

FINAL REPORT

ALL BOOKS ARE IMPORTANT Padula 12-14th of May 2017

The Italian edition of “All Books are Important” is the first step on a common path towards integration wanted by Albania, Italy, and Macedonia, whose cultural diversity has been a source of enrichment for the readers of the future. Publishers and writers from the above-mentioned countries started an intercultural dialogue with the students, marked by exchange and mutual understanding, but also an intergenerational dialogue, that helped young people and adults to discover the pleasure of reading.

The event, part of the project “Readers of the Future” cofounded by European Commission, took place in the suggestive Padula Charterhouse, UNESCO heritage, from 12-14th of May 2017. It was organized by the Association Agency Arcipelago Onlus (represented by Angela La Torre, expert in policies for children and adolescents, as president, and Giuseppe Errico, psychologist and eurolanner, as coordinator of the project) with the sponsorship of the Assessorato for Education and Social policies of Regione Campania, the municipality of Padula and the Province of Salerno, in collaboration with the publishing houses DITURIA (Tirana) and Tabernakul (Skopje) and the Lions Club Padula-Certosa di San Lorenzo.

At the opening, on May 12th at 10:00 there were many writers, publishers (Guida Editori, Homo Scrivens, and many others), teachers, pupils and politicians. It was a very important institutional moment that pointed out difficulties, possibilities and solutions to realize in close synergy in order to bring young people close to art and culture. In the morning the pupils who took part in the competition “Thousand reasons to read and +. Ideas for the promotion of reading”, realizing drawings, illustrated books and short stories, received a prize. All their works have been exhibited in the Charterhouse’s cave. About a thousand pupils of Campania’s schools participated in the event.

Afterwards, the pupils with their teachers and headmasters met the Italian, Albanian and Macedonian writers and publishers to discover the world of reading during the workshops: “Music in Book” by Gianni Perilli, Mariana Ymeri and Idajete Hamzallari; “The story of the book” by Pandeli Koçi, Virgijil Muçi, Andriana Dragovikj, Vancho Polazarevski; “The Book: What a Story!” by Aldo Putignano and Nicola Femminella.

At the end of the day the music could not miss: children discovered an old but modern instrument like the ciaramella thanks to Gianni Perilli and Gennaro Del Prete.

The next day, 13th of May, the headmasters testified the hard work of schools to stimulate children creativity, love for reading, art and culture more generally. The focus of this workshop was in fact “Policies, practices, and ideas for reading, in the risk areas and in the schools”. Publishers and writers from Italia, Albania and Macedonia, talked about the passion and the commitment that their job requires spreading books in the schools and in the less advantaged parts of the towns.

To demonstrate that not only the reading but also the other arts are very important, Ottavio Costa, actor and voice doubler, read aloud his reduction from *Moby Dick*, an amazing adventure novel

about the fight between captain Achab and the white whale. Costa succeeded in charming the audience of children and adults, that are still able to wonder by books and reading.

The workshop “Poetry and fairytale make us free” has brought to the fairytale dimension not only the children but also their parents, that decided to follow Umberto Eco’s advice, mentioned by the foreign delegations: *“People who don’t read will have lived just one life when they are 70 years old. People who read will have lived 5000 years: they were when Cain killed Abel when Renzo married Lucia when Leopardi admired the infinite because reading is an 'Immortality backward.’”*

At last this international initiative combined the transnational mobility of works and audience development, through different forms of art. Creative labs, acting and painting corners, music, but also drawings, spot and short stories made by children, are the proof of the multicultural dimension of the Festival. The workshop “The magic of reading aloud” by Ottavio Costa, that involved the Mental Health Department of Asl Salerno, demonstrated that there are many barriers that can be demolished by reading. The second day stopped with the piano concert by the master Aldo D’Angiò.

The last day, 14th of May, during the meeting “To create by writing and to write by creating” authors and teachers talked about their works and some scholastic projects. The festival came to an end with “The magic of fairytale”, a workshop about folk tale and therapeutic narrative (*Lo cunto de li cunti*) by the coordinator of the project, Giuseppe Errico.

In short, “All Books are Important” has been a festival devoted to all the people who love to wonder with a book and art.