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Conorzio Communitas

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THE INTEGRATION THAT STARTS FROM SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY

Stories and projects for welcoming refugees and migrants in Italy

The online Diversity Dialogue Forum hosted by Consorzio Communitas on last February 22nd saw the comparison between different experiences that address migrants' integration through school, university and training in Italy. The objective was to give a new point of view to the issue, to understand how education can be decisive in the integration process of migrants. The webinar was divided into two different moments: the first dedicated to school and education and the second dedicated to university and professional training.

The integration journey in school's panel started with Daniela Varisco's experience with the Animondo (Caritas Ambrosiana's education service). Through workshops, they try to make children and young people understand that migration is part of our history and of everyone's family experience, stimulating them to ask questions and reflect. Arianna Burdo (Caritas Diocesana Ancona-Osimo) on the other hand, explained how thanks to the use of educational apps, it's possible to teach the Italian language to young foreigners. This innovative teaching method, using games as the main methodology, allows the development of imagination and creativity.

An important contribution was made by Carmine Lepiani who, with the “Il Sentiero” Cooperative and collaborating with “Caritas Cremona”, is involved in helping foreign minors from difficult families in the process of integration.

Karolina Czerwinska closed the first panel of interventions. She talked about the experience of the Polskie Forum Migracyjne. In particular, she explained how children from different backgrounds can meet and feel close.

The second part of the event concerned the training and university sector world. Emanuela Varinetti recalled how, with the Unicore project - Caritas Italian University Corridors for refugees, Italian universities are increasingly places where foreigners create relationships and plan their future, in addition to contributing to the growth of Italy.

Ihab Rizk Solimar started from his personal experience as a migrant who arrived in Italy from Egypt, and shared with the audience how studying allowed him to start a new life. Today, after graduating in Political Science in 2011, he’s working in European planning at UniCa - University of Cagliari, and as a cultural mediator in the "Humanitarian Corridors" project.

“Work is the best way to concretely contribute to the integration of foreign people”. Dario Colombo (“Il Melograno” Cooperative) started from this indication to describe the commitment against the exploitation of migrants in agriculture thanks to the Pina-Q project.

Rossella Rodeghero of ENAIP Veneto, described her experience in two Erasmus + projects related to integration through work that build integration paths involving trade unions, workers and entrepreneurs to prevent conflicts and misunderstandings from the beginning. A good example of how integration is possible and benefits the whole community.

The closing speaker brought an experience from outside Italy. Johannes Mihkelsoni Keskus (JMK) is an Estonian organisation that provides training and job placement paths to migrants based on their real skills and competences. Kristina Avdonina, project coordinator for long-term unemployment projects with migrants at the MKC, explained how language is the main barrier to overcome towards a successful integration.

MAX is an AMIF funded project which aim is to change public attitudes towards migrants. The goal is to improve the public image of migrants in Europe by changing the narrative around the immigration discourse and putting on the front the stories of real people. Storytelling, creation of positive messages for the media and dialogic encounters between locals and newcomers are the key figures of the project.





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