

## SHORT CURRICULUM OF THE ASSOCIATION

Established at the end of 2001 by a group of volunteers who have been running the city youth information centre of Palermo, “Associazione InformaGiovani” is nowadays the coordinating body of an informal European network of several organizations aimed to promote volunteering as a tool for social action. The network has members in 19 different European countries and is recognized by the EACEA (Executive Agency for Culture, Education and Audiovisual) of the European Commission in the frame of Erasmus+ Programme Key Action 3.

### AIMS

The association has the following aims:

- foster and promote human and civil rights, with particular attention to child and youth rights, as endorsed by the UN Convention for children rights;
- promote the right to information and participation of youth, as endorsed by the European Chart for youth information;
- defending social and collective rights with particular attention to youth rights;
- promote local and international volunteering as a tool for social change and social inclusion.

### FIELD OF ACTION

The association had developed two main fields of action:

#### 1. Information activities.

The association runs information activities through its media tools. In particular, we manage youth information database for Italian users and several newsletters to spread information on youth work, volunteering and transnational mobilities, all over Europe (around 8.500 NGOs and institutions, and more than 25.000 individual subscribers in Europe). Moreover the association manages three national/thematic Facebook pages with a total of around 85.000 followers, Youtube Channel with more than 45.000 viewers, and Twitter account.

In addition, IG organises info-days/workshops open-to-public, and meeting in local youth centres and schools to promote volunteering, mobility opportunities and active citizenship.

Since July 2017, we have been assigned by the Municipality of Palermo a property confiscated from mafia, where we are currently managing the front-office of youth information centre.

#### 2. Social volunteering activities

The association implements regularly activities of social inclusion and rehabilitation of young people who are facing or are at risk of social exclusion, in particular NEET, young unemployed, young migrants,



young people with sensorial disabilities, and young offender in probation period (in close cooperation with Department of Juvenile Justice).

Focusing on youth and personal development of youngsters through international voluntary activities and non-formal education, InformaGiovani has been involving volunteers in activities with great social value aimed at enhancing the role of volunteering as a tool for social inclusion, and at developing youngsters' personal competencies and sense of belonging to the European and local community.

Every year we organise about 15 international workcamps in Italy and have established bilateral cooperation agreements with more than 50 voluntary service organizations worldwide to involve our volunteers abroad.

Since 2006 we organize youth exchanges, seminars and trainings for youth and social leaders with the aim to empower social actors on volunteering, media literacy, active participation in society.

Since 2009 InformaGiovani is accredited as sending, hosting, and coordinating organisation for the European Voluntary Service, and since then has developed extensive experience by implementing and/or coordinating EVS projects by sending and hosting more than 50 volunteers in the frame of both short and long term projects.

Along the years, the association have been running more than 80 international projects related to youth and youth workers mobility, social inclusion and volunteering. In particular, we have been implementing:

- in Italy and other European countries, training course and seminars targeted at youth workers, social workers, and professionals in the youth field, on international volunteering as a tool for social change and development;
- series of youth exchanges, European Voluntary Service, trainings, seminars for exchanging good practices in the frame of "Youth in Action" (Action "3.2 Youth in the World", "4.3 – Training and networking in youth work and youth organisations", and "4.6 – Partnership"), Daphne III (aimed at social inclusion of young offenders), "Europe for citizens", and "Erasmus Plus" programme (Key Action 1 – Mobility of Youth and youth workers, Key Action 2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, Capacity Building in the field of Youth, Key Action 3 – Support for Policy Reform, Civil Society Cooperation: Youth)
- in cooperation with Juvenile Justice Department, initiatives aimed at supporting social inclusion of minors and young adults in probation period, through local volunteering activities and international mobilities

## **PUBLICATION**

As a result of collaboration with NGOs, institution (i.e. Department of Juvenile Justice), and universities, publication had been made. Among them:

- multimedia guide "European citizens – Guide to the international programmes in the field of culture, training, job, human rights and participation of youth"
- handbook on human rights ([https://issuu.com/inforgiovani/docs/hr\\_course](https://issuu.com/inforgiovani/docs/hr_course)) in the frame of training course for youth and youth workers on human rights supported by the Council of Europe;

- model of work with young offenders to include them in international mobility and to make them get an education, personal and social benefit from joining such activities (<https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toolbox/tool/opening-doors-youth-exchanges-for-social-inclusion.1267/>)
- handbook with theoretical and practical ideas on how to make Non-Formal learning practices recognised in the frame of Formal Educational system (<https://issuu.com/inforgiovani/docs/tobeof>) supported by EACEA;

In May 2014, InformaGiovani campaign “Lascia il segno” (Leave your sign) to promote youth participation to European Elections, was awarded with the **Medal of the President of Italian Republic** “for its relevant social and democratic role”.

### **NETWORKING**

The Association is member of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for dialogue between cultures, and is partner of Alliance network of European Voluntary Service Organisations.