To Dr. Carlo Gentile
Martin-Buber-Institut für Judaistik
Universität zu Köln
Albertus-Magnus-Platz
50923 Köln

Marzabotto, 19.10.2020

Object:

Project “Die Massaker im besetzten Italien (1943–45) in der Erinnerung der Täter”
Progetto “Le stragi nell’Italia occupata 1943-1945 nella memoria dei loro autori”

Dear Dr. Gentile, as discussed by telephone, we have prepared a quote for the Project “Die Massaker im besetzten Italien (1943–45) in der Erinnerung der Täter”, as you requested. Here you will find the detailed description of our proposal to implement the action, as well as the costs that have been calculated for each individual part of the action.

The project "The Massacres in Occupied Italy 1943-1945 in the Memory of the Perpetrators" is directed at developing multimedia-based, interactive resources in cooperation with specialists in the fields of history didactics, public history and perpetrator research to be used as didactic tools for interactive projects in youth work and education. The targets are primarily schools, exhibitions, and installations in memorials and museums both in Italy and in Germany.

The Peace School Foundation of Monte Sole, created in 2002, has its registered office and operating facilities in the Historical Park of Monte Sole, founded in 1989 by a law of the Emilia Romagna Region. Its aim is to promote training and peace education projects, non-violent conflict resolution, respect of human rights, for a peaceful living together among different people and cultures, for a society without xenophobia, racism and any other kind of violence towards human beings and their environment.

Monte Sole is a triangle of hills, approximately 10 miles south of Bologna, between the valley of the river Setta and the river Reno. Today around 60% of the territory are covered by woods and the rest has been turned into meadows, pastures and, in small part, is also used for agriculture. The way it looks today is just a pale trace of what used to be there at the end of the Second World War, where houses and little villages were spread all around.

FONDAZIONE SCUOLA DI PACE DI MONTE SOLE
via S.Martino 25 40043 Marzabotto (Bologna) Italia
Tel. e Fax: 0039051931574
C.F. 91229010375
info@montesole.org
www.montesole.org

The silence and the peacefulness of this seemingly untouched place is the result of a terrible violence, a violence that is testified by, by the ruins one can find there, a sign of what happened during the Second World War.
Between the middle and the end of September 1944, the command of the 16th armoured grenadier division of the SS decided for a military operation for the "destruction of the partisan groups and the cleansing of the adversarial territory". This operation, consigned to the command of Major Walter Reder, took place between September 29th and October 5th 1944. The entire area was surrounded by about 1000 soldiers, among them members of the Italian Republican National Guard. Divided into four platoons, they combed through the entire area from the north, south, east and west. They burned the houses and killed the animals as well as the people. The results after 7 days of the massacre were 770 victims, of whom 216 were children, 142 over-60-year-olds and 316 women. The massacre happened in 115 different places: villages, houses, churches.
The massacre of Monte Sole – the biggest Nazi massacre of civilians in Western Europe during WWII - was not a reprisal, but a combing through military operation that was meant to end in a massacre. This was part of a strategy widely applied in 1944 and 1945 by the Nazi army in Italy. This strategy, aimed at terrorizing the civil population, in order to eventually eliminate the formation of any form of resistance and the dispersion of existing resistance groups, is also known as "terror domination".

Starting from a historiographical reflection around those facts and from the knowledge of the mechanisms of violence that made them possible, through the memory of who was there and of the place itself as a silent guardian of its past, activities of the Peace School are developed today:

- Tailored educational and training experiences for students and teachers of schools of all levels, for groups of young people and group of adults, for professionals.
- Interactive workshops, even residential, of reflection around the question: how can Monte Sole speak to the present time? How can we go from the often rhetorical *Never Again* to the incessantly question *Why Still*? The workshops we offer are not "turnkey" packages but are focused on people, their needs and their goals.
- International residential camps (in Italy and abroad). Educational experiences to allow and encourage discussions and dialogue between distant and different young people, in situations of conflict or post-conflict and/or grappling with the construction of their future cohabitation space.
- Research. The Peace School is involved in oral history projects about the elaboration of memories (poetics and policies of memory) and their possible use in an educational perspective, as well as in research paths on participatory educational methodologies.
- Hospitality. Peace School also means managing a democratic space for meetings between institutions, associations and people interested in promoting peace: hospitality for several days for civil society groups who want to share a piece of their road and their reflections with us.

Within its activities project, the Peace School is particularly focused on a peculiar educational approach.
The era of the witness triumphs in schools and politics: witnesses are not only asked to tell their story, but they are entrusted with the task of moralizing. However, the evidence shows that to tell the horror is not enough to vaccinate against the horror, to blame it does not stop it from repeating itself. The historian Marc Bloch said that *the mania of judgment is the diabolical enemy of history*, but it certainly is the same for education.

And it is for the reason that it is not possible to delegate the role of the historian or the educator to witnesses. If the anxiety of dehumanizing the perpetrator by those who have suffered violence is understandable, the same anxiety may betray our consolatory need to remove evil from ourselves.
It makes very little sense to educate on a place of memory if you do not overcome the "mania of judgment". And education, therefore, can not rely solely on witnesses but a mediator is needed, a person who is able to descend into the "grey area", a professional who knows how to investigate the genealogy of violence, the multi-causality of factors that made it possible.

In this respect, the research lead and conducted by Carlo Gentile and the group working with him is of the highest interest for the Peace School.
It is notable that the cooperation of the Peace School with Dr. Carlo Gentile started officially in 2014 when he was involved in an international conference (also financed by the German-Italian Fund for the Future of the *Auswärtiges Amt* of the Federal Republic of Germany) titled "The place, the victims, the perpetrators. We. Seventy years after the massacres of Monte Sole". Since then, many seminar, training and exchanges took place between him and the Peace School staff of experts and educators.

The possible cooperation for this project seems then to be only the most recent possibility to deepen and try to answer to the question "How was it possible?"
Many actions are foreseen to reach this goal:

1. Designing and organisation of a series of public seminars under the general frame "BETWEEN STORIES AND SILENCES OF THOSE WHO WERE THERE. New generations facing the responsibilities of the Täter and the traumas of the victims" in order to reach a greater audience than the circle of experts;
    1. Reporting and analysis of the seminars results
2. Analysis of the materials found and researched by Dr. Gentile team in order to
    1. Design a series of training workshops for educators and experts from other places of memory in Italy
    2. Design a series of training workshops for teachers to make them able to use properly the materials in their everyday work with students
    3. Design new workshop model to be offered to students, social organisation members, citizens coming to visit Monte Sole

3. Implementing a dedicated section of the Peace School website (www.montesole.org) in Italian, English and German to offer a source of information for teachers and educators with project materials elaborations
4. Promoting the project findings on Peace School communication channels (dissemination): newsletters, Facebook pages, article on experts websites.

The Peace School experts involved in this cooperation are:
Elena Monicelli, Coordinator, email: elenamonicelli@montesole.org
Educators and Trainers:
Elena Bergonzini, email: elenabergonzini@montesole.org
Stefano Merzi, email: stefanomerzi@montesole.org
Maria Elena Rossi, email: mariaelenarossi@montesole.org
Vilmer Venturi Degli Esposti, email: vilmerventuri@montesole.org

Do not hesitate to contact me in case of need.
Best regards,
Elena Monicelli
Coordinator