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“Die Massaker im besetzten Italien (1943–45) in der Erinnerung der Täter
Le stragi nell’Italia occupata 1943-1945nella memoria dei loro autori”
Project D-76509-Z-189-142004000
Narrative and financial report

Working with Dr. Gentile and his team of researchers for the last 2 years has been an extremely enriching experience. The main reason is certainly linked to the fact that their accurate research and subsequent sharing of the results about the WWII crimes perpetrators enlightened not only the historical dimension but also hugely contributed to enrich the anthropological one.
In the Peace School perspective this is one of the most important aspect because our methodology is based on the idea that the knowledge of the historical processes, events, and protagonists of what happened in 1944 serves as a stimulus for a deep reflection on the mechanisms that led to

those events. In other words, we think that the role of education is to transform then the “duty of memory” rhetoric into a problematic “work on memory” [T. Todorov], using the memories of Monte Sole and their emotional load in order to try to rebuild the historical and anthropological context that formed the perpetrators' framework. It means, building a genealogy of violence that investigates the multiple range of factors that led those people to act with that violence.
Our analysis in this perspective shows us that propaganda and advertisements, mass media, stereotypes, bureaucracy and even education (among others) are mechanisms that might lead to discrimination, exclusion, racism, dehumanization, all of them help to create an "us" and "them" vision which enables violence. Inquiring deeply into these mechanisms of the human actions and making people aware of their existence in everyone and in everyday life, can be the first two steps to start an effective and not superficial action against racism, discrimination, xenophobia. Many times the habit to focus on the "never again" claim risks to transform the work of memory in an empty ritual.
To continue the cooperation in this project seems then to be only the most recent possibility to deepen and try to answer to the question “How was it possible?”
More and more, every discourse is based on a binary scale expelling the level of complexity that is central when analysing autocratic or dictatorial regimes, when dealing with war, hierarchies, orders, power conflict mixing up with personal fears, ambitions, scales of values. Deep historical research can feed a less disruptive way of reading the present and can truly promote a culture of peace.

Different actions were put in action in order to exploit the important findings of the research.

1. Designing and organising workshops with high school students.

The Peace School Foundation usually works with students of every grade of school but, due to the complexity of the subject, the decision was to present and develop it only with high school students.

- March 15th: 46 students from the last year of the “Roiti” high school (Ferrara). It’s been many years we work together and together with archiviozeta offering the workshop “The Grey Zone” developed starting from the Primo Levi book “The Drowned and the Saved”. It seemed the perfect environment to start looking into the past with awareness and looking into the authors’ perspective with attention.
- April 5th: 44 students from the final year of the “Righi” high school (Bologna). In this case the cooperation with the school was new but the history teachers who decided to come to Monte Sole agreed immediately to develop classes about Hannah Arend and her “Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil” together with Christopher Browning “Ordinary Men” before facing the workshop on the site.
- April 17th and 18th: the high schools situated in the XI Municipality of Rome joint to build a project called “Memoranda” and a selection of 40 volunteer students take part to a study trip in some memory places like the Fossoli former Concentration Camp and Monte Sole Park. They overnight and we had the chances to work with them fro 2 intensive days about the issue “how was it possible?”

- April 19th: 49 students from high school "Roiti" (Ferrara)
- Other 3 days of workshop were planned in the second half of May with last year high school students from the "Fracastoro" institute in Verona. Unfortunately, the disaster of the flooding prevent this last experiences to be realized.

2. Designing and organising workshops for teachers and educators.

The first idea was to organised a residential seminar in two parts for teachers and we tried to organise it for the month of April but the feedback were of great interests but lack of possibilities to take part in it. We decided then to extend the opportunity of training to different target groups of educators, experts and activists.

- April 6th: one day seminar for educators for Scout Groups in Modena province
- April 16th: one day seminar for activists and volunteer educators from the National Association of Italian Partisans (ANPI) from the city of Bergamo
- May 28th: one day seminar for activists and volunteer educators from the National Association of Italian Partisans (ANPI) from the city of Verona
- October 7th and 8th: intensive seminar for a group of historical volunteer guides to be from the association "Percorsi di Pace" of Casalecchio di Reno (Bo)
- October 13th: in the context of the project R-Educ (https://progeu.regione.emilia-romagna.it/it/r-educ) lead by Emilia-Romagna region, one day of seminar was designed for 40 regional high civil servants dealing with citizenship education (https://progeu.regione.emilia-romagna.it/it/r-educ/notizie/progetto-r-educ-avviato-il-corso-di-alta-formazione-per-funzionari).

3. Designing and organising a student exchange: "Ambivalenz der Gewalterfahrung/Ambivalenz der Erinnerung. Der deutsch-italienische Krieg 1943-1945 und seine Erinnerung"

The residential seminar was realized in September, from the 9th to the 16th.

Up to 23 participants (10 German students from the course from the Public History at the Historisches Institut der Universität zu Köln; 11 Italian students from history courses and doctorate at Bologna University and Pisa University; 2 Austrian students, active in the Verein Gedekdienst from Vienna) lived in Monte Sole and deepened different subjects: World War II in Italy, war crimes, resistance, link between private and public memory, dealing with private and public trauma, memory and future, memory and citizenship.

The program (see the table) was designed with non-formal activities, group work, debates, meeting with scholars and relatives of the victims, trip to meaningful places.

		Morning	Afternoon	Evening
0	**09.09**		Arrivals	
1	**10.09**	Arrivals	Getting to know each other and building the working atmosphere for the group	
2	**11.09**	Workshop: What does it mean “Memory” in the private space, in the community one and in the public one?	Workshop on the Monte Sole Massacres site	
3	**12.09**	Follow up of the visit to the Monte Sole site and workshop of reflection: “Why Memory?”	Study visit to the Futa Pass Cemetery: - individual exploring the place - history of the place by Dr. Elena Pirazzoli and Dr. Carlo Gentile - readings by archiviozeta - meeting with archiviozeta about art and memory	
4	**13.09**	Follow up of the Futa Cemetery visit Presenting the portal: https://www.ns-taeter-italien.org/de/ Introducing the subject Täterforschung, discussing the concept of trauma for victims families and perpetrators families	Meeting with Graziano Lazzeri – Victims of Sant’Anna Massacre Association Gian Luca Luccarini – Relatives of the victims of Monte Sole Massacre Association	
5	**14.09**	Study visit to Vado “Spazio Stella Rossa” (Museuom of	Discussing the Catholic perspective on Monte	Johann Rosenboom

		Morning	Afternoon	Evening
		the resistance in Monte Sole) Study visit to Marzabotto Sacrarium and Interpretation Center	Sole Massacres: meeting with Angelo Baldassarri	exhibition vernisage in Grizzana Morandi
6	**15.09**	Discussing the profession and the role of historians in society: meeting Dr.Toni Rovatti and Dr.Carlo Gentile	Follow up and evaluation of the week	
7	**16.09**	Departures		

4. Dissemination. From January to December an average of 3.5 hours per month are devoted to meetings (like the one in Rome, at the Goethe Institute on May 4th), newsletters, Facebook pages, Instagram posts to promote the project towards Peace School stakeholders and public.

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