



“STORIES OF A POSSIBLE EUROPE”

Panels of citizens working on the theme of cultural dialogue through story telling methods

Europe for Citizens Programme - European Union

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Program of Activities



Introduction

The project has focused on the experiences of individual European citizens on intercultural dialogue and has contributed to a improving and raising awareness towards the idea of a European citizenship. Particullary the english group aimed at collecting the life stories of Italians who migrated to the UK after the second world war.

The participant's lives have been investigated through an autobiographical oral history method. We have conducted the interviews as per the rules and ethics of the Oral History Society. The intercultural dialogue issue has turned out to be particularly important in this country where identity and cultural differences are largely wide spread. Our project focused on the intercultural interaction of different values and attitudes, in order to to have a more clear picture of a new European identity.

We did a pre-research on different methos of collecting life stories and with the help of the Oral History Society we have found the most appropriated one to reach our objectives. Our research lied in interviewing individuals of all ages of Italian origins. We have held conferences, took part in workshops on migration as a European phenomenon, identity and intercultural dialogue.

Along with the narratives we have collected significant photographs which could tell stories about the lives, the places and the historical moments that the participants have experienced. We have chosen the most appropriated stories and pictures for the production of a calendar which has been distributed in the Uk and in Europe.

We have directly involved a group of more than thirty people who actively participated in the interviews; moreover at least three hundred people took part in our conferences and events. The participant belonged to different social and cultural backgrounds and ages.

A document has been prepared for the project publication.

The calendar and a photo movie have been ditributed in Italy and in the UK. The materials collected will be used by researchers, media, teachers for the benefit of future generation.

This will also help new immigrants and main stream societies in developing their own integration and policy making processes (we would have liked to have more resources in order to produce educational materials for schools...)

Many of the people we have interviewed acknowledge themselves as European instead of British or Italians. During our events which followed the interviews the European Union and its commitment to the cultural integration process have played an important role.

Interviews work

During the project we have interviewed 23 people who have lived the emigration phenomenon. These life histories have been digitally recorded. We have collected photographs of historical and sentimental value all of which are very important.

With captions of the interviews and some of the photographs we have produced a calendar that we have distributed in schools, community centres, Italian and British institutions and among members of our organization. We have distributed all copies of it as we felt very important to treasure these memories of our cultural heritage for future generations.

1° national Event

On the 18th of June 2009 we have held an event for our students and other people living in London as we feel it is important to show young generation how much Italian immigration has contributed to the economic and the cultural growth of this country, and also they get a better idea of their belonging and their roots. Also the project will be a beacon for the new immigrant so that they can learn about integration.

2° national Event

On the 21 of November we had the launch of our calendar at St. Peter's Italian Club in what it used to be Little Italy where all the Italian immigrants used to arrive. At that event we have invited all people we have interviewed and their relatives. We have shown our photo movie we have produced with the photographs we have collected. Our guest of honour was the Italian Vice Ambassador Mr Giovanni Brauzzi who wanted to share with us this proud moment.



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Stories of a Possible Europe is a project funded by the European Commission within the Socrates-Grundtvig Programme. The content of these pages is under exclusive responsibility of the European Memories project partners. These pages do not reflect the opinions of the European Commission and the European Commission has no responsibility for their content.
N. Project CP-2008-045