

Presentation

MARTINO CONTU
President of Centro Studi SEA

On the first day of December 2015, while we were about to finish the seventh issue of the «Ammentu» journal, the Centro Studi SEA received a note from Pablo Gentili, Secretary General of CLACSO (Latin American Council of Social Sciences), established in Buenos Aires, where he officially announced our admission as a partner institution of CLACSO, the greatest international network of social sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean. The decision was adopted during the 92th Session of the Steering Committee of this non-governmental international organisation -attached to UNESCO- which was held in Medellín, Colombia, on 3-4 November 2015. Our membership was then ratified right after that session at the 25th Ordinary General Meeting, which took place in the same city on 9 November. Being a member of CLACSO means taking part in the multiple academic activities and programmes promoted by this international organisation, having the chance to release the publications of the Centro Studi SEA on its Virtual Library, one of the biggest in the world, but also, to sell them abroad through the Latin America and the Caribbean Social Science Bookstore. Also, now we have an opportunity to spread our scientific activities, including our seminars and congresses, thanks to the many shows broadcasted on the CLACSO TV channel. On the one hand, the researchers at the Centro Studi SEA, along with the contributors of «Ammentu», are honoured to be part of CLACSO but, on the other hand, they also have an obligation to take all the responsibilities arising from this membership and to participate in the activities and programmes promoted by this international organisation. Being the first scientific institution in Italy to become a partner of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences, out of a total number of almost 500 members coming from countries in four continents, forces us to keep a high sense of duty and commitment, as we have always endeavoured to, but also, to continue making original contributions to research within the field of social sciences and humanities, paying special attention to Latin America and, more generally, to the Americas.

The Mediterranean and the Old World is another geographical area in the world that has drawn much attention from «Ammentu». That is why the Dossier published in this issue under the title *Comunidades estrangeiras em Lisboa (séculos XV-XVIII)* (Foreign communities in Lisbon - 15th-18th centuries), by Nunziatella Alessandrini and Jürgen Pohle, has focused on Europe, more specifically, on Portugal. This Dossier gathers nine reports presented on 21 January 2015 at the *Comunidades estrangeiras em Lisboa (séculos XV-XVIII)* conference, which took place at the Centro de História d'Aquém e d'Além Mar da Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa e dos Açores within the framework of a course of lectures on Portuguese-Italian issues. Particularly, this workshop tried to explore a rather unknown topic, the one concerning the presence of foreign communities in Lisbon in modern times. In fact, this Dossier speaks about businessmen, bankers and traders across Europe who settled in the wealthy capital of the Kingdom of Portugal, a city that witnessed the beginning of flourishing trades as early as since the 14th century with the Atlantic expansion, and, from the end of the 15th century, with trade relations with the four continents.

