L’Europa tra passato e presente per guardare al futuro – WAI Event 3: Images of Europe

And in this manner it happened. Our little John passed through the wall exactly like Alice passed through the mirror and, jutted out from it on the other side, broadened his own arms and bowed, like a gymnast on balance beam.

(Jiří Kratochvíl, Giovannino e il re, in 1989. dieci storie per attraversare i muri, Roma, Orecchio Acerbo, 2009)

On the 20th and on the 21st of November 2015 the activities of the “Walls and Integration: images of Europe building” (WAI) project, financed within the Europe for citizens program, will officially begin. The head institution of this project is the Municipality of Macerata and the local partners are the cultural association Osservatorio di Genere (Gender of Observatory), the scientific coordinator, and the ITC “Gentili”, a school of Macerata.

The meeting of the 20th of November will be aimed to define ways and organizational strategies for the realization of the activities that will accomplished by all the European and Italian partners – Italy, Ireland, Germany, Lithuania, Hungary and Spain – within the 4th of April 2017.

The workshop that will take place on the 21st of November at 9:00 am in the auditorium of the ITC “Gentili” institute of Macerata will represent the public launch of the WAI project. Experts and scholars will confront each other with the purpose of stimulating the collective memory, of reflecting on the ideological divisions of the past, of proposing helpful keywords to comprehend the historical, political and social changes that led to the formation of contemporary Europe, focusing in particular on the period of time starting from the symbolic birth of Europe (1950) up to the first political elections of the European Parliament (1979).

The keywords of the workshop are the same that have inspired the project: WALLS, as real and ideological walls that cause political, cultural and habits divisions; INTEGRATION, considered as a long way in the direction of an inclusive Europe; BUILDING, considered as a developing process. Narration of walls of past, the strategies of crossing and passing of physical and ideological barriers, that have facilitated the construction of Europe, as we know at the present time, will open windows on the contemporary age, to consult present and to understand criticality and vulnerability of an integration process that yet finds difficult to be fully completed.

The workshop, open wide to all the citizenry, is manly directed to the youth: actually the students of some high-schools of Macerata, that joined the WAI project, will participate. These schools will be the protagonists of the didactic activities in the city of Macerata from January to May 2016.

During this event, Clio Zancanella, a graphic designer of Trento, will be awarded. She is the winner of the contest of ideas launched by the Municipality of Macerata for the realization of the logo of the project.

Thus, on the 21st of November will begin the path of the WAI throughout Europe: from Macerata, it will move towards Padua and Trento, it will fly to Budapest, to Vilnius, to Münster, then it will leave the ground and will land at Cork to close finally in Oviedo, in the beautiful land of the
The partners of the WAI will accomplish it. They will be travel companions in this adventure with the Municipality of Macerata: the Gender Observatory, a cultural association of Macerata, that has contributed to creation of the network and to scientific coordination, the high-school “Istituto Tecnico Commerciale Gentili” of Macerata, the University of Trento, the University of Padua, the University of Oviedo (Spain), the SUATEA, a Spanish trade union, the Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania), the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität (Germany), the University College of Cork (Ireland) and the university of Budapest (Hungary). All these institutions get expertise in design and management of European projects.

Photographic exhibitions, seminars, workshops, meetings with students in schools: the WAI will be all this and much more.

Further information on the event and on the WAI project (prog. n. 562858-CITIZ-1-2015-1-IT-CITIZ-REMEM, financed within the Europe for citizens) are available on the web site dedicated to the project: http://www.wallsandintegration.com. It has been realized by the students of the ITC “Gentili” institute under the supervision of Professor Letizia Catarini in collaboration with the experts of the Gender Observatory.