



WHO WE ARE

Casa della Comunità Speranza is a youth center, located in the historic center of Mazara del Vallo within the Arab Casbah. With our project activities, we aim to intervene affectively on the prevention and recovery of the children at risk of cultural and social exclusion between the ages of 6 and 19 and to promote cross-cutting activities, to develop specific skills and to gain competences. Our activities involve numerous children of non-EU immigrants, mainly second and third Tunisian generations. In collaboration with the educational facilities of the area, personalized educational paths are identified which also allow us to signal those children with particular learning disabilities. Minors are offered various laboratory activities which make them creativity and prosperity of their talents in themselves: theater, dance (break-dance, hip hop and traditional Roma dances), music, the use of multimedia technologies, sport (soccer, volleyball, swimming), arts and crafts and creative recycling. With these activities we aim to set up real educational spaces, in order to create rich and and playful moments through which children have the opportunities to develop social and relational skills. This is the place which is indispensable for children to believe in themselves and begin to trust in their abilities, and the possibility of envisioning a future where their desires can become true.

OUR BACKGROUND

Mazara del Vallo, is a town situated in western Sicily, in the province of Trapani, with unique cultural and social characteristics in Italy, basing its main economy on fishing. The Mediterranean unites this land to the shores of North Africa, which is just 100 kilometers far away. This closeness gave life to the city, and in the seventies, to one of the first urban agglomerations that welcomed the largest number of immigrants in relation to the resident population. In 1978, the sisters of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary were called by the Bishop Mons. Costantino Trapani to work with the Tunisian community of Mazara del Vallo, which was becoming numerous in a short time.

The youth center Casa della Comunità Speranza (House of Hope Community) was founded in 2010, with the goal which is to continue the social and charitable activities of the sisters, drawing inspiration from the principles of human enhancement, multiculturalism, sharing and solidarity. Today there are over 3,000 regular resident immigrants who come from Tunisia (76%), Morocco (3%), Egypt (0.4%); there is also a small group of Roma (6.3%) who live in a stable housing situation in the area.

Located in the heart of the Arab quarter of the city, we want to offer children of immigrants residing in Mazara del Vallo, a place that is not only for physical, but also for the daily becoming of a meeting point of very different people, with operators and volunteers who are available to listen, help, support in their study, promote and motivate.

OUR PROJECTS

“Far Crescere la Speranza”

Accompanying path to the study for the children and the youth from 6 to 19 years old. Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3 to 7 p.m. on the premises of the association, an educator is at the side of the children and teenagers to accompany them in the study and take care of their educational path together with their family.

Each educator draws up daily schedule for each student, three annual assessments and PEI (Individual Educational Plan).

Literacy courses in Italian

For the children and the youth of foreign origin who have recently arrived in this area and need adequate scholastic and social integration.

For women, mainly mothers of children and young ones who attend the association, of Tunisian and Gypsies origin, who are not able to manage to speak Italian language in their path of inclusion and find it difficult to express themselves. Paths supporting linguistic autonomy and knowledge of the territory for good integration.

“Cantieri educativi”: arts, sport and creativity spaces where children and youth can develop their talents, dreams and skills in the delicate path of growth.

Arts: Break dance, Gypsy and Tunisian dances, Dance game, Singing lessons, Music, rhythm and percussion, Theater / Musical.

Sport:

- Sport for all: an initiation path to play and sport for children from 6 to 11 years in city gyms.

- Mazara Casbah football: teenagers coordinated by a coach who make a path of friendship and play through football. They have been training for several years twice a week and participate in regional and national tournaments.

Creativity:

- Creativi.Lab is a space dedicated to youth from 15 to 25 years old, of different cultures, nationalities, languages and religions, where with recycled materials, fabrics, objects, favors, invitations, decorations are created and creative tailoring. Every Wednesday morning and afternoon, coordinated by four creativity workers.

- Budding journalists: a cultural journey and creative exercise in the composition of texts and in the discovery of the territory with the final realization of the Community Newspaper. Through the choice of a theme, elaboration of articles and drawings by all the youth and the children who are with the Association.

Play Hub “CASA DI TOY” a project launched in seven European Countries, created to start participatory processes between adults and children through play. Casa di Toy opens on Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m., is coordinated by two operators who take care of early childhood (0 to 6 years) for all the children of every language, culture, nationalities and religious belief.

Children can borrow toys, play on the spot and spend time together, involving in the adult family member that accompanies them.

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Friends in the CIPSI Network (National Coordination of Solidarity and Cooperation). CIPSI is a national coordination uniting 30 international solidarity associations that pursue international cooperation objectives and operate through activities in impoverished countries with a "partnership" approach and initiatives to raise awareness, culture and education in Italy.

Members of the Reyn Italia Network

The REYN Italia project started in February 2016 with the aim of implementing and expanding the REYN (Network for the Early Childhood Roma) network in Italy, formed by professionals and para-professionals who work closely with the Roma communities in the field of early childhood development.

Partners in the project network "Oltre i Confini".

A model of school open to the territory. Head of the CIDI of Milan (Center for Democratic Teacher Initiative). A project of "Impresa sociale con i bambini" foundation, aimed at combating school dropout, removing the causes that can lead to not feeling good at school and offering, in the educational centers created in DOC, activities, in collaboration with the schools of each area involved (9 regions, 45 schools and 23 social workers).

Partner in the SIPROIMI Project of the Municipality of Mazara del Vallo. Leader of the Cooperative Fo.Co. (Formation and Communion). We run a small second reception community for 12 unaccompanied foreign minors.

Partner in the Project "Dai sogni ai bisogni", led by the Ubuntu Association. A project funded by "Impresa Sociale con i bambini" Foundation which will offer educational pathways to contrast educational poverty and early school leaving.

Partner in the Sicilia-Tunisia Project, led by the Cooperative Fo.Co. (Formation and Communion), for the starting of work training courses for young Tunisian immigrants and sub-Saharan origin in Sicily and young people in Tunisia. Project funded by the Italian Episcopal Conference through "Liberi di partire, liberi di restare" project.





"It's the time you spent on your rose
that makes your rose so important."

Antoine de Saint Exupéry, The Little Prince