



**PROVINCIA
DI GENOVA**

Study Circles and their activities in 2005/2006

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Study Circles and their activities in 2005/2006

Following is an overview of the different projects, ideas and exchange opportunities addressed by people within study circles organised by the Province of Genoa.

“Refurbishing and recycling of disused computers and installation of a free software (Linux) in compliance with the specifications outlined in the GPL licence (GNU Public License)”. This Circle, which was promoted by Associazione Ingegneria Senza Frontiere (Engineers Without Borders Association), provided the participants with the necessary know-how to re-use disused computers. The final goal of the project was the establishment of a collection, refurbishing and recycling centre that would then redistribute these computers to non-profit organisations and associations.

“Writing for witches. Creative writing and historical research”. This is an example of a creative Circle rooted in the traditions of the territory, as it is strictly linked to some episodes of persecution which occurred in the past centuries in the area studied. The Circle’s aim was, on the one hand, to stimulate participants to experiment with their creativity, by practising creative writing; on the other, participants looked into the stories of the so-called “Witches of Triora”, gathering information and doing theme-related and historical research, and then writing stories inspired by them.

“Recipes in liberty”. The purposes of this Circle were the in-depth study and lexical expansion of the Italian language through recipes from the different nationalities of the women staying at the Veneranda Compagnia di Misericordia family home in Genoa.

“Rebuilding the past to (re)find men and women, their activities and their history”. The purpose of this Circle was to investigate some aspects of the history of Genoa, linked to the urban development of the city’s oldest part, where most of the people in the group were not born.

“Women and autobiographical writing”. This Circle aimed at showing how, through writing, it is possible to increase one’s self-awareness, on a path to self-enhancement. The Circle consisted of a writing activity, starting from a stimulus provided to the group in each meeting, and concluding with the group reading what had been produced.

“The five senses in the relationship”. The objective of this Circle was to investigate, within a specific self-learning context, the aspects that contribute to enhance and improve the caring relationship with a person with a disability. The group was made up of home carers and volunteer workers who wished to refine their relationship through the full use of their 5 senses.

“Chess Video”. This Circle consisted of chess enthusiasts wishing to know more about video editing targeted at teaching.

“The art of reuse and more...” This circle stems from the initiative of five retired women in response to a society where, in their words, relationships are becoming “increasingly hasty and

superficial". The idea is to create objects starting from recovered waste material and repeat the experience within associations and/or nursing homes, as well as through broadcasting on a private network in Liguria.

"Smile theatre" – three employees, two students and an educator with a common passion, i.e. theatre. The circle's aim will consist, in particular, in putting oneself to the test within play and recreational workshops targeted at children. The texts of the performances, the characters, the theory notes and the account of the experience will then be included in a customised web page created by the circle participants.

"Homeless people and the urban space" – The "Altrarchitettura" non-profit association has promoted a study circle with the purpose of exploring and truly entering into contact with the world of homeless people, by focussing particularly on the mechanisms that are at the basis of the choices and the ways in which they occupy the urban spaces. The final aim is to develop, on the basis of the observations available, tangible working plans with the cooperation of the associations working in the field.

"History and recovery of old roses": "It is to these roses that we want to dedicate the circle, to those garden ladies that, through their colours and scents can turn grey afternoons into sunny days, to the forgotten roses of lost times..." These are the opening lines of the project developed by ten would-be circle participants of the Municipality of Casella, with the objective of getting closer to the tradition of Old Roses in all its facets, by growing them in their gardens, but also by using them to prepare syrups and perfumes for phytotherapeutic purposes.

"The social function of folk dance in the contemporary background: Latvian dances". This circle is promoted by the "Futuro Primitivo" Cultural Association of Sestri Ponente, in Genoa, and is a journey through the cultural fabric surrounding ethnic dances. The circle's aim is to promote a final celebration at the end of the activities, open to the public, with the objective of presenting the project and describing the experience and trying to involve all those present in dance performances.

THE ART OF REUSE AND MORE

Creation of objects starting from recovered waste material. The circle's aim is to present, propose and share this experience within associations and/or nursing homes, as well as through broadcasting on a private network in Liguria.

THE SCREAM: TRACES OF STORIES

Daily stories told using Web-videos, through group workshops promoting the concept of "active citizenship" and the values of a social, human, civil and cultural society at the same time. The circle has the objective of "giving a voice to those who do not have a voice", also involving guests of a rehabilitation community, parents, and workers.

ALCOHOL: IF YOU KNOW IT YOU CAN CHOOSE

This circle tackles the problem of alcoholism, trying to study and learn more about it with a focus on the concepts of personal and social health. Public awareness initiatives on the problem are planned and organised in Valpolcevera

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY: TWO MODELS OF DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Discussion workshops on the topic of passive and active citizenship. Creation of a participatory budget for Lumarzo.

PREPARING A NEWSROOM FOR THE CREATION OF A TV PROGRAMME FOR AND ABOUT THE FAMILY

This consists in the study and acquisition of communication techniques and skills to set up a real TV newsroom on the topic of "The Family".

REFLECTION AND RESEARCH GROUP ON OLD MEMORIES: LAUNCHING A MEMORY WORKSHOP

Use of verbal and sensory memory in its diverse dimensions as an enhancement tool for "the elderly".

SMILE THEATRE

Learning and exchanging theatrical techniques and communication tools aimed at children. Creation of texts and recreational and play activities for shows dedicated to children to be held at youth centres, schools, and on the street. Creation of a website.

SIMPLY-MIND

Creation of objects through various craft techniques aimed at developing manual and personal self-esteem skills, with the involvement of guests of the mental health day-care centre, parents, workers, and citizens interested in the topic.

MULTIMEDIA: BETWEEN THEATRE AND TELEVISION

Analysis of the complex relationship between television and theatre with an insight into the dynamics of interpenetration of the two means of communication - designing a theatrical performance.

TRADING IMAGES

Study group on images through history, technique and digital graphic.

THE SOCIAL FUNCTION OF FOLK DANCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY BACKGROUND: LATVIAN DANCES

This is a journey through the cultural fabric surrounding ethnic dances. The circle's aim is to promote a final celebration open to the public at the end of the activities, with the objective of presenting the project and describing the experience, and trying to involve all those present in dance performances.

KNOWING IN ORDER NOT TO FORGET, KNOWING IN ORDER TO RECOGNISE

Study group on SHOAH and the Racial Laws of 1938 and also on the experiences, the stories and the episodes which occurred locally and are linked to this important historical period.

INTEGRATION IN A READING GROUP: COMPATIBLE DIFFERENCES

Reading as an integration tool for people with disabilities and visual impairments

SMALL THINGS: CREATION OF CRAFT COSTUME JEWELLERY

The circle aims to promote a free trade creative environment in which to develop skills and techniques related to the manufacturing of "DIY" costume jewellery.

COMPARING MURALS

Collection of information and images relating to the different techniques by a group of aunts and grandmothers from the Municipality of Serra Riccò, aimed at supporting the Istituto Comprensivo in making a mural which will decorate their Community Centre.

HOMELESS PEOPLE AND THE URBAN SPACE

Study of the mechanisms regulating the ways in which homeless people occupy the urban spaces in Genoa, and inclusion of a mapping of usable spaces

JEWELS... FROM GLASS

Study of glass working techniques aimed at the creation of jewellery and furnishing objects.

SAWYERS AND SHIPWRIGHTS

Analysis and study of the raw materials (wood) and tools (saw) used for the manufacturing of boats

HISTORY AND THE RECOVERY OF OLD ROSES

Study of the history of old rose varieties in the gardens of the hinterland in order to enhance their properties also in relation to the activities of workshops on food and phytotherapy.

ONCE UPON A TIME...

Transmission of the old practice of crochet and learning of new working techniques through technology; exchange between different generations brought together by the same passion

KITCHEN CREATIONS

Knowledge and revival of the world of gastronomy, from typical regional cuisine to ethnic cuisine, through the exchange of people from different generations and countries.

VALUING WOMEN

Discussion and further study of social and welfare policies linked to the theme of gender equal opportunities, aimed at supporting the participation of women in local political and social life.

LOGICALLY-MINDED ALCOHOL

An insight into alcohol-related themes: the relationship between youth and alcohol and persuasive communication.

LAICITY AND PARTICIPATION

An insight into the works of Condorcet and Zampetti, in light of the current European debate and social events.

FEELING REVIVED IN MENOPAUSE: MORE PAUSE LESS STRESS

The OBJECTIVE of this circle is to create dedicated moments to meet, and to identify coping strategies and creative methods to be shared by women having to deal with this delicate stage of their life.

FLAVOURS FROM THE EAST

Cooking as a form of expression of a territory and a culture. An insight into Oriental cuisine.

THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

An insight into the practices enacted by the International Cooperation since its inception.

THE GREEN SPACE FRIENDS OF PIAZZA PALERMO

Circle participants proposed to take care of the central flower-bed of Piazza Palermo to the District Council. The objective is to improve the liveability of public spaces and promote initiatives favouring people's civic sense.

FREE DIVING TODAY

Free diving theory and training techniques, consultation of paper-based material, with the aim of disseminating the results among lovers of this sport.

LEARNING TO BE TOGETHER, AN INTERCULTURAL PROJECT

Processing, analysis and discussion of data deriving from a previously conducted survey aimed at knowing better the female migrant population and social representations of the different ethnic groups in Genoa.

FREE SOFTWARE AND OPEN SOURCE: FREEDOM OF EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION

An insight into the types of programming, network processing, peer-to-peer software, Internet site creation, basic elements of Linux and Open Source

LET'S READ THE CONSTITUTION AGAIN

Comparing the Constitution as it was framed in 1947 with the 2005 text, including its history, changes and contents.

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

The main topic tackled by the circle is "conflict" in different contexts and in its different manifestations, with an emphasis on interpersonal relations in order to learn to recognise, interpret and thus manage a situation of conflict.

RUBBISH

Production of a documentary film aimed at providing an insight into contemporary society starting from one of its most common but least considered elements: urban waste.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Study and analysis of rudiments of business management, introduction to social responsibility and to factors of sustainable enterprising.

APPLE VARIETIES – THE MELA FOSSA

Expansion of the Internet site and photographic exhibition – outcomes of the previous study circle "Croce di vie" (Cross of ways). Organisation of initiatives to spread the knowledge of Mela fossa (a variety of apple) and other forgotten fruits; study and spreading of traditions linked to the chestnut tree.

CROSS OF WAYS 2

Adding life to the network of tracks (rediscovered thanks to the "Cross of ways" circle) through the sporting activity of Nordic Walking, with the involvement of different generations, schools and people from the city centre.

THE FAIRY TALE CRIB

A journey across generations into the world of fairy tales - comparing oral tradition with the cartoon world - through the creation of life-sized figures used to create a nativity crib in the historical centre of the little hamlet of Orero. Involvement of children, grandparents, local residents and holiday-makers.

FLAVOURS WITHOUT FRONTIERS

Comparing culinary experiences and traditions of different countries in the world.

LEISURE AND VISUAL DISABILITY

A response to the increasing demand for the active, social and intelligent use of free time by people with visual impairment.

THEATRE OF IDEAS

Basics on the history of costume and set design. Designing and creating theatre costumes, accessories and stage objects.

GIVE VOICE TO CITIZENS

Communication as a form of knowledge of another culture. Communication theories and techniques. Exercising the rights of citizenship.

FROM PAPER TO PAPER: THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING

Study of the techniques for the separate collection of waste, with an emphasis on paper recycling to safeguard the environmental ecosystem we live in.

WHEN I TOO USED TO DRAW

Free drawing as an expression of the inner life of the child. Murals production and drawings exhibition

ART OF DANCES AND PEOPLE FOR PEACE

Knowledge and practice of the different Italian and foreign folk dances.

RECIPROCITY

Analysis of the methodologies relating to the exchange of knowledge and its applications in a psycho-social context. (knowledge network – time bank)

MIND AND BODY: THE LOST INTEGRATION

In-depth analysis of the themes linked to the integration of different approaches to health and illness. Exchange and reciprocal learning between doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists.

FAMILIES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: THE HOUSE GETS BIGGER

Living with disability and welcoming it into the family. Creation of a support and mutual help network among families experiencing this situation. Emphasis on the importance of play and gestural expressiveness.

POLIPHONY AND CHORAL SINGING IN THE TRADITION OF SACRED MUSIC

Learning of choral singing techniques and study of the composers and of the sacred genre from the Renaissance to the 20th century.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The social responsibility of enterprises: policies for human resources, job creation, environmental sustainability, fair and ethical trade

CHILDHOOD, FAMILY EMOTIONS AND EXPERIENCES AS PORTRAYED IN FILMS

Study of the family models proposed by TV fiction – the portrayal of the family in Italian films from the post-war period to today.

THE PHYSICS OF PLECTRUM INSTRUMENTS

Study of the theme linked to the physical principles of sound and the functioning of plectrum instruments.

SCHOOL IN THE WORLD, THE WORLD AT SCHOOL

Analysis of the educational systems in different Countries – knowledge relating to the themes of integration of foreign students in schools – further study of the methodology of help with school choice decisions.

REVIVING OLD DANCES OF THE FOUR PROVINCES

Reviving the memory of old dances, music and tools of the past and passing them on to younger generations. Calendar and itineraries of village festivals.

DANCING TOGETHER

Study of African music and dances to promote and develop a multiethnic language.

Partners



Provincia di Genova

Provincia di Genova - Area
Politiche del lavoro, Genova, Italia



Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie
(Cité des métiers de Paris), Parigi,
Francia



Дружество “Знание” София -
Znanie Association, Sofia,
Bulgaria



Job Centre s.c.r.l. (Città dei
mestieri del Comune di Genova),
Genova, Italia



ARBETARNAS BILDNINGSFÖRBUND

ABF Z - Arbetarnas
Bildningsförbund, Jämtland,
Ostersund, Svezia