

Reggio

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Ditutti

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Reggio Emilia - A City For Everyone

Presentation

of intercultural policies

D for DITUTTI (*E For Everyone*)

D for Diritti (*Rights*), D for "Di-tutti" (*For Everyone*);

Reggio Emilia is the city of "Rights for Everyone"

Reggio Emilia is a city where people meet, where it is possible to perceive the multiplicity and plurality of voices, cultures, approaches, origins and feelings. Reggio Emilia is the City of Rights. We are a community that cares for differences, a city "For Everyone" where no one should feel like a stranger.

We are a city that talks about and with diversities, enhances them, transforms them into educational, economic, social and cultural opportunities. Our city is really a City for Everyone that knows well that migrations - internal and external - represent an essential part of its history and of what it is today. Reggio Emilia is an intercultural community, a city capable of generating relationships between the different people in it: the city of rights and plural thought, where traditions, rites, stories and symbols coexist in an environment made dialogue, communication, relationships.

Reggio Emilia will, in 2030 become the City for Everyone and will be based on many rights: Citizenship, Creativity, Knowledge, Culture, Dialogue and Interculture, a community capable of enhancing and harmonising diversity, in the awareness that the cultural identity of a territory is constantly changing. In this sense, demographic, social and economic changes require a medium-long term vision to give structure to transversal intercultural policies capable of reading the changes and planning for the future. Ditutti represents a project-path of participation and activation of the territory promoted by the Municipal Administration - through the Mondinsieme Foundation - for the multiplication of networks and contacts between formal and informal subjects of the territory with the aim of promoting intercultural dialogue.

INTERCULTURAL EDUCATIONAL DESTINATIONS - IN BETWEEN CITIZENSHIP AND MULTILINGUALISM

Intercultural education puts people and all of their historical and evolutionary expressions at the core of its action, and has the goal of encouraging interaction, contact and relationship between cultures.

This approach is used to define the socialisation process that emphasizes the ability to relate and be together: in fact there is a complex relationship between the social structure and the shaping of the individual's personality.

The connection between intercultural education and citizenship education thus becomes natural: if citizenship education encourages the development of individuals as active and responsible citizens, within the sphere of universal rights and values, intercultural education promotes the development of the skills needed for constructive coexistence in a multiform cultural and social fabric, in other words the "intercultural skills".

All the actions in the field of education and citizenship education play an important role in promoting diversity and intercultural dialogue and become a fundamental tool for cohesion and social inclusion.

As a parallel measure, training to improve one's knowledge and use of the Italian language (L2) remains a path of particular relevance to promote a more cohesive community and to better express the intercultural skills found in the region.

It is also an essential tool for feeling fully part of a community, and for dealing with opportunities and services available to citizens. From an intercultural point of view, citizens and communities of international origin are representatives of other languages and cultures that must be preserved and enhanced as an intangible cultural heritage and, last but not least, opportunities for all the citizens to train and improve linguistic skills.

It is only with a mutual maieutic approach that individuals can feel part of a social fabric, developing a sense of belonging that we call "citizenship".

Description of activities

- 1) Promotion of an Intercultural Educational Pact, in partnership with Officina Educativa and other stakeholders (schools and other educational services in the area) so that the recognition of intercultural skills is integrated into the whole educational/training system (from services for the parents of kids in pre-primary education facilities to skills recognition for university students). The aims of this agreement also include raising awareness in school environments and meeting and training centres in strengthening intercultural skills by enhancing the role of the Mondinsieme Foundation as a subject supporting the territory and educational services. The Pact will also have the function of harmonising existing measures and structuring an integrated strategy for L2 and for the promotion of multilingualism also as part of a broader framework of integration and accessibility of spaces.
- 2) Strengthen the commitment of the municipal administration and the territory to accompany and promote the value of citizenship, in particular by enhancing the citizenship ceremony as a civil rite (involving witnesses, carrying out the ceremonies in the presence of schools and civil/social organizations). Activation of an awareness-raising process aimed at citizenship rights for the new generations and the reform of the law.
- 3) Promotion of a concept of school that educates to global citizenship, targeted to at the whole city with moments of encounter, cultural production, participation and starting of dialogues and cooperation between institutions, associations and citizens. The "Citizenship School" will aim to offer experiences and training opportunities to the area, building a specific project capable of connecting with the cultural and social projects promoted by the local civic organizations.

- 4) Implement measures to support the teaching of the Italian language, in a more organic form, in order to ensure complementariness between actions implemented by the public, private and third sector. This guarantees the possibility of holding courses in suitable spaces (school buildings or other social places) with the aim of promoting the right to study also for non-Italian-speaking citizens (tutoring, orientation, reduction of early school leaving and promotion of all the educational services available in the area).
- 5) Promotion of multilingualism also through the enhancement of training and educational activities promoted by the communities operating in the area, also with the support of diplomatic representatives. Emphasise the importance of the transmission of the mother tongue and of equal linguistic dignity (even for the so-called "minor" languages). Identify forms – including symbolic ones – within the educational system to enhance other language skills.

DIVERSITY LAB PLURAL ECONOMIES AND INNOVATION OF DIVERSITY

The Diversity Lab was created to recognize and enhance the potential of an intercultural society in relation to new plural economies and open innovation processes. The concept of plural economies refers to the ability of a territory to respond to different requests and needs, through multiple models capable of holding together the economic production with the relational and community dimension.

This path is therefore aimed at different subjects, not only businesses and commercial activities in the area, but also co-working premises and similar areas. The proposed actions follow two guidelines, depending on whether they take place within individual organizational contexts, through the implementation of Diversity Management policies and practices, or they connect different stakeholders, with a view to promoting territorial Diversity Marketing, understood as the ability to offer diversified products and services in response to different needs. Offering opportunities for comparison, as well as tools for reading the different needs that an intercultural society generates, allows the business system and the commercial system of the area the opportunity to expand and innovate its offer (including delivery methods), thus creating a competitive advantage for the City.

Description of activities

Creation of a "Diversity Lab" as a place of social innovation within the paths of the Open Urban Laboratory of the Cloisters of San Pietro, connected to other places of social innovation in the city (Parco Innovazione, La Polveriera, Impact Hub, etc). The "Diversity Lab" will have to investigate diversity in citizen collaborative spaces and explore the factors that can support its contribution to social innovation processes. In addition to the promotion of training courses, research and support to the business world, the Diversity Lab will have the function of creating a sort of Think Tank, made up of young people with different backgrounds (both identity and professional), which can develop innovative solutions in favour of public and private stakeholders. The Diversity Lab that will be born from the work on diversity management and diversity marketing promoted by the Mondinsieme Foundation must:

- 1) Help local businesses in creating work environments that are inclusive and conducive to the expression of diversity, as a possible competitive advantage, supporting them, where required, in the development of Diversity Management policies and practices focusing in particular, on three major axes of diversity in organizational contexts: gender, age and geo-cultural origin, with an openly inter-sectional approach encompassing all of these dimensions.
- 2) Map the diversities and inequalities in the services to citizens and the public of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia and/or its subsidiaries/associated companies, and/or other public organizations, such as the Reggio Emilia Local Health Authority in order to raise awareness of how diversity is configured in these workplaces and how it can be an additional indirect service offered to citizens.
- 3) Activate a path to enhance public and private places in the city, including those of a business nature. The actions will include operating in contexts linked to dialogue and intercultural encounters, for example through the activation of community and local (district) tourism routes.

DIASPORA AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

In recent years, the key role played by associations of people with a migrant background have in promoting development cooperation practices in the countries of origin has become prominent. In fact, Diasporas have and can have an important economic, social, cultural and political impact, for example through the role of remittances, migrant entrepreneurship and investments in productive sectors, through transnational social capital and human resources, in direct contact with local authorities and communities. The issue of "migration and development" has been identified by the Italian Cooperation Authorities as a priority in all sectors of business such as agriculture and food security, education, training and culture, health, good governance and the fight against inequalities.

Through the Mondinsieme Foundation, a strong relationship of trust has developed with the associations in the Reggio area, which have joined the Foundation and have promoted projects of solidarity and international cooperation with the migrants' countries of origin.

The associations dealing with the Diaspora have also created connections with the diplomatic representations of the countries of origin in order to implement projects and provide consular services for the issuance of documents and permits useful to local communities, as well as guaranteeing the vote abroad for their citizens by activating voting offices in our territory.

The associations of the Diaspora are also taking the role of facilitators of new diplomatic relations with the countries of origin and the creation of intercultural twinning with the cities and territories from which the communities come.

Accompanying and facilitating these processes can increase the relationship of trust that international communities have with their social and territorial context and on the other hand it offers them the opportunity to appoint themselves as ambassadors of their country of origin, promoting new opportunities for exchange and relationships that can be of benefit to Reggio Emilia.

Our city confirms its commitment within the Intercultural Cities Network promoted by the Council of Europe and the Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo (Italian Network of Cities of Dialogue) also with the aim of identifying projects and partnerships to strengthen initiatives of international relevance connected to the Diaspora established in the municipal territory.

Description of activities

- 1) Activation of a process of dialogue and training of Diaspora associations and communities on international relations and cooperation.
- 2) Promotion of a forum between the cities of the Diaspora in Reggio Emilia by drafting a manifesto of friendship between cities and citizens, inviting to Reggio Emilia Mayors and administrators of cities connected with the most representative communities of international origin in Reggio Emilia.
- 3) Evaluate proposals of an actual twinning with a city connected to the Diaspora in Reggio Emilia.
- 4) Identify and evaluate the application of European, AICS or international projects featuring the countries and cities of the Diaspora to activate communication and partnership forms
- 5) Improve the participation of the municipal administration and the Mondinsieme Foundation together with the Intercultural cities network of the Council of Europe and the Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo.
- 6) Activate a discussion table with trade associations to evaluate possible interventions and interconnections between investments and exports of our territory and relationships with the territories of origin of the Diaspora communities.

DIALOGUE BETWEEN RELIGIONS AND SPIRITUALITY

Every citizen, every individual has the right to have a private, inviolable sphere which often also includes religious or spiritual aspects which very often do not surface in a public context. The promotion of interreligious dialogue and dialogue between the faithful and non-faithful, in the broader context of coexistence and mutual knowledge, has a strategic role in promoting inter-cultural dialogue.

Creating a space for interreligious dialogue and confrontation - open and secular - means thinking and acting on the territorial planning not only for the municipal administration but also for the benefit of the other bodies and institutions in the area.

This action has particular relevance for the purpose of:

- recognising the strong aggregative and social value that religion or spirituality has for the communities of the Diaspora;
- promote participation processes in the context of policies and the service system by enhancing and supporting welfare, education and socialization projects promoted by cultural, spiritual and religious centres;
- enhance interreligious and spiritual dialogue also in the prevention and management of conflicts.

Description of activities

- 1) Creating a path that favours interreligious and spiritual dialogue, through the activation of discussion and debate events aimed at developing a plural reflection through secular places and places of faith in the area. Enhancement of the dialogue between "near and far" people in the public space, also highlighting the instances where events of a "lay" nature open up to the territory to activate forms of encounter and debate between people.
- 2) Promotion of a path aimed at places of worship in order to integrate welfare/community policies promoted in partnership with these stakeholders. Considering the changes brought about by the necessary adaptation to the city planning requirements, activation of an analysis path for the definition of agreements related to the active social role that these places can have towards both the religious and non-religious communities.
- 3) Drafting of guidelines for local authorities for interreligious dialogue in cooperation with the Council of Europe.

DEMOCRACY AND INTERCULTURAL PARTICIPATION

The social cohesion of local communities is closely linked to the ability to promote intercultural participation within the city. In addition to the enhancement of the cultural impact of migration and the creation of social and economic inclusion paths, it becomes important to invest in paths to support and encourage the interaction of communities and people with migratory backgrounds settled in the area, generating paths of active protagonism in the Reggio Emilia area. This process aims at promoting meeting and cooperation paths.

The contribution that the associations and communities of the Diaspora can offer to the territory represents an intercultural wealth that must be valued and must interact with cultural actions that are promoted by the Municipality and by the associations established in the area (and vice versa). The interconnection of cultural proposals and initiatives promoted by communities is in fact a core part of the intercultural process.

Description of activities

- 1) Activation of a path on accessibility of spaces and places available in the city area in order to promote a synergy between associations/communities/social activity places for the promotion of training, education and meeting paths. Our goal is to stabilise and create connections between places and people, in order to reinforce the existing planning in social spaces (social centres in particular) and to activate new forms of inter-community participation and protagonism in partnership with the relevant services of the Municipality.
- 2) Promote instances of meeting and planning for the public services, both those offered by the Municipality and those provided by the Companies the Municipality has a shareholding in, for the purpose of integrating intercultural proposals into policies and services (e.g. equal opportunities, sport, rights, trade, environment and so on). A more structured and permanent role is played by cultural policies and services (e.g. libraries, museums, theatres, cultural reviews, film reviews and events) promoted by the Municipal Administration and other entities connected to it. A solid connection and relationship with social services and social centres is also fundamental in the reading and in the communication with the fabric of the community associations in Reggio Emilia.
- 3) Definition of a coordination protocol within the Municipality with the services and offices that can have a strategic function for the implementation of transversal intercultural policies. Formalise a path with internal objectives and responsibilities within the municipal structure, promoting an annual conference featuring presentation and report of the results achieved. To complement this action, an internal training course will be promoted and also aimed at the staff of the companies the Municipality holds an interest in, for the purpose of providing intercultural training (one possible path could be a single training event for the Municipal Executive Committee and the Managers, whereas a 3 lessons course could be offered to the employees of the individual services). The transversal nature of this action also aims to provide tools and increase sensitivity so that intercultural action can be an integral part of the political thought of the municipal administration structures, inserting intercultural processes within what is promoted by the Municipality and by the local area as a whole.

