

## **Workshop V: Strengthening partnerships between the State, the Private Sector and Civil Society**

**(The Graduate School of Management of Bocconi University, SDA-Bocconi, Milan, Italy)**

Over the past years growing consensus has been built around the concept that no single actor, private or public, has the capacity to solve on its own the complex and diversified problems that our societies are being confronted with. It is increasingly being recognised that neither the State alone nor the market alone generates development. Just as the concept centering on the omnipotence of the State was erroneous, reality has proven that the market has a great potential but that without solid institutions and regulations it can generate far-reaching imbalances. This has resulted in a new wave of questioning on how to achieve a different balance among the State, the market, and the other important actor, civil society. It has also led to the understanding that the State and the market are not competitors, but that both need to work as strategic partners in development together with civil society. The contribution that civil society can give to solving social problems and the need for a more participatory approach to development makes it an invaluable partner in governance. Partnerships between the State, the private sector and civil society can also prove to be very important in policy-making processes regarding the protection of the environment, work conditions, and social safety nets.

This workshop will review different forms of partnerships among civil society, public institutions and the private sector. It will discuss how to enhance the formulation and implementation of public policies and foster economic and human development through partnerships. It will specifically address the role of the private sector and civil society in local partnerships for development, including issues of consultation and constructive collaboration. Private sector inputs in policy making and their responsiveness to policy implementation in areas of concern to them will be highlighted through practical experiences.