

fondazione
alta mane italia

A n n u a l R e p o r t

2020



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Introduction

In 2020, the Alta Mane Italia Foundation (AMI) focused on managing the state of emergency linked to the global pandemic working in compliance with government regulations while ensuring the continuity of activities through smart working and ensuring the best possible support to partner organizations.

In line with its mission, this support took the form not only of financial contributions but also of close collaboration with partners in implementing activities and taking decisions to limit the consequences of a possible suspension of those programmes with vulnerable children and young people already started, and in seeking alternative solutions to overcome the limitations because of the nationwide emergency.

The pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerability of fragile people and has made the situation even more difficult for the organizations that support them. Donors could not remain impassive, and many have mobilized by publicly supporting non-profit organizations through listening, partnership, and flexibility. AMI embraced these values, already inherent in its nature and operations, and increased flexibility, listening, and true collaboration. Flexibility translated into project adaptation, changes in the timing and method of carrying out activities, budget changes, and the extension of deadlines. Listening and partnership took a concrete form in the creation of a blog and the organization of zoom meetings with all partner organizations.

The blog, launched by AMI on its website, has been a fundamental tool for collecting and distributing the initiatives undertaken by partners to tackle the difficulties related to the health crisis. A total of 33 comments were posted from associations reporting fears, complications and doubts and also innovative ideas and strategies activated by AMI's partner associations in response to the consequences of the pandemic on projects and the beneficiaries themselves.

In order to continue analysing and reflecting on these issues and to disseminate these 'stories of resilience', AMI subsequently organized a Zoom meeting to encourage hands-on discussion among operators, enabling them to talk to each other and assess how best to reorganize themselves in anticipation of a prolonged pandemic situation. This enabled them to learn from each other, and possible networks and collaborations are currently being developed.

Today, more than ever, we believe it is essential to focus on networks and collaboration, stimulate discussion and sharing, encourage synergies and coordination, and foster the dissemination of good practices and knowledge. Teamwork is necessary if we want to achieve, together with our partners, the Foundation's aim to improve people's living conditions, especially those of very vulnerable children and young people.



01 - identity of the foundation

The Foundation

Fondazione Alta Mane Italia (AMI) was established by Fondazione Alta Mane Geneva (AMG) in October 2010. It began operations in Italy in June 2011 after obtaining legal recognition from the Rome Prefecture in April 2011 and being inscribed in the Register of Corporate Bodies.

The Foundation's main objective is to support "projects aimed at improving the conditions or health of people, individuals or groups of individuals, as well as youth, living in situations of serious crisis, extreme social difficulty or psycho-social suffering, supporting their development and social, physical, recreational, emotional and psychological well-being, particularly through experiences and initiatives tied to art and its applications in the social and medical sphere" (article 2.1 of the Statutes).

In its first nine years of operation, AMI has progressively extended its activities to supporting underprivileged youths, establishing a fruitful dialogue with its partners. The Foundation's partners are mainly associations, cooperatives or NGOs committed to supporting, through initiatives and artistic workshops, the most marginalized young people, or those suffering from serious illnesses.

Artistic activities are usually part of broader and more structured programmes set up primarily within youth shelters, prisons and rehabilitation or therapeutic centres aimed at the social inclusion and integration of young people or, in cases of hospitalization, for their care or rehabilitation.

Besides art workshops, the Foundation also promotes exchanges between partner organizations, confident that exchanging experiences is a source of mutual enrichment, consolidation and improvement of artistic practices. The Foundation also encourages disseminating experiences through research, evaluation and awareness-raising activities to

stimulate the application of good practices, facilitate partners' prospects for future self-sustainability and increase the level of awareness of these issues.

Partners are chosen on the basis of priority actions identified periodically by the Foundation and in accordance with extremely rigorous criteria concerning the transparency and managerial reliability of the applicant organization, the effectiveness and seriousness of the project, the use of specially adapted methodologies and codes of conduct and in general the impact of these initiatives on beneficiaries.

AMI actively follows the progress of supported projects and endeavours to meet its partners' needs and promotes the exchange of experience for mutual growth, with careful monitoring of initiatives, including meetings and on-site missions. This approach requires a great deal of professional commitment from staff. Therefore, to make the Foundation's action more effective on behalf of its partners and ensure the best use of its human and financial resources, only a few proposals are submitted each year for examination by the Board.

**ALTA MANE SUPRAQUE TUOS EXURGE DOLORES INFRAGILEMQUE ANIMUM,
QUOD POTES, USQUE TENE.**

STAND TALL AND FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN, RISE ABOVE YOUR PAIN AND WEAKNESSES

Ovidius, Consolatio ad Liviam

Why art?

Music is magic; it is not a coincidence that conductors have wands just like magicians - Ezio Bosso

How can one survive the pain tied to suffering from extreme forms of social marginalization, or the isolation that characterizes serious disabilities and psychological fragility? When it comes to suffering connected to illness, how does one recognize that glimmer of resistance and vitality present in the young? How to give it breath, develop it and make it last?

Many of the professionals and organizations that AMI supports in Italy and worldwide – in different social and cultural contexts but all bound by the same red line of youthful disadvantage and suffering in their careful and dedicated work – provide the answer: art. The artistic experience helps people find the strength to react to situations of extreme disadvantage; art enables them to grasp vitality, desire, beauty and freedom and gives them form and space. Art allows people to express and communicate experiences that are impossible to put into words, enabling a channel of communication and exchange with others, often seriously compromised.

Non-verbal artistic language opens new channels of communication with one's surroundings, alleviating the isolation that accompanies suffering and social marginalization, creating pathways of communication that involve everybody (beneficiaries, family members, operators and the community).

The Foundation works in areas where there is great hardship, where difficulties or suffering can wipe out the prospects of children and young people and where art offers an opportunity to resist marginalization and brings inner breathing space and resources. It is a means of escape from oppression and pain, oriented towards life and the future of young people.

Furthermore, artistic performance also allows those living at the margins the visibility they are often denied. It enables them to be applauded and seen in a positive and inclusive role of beauty and dignity, not in crime, violence, or disability.

The Foundation's decision to support projects linked to art lies with the conviction that a strong synergy exists between artistic experience and the therapeutic/rehabilitative process and social reintegration of people suffering from serious pathologies or experiencing severe marginalization. The artistic experience helps develop self-esteem, self-confidence, and a sense of identity by stimulating people's creativity and expressiveness. In many cases, it can mobilize deep and healing emotions and energies and trigger important personal and collective change processes.



The Mission

AMI supports projects aimed at improving people's living or health conditions, particularly children and youth, in situations of extreme social exclusion or psycho-physical suffering, by using artistic experience to foster their recovery and inclusion.

Testimonials



"These projects are valuable because they demonstrate how dialogue without conflict is indeed possible. Creation, dialogue and confrontation enable us to empathize, remove fear and force us to question ourselves. In times like these, it is important to keep doors open and to be open-minded. The best response to violence and intolerance is to continue to look after oneself."

Artists of the Balletto Civile responsible for the intensive Teatro Magro workshop

"And I think the most beautiful compliment is that everyone present saw actors; they didn't see migrants doing theatre. A guy from the Sapienza University or a colored lady had nothing to do with it anymore. There was a beautiful heart, I think."

Antonio Viganò – Leader of the theatre workshop 'The laughing shadow', Asinitas



"A: Yes, and so I realized that in this group I could see, I don't know I could see.... It was like a miniature model of a bigger society, the ideal society model for me.

G: Because you all felt in some way equal?

A: Yes, exactly, in so many ways. There was a common thing, a connection. The perfect connection of people should be like in the theatre, like in this workshop we did.

H. corsista - A foreigner of Asinitas

"Ciro Urzillo, 18 years old, a boy who is serving a very long sentence, confides to me that during interviews with his mother, he never manages to express the feelings he has for her. He is very reserved and cannot express himself as he would like to. A few months ago, he and Ali wrote the lyrics to a song that he would like to dedicate to his mother:



*"Each of my thoughts speaks of you,
you who defends me even if I am wrong.
We are far away, but you are always present
You are a fixed thought in my mind
Mother, I would give you my life
because you are paying for my mistakes
and you don't deserve it. I love you."*

The ability of this boy to translate feelings into rhymes and images is very emotional: "without you, I feel like a child knocking on the door, and no one is home." Thanks to his improved behaviour since starting the music workshop, he got a special permit from management during the holiday period. For us, this is the most significant success of the entire year."

S.Caiazzo, trainer CO2 – Final report 2019



BABEL, Palermo - Italy

The 5 areas of intervention





Workshops in the context of social exclusion

AMI supports projects and organizations that use art in the context of social exclusion to benefit young people facing situations of extreme marginalization.



Workshops in therapeutic contexts

AMI supports projects and organizations that use art in therapeutic contexts to benefit young people facing situations of extreme physical and psychological hardship.



Awareness raising

For the benefit of its partners, AMI supports and implements communication and awareness-raising activities on the transformative power of art among disadvantaged youth.



Exchanges

AMI promotes exchanges between operators and beneficiaries of partner projects.



Research and development

AMI promotes and supports partner organizations in their research, impact assessments, and related publications and conferences.

A breakdown of the 5 areas of intervention



Art and social inclusion workshops

Target 1

Young people and children in conditions of social hardship (living in run-down areas, migrants, second-generation immigrants, young prisoners and children of prisoners, ethnic Roma, street children).

Aims of the workshops

- To create an alternative to marginality and life on the streets
- To promote opportunities for coming together, socialization and intercultural integration
- To encourage the young generations to participate actively in culture
- To spread the principles of legality, civil coexistence and solidarity
- To offer alternatives involving beauty, legality and openness to the future
- To create moments of encounter, dialogue, exchange and growth for young people from various parts of the world
- To facilitate free self-expression and the narration of personal life stories, enabling the young people to process them
- To promote opportunities for sharing one's own experience and cultural references with other young people

Target 2

Young people and children in conditions of physical and psychological hardship (the physically impaired, young people with mental/cognitive/sensory disorders, or who are suffering the after-effects of coma).

Aims of the artistic workshops

- To create opportunities for integration between young people on the margins of society
- To stimulate self-expression and nurture the disabled person's creativity
- To promote rehabilitation processes for people with disabilities or severe trauma
- To nurture the skills and resources of the excluded person
- To restore dignity and identity to people with impairments



Art and health workshops

Target

Children and adolescents who have been admitted to hospital paediatric units/day hospital/therapeutic communities.

Aims of the artistic workshops

- To stimulate the children's creativity and imagination in order to make diagnosis and treatment as untraumatic as possible for them and their families
- To give children and young people a chance to experience the time spent in hospital as an opportunity for learning and for receiving treatment
- To stimulate the young patients to express their emotions and confront the fear linked to treatment creatively and positively
- To reinforce the young patients' decision-making, expressive and creative skills
- To foster the ability to generate dreams, thoughts and prospects
- To promote socialization among the children and young people



Awareness raising

Activities

Tours, shows, festivals, videos produced by AMI mainly related to partners' projects

Aims of the activities

To bring about a change in perception and social conscience regarding specific issues of exclusion

To give the young beneficiaries of the partner projects a chance to measure themselves against an audience in order to grow artistically and develop a personal identity

To give greater visibility to partners' initiatives

To promote new and inclusive artistic models to the general public

To help partner organizations publicize and promote their work, methodologies and results

To sensitize individuals and public and private institutions concerning the potential of artistic experience in highly critical contexts

To promote knowledge and debate on issues of exclusion within dedicated circuits (festivals, shows, prizes, social networks)



Exchanges

Target

Operators in contexts of social inclusion, operators in therapeutic contexts. Sometimes the exchanges also include the young beneficiaries of partner projects as well as operators.

Aims of the exchanges

To stimulate a comparison of the values of partner organizations and the exchange of methodologies and good practices

To promote the sharing of experience to improve the quality of social inclusion, also by visiting the reciprocal project sites

To expand operators' individual skills as a result of the training implicit in the exchanges

To share difficulties and solutions in order to grow together and promote cooperation between operators

To allow partners to observe their projects from a new perspective and increase their awareness of the work they do

To promote the networking of experience acquired in different contexts



Research and development

Activities

Research, publications, conferences, impact assessments

Aims of the activities

To promote research into issues relating to art and psycho-physical and social suffering

To encourage the systemization of the most relevant experience

To identify the most effective methodologies and project experiences through impact assessments

To disseminate best practices to benefit an increasing number of beneficiaries and of the entire AMI 'ecosystem', which is the sector of art and disadvantage specific to AMI

To provide partner organizations with the tools to evaluate their activities and improve their services

To gather feedback from partners to evaluate and improve the work of AMI and also to account for how AMI's resources are used and the objectives reached

AMI stakeholders



AMI has numerous stakeholders: operators of partner organizations and the young project beneficiaries, families, health workers/educators/social workers, public and private institutions, other donors, the performance- and video-viewing public. These are all recipients or beneficiaries of the Foundation's support or individuals or organizations that are involved or implicated in its institutional activities.

AMI's own staff and service providers and all who assist in accomplishing its mission are also stakeholders.

02 - organizational and operating model

Governance & Staff as at 31/12/2019

Foundation Board

- Cataldo D'Andria – President
- Stefano Mazzi – Vice President
- Alexandra Gelpke – Board member
- Franci Maria Annie Wilson-Buemi – Board member

College of Auditors

- Marco Tani – President
- Jacopo Ruscio – Member
- Sara Baldassari – Member

Project area

- Francesca Nazzaro - Project director and coordinator
- Laura Danieli – Project Manager
- Costanza Mammola – Project Administrative Assistant
- Annalisa Sutura – Project Manager - Strategy

Management and administration

- Roberta Giassetti – Chief Operations Officer
- Studio Cavaliere – General Accounting

Consultants

- Avv. Francesco Cappellini – Legal consulting
- Studio De Luca - Labour consulting

Visual communication

- Paola Raguzzi - Studio Pinguino

Management model

AMI'S OPERATING STRATEGY IS BASED ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL EFFICIENCY IN PURSUIT OF INNOVATION AND CREATION OF SOCIAL VALUE, ADDRESSING RESOURCES AND IDEAS TOWARDS SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.



This strategy finds expression in:

- A lean and flexible structure, aimed at maintaining an efficient relationship between the resources used and the activities carried out
- Highly professional and strongly motivated work teams
- A management model that tends towards efficiency and maximum transparency in accordance with the laws and best practices in the sector
- Ongoing research and training concerning national and international trends in philanthropy in the Foundation's areas of intervention

Selection process

WHO DO WE SUPPORT?

Non-profit organizations, NGOs, social cooperatives, associations, foundations in Italy and abroad
We do not finance profit-making organizations or organizations pursuing political or religious aims nor individuals, with the exception of scholarships for young beneficiaries of partner projects that are already supported by the Foundation

WHAT DO WE SUPPORT?

In contexts of social exclusion: long-term workshops/artistic interventions for children, adolescents and young adults

In therapeutic contexts: long-term artistic workshops for children, adolescents and young adults

Exchanges: visits to partners' project sites

Awareness raising: videos, tours, performances, festivals, mainly connected with the projects of our partners

Research and development: conferences, research and impact assessments connected with partner projects

HOW DO WE SELECT?

Selection primarily through the active search for quality projects

Evaluation of a few spontaneous applications (not through open calls)

Selection of a small number of qualified projects in order to ensure efficient and high-quality project management, given the current AMI staff

In 2020, 2% of spontaneous applications were approved

HOW DO WE FUND?

Through written agreements with partners

After the screening of activity reports and six-month and annual financial reports

By constant monitoring of activities by telephone, e-mail and Skype and through meetings and periodic project site missions

WHERE DO WE INTERVENE?

Social exclusion contexts: poverty, violence, abuse, lack of educational/cultural services, disadvantaged rural areas, outlying metropolitan areas, run-down urban areas, slums, prisons, areas characterized by urban violence

Therapeutic contexts: hospital wards, day hospitals, therapeutic communities

Selection criteria

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

Project proposals that are coherent with AMI's focus area
High artistic/pedagogical/social quality of the project proposal
Relevant professional experience of the artists/educators/operators involved
Seriousness, competence, reliability of the proponent organization, thoroughness and transparency of the information provided
In therapeutic contexts, respect for the needs of the young patients and of the individual hospital wards
High impact potential of the proposed intervention in support of the young beneficiaries

ADDED VALUE FOR SELECTION

New applications of art in degraded social contexts or complex therapeutic settings
Beneficiary groups that are particularly vulnerable, overlooked or in emergency situations
Innovative forms of artistic language and/or original methodologies
Original approach leading to a new way of looking at fragile target groups
Quality of the potential future partnership and presence of possible co-funders
Potential intervention impact assessment capacity

FURTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Degraded and disadvantaged social and/or geographical contexts that are lacking other institutional/financial support
Potential for project replication within a network
Capacity for research and to systematize experiences, potential to influence the local cultural/scientific context
Ability to sensitize institutions and the public on issues of exclusion and to trigger processes of cultural and social transformation
Approaches and methodologies that are of interest to other partners and a willingness to share them, also in view of possible exchanges

Operational procedures

ACTIVE RESEARCH

The partner selection process is characterized by an active search for excellence in the sector, in Italy

SELECTION

Organizations with consolidated experience, and also those that have recently been established and are small, are considered for selection, provided they are innovative and have a high potential for development

DISBURSEMENT

The Foundation's support to partners is aimed primarily at nurturing staff skills in order to make the quality of interventions for young people as high as possible

PARTNERSHIP/QUALIFICATION

Support to partners involves not only a financial relationship but also the creation of a genuine partnership, through a qualifying process lasting on average from 2 to 5 years, to promote possible future self-sustainability

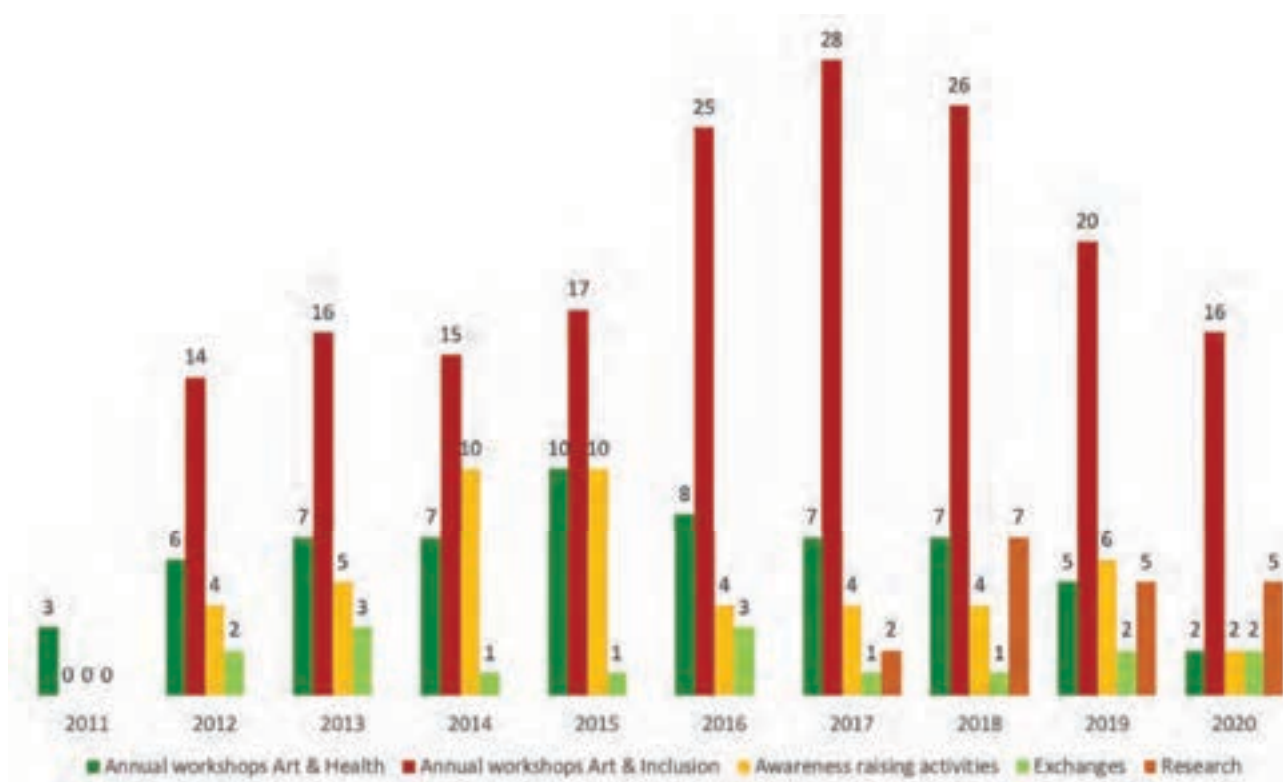
EXIT STRATEGY

Gradual exit strategy possibly shared with the partner



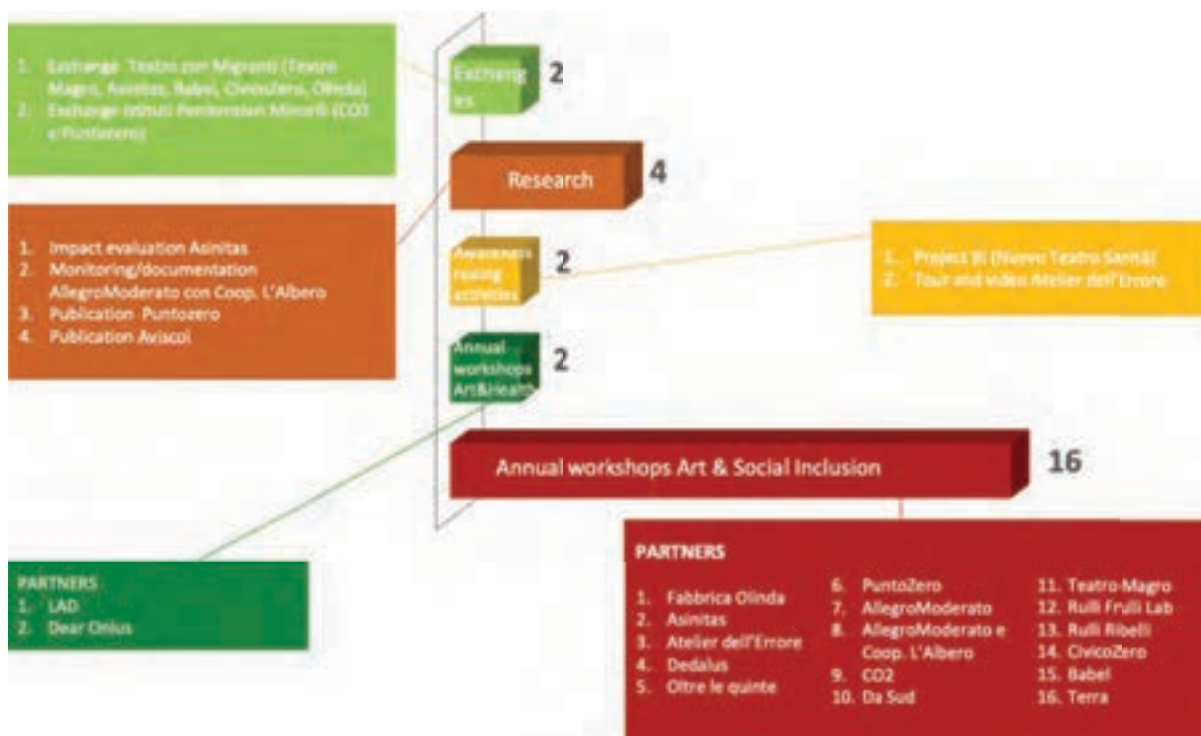
03 - activities and projects in 2020

Projects in the first 9 years of activity 2011 - 2020



322 annual projects/activities in about 9 years

26 Projects in 2020



2020 in brief

ART AND INCLUSION

Beneficiaries: 482*

ART AND HEALTH

Beneficiaries: 175*

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES: 657*

TOTAL OPERATORS: 85

PARTNERS

188

WHORKSHOP HOURS

3.916

*Number of DIRECT beneficiaries involved in the artistic workshops (based on data provided by partners). Along with direct workshop beneficiaries there are also the beneficiaries of awareness raising and exchanges that have not been counted in this table.

Map of Projects - Italy



322

TOTAL NUMBER OF YEARLY PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES MANAGED BY ALTA MANE ITALIA FROM 2011 TO 2020



alta mane semper et ubique

Focus 2020

In 2020, the spread of the Covid-19 virus shook Italy, and indeed the entire world. The consequences led to enormous repercussions for the economic, social, and political spheres and for the lives of every single one of us.

AMI immediately established contact with all its partners to verify the viability of the projects, to offer active support to the organizations, and to accompany them in the difficult phase of readjustment to the new social distancing measures required by government regulations in force. In order not to completely interrupt activities, AMI created a BLOG on its website to showcase new initiatives by partners and offer support to beneficiaries and a place to exchange views.



Some associations were forced to interrupt their project activities and postpone or prolong their projects. Some of these projects were in northern Italy, which was the worst hit at the outbreak of the pandemic. Partners shared a great deal of suffering with AMI both on an organizational level and the personal and family level of the operators and families of the children involved, such as those in AllegroModerato and Puntozero in Milan, Avisco in Brescia, Oltre le Quinte in Novara, etc.

“Meanwhile, Covid-19, the undesired, invisibly continues to unfurl, leaving a gaping void. An emptiness that does not remain empty but rather thickens with images from everywhere. Even the torrents of words, of these slow days, fade away, leaving only images. We have worked hard to exclude, control, and ultimately isolate. Only one image remains, an antidote, a cure for fear because it smells of hope”.

The antivirus from the Atelier dell'Errore, 30 March 2020, AMI BLOG

Many other associations were able to reinvent themselves by offering their activities online by streaming workshops, providing video material and recorded lessons on USB devices, and organising teleconferences on various platforms (Zoom, Skype, Messenger, Google Meet). This enabled young people to continue following workshops and laboratories via their smartphones, PCs, and tablets from their rooms or shelters, and hence keeping them in touch as much as possible with the rest of the group, which is a fundamental element in overcoming loneliness and boredom in this suspended time.

“We are currently facing an exceptional emergency that requires us to maintain physical distance, to decongest built-up areas, and to restrict interpersonal contacts. In this difficult and unprecedented context, we intend to continue to assist our beneficiaries and minors in difficulty, guaranteeing them a different kind of support, through new means”. ***CIVICONLINE - A Day with Civic, 27 March 2020, AMI BLOG***

“There would be no human action if there were no objective reality capable of provoking a response; just as there would be no human action if man were not a project.” Who knows what Master Paulo Freire would say about this current situation? He would certainly indicate the need to act in order not to break ties and leave them to the solitude and chaos of these problematic and delicate times.” Ap-Accademia Popolare dell’Antimafia e dei diritti has resumed with all the feasible programming online (daSud-P.A.M. a portata di click, 6 April 2020, AMI BLOG)

Music, theatre and painting have been precious “anti-viruses” that have helped children overcome the isolation, sense of insecurity, fear and disorientation of this terrible emergency situation.

“Music makes us feel good; it entertains us and releases positive energies inside and out. In music, the concept of time is central, it has infinite nuances of speed and mood: fast, slow, cheerful, moderate... These days we are all forced into a “suspended” time. However, let us not turn it into silence: let it rather be an opportunity to slow down, to take care of ourselves, to understand how important it is to be able to feel close to each other even when we are not physically close.” AllegroModerato c’è – saluti musicali, 30 March 2020, AMI BLOG

“Never have some lessons of the theatre been so useful as at this moment, and they must now apply to this new life that suddenly asks us to invent new habits and to ‘recalculate’ distances without being able to see the horizon.” AllegroModerato c’è - 30 March 2020, AMI BLOG

In some cases, this has proved to be a real asset, such as in Juvenile Detention Centres, where, before the pandemic, the use of PCs, tablets, USBs, or the internet was very difficult because of connection issues. Thanks to the perseverance of the work of associations that have been active in the Juvenile Detention Centres for years, such as the CCO (formerly the Co2) and Puntozero, the young inmates were able to access these resources more easily enabling the operators to maintain an active relationship with the workshop participants, stimulating their creativity through video clips and virtual meetings.

“This lockdown, not of one day, not of one week, but six, is creating unbridgeable gaps in our daily lives. Suddenly, our lives have been completely upturned, and this is very scary. Yesterday a friend of mine wrote: “I’m practically in prison,” and this reminded me of the young people I met at Cesare Beccaria and their songs in which, with very touching words, they give voice to their emotions... Perhaps, after this terrible experience, something will change... yes, maybe we will all be able to understand a little better those young people who have been deprived of the possibility of any contact and find themselves alone locked up in a cell. We have been working in the Cesare Beccaria Juvenile Detention Centre in Milan for the past twentyfive years. Since 23 February, we have been sending letters or video messages to the youngsters. We hope that soon, phone calls, or better still, video calls, will be allowed, to work, study or simply just to say hello and support each other.” Puntozero- ScrivIAMOci di Libertà, 26 March 2020, AMI BLOG





PUNTO ZERO "Khoros, Milano - Italia

activities and projects 2020

01 Art & social inclusion workshops

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02 Art & health workshops

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03 Awareness raising

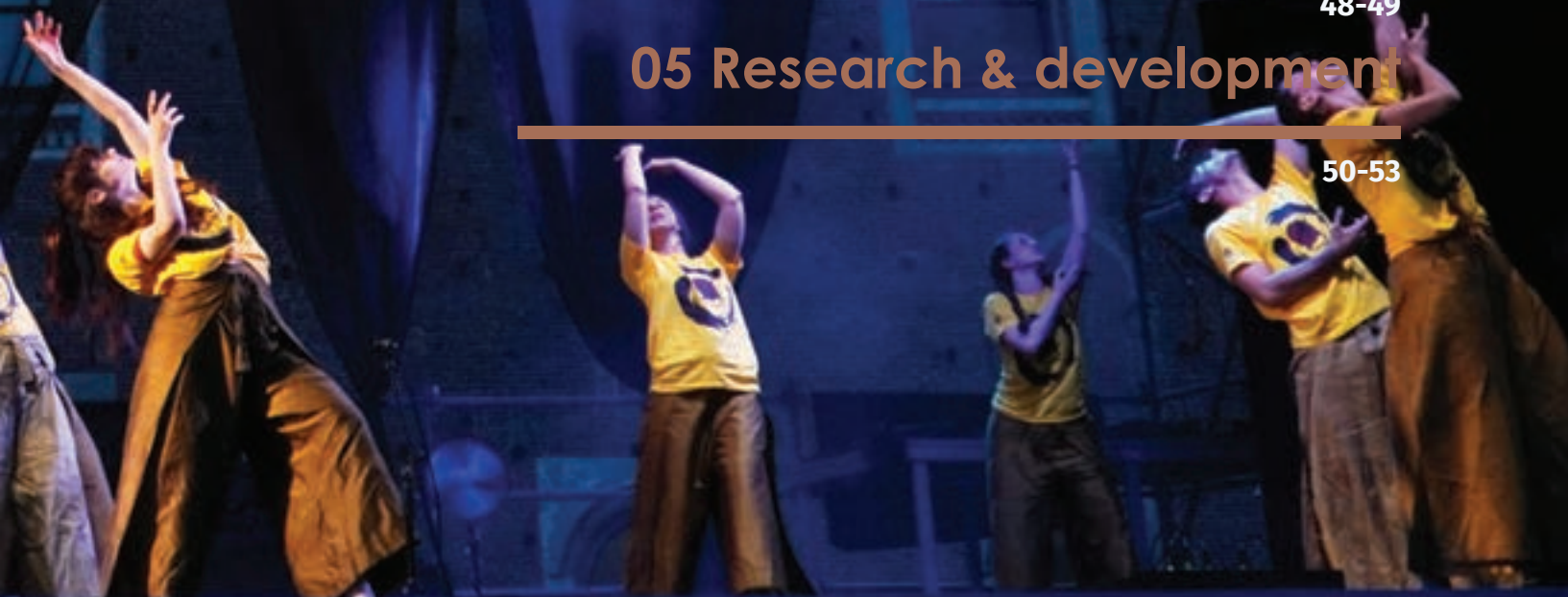
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04 Exchanges

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05 Research & development

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Amunì - Multiethnic company

Objectives

To offer pathways of inclusion, welcome and integration to young migrants and second-generation youths through vocational training in the artistic and technical professions of the performing arts.

To generate dialogue between new migrants and second-generation Italians to accelerate a process of integration for the former and encourage awareness of their cultural origins for the latter.

Beneficiaries

15 youths between the ages of 14 and 35, asylum seekers, political refugees, unaccompanied minors and second-generation Italians living in conditions of social hardship and who want to undertake a training course to learn a profession in the performing arts.

Activities

The project foresaw the realization of integrated artistic workshops (theatre, dance and music) and those dedicated to the technical aspects of theatre work, with the active participation of the young members of the Compagnia Multiethnica-Amunì as actors, as well as new members.

The workshop was held monthly (concentrated into 4/5 days for 5/6 hours per day). It was held online during the lockdown period and followed by live multidisciplinary workshops during the final phase, between October and December 2020 (15/20 consecutive days for 7/8 hours per day). This was done in compliance with safety measures (swabs, masks, social distancing), and the studio show, *Elemen-Z*, was streamed in December 2020.

Beneficiaries were awarded a symbolic scholarship that was fundamental in appreciating their commitment, effort, sacrifice of other activities, and the time demanded of them. From a social, cultural, and professional point of view, this aspect has an ethical value. It has allowed the young people to see the Amunì Project as a training path and professional development process.

Partner

Babel

The Babel Association was founded in 2011 by young artists and professionals from different art and culture sectors in Palermo. It deals with new contemporary languages in theatre, playwriting, cinema, documentary, dance, live music, event organization, training, and artistic design on social issues.

Since 2017, Babel has formed a multiethnic company through professional, artistic, and technical training courses.



Atelier dell'Errore Big

Objectives

To support and strengthen, through artistic expression, the personal resources of young adults who have recently left the Children's Neuropsychiatric Services, transforming a social problem into social asset. To enhance the skills of youths by offering them professional opportunities at an artistic level (creation of exhibitions, workshops, installations, theatrical performances).

Beneficiaries

18 youths between the ages of 17 and 22, certified by the Children's Neuropsychiatric Services of the AUSL in Reggio Emilia and the Giovanni XXII Hospital in Bergamo, .

Activities

The Atelier dell'Errore BIG project offers those young adults coming out of the Neuropsychiatric Services the possibility to take part in art courses at a high school of visual arts several times a week. The Atelier dell'Errore BIG takes place in a big room in the 'Collezione Maramotti' in Reggio Emilia. Youths participating in the workshops can visit the museum and be inspired by the contemporary works of art exhibited there. In 2020, the workshop took place daily – online during the lockdown and in person from the end of May..

At the Atelier, participants work with pencils, colouring pens, highlighters, chalk and enormous sheets of white paper. The only thing missing are erasers. Over time, simple rules have been established: "no erasing" and "only draw animals," so there are no mistakes in the drawings made by the young artists that have been diagnosed with psychiatric and psychopathological illnesses. Whatever the outcome, the result is always addressed as transforming "mistakes" into a necessary step towards the final product. Artistic activities are a significant discovery for many youths, who love to draw and often reveal extraordinary talent. Drawing, expressing their interior landscape their own way and in their own time without being evaluated, judged, or (as has been the case for so many) excluded, enables these youths to feel rewarded and valued for who they are. For some of them, the Atelier becomes a real motivating force. When they turn 18 and their care under the Children's Neuropsychiatric Services ends, the Atelier dell'Errore Big project becomes a tremendous opportunity to continue to engage in art.

In 2020, some of the participants of the Atelier dell'Errore Big acted as tutors to the younger children in all the activities and workshops of the Association.

Partner

Atelier dell'Errore

This Association was founded in Reggio Emilia in 2011 under the guidance of a visual artist and offers children and youths who participate in the Children's Neuropsychiatric services of the AUSL in Reggio Emilia and the Giovanni XXII Hospital in Bergamo art workshops of a high cultural and artistic value as part of their treatment. AMI has been supporting the Association since 2017.



Artistic activities at CivicoZero

Objectives

To assist beneficiaries, through the development of their skills, achieve authentic social inclusion, enable them to be protagonists and change their living conditions, promote greater self-awareness, self-esteem, and the strengthening of resilience to facilitate active inclusion in all aspects of daily life.

Beneficiaries

95 unaccompanied foreign minors and young adults facing social marginalization, risk and abuse, who frequent the CivicoZero day centres in Rome.

Activities

The CivicoZero Centre was founded in Rome in 2008 by Save the Children Italy to protect the migrant youths against social marginalization and minors that are part of the juvenile justice system and children risking exploitation and abuse.

From 2016 to 2018, AMI supported Save the Children Italy in the start-up and development of various artistic workshops at CivicoZero: creative writing and Griot storytelling, music, theatre, and photography/video.

The different artistic activities are aimed at building a range of different proposals for the youths of CivicoZero, depending on their inclination and in line with their aptitudes.

The project, supported by AMI since 2019, undertook various workshops: music (drums), rap, and theatre. This direct support has strengthened the CivicoZero centre in Rome on its path to autonomy and self-sustainability.

In 2020, during the lockdown period, the workshops were held online, continuing to facilitate the processes of social inclusion of unaccompanied foreign minors and young adults, a particularly fragile target because of their experiences, especially in this delicate phase of social distancing because of the pandemic. Through artistic expression, the young people were given the opportunity to re-elaborate their personal experience and, above all, the traumas that travel often bring with it.

Partner

CivicoZero

The CivicoZero Cooperative was established in 2011 to manage the CivicoZero Centre, a low-threshold centre near Termini Station. It was launched in 2008 by Save the Children to provide support, guidance and protection to foreign minors and young adults living in social marginalization and deviance and at risk of exploitation and abuse. From 2016 to 2018, AMI supported Save the Children Italy to develop the artistic activities at the CivicoZero Centre. As of 2019, AMI has been directly supporting the Cooperative.



Banda Rulli Frulli

Objectives

To promote social inclusion for youths, particularly those with disabilities and/or different cultural origins and backgrounds, through music, disseminating experiences in other marginalized contexts by training eight young adult band members.

Beneficiaries

Eight young adult members of the Rulli Frulli Band; about 75 young people between the ages of 12 and 35 from the Rulli Frulli Band; about 35 children between the ages of 6 and 12 from the Rulli Frullini Band, with and without disabilities and/or different cultural origins and backgrounds; 30 young Italians and asylum seekers from the System of Protection for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR) in Reggio Emilia; 30 young people from the multi-ethnic Baranzate area in Milan.

Activities

The Rulli Frulli Band is an inclusive music project that creatively reuses recycled materials to create musical instruments. Since 2010, about 70 youths aged between 8 and 30, including some with disabilities, have met weekly in Finale Emilia to make musical instruments with recyclable materials and play percussion instruments under the guidance of the C.G. Andreoli School of Music orchestral director. Since 2013, the Band has been engaged in various concerts throughout Italy for a few months every year.

The Band was a significant opportunity to socialize after the earthquake that hit Reggio Emilia in 2012. Over time, it has become a reference point for vulnerable young children by the Child Neuropsychiatric service.

The project, supported by AMI, offered an opportunity for the Band to grow by allowing eight young long-standing adult members to acquire a more active role by assisting teachers (through work grants) and spreading this experience to other Italian cities. Since 2017, the project has also been disseminated within SPRAR in Reggio Emilia, run by the cooperative “Dimora di Abramo” and within the emergency housing project in the multi-ethnic Baranzate district in Milan. During lockdown in 2020, activities took place online. A new radio workshop was also set up, a multifaceted and multidisciplinary tool involving young people by stimulating different musical, communicative and relational skills, which continued even after activities resumed in presence.

Partner

Rulli Frulli Lab

This Association was founded in 2017 in Finale Emilia in Modena to support activities designed and carried out by the Rulli Frulli Band. It coordinates and manages musical workshops aimed at including diversely abled youths. In collaboration with other social entities, it disseminates music as an instrument to integrate and give value to the diversely abled in different contexts. AMI has been supporting the Rulli Frulli Lab since 2018.



Community Women Opera

Objectives

To promote inclusion and social cohesion of young migrant women and marginalized Italian women through expressive forms that foster sharing, self-narration and identity.

To develop a participatory, relational process that activates a bilateral north/south exchange of aspirations, dreams and challenges that two communities of young women are experiencing, stimulating examination and critical thought about the knowledge of others.

To provide young women with the tools to gain new competencies and reinforce their trust in themselves.

Beneficiaries

Approximately 30 young women (Italian and foreign) at risk of marginalization, residing in the Basilicata region, and young migrant women who are staying at shelters for victims of the sex trade or violence in Milan.

Activities

The AllegroModerato Orchestra is composed of abled and disabled musicians who, since 2016, have been using musical workshops for migrants to foster the process of social inclusion through music. Since 2019, with AMI's support, they have been conducting musical workshops for those young women staying in shelters for women asylum seekers, refugees and victims of the sex trade (the Light Orchestra project). Based on the exchange and experience garnered by the 'Albero' Association in the Basilicata region, an idea to promote an exchange between the two communities of women living in the north and south of Italy arose, activating an artistic, social co-creation process for the expression of the two communities via classical music.

The Community Women's Opera is a project aimed at building a community opera from theatre workshops (collective dramaturgy) and music workshops (musical composition and re-arrangement) conducted mainly online, respectively in the two contexts and with joint intensive residential activities, carried out in presence in line with the current provisions. The artistic and social process starts with the participants' stories, dreams, and ideas, which are then gathered, put together, and reassembled into a lyric opera.

The staging of the opera, scheduled for the end of the year, has been postponed to 2021 in order to be able to hold the performance with public attendance, in line with the government regulations.

This project aims to transform this space between two communities where women struggle to dream and find a place and a voice. It is a space rich with new meaning, a new, shared, collective story that centres on the stories of those who have recently arrived, those who are leaving, and especially those who dream of a future.

Partner

AllegroModerato

This cooperative was founded in 2011 by teachers and expert instructors in special music, musical therapy and rehabilitation, to promote musical instruction among people with psycho-physical fragilities, convinced that this activates and develops emotional, cognitive and relational energies and competencies. AMI has been supporting AllegroModerato since 2015.



Ballando oltre le quinte

(Dancing behind the scenes)

Objectives

To enhance skills and develop new expressive possibilities for vulnerable people and those who assist them.

Beneficiaries

18 young people between the ages of 16 and 39 – approximately half have disabilities – in the care of the Territorial Handicap Educational Service in Novara.

Activities

Oltre le Quinte (Behind the Scenes) is an integrated artistic group comprising around 20 people, including professional educators, volunteers, vulnerable young people, and people working with integrated artistic disciplines. It was founded in 2016 based on 20 years of experience in creative workshops offered to vulnerable people by the Social Services of the Municipality of Novara (ComuneArte).

Since 2017 and with AMI's support, Oltre le Quinte has been offering a weekly dance/emotional somatic research workshop suspended during the lockdown and then extended until early 2021. It was led by a dance-movement therapist choreographer who aims to stimulate body-gesture vocabulary and facilitate integrating the parts in play through the nuances of communication that become highly inclusive and enhancing. The project also included intensive workshops on gestures with Virgilio Sieni, theatre training with the actress Lucilla Giagnoni and photography with Silvia Pastore.

In 2020, the Association intended to launch Stato di Grazia (State of Grace), an artistic project created in 2019, including a photographic exhibition, movement scores, and actions open to citizens. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, the dissemination was activated online with a call for other performers, dancers and people interested in Oltre le Quinte's research work. The outcome of the artistic process was the creation of a gallery of 25 images representative of State of Grace available on Oltre le Quinte's website.

Partner

Oltre le quinte

Established in August 2016, the Association comprises experts from a variety of professional backgrounds who have worked to promote integration using various artistic disciplines (orchestral music therapy, dance, theatre, art therapy) in workshops offered to vulnerable people by the Novara social services department. AMI has been supporting Oltre le Quinte since 2017.



An ecosystem to make dreams come true

Objectives

To promote access to culture and active participation in cultural projects for youths who live on the outskirts of Milan by increasing their capacity to build aspirations through collective and intercultural work that integrates and enhances differences.

Beneficiaries

To promote access to culture and active participation in cultural projects for youths who live on the outskirts of Milan by increasing their capacity to build aspirations through collective and intercultural work that integrates and enhances differences.

Activities

The Olinda Association transformed the ex-psychiatric Paolo Pini hospital in Milan into a place of culture and a meeting place where people experiencing social marginalization or mental health problems find welcome, voice and social and cultural inclusion. Together with a hostel, a coffee shop and various other associations, the ex-mental institution also houses the La Cucina Theatre where Olinda has been organizing the *Up-close nobody is normal* Festival for 20 years, which blurs distances and investigates differences.

The project aims to offer artistic, high-quality theatre using an intercultural approach in a culturally important context such as the Paolo Pini, aimed at youth living on Milan's outskirts, which engenders cultural participation.

In addition, all the theatrical research leads to performances staged during the *Up-close nobody is normal* Festival.

In 2020, the project developed into four artistic research paths for adolescents:

- 'Non-school': a theatre workshop in collaboration with the Teatro delle Albe, weekly in the winter and intensive during the summer months
- A training course for some young people as future 'Non-School' guides

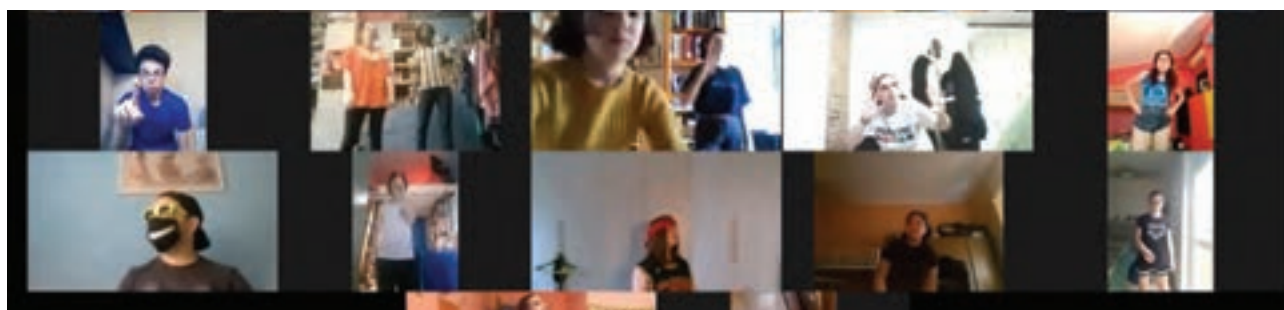
An intensive writing and audiovisual workshop led by the artistic production collective AtelierSi.

Because of the health emergency, which mainly affected the Lombardy region, some project activities were either postponed, carried out online during the most acute phases of the pandemic, or in small groups in presence, in compliance with the regulations in force. The virtual theatre workshop produced a video shot entirely by the youths themselves during the lockdown. This was screened to the public in September and included an introduction also prepared by the youths.

Partner

La Fabbrica di Olinda

La Fabbrica di Olinda is a social cooperative that creates personalized pathways for the social and work integration of disadvantaged people based on three fundamental pillars: working, living, and socializing, to re-establish access to citizenship rights. For some time now, the Cooperative has been running numerous public establishments at the former Paolo Pini Psychiatric Hospital in Milan (Bar Restaurant Jodok, Ostello Linda, and TeatroLaCucina), where training and social inclusion activities are carried out. AMI has been supporting la Fabbrica di Olinda since 2020.



Khoròs - propaedeutics and research in the theatre

Objectives

To develop interpersonal and communication skills, self-awareness and trust in others, and to help those most at risk of marginalization and exclusion to develop their full potential and be active members of the community.

Beneficiaries

35 young prisoners between the ages of 16 and 25, ex-prisoners, minors detained in alternative structures, young citizens and students from the Puntozero schools and company.

Activities

Puntozero has been working inside the Cesare Beccaria Juvenile Detention Centre in Milan since 1998 towards the social reintegration of inmates through a professional experimental approach with highly innovative content and support from institutions such as Fondazione Cariplo, Fondazione Piccolo Teatro, Teatro Alla Scala di Milano, and Fondazione Marazzina. In 2020, Puntozero put into practice the work done in the Cesare Beccaria Juvenile Detention Centre through a specific course - Khoròs - developed during the production of Antigone.

The training is divided into three fundamental moments: construction, execution, and deconstruction and is based on three principles: focused or intentional attention, attention to the present moment, and non-categorizing and, therefore, non-judging attention. The 50-hours training course was done through a workshop in the Cesare Beccaria Juvenile Detention Centre. It continued online during the lockdown thanks to the authorization of tablets and internet connections inside the Centre. External artists contributed to the process through intensive workshops (some workshops were postponed because of the pandemic, so the project was extended into 2021).

Puntozero started a workshop report for observations and as a journal focusing on interviewing the participants (focus group), aimed at producing a video documentary to share and enhance Puntozero's work and spread Khoròs' psycho-physical method through social network channels.

Partner

Puntozero

A non-profit association founded in 1995 in Milan that produces theatrical work involving artists, social workers, technicians, students, volunteers, ex-inmates and citizens wishing to combat the phenomenon of social disadvantage and juvenile deviance. AMI has been supporting Puntozero since 2017.



L'ombra che ride (The laughing shadow) - theatre with young refugees

Objectives

To create a unified poetic aspiration and language for migrants and Italians to foster shared belonging to a hybrid community through theatre, fairy tales, myths and theatrical works that are universal and transcend culture.

To assist the process of inclusion, socialization and integration of young foreign women recently arrived in Italy and prevent distress for their children; give voice and value to the testimony of young refugees and sensitize public opinion on the theme of migration.

Beneficiaries

Approximately 20 young refugees and asylum seekers (5 of which benefit from scholarships), as well as Italian and second-generation youths.

Activities

The project addresses the worsening social climate around the issue of migration by using art as a means of creating an authentic encounter between people, mutual knowledge and a sense of common belonging, in response to the increasingly frequent episodes of intolerance in Rome. In particular, the project uses theatre and oral narrative to give voice to the disadvantage experienced by many vulnerable people: young women who have just arrived in Italy (often for family reunification) and their children, young refugees and asylum seekers.

For asylum seekers who have just arrived in Italy, involved in 'The laughing shadow' theatrical workshops, theatre is an opportunity to heal broken lives and overcome the traumas of their travels, helping to build a new identity and sense of belonging along with their Italian contemporaries.

In 2020, the project focused on community theatre with young asylum-seekers and second-generation youngsters, led by an established social theatre director. Activities moved online during the most acute phase of the pandemic and then resumed in an open-air presence, and meetings intensified as soon as regulations allowed. The workshop resulted in a performance staged before a small audience in the autumn. The participants created the script based on their unique characteristics, text, a suggestion, or a theme. At the end of the year, an online roundtable was streamed, which led to the show's staging and on community theatre involving theatre experts, university professors, and the young workshop participants.

Partner

Asinitas

This Association was founded in 2005 in Rome to foster common ground and coexistence between people from different places, particularly through teaching Italian to migrants and political refugees. AMI has been supporting Asinitas since 2017.



Light Orchestra

Objectives

To offer, through music and beauty, a positive experience of oneself and the reality of being welcomed to young migrant women, to instill motivation and hope regarding their situation.

To strengthen relational capacity and self-giving skills of the musicians with psycho-physical disabilities of the AllegroModerato Orchestra, through orchestral music.

Beneficiaries

Around 20 young women aged between 18 and 32 who have recently arrived in Italy, some of whom are guests in shelters for refugees or victims of trafficking and violence and young student musicians from AllegroModerato with psycho-physical weaknesses.

Activities

Since 2016 the AllegroModerato Orchestra, composed of abled and disabled music teachers and musicians, has been experimenting with music workshops with migrants to foster processes of social inclusion through music. Starting in 2019, with AMI's support, the Orchestra aimed to develop this sector further using a method that enables people who have never played an instrument to play strings or percussion, actively involving all participants in the execution of famous symphonic works. The method enables an approach to musical instruments without the underlying technical or theoretical knowledge.

Teachers and musicians with disabilities set up an orchestral stringed-instrument workshop for a group of young migrant women who had recently arrived in Italy. In 2020, the workshop was interrupted during the most acute phases of the health emergency, moving online when possible and postponing some meetings and performances until 2021.

The disabled musicians acted as tutors by playing and showing the women how to hold the instruments, pluck the chords, and create a vibrato. Gradually, they tried the bass, plucked a harp, or played the violin; they listened and learned.

Music enables the participants to learn how to play an instrument via listening and interacting with others, thus developing concentration and perseverance. This interaction creates a pleasant social atmosphere among the people involved, and the young women spend stimulating and creative time. The project also enables the young, disabled musicians to experience volunteering and looking after the migrants, setting aside for the duration of the workshop their reality of vulnerable disability.

Partner

AllegroModerato

This cooperative was founded in 2011 by teachers and expert instructors in special music, musical therapy and rehabilitation, with the aim of promoting musical instruction among people with psycho-physical fragilities, convinced that this activates and develops emotional, cognitive and relational energies and competencies. AMI has been supporting AllegroModerato since 2015.



P.A.M.! Popular Academy Masterclass

Objectives

To increase the qualitative level of the educational opportunities provided by the Academy via involving experts in the field of musical production.

To offer an interactive approach to learning along the lines of the “learning by doing” model thanks to which youth become their own content producers and beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries

10 adolescents living in the territory, some of whom are experiencing economic and social vulnerabilities or learning difficulties, prevalently at-risk students in the schools in the eastern outskirts of Rome, foremost the Ferrari Institute of Rome.

Activities

Since 2019, and with the support of AMI, daSud has been running alternative education art workshops using electronic music, rap, prose and audiovisuals. In 2019, using the large collection of vinyl records (audio books dedicated to classical literature interpreted by great artists) available to the Popular Academy of Antimafia and Rights in Rome, and taking inspiration from the hip hop tradition, daSud created a workshop resulting in the production of a 4-track digital album accompanied by a video that accompanies and guides the listener through the entire project.

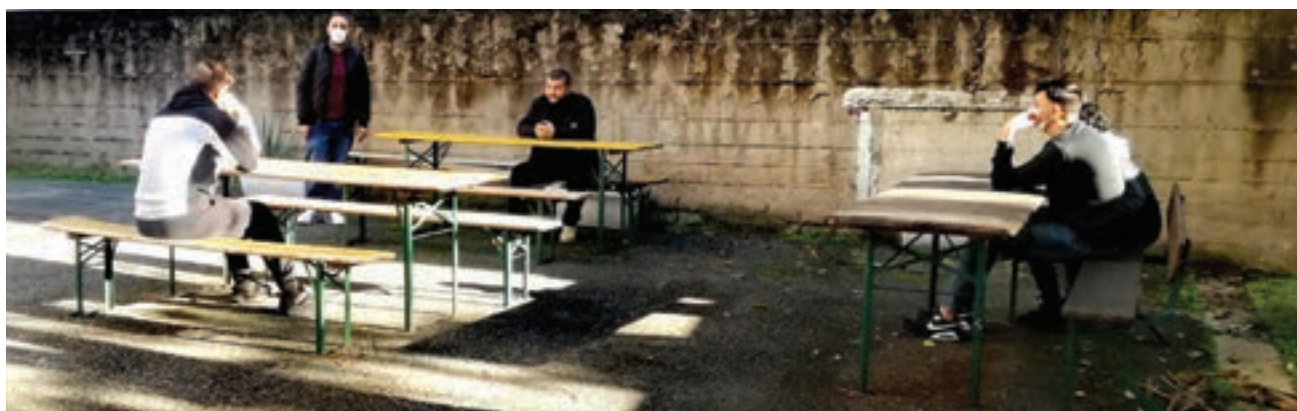
In 2020, daSud carried out ten highly educational masterclass lessons related to musical production, offering a qualitative leap from the point of view of training and an upgrade in educational, production and professional terms, especially as regards the prospects and opportunities for adolescents living under complicated socio-economic circumstances.

The lessons, almost all held online due to the pandemic, were a highly professional educational experience where the provision of information occurred horizontally and where users were able to experiment with their teachers the knowledge gained. This model adheres perfectly to the Academy mission and responds to the needs of the users.

Partner

daSud

Anti-mafia association that works for the socio-cultural contrast of mafias through a path of in-depth study, awareness and promotion of civil and social rights. In 2016, in collaboration with the Ferrari Institute in Rome, it inaugurated “ÂP, the Popular Academy of Antimafia and Rights,” a place of culture and artistic production to exercise social inclusion in the suburbs, fight school drop-out and change the image regarding mafias and Anti-mafia. AMI has been supporting daSud since 2019.



Permanent cultural presence at the Airola Juvenile Detention Centre

Objectives

To strengthen the permanent cultural presence in the Airola Juvenile Detention Centre by launching this project through the staging of a festival with the direct involvement of the inmates.

Beneficiaries

Approximately 10 minors at the Airola Juvenile Detention Centre in the province of Benevento.

Activities

Co2 has been working in the Juvenile Penitentiary since 2013, running various art workshops. In prison, artistic language and techniques are a tool to learn teamwork, but above all, reason about individual and collective responsibilities regarding mafia rationale and culture. Since 2018, and with the support of AMI, Co2 has been offering young inmates screenwriting and music writing workshops aimed at producing short films whose editorial line has been chosen together with the beneficiaries. During the lockdown period in the first few months of 2020, the workshops were suspended. Still, the operators were able to send videos and creative materials to the young inmates via USB devices, thus ensuring a certain continuity in the relationship established.

In 2020, Co2 introduced the penitentiary to the local community by organising a festival involving all citizens of Airola. The festival is organized in collaboration with the Dominio Pubblico association in Rome. Preparing the festival is part of the training and brings young people closer to artistic production. The young prisoners are not just spectators at the festival but the actual organizers. Those doing the screenwriting course select the short films to be shown, and those doing the music writing and drama course decide what kind of musical and theatrical performances to present. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, the festival has been postponed to July 2021.

Partner

The CO2 - Crisis Opportunity 2

Founded in 1997, The Co2 works to give voice, through multimedia training workshops, to young people living experiences of marginalization in the suburbs of our cities and juvenile prisons. Since 2012, it has run, in particular, "The Stage of Legality," an innovative education project on legality. AMI has been supporting Co2 since 2018.



Rulli Ribelli at MaTeMù

Objectives

To promote the social inclusion of boys and girls from different social and cultural contexts and boys and girls that are neuro-diverse and disabled.

To promote and stimulate artistic competencies.

To diffuse an inclusive culture of diversity in the social context where the project is carried out and stimulate individual and group empowerment, experimenting with and amplifying relational capacities and socialization.

Beneficiaries

3 youths with autism and 15 adolescents of different nationalities, cultures and abilities, among whom some are autistic, that participate in the CIES/MaTeMù youth centre in Rome.

Activities

Rulli Ribelli at MaTeMù! is a project by Banda Rulli Frulli from Finale Emilia in Modena, the CIES/MaTeMù youth centre in Rome and Cervelli Ribelli/Insettopia in Rome. These entities met and got to know each other during the Interscambio Rulli Frulli Days, supported by AMI (Finale Emilia, 8-9 June 2019). That meeting marked the need to continue the exchange of practices between Banda Rulli Frulli and CIES/MaTeMù and trigger a closer collaboration on autism issues.

Rulli Ribelli at MaTeMù! is an artistic project for social inclusion guided by musical didactic references and pedagogical principles aimed at putting the person at the centre, based on workshop didactics, focusing on subject exchange and the promotion of cooperation between the various participants.

During the workshop, which is held on average twice a month (suspended during the lockdown period and then intensified during the reopening), a musical didactic method was applied that was created by the Banda Rulli Frulli in which the choice of music is prevalently given to percussion instruments made from recyclable materials in order to enable a spontaneous approach to music. The collective creation of various objects also provides an occasion for socialization and exchange. The BRF didactic method was flanked by the art-education used by CISE/MaTeMù, according to which art is education in and of itself. In this perspective, the acquisition of an artistic ability comes from a desire which, along with acting as fuel to stimulate the acquisition of technical competencies, can also be exploited to elaborate different prospects for oneself.

Partner

Rulli Frulli Lab

The association was founded in 2017 in Final Emilia to support the activities designed and implemented by the Banda Rulli Frulli, to coordinate and manage musical workshops aimed at including girls and boys with their different skills as well as, in collaboration with other social realities, to spread musical culture intended as an instrument of integration and enhancement of different skills in other contexts. AMI has been supporting the Rulli Frulli Lab since 2018.



SUB.ITA

Objectives

To increase the communication skills of asylum seekers to facilitate their integration into the social and cultural fabric.
To promote activities of shared interest among the young generations of new Italian citizens and foreigners.

Beneficiaries

10 youths between the ages of 18 and 28, half of which are young asylum seekers of the SPRAR Enea project in Mantova and half are young Italian performers between the ages of 16 and 22 who are part of the Teatro Magro; interested local citizens.

Activities

The project foresaw the realization of a theatrical workshop, focusing on communication skills (voice, body, social relations) for young Italian performers and asylum seekers of the SPRAR Enea project.

Expressive activities help stimulate the expressive potential of the participants, teach civil discourse and rapport, foster empathy, improve perception of one's body, space and time, increase concentration, reinforce self-esteem and self-control and enhance each participant's originality and personality.

In 2020, Teatro Magro started a professional journey by activating two parallel theatre workshops (carried out online during the lockdown period), one for beginners at the Baratta Municipal Library targeted explicitly for new young SPRAR beneficiaries (subsequently suspended because of the difficulty of involving new beneficiaries through online practices), and an advanced workshop for young asylum seekers taking part in the workshop since 2019. The advanced workshop is integrated with the Italian students already trained by Teatro Magro (stable Carni Scelte workshop).

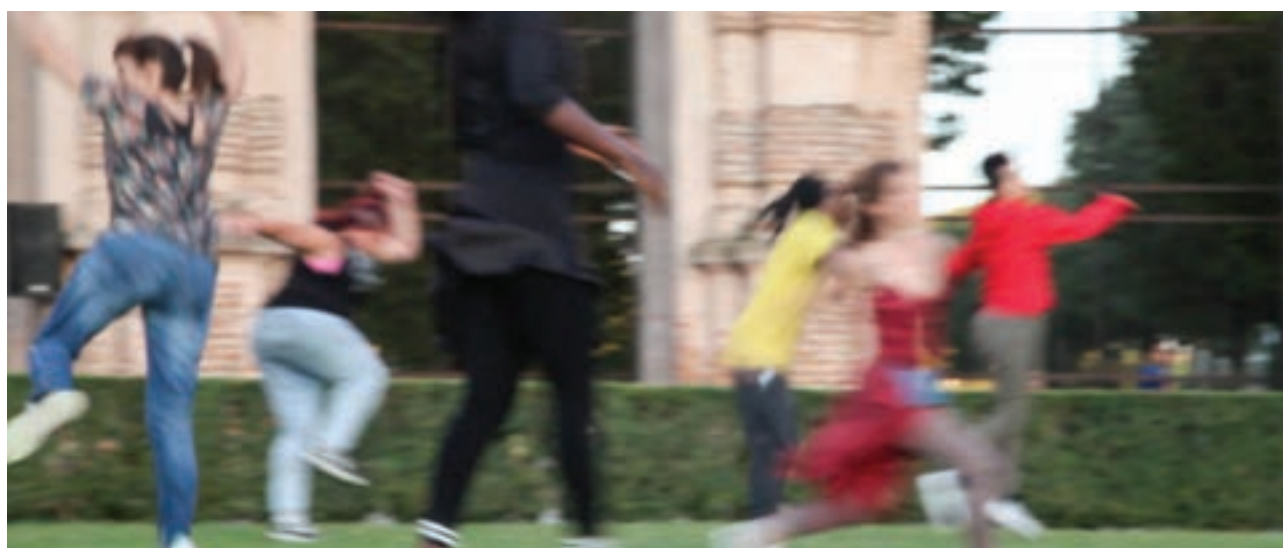
Along with the weekly workshops, the project provided an intensive workshop with the participation of an external theatre company (live in August 2020) and the vision of a contemporary theatrical performance (Elemen-Z by Babel) postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic (project therefore extended to 2021).

The project has been realized in direct partnership with the City of Mantova and the SPRAR Enea through a convention.

Partner

Teatro Magro

Founded as a theatre group in Mantova in 1988, Teatro Magro was established as a social cooperative in 2003 outlining the cultural and social purpose of its theatrical and artistic work. It provides socio-cultural services in multiple sectors also with a social value (bullying prevention projects in schools, prisons, projects with drug addicts, centres for the disabled, work with street children in Romania in collaboration with the Parada association). AMI has been supporting Teatro Magro since 2019.



Creating the Orchestra dei Braccianti

Objectives

To consolidate the group's ties by introducing new labourer musician.

To increase the musical repertory both in qualitative and quantitative terms.

To strengthen the awareness of one's own individual path and role towards the outside world, i.e. of the orchestra as 'spokesperson' of a widespread community of agricultural workers.

Beneficiaries

8 young members of the Orchestra dei Braccianti and 2-3 young agricultural worker-musicians identified during field missions.

Activities

The Orchestra dei Braccianti was founded in 2018 and is made up of about 14 musicians, some of whom come from conditions of exploitation. Today, thanks to music and the projects carried out with Terra!, they have started an important path of self-sufficiency and autonomy.

The orchestra has a repertoire of approximately 15 pieces, including traditional Italian compositions and music composed and arranged by the orchestra musicians, all of which are paid regularly, which is extremely important for non-Italian musicians in order to obtain a residence permit.

In its first two years of life, the orchestra has begun to reveal its potential, qualifying itself as an instrument capable of acting as a motor for change, both internally and externally.

The project, supported by AMI, envisaged intensive workshops lasting six to eight hours each, partly carried out online during the lockdown and partly live during the reopenings (observing the rules of social distancing, with swabs and masks provided to all participants). This was to allow the orchestra to rehearse old pieces, increase the band's musical repertoire, and continue composing, arranging, and researching new pieces.

The project started searching for new musicians to extend the orchestra to new farm workers through contacts with other communities of farm workers in areas where there is a large presence of foreign workers (e.g. Piana del Sele, Agro Pontino, informal settlements in Capitanata).

Finally, the project included facilitation, mediation, and storytelling activities for the orchestra's young members, mainly aimed at strengthening the members' awareness of their role as "spokespersons" for farmworkers living in vulnerable conditions.

Partner

APS Terra!

An association committed to environmental and ecological agriculture issues since 2008; it promotes activities that support agricultural workers, building opportunities for discussion and exchange, offering workers the chance to recount what happens in their workplaces and providing the opportunity for the public to hear these voices. AMI has been supporting Terra! since 2020.



Talent at the Officine Gomitoli

Objectives

To guarantee young and adolescent Italians and migrants stable opportunities for inclusion and expression through creative and expressive activities undertaken in the Officine Gomitoli Intercultural Centre.

Beneficiaries

50 young Italians and foreigners (second generation, new arrivals and unaccompanied minors) living in fragile or socio-economically or culturally deprived or deviant situations in Naples.

Activities

The Officine Gomitoli Intercultural Centre is an ex-wool mill in Porta Capuana in the historical centre of Naples. Many migrants live in this area and the area is the object of an urban regeneration plan (UNESCO World Heritage Site) that includes various entrepreneurial realities. This centre is dedicated to promoting youth rights, the valorization and enhancement of their skills and professional and creative abilities. AMI has supported the realization of different artistic activities since 2017.

In 2020, the project promoted two artistic laboratories: a photographic laboratory to narrate different cultural identities of people and places and highlight political, urban and social lacunae, aiming to recuperate the stories and memories of territory; the laboratory of visual arts and water color, dedicated to inter-cultural encounters to offer knowledge of different cultures, practices and traditions that inhabit the rest of the facilities. During the lockdown period, the workshops were held online.

In addition, alongside the laboratories, Officine Gomitoli offered intensive expressive workshops with renowned international artists.

Partner

Cooperativa Dedalus

The Dedalus Cooperative has been operating in Naples for 35 years, carrying out activities involving research on the phenomenon of disadvantage and migration and offering job training services, refuge and cultural mediation. AMI has been supporting Dedalus since 2017.



LADoro

Objectives

To offer a creative space for young cancer patients and their families to express, through art and imagination, the distressing and dysfunctional experiences linked to the disease, and to prevent the long-term effects of the trauma that a cancer diagnosis implies.

Beneficiaries

175 children and adolescents, patients at the Unità Operativa di Ematologia e Oncologia Pediatrica dell'Ospedale Policlinico di Catania (Pediatric Hospital of Catania). Since 2019, beneficiaries also include the young guests and the families of WonderLAD, a home for children suffering from serious pathologies.

Activities

The project has included the presence on the ward of psychologists and art therapists (5 days a week) for the creation of individual and group creative workshops for child chemotherapy patients and their parents (drawing, creative imagination, visual arts, videos, short films). The L'ABERO DEI DESIDERI - LAD (Tree of Desire Association) uses the principles of Art Therapy to make the cancer diagnosis and subsequent treatment less traumatic for the children and their parents, by stimulating their creativity and imagination as a way to react in a dynamic and vital fashion to the inevitable stasis of the illness. The LAD's operators have realized individual and group creative workshops for the young patients and their families at the pediatric hospital in Catania in close collaboration with the hospital doctors. On admission and during painful diagnostic-therapeutic procedures creative activities help ground parents and children in their family units and emphasize their individual capabilities in order to prevent the long-term traumatic effects of the cancer diagnosis. Throughout their time at the hospital the artistic activities help the children maintain their sense of freedom and control, enabling them to be the protagonists of their reality and keeping at bay "the sickness that grows inside and seems never to abandon body or thought."

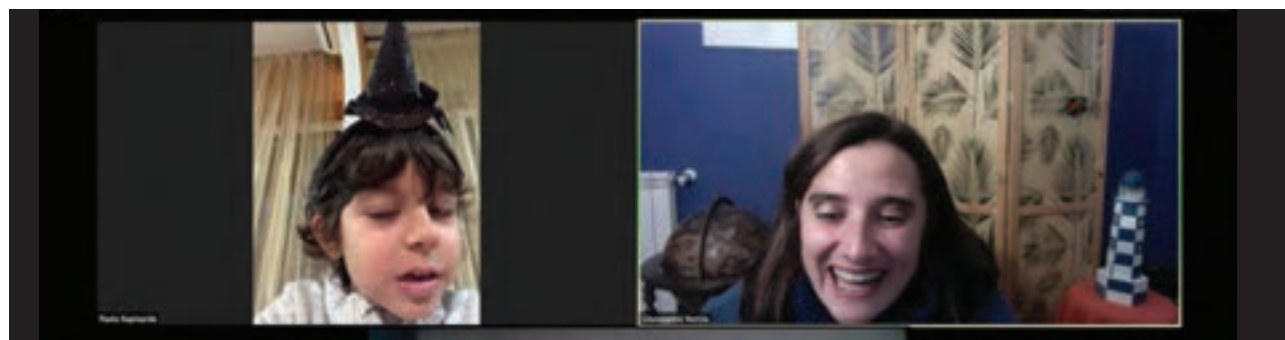
Since 2019 the project has extended beyond the hospital walls to also include the children of WonderLAD, a home for children suffering from serious pathologies and their families.

In 2020, project activities were not interrupted even during the most acute phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. Smart LAD was launched for some activities, a virtual space full of storytelling, workshops, and magic to continue offering children inside and outside the hospital vitality, fun, and games and a place where they can still meet. Some activities continued in presence inside the hospital, in agreement with the healthcare personnel.

Partner

LAD

This association was founded in 2010 by a group of psychologists at the Pediatric Hospital of Catania to introduce creativity and imagination in the "Cure & Care" of young cancer patients and their families as a means to express the anguish and dysfunction associated with the illness. AMI has been supporting LAD since 2015.



Robo&Bobo - Videomaking

Objectives

To offer young detainees a high-level cultural experience fostering their personal creative expression as well as involving them in new technologies. To strengthen training opportunities providing useful tools to deal with isolation and reinforce relationships between peers. To offer youth an occasion to experience a stimulating professional reality through “learning by doing”.

Beneficiaries

10 young inmates of the Aporti Juvenile Penitentiary Institute in Turin (the project was initially intended for 3 adolescent and pre-adolescent patients of the Pediatric Oncohematology Department of the Regina Margherita Children's Hospital in Turin and of the Spoke Centre for Pediatric Oncohematology of the University Hospital of Novara and the students of the classes of origin of young cancer patients).

Activities

DEAR is a non-profit organization that offers innovative didactic workshops on programming, digital fabrication, electronics, and digital graphics to introduce adolescents and pre-adolescents to new technology.

This project, supported by AMI, foresees the realization of a video-making workshop comprising 10 meetings. The students involved in the project are guided in creating video clips, trying their hand both as directors and as editors of the material produced, working individually or in small groups, and then converging individual contributions into a group effort.

The project promotes video making as an instrument for personal expression through rediscovery, favouring an open exchange of ideas during which complex ideas are discussed freely and unhindered by “adult” interpretation. Learning to express oneself and understand that each person's story is important for others and oneself, which engenders self-esteem.

AMI's support was supposed to be directed to young cancer patients in Turin and Novara, together with their schoolmates. However, because of the pandemic, the video-making workshop was postponed to 2021 and, given the difficulty of working in hospitals due to the stringent security measures, it was decided to reconsider and propose the workshop to the Aporti Juvenile Penitentiary Institute in Turin where about 10 young inmates are trying their hands both as film directors and video editors of the work that the group produced.

In 2018, in partnership with AMG, AMI supported the Robo&Bobo edition of the HanaHana project, which consisted of the development of an original version of the award-winning opera in virtual reality of the Swiss Mélodie Mousset, HanaHana, with the young patients of the pediatric oncology ward of the Margherita Children's Hospital in Turin.

Partner

Dear Onlus

A non-profit organization founded in 2016 that deals with the humanization of care environments through creative projects and alphabetization in the fields of design, electronics and programming through didactic-workshop courses for adolescents and pre-adolescents between the ages of 11 and 18, with onco-hematological diseases. AMI, co-partnered with AMG, have been supporting DEAR since 2018.



Bi

Objectives

To promote a cultural exchange and the transmission of experience of various realities from several generations in order to provide an occasion for growth and training around the themes of community and adolescence and creative writing, literature, drama and stage used as tools to enrich and define one's cultural identity.

Beneficiaries

4 young actors from the Nuovo Teatro Sanità, created within the Bottega TeatrAle workshops supported by AMI between 2016 and 2018 (Fondazione Pavese).

Activities

The project foresaw the realization of a performance based on a story by Bernardo Atxaga, an internationally known representative of Basque culture and language, on the theme of adolescent contrasts. In December 2019 a first in-house workshop was held for four young actors who have been part of the Nuovo Teatro Sanità for years. Trained as part of the Bottega TeatrAle workshops not only as actors but also in the disciplines of study, drama, directing and theatrical organization, since 2015 they have been the protagonists of various Nuovo Teatro Sanità projects and other national theatrical productions (Punto Corsara, Marche Teatro, Napoli Teatro Festival, Trame d'Autore).

The show had its regional premiere at the Nuovo Teatro Sanità in January 2020. The show will also be presented in Milan in 2021 as part of the Olinda Festival Da Vicino Nessuno è Normale (postponed due to uncertainties related to the pandemic), involving realities that, in a similar way to the Nuovo Teatro Sanità, pay special attention to adolescence, the meeting between professionals and non-professionals, integration between audiences of all ages.

Partner

Nuovo Teatro Sanità

Founded in 2013 in Naples in the Sanità district by a group of young theater professionals together with the young people from the neighborhood, characterized by a strong socio-economic disadvantage related to high school dropouts and unemployment, the artistic collective of Nuovo Teatro Sanità, mainly formed by young people under 30, aims to provide a quality cultural offer, to train young people in theater professions and to involve them in the management and activities of the theater. AMI has been supporting Nuovo Teatro Sanità since 2019.



Is there anybody out there?

Objectives

To allow the Atelier students to take their visual/theatrical performance to some important Italian theatres during national festivals to tell and spread the experience of the Atelier dell'Errore BIG project directly through the bodies and voices of the young people, both as a theatrical performance and in the form of a video-trailer project.

Beneficiaries

Approximately 6 youths between the ages of 17 and 22, certified by the Children's Neuropsychiatry Department, from the AUSL services in Reggio Emilia and the Giovanni XXIII Hospital in Bergamo.

The project also involves minors from the Children's Neuropsychiatry wards in Reggio Emilia and Bergamo together with the families of all the children.

Activities

The Atelier dell'Errore BIG is not just a visual arts workshop and a valid complement to the clinical activities undertaken by the Children's Neuropsychiatry Unit, but also a "work of relational art", which is why they participate in many cultural events in Italy and abroad (the Triennale of Milan/Teatro dell'Arte, European Photography Festival, Arte Sella with Mario Brunello, Festival della Mente of Sarzana, Auditorium Lo Squero of Venice for the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Scarabocchi Festival of Novara, LEI Festival in Cagliari and many others). The youth of the Atelier dell'Errore express themselves every year via installations and drawings but also through performances, experimenting in other artistic languages such as video and theatre, which have become nearly essential means of expression for them.

Theatre and performance represent pedagogical and educational activities of the highest quality, which engender great enthusiasm and strong participation from the children and their families, generating a virtuous circle that affects all the youth of the Atelier dell'Errore project. The performance consists of a theatrical-video reading and a kind of self-presentation of the Atelier in theatrical form.

In September 2020, the youngsters staged their performance *Piccola Liturgia Errante* (Small Wandering Liturgy), accompanied by the musician Mario Brunello, at the third edition of the Festival Scarabocchi in Novara and produced a promotional trailer presenting the project and its main performance.

Partner

Atelier dell'errore

The Association, founded in Reggio Emilia in 2011, under the guidance of a visual artist, offers children and young people who attend the Infant Neuropsychiatry of the AUSL and the Giovanni XXIII Hospital of Bergamo an art workshop of high cultural and artistic value that goes hand in hand with their treatment. AMI has been supporting Atelier dell'Errore since 2017.



Co2 - Puntozero Exchange

Objectives

To reinforce the ties and exchanges between two associations to enhance resources and development of co-production processes, particularly relative to artistic activities carried out in juvenile penitentiaries in Italy.

Beneficiaries

3 Co2 operators working in the Juvenile Detention Centre in Airola, Benevento; 8 Puntozero operators working at the Cesare Beccaria Juvenile Detention Centre in Milan; young detainees risking marginalization.

Activities

Co2 and Puntozero have been carrying out artistic activities in juvenile penitentiaries for several years and share the conviction that meeting similar situations, which often are not well known, and creating synergies are fundamental in enhancing the resources available. Co2 organized the first national meeting between different associations involving young inmates in creative activities (March 2018), funded by AMI, from their desire to build networks. This meeting led to the formation of the Associazione Teatri e Giustizia Minorile (Theaters and Juvenile Justice Association), which includes the main associations that offer artistic workshops in detention centres. Co2 and Puntozero have discovered a great harmony and intend to strengthen their mutual knowledge, also given the possibility to develop joint projects. This project foresees two phases. The first in Milan, during which time the musical production trainer and one or two theatre trainers from Co2 visit Puntozero in a practical exchange aimed at a commingling of training methods; the second phase entails an exchange in Airola during the Festival, initially foreseen for November 2020 (postponed to July 2021). Puntozero and the youth of their theatre company travel to Airola to present their performance and carry out joint workshops with the trainers and inmates of the Airola juvenile penitentiary. Due to the pandemic, the meetings have been postponed to 2021, but the associations have maintained constant online communication.

Partners

The CO2 - Crisis Opportunity 2 see page 39

Puntozero see page 35



Teatro con Migranti Exchange

Objectives

To enable the participants to learn about the strategies, methods, content and professional opportunities involved in each project; foster a contamination between theatrical practices to find an ever-better solution to actively involve young migrants.

To create new relationships and promote future development of the projects in a network.

Beneficiaries

2 operators and 1 young migrant beneficiary from each of the four organizations involved.

Activities

This project foresees an exchange of methods between the Teatro Magro, Asinitas, Olinda and Babel, fundamentally different organizations that undertake theatrical projects with migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in different contexts. Teatro Magro visited the project sites of the other organizations involved in the exchange, and they came to Mantova to learn about the work of Teatro Magro.

During these visits (some postponed to 2021 due to travel restrictions during the pandemic), two operators and one beneficiary of the organization participated in the workshops, met the various beneficiaries, and learned about the different contexts, exchanging methods and approaches. The meetings were opportunities for the operators to exchange their working methods and approaches, thus creating occasions for mutual comparison and training on the experiences of the various organizations. The exchange was optimistic and constructive, even remotely, and led to forming a community of practice based on comparison and discussion, which continues to meet, stimulate each other, and plan in anticipation of their next meeting with all the organizations involved.

Partners

Teatro Magro

see page 41

Babel

see page 28

Olinda

see page 34

Asinitas

see page 36



Cartoons on the wards in Touch

Objectives

To transform care time and areas into places and opportunities for growth, self-expression, and self-knowledge, through animation workshops using digital and innovative devices.

Beneficiaries

Children and youths hospitalized in the Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatric Unit at the Children's Hospital of Brescia.

Activities

For many years, AVISCO has organized cartoon production workshops in six children's wards of the Children's Hospital of Brescia (Paediatrics, Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Paediatric Surgery, Child Neuropsychiatry, Oncohematology, Otorhinolaryngology). Starting with a prompt, such as a nursery rhyme or a comic strip, the young animators choose a short story or a character or a sentence and create their cartoons by moving objects (scraps of coloured paper, plasticine, sand) inside a box connected to a technological instrument. The children can then add sound to their cartoons in the ward by choosing the music and recording their voices. Producing an animated film is an engaging activity that encourages socialization and well-being and helps give body and voice to one's inner world through the use of new technologies.

In 2020, following the spread of Covid-19, the already isolating hospital walls were further closed to the outside world. The pandemic has severely affected child neuropsychiatry departments, among others, with a general increase in admissions and a relative decrease in activities for children.

AMI's support was earmarked toward a publication on the long-term experience of the animation film project aimed at young patients but, partly because of the difficulties and serious consequences related to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided to channel the support to set up workshops in Child Neuropsychiatry.

The Cartoons on the Ward project has given rise to the CIC In Touch spin-off, an animation workshop for youngsters on the children's neuropsychiatric ward, alternating between remote and in-person activities.

The workshops resulted in very intense cartoons in which the children translated their emotions into moving drawings and short films.

Partner

AVISCO

This association was founded in 1986 to research, experiment and update audio-visuals in the scholastic and socio-educational setting. AVISCO organizes guided courses on cinematographic literature, audio-visual production workshops and photography for children, and training and refresher courses for teachers and educators. AMI supported AVISCO from 2013 through 2018.

Monitoring and documenting the Community Womens Opera

Objectives

To demonstrate the value of the activity and involve the community in a deeper comprehension of the value generated during the entire duration of the project.

To promote knowledge and interest on the part of potential producers of opera.

Beneficiaries

About 30 young women (Italian and foreign) at risk of marginalization and resident in the Basilicata, and young migrants, of which some are victims of trafficking and violence, resident in Milan, involved in the Community Womens Opera project.

Activities

The Community Womens Opera is a project to elaborate a community lyric opera involving two communities of women at risk of social marginalization: young migrants staying at shelters for women refugees or victims of the sex trade in Milan, and young Italian and foreign women who reside in the Basilicata area.

The project aims to monitor and document the experience of the Community Womens Opera as a means of strategic support and promotion of the artistic and social process. In particular, through creating a digital platform and the production and sharing of a video, it aims to monitor and document a year of this creative process, reinforcing the connection between these two communities, enabling them to compare and stimulate each other proactively. Activities were carried out essentially remotely, in line with emergency health regulations.

Partner

AllegroModerato

This cooperative was founded in 2011 by teachers and expert instructors in special music education, musical therapy and rehabilitation, with the aim of promoting musical instruction among people with psycho-physical fragilities, convinced that this activates and develops emotional cognitive, and relational energies and competencies that the musicians can re-invest in all their daily activities. AMI has been supporting AllegroModerato since 2015.

The publication of Puntozero's impact assessment

Objectives

To disseminate the impact assessment produced by Puntozero.

To contribute to the ongoing debate on the role of theatre in prisons by presenting an innovative model that places performance and interaction with the public at the centre.

Beneficiaries

High school and university students; educators operating inside juvenile penitentiaries; technicians/artists working in social theatre; the public frequenting the Puntozero Beccaria Theatre; readers interested in the subject of education in prisons.

Activities

The project published a social impact assessment of those theatrical workshops supported by AMI since 2017 and carried out by the Puntozero in the Cesare Beccaria Juvenile Detention Centre in Milan. The assessment was undertaken by the Department of Human Sciences at the Bicocca University of Milan through a participatory process with the heads of the theatrical company and the main stakeholders: young inmates, theatrical company managers, actors, prison guards, educators, administrative personnel, medical professionals, other professional workshop trainers active in the Institute, and the parents of the inmates through co-design meetings for an evaluation model and the identification of indicators, individual and group interviews and questionnaires. The publication aims to publicize a theatrical company project that is unique in Italy in a juvenile penitentiary that works not only for the young inmates but also for the Territorial Services that are accessed by many youths outside the penitentiary, in schools and universities and by citizens.

The publication is also aimed at high school and university students as an instrument to sensitize youths on arguments such as detention and punishment, which are generally not considered in our education system, and aims to contribute to the European debate on the theme of education in and outside prison. The publication will be ready in 2021.

Partner

Puntozero

A non-profit association set up in 1995 in Milan that produces theatrical work involving artists, social workers, technicians, students, volunteers, ex-prisoners and citizens who aim to combat the phenomenon of social disadvantage and juvenile deviance. AMI has been supporting Puntozero since 2017.

Sguardo trasversale (Crosscutting look) **an impact assessment of Asinitas' theatrical activities**

Objectives

- To understand and outline the relevance, efficacy and impact of the model employed by Asinitas these past years for its activities aimed at asylum seekers, migrants, foreign women and children in two cultural centres in Rome, with particular emphasis on theatrical activities.
- To define an applicable theory that can duplicate and systematize the impact generated by Asinitas activities in terms of the changes experienced by the beneficiaries (perceptions of self, personal resilience and relational abilities).
- To reinforce the responsibility and reliability of the association with respect to internal and external stakeholders, improving transparency and communication.

Beneficiaries

Young refugees and asylum seekers, migrant women and foreign unaccompanied minors involved as stakeholders; Asinitas operators and sector professionals.

Activities

For many years, Asinitas has been promoting the creation of educational contexts in Rome for young asylum seekers, migrants, foreign women with children and Italians at two intercultural centres in which it organizes workshops teaching Italian as well as theatre workshops (the latter supported by AMI since 2017) for migrant women and a mixed group of migrants/refugees/asylum seekers and young Italians.

The evaluation aims to analyze the Asinitas model of intervention, in particular in order to identify its strengths and weaknesses, as well as the internal and external factors that contribute to its success. The evaluation follows a participatory approach in line with the Asinitas methodology, which begins with the assumption that training content must be built along with the people who participate in the activities (young migrants, workers, volunteers).

In particular, the evaluation will involve:

- the development of an evaluation framework with indicators, instruments and formats to gather data;
- gathering qualitative data through focus groups, workshops and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders;
- analysis of data in order to understand the relationship between involvement in the activities and the outcomes, as well as textual qualitative analysis; and
- writing a final evaluation report.

The evaluation, carried out mainly remotely, aimed to analyse the Asinitas intervention model, in particular to understand its strengths and weaknesses. The data collected through the qualitative-quantitative approach adopted allow to detect what changes (outcomes) occurred and, to a certain extent, the number of participants who experienced that particular change. Among the changes observed, it emerged that participation in the workshop favoured the participants' learning of skills relating both to social relations in broader contexts and skills linked to the intimate and emotional sphere.

Partner

Asinitas

This Association was founded in 2005 in Rome to foster common ground and coexistence between people from different places, in particular through teaching Italian to migrants and political refugees. AMI has been supporting Asinitas since 2017.

legal information

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alta mane supraque tuos exsurge dolores
in fragilemque animum, quod potes, usque tene
Ovidius, Consolatio ad Liviam