility programs for students, teachers and researchers. His vitality, enthusiasm and passion will remain in the soul of all those who had the honor of knowing him, and the future generations will be able to participate in these programs thanks to his valuable contribution. Thanks to Cosimo's efforts, the Euro-Mediterranean University has become an international institution and contributed significantly to the creation of a unified, integrated Euro-Mediterranean higher education and research area.

In 1994 Cosimo began to teach at several Universities, as professor of Tourism Law and Juridical, Linguistic and Cultural Aspects of European Union Law and as Jean Monnet professor (University of Bari, Sannio, Salento and Bergamo). During the years 1996-2011, Cosimo was Jean Monnet Professor, with a legal status accredited by European Commission "Jean Monnet Action". In 2008-2011, he was director of Euromediterranean Master in Culture and Tourism – EMUNI University (Slovenia) and responsible of European Relations of the Community of Mediterranean Universities.

Cosimo participated in several studies with both the European Commission (DG Culture, Higher Education, Multilingualism University Cooperation, Intercultural Dialogue, Tourism, Rural Development, Public Health, Human Rights, ICT) and the C.M.U./UNESCO (Multilingualism, Heritage, Intercultural Dialogue, Public Health, International cooperation). He showed an incredible activity, stimulated by his various interests and passion; his main fields of research were: European Integration, EuroMediterranean Studies, Human Rights protection in EuroMediterranean area, European Community External Relations; European Tourism and Rural Development Research; European Environmental Policy & Sustainable Development; European citizenship/identity; European regional policy; European institutions & Organizations, and European Neighborhood Policy. The idea of Europe was his great love! Countless experiences, research collaborations, and projects carried out in collaboration with the Community of Mediterranean Universities / UNESCO EU Commission; he wrote 36 books, and about 90 articles and essays. As you can see in the site www.cosimonotarstefano.it, organized by Katia Mastropaolo Notarstefano, the scientific production of Cosimo is extensive and rich.

Overall Cosimo "has been a dear friend and a very professional academic; he was supportive, absolutely enthusiastic, full of ideas, a visionary and also a pragmatic person; ready to push his ideas with vibration and insistence, and always giving advice" as recalls Joseph Mifsud, President of EMUNI. In the digital bulletin board of the University of Bergamo, many students remind their professor Cosimo in these ways: a great teacher, an extraordinary person; kind, patient and courteous; affection and

sympathy; competence, immense knowledge; he has given us the passion and the determination; he loved what he did and transmitted this passion to all of his students; he desired to transmit his knowledge to us and certainly he did not do it for the salary; lessons for life and not just to pass an exam; I join in European people have had the privilege to meet you; he created an human relationship with everyone in the class and beyond the lessons; thank you for teaching us what it means to be a citizen of the world; thank you for being an unforgettable educator!; a person who peers into you, and knows who you are, and knows how to believe in yourself; always on the side of the students and able to elicit a smile even in the most critical and heavy times, "Blessed is who has known Cosimo".

Among those blessed, I'm here too. I meet Cosimo at the Second Meeting of UNESCO/UNITWIN Network «Tourisme, Culture, Développement» in March 2006 at Gréoux-les-Bains: there was sympathy and friendship at the first moment! We were often in contact, even in difficult times. Cosimo sent to me his books, and contributed to a book of mine on religious tourism. When I became a grandmother of twins, he gave me a gift from Puglia saying "to grandmother, Madame Dallari".

With the hope "Ad Maiores", as he used to say, and full of the warmth that Cosimo was capable of giving to everyone, we remind him forever.

We miss Cosimo but we'll never miss what we learnt from him. Looking ahead and being inspired towards greater things.

Ad Maiores, Cosimo!

