

Africa e Mediterraneo

Africa e Mediterraneo:
Introduction

Activities in the field of
intercultural development
education

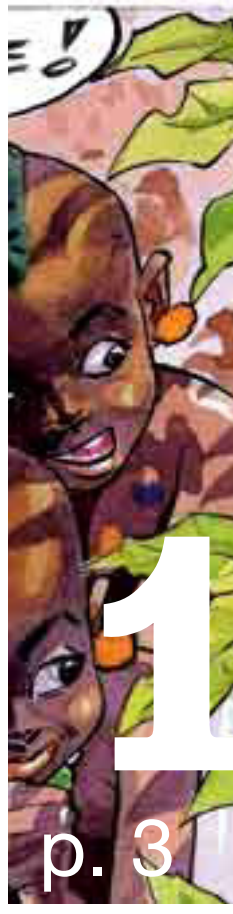
Collection of intercultural
material

Exhibitions



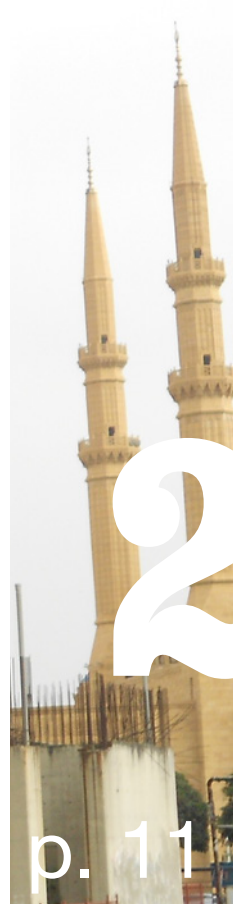
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Africa e Mediterraneo

Introduction

Africa e Mediterraneo is a non-profit organisation created to promote intercultural awareness, especially between Italy and Africa, and to conduct development education. With its constitution officially formalised in 2002, since 1997 Africa e Mediterraneo has brought together a group of professionals committed to the task of promoting contemporary African artists and intellectuals.

Africa e Mediterraneo pursues its goals by regularly publishing the biennial journal *Africa e Mediterraneo*, and by organising initiatives such as intercultural workshops (in both school and out-of-school contexts), exhibitions, conferences, training courses for teachers and other activities linked to cultural and intercultural cooperation.

Africa e Mediterraneo is committed to raising awareness and encouraging appreciation of African cultures, in the belief that culture is a route to development, peace and justice among people.

Another important topic for Africa e Mediterraneo is mass communication, understood as both the set of technologies

required to transmit and receive information (in all its economic, social and cultural forms), and as the set of values, symbols and representations that underlie mass democracy and public participation. Communication, as a factor inherent in that which allows a community to represent itself, to form relationships with other communities and to play its role in the world, is therefore an important tool in promoting mutual understanding.

The activities carried out by Africa e Mediterraneo include:

- 1 – the organisation of intercultural projects and development education, including at the international level;
- 2 – the organisation of projects promoting cultural cooperation and respect for human rights;
- 3 – the organisation of exhibitions on African cultural expression;
- 4 – the production of the biennial journal *Africa e Mediterraneo*;
- 5 – the organisation of training courses and conferences for teachers.



Activities in the field of intercultural development education

1

ComiX4= Comics for Equality

The ComiX4 = Comics for Equality project aims to foster dialogue in order to combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination in Europe, particularly in Italy, Bulgaria, Estonia, Romania and Latvia. The project seeks to involve migrants and second-generation immigrants (who are often the subject of discrimination) in the creation of artistic recourses such as comic strips, which can then be used in the fight against racism and xenophobia.

The main activities include the ComiX4= Comics for Equality Award, a competition to recognise the best unpublished comic strips by authors with migrant backgrounds; a Facebook page, which has attracted 1,600 likes in the first three months of its existence and achieved a viral range of 5,000 users in the month of March 2013 alone; the interactive website www.comix4equality.eu, which attracts over

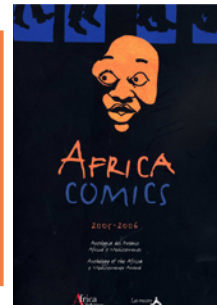
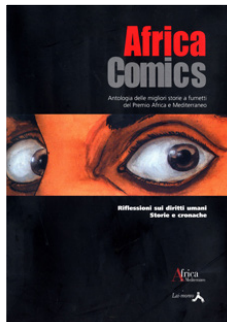
2,000 visitors per month and more than 6,000 page views (as of March 2013); an eighty-page catalogue containing the best comics submitted as part of the Award; a "Comics Handbook", comprising a guide to organising creative comic-strip workshops; a travelling exhibition containing the comics submitted for the Award; and comic-strip workshops, to be held throughout Europe. The project ComiX4= Comics for Equality is funded by the European Union - Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme - November 2012.

www.comix4equality.eu

Africa Comics

The Africa Comics project, which revolves around the Award for the Best Unpublished Comic by an African Author, has been running since 2002 and is now in its sixth edition. The project aims to raise awareness among broad and diverse audiences (and particularly young people) of the comics created by African authors. The Africa Comics project has become a point of reference for numerous scholars, Africanists, comic-strip enthusiasts, teachers,

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journalists and undergraduates.

The availability of comics from all over sub-Saharan Africa represents an important tool for those seeking to understand modern Africa through the creativity of the continent. In the comics, artists describe all aspects of reality (artistic or otherwise) in Africa. These include literature, the news, the influence of European art, references to African sculpture, advertising, political satire, HIV/AIDS, human rights violations, traditional storytelling, the media, magic and the fight against illiteracy.

With nearly 300 participants, over 400 comic strips submitted, 25 representatives of African countries and over 30 exhibitions held around the world since 2002, Africa Comics continues to form a window on present-day Africa and provide a means for dialogue between different cultures and peoples that is particularly useful

in the context of the current integration process faced by migrants and second-generation immigrants.

www.africacomics.net

Common Values

This project revolves around the provision of intercultural education based on two basic elements of contemporary society: immigration and the coexistence of people with different cultural backgrounds, and the invasiveness of the youth-targeted media. The project is based on an awareness of the impact of communication on the processes of identifying and relating to individuals, and therefore seeks, for example, to explore the factors behind various consumption habits. In contemporary society, in which the traditional values of different cultures come into ever-more frequent contact, it is important that young people engage in a meaningful reflection on the



universal values recognised by different schools of thought, both religious and secular.

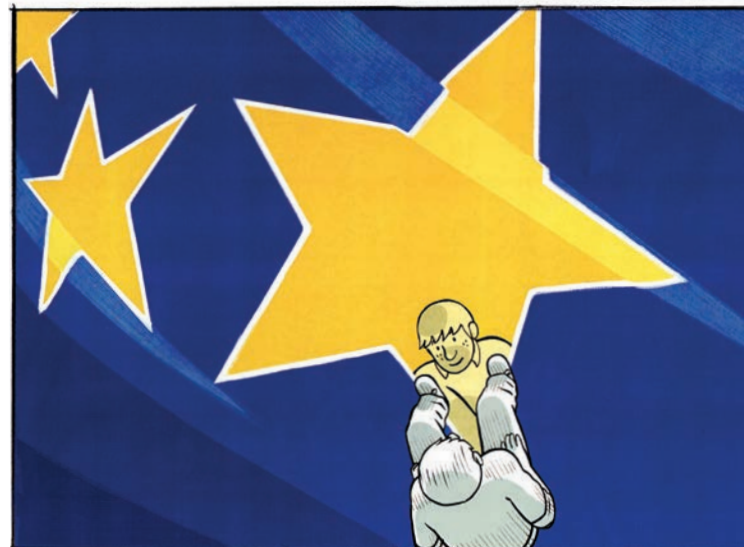
Africa e Mediterraneo utilises its experience and the range of material it has previously produced to organise a series of educational workshops in schools in Piedmont, Emilia Romagna, Lazio and Liguria. These workshops are based around the tool of advertising, and begin with a period of reflection on the values shared by both religious and secular thought, using the comic-strip materials produced within the European project Common Values (2005).

www.valeurscommunes.org

Approdi

The “Approdi” project stems from an awareness of the high risk of social exclusion faced by young immigrants in Italy, and the belief that immigrant reception services should not exclude children and young second-generation immigrants who, despite having overcome the language barrier, remain at risk of failing at school and of undergoing psychological distress. The specific demographic patterns resulting from immigration place Italian schools in a position that is increasingly defined as a ‘frontier’, whereby they require appropriate policies and resources to facilitate the integration of students with immigrant parents. The double phenomenon of belonging to a family with one cultural background and to another society amongst their Italian classmates, as well as the need for a greater awareness of this phenomenon among the host society, requires complex mechanisms of identity reconstruction that can, in many cases, expose the child to difficult emotional situations.

This initiative is based on the use of a participatory methodology that involves children, families, teachers, educators and young people in scenarios involving confrontation and creative development. Using comics on the topic of social integration into a host society, parents and children are encouraged to compare their experiences and expectations, resulting in an exchange between generations and between cultural realities.



Une saison d'haricot
Photo by
Baudouin Mouanda



Comic-strip workshop in Bolzano within the Appodi
Project

goals

documents

news

project

contacts

download

workshop

Millennium
Development
Goals



screens

Southern visions of the MDGs

the point of view
of the South on the
Millennium
Development Goals!



This website was created with the contribution of the European Union. The contents of the website are the sole responsibility of the City of Victoria and its partners and it can in no way be considered as the point of view of the European Union.



The Millennium Development Goals ↓

Above:
Website
created for the
Screens project
on the MDGs

Right:
Cover of the
Africa Comics
collection
2008-2009

Africa Comics

2009-2010

Africa Comics 2009-2010



Antologia del Premio Africa e Mediterraneo
Anthologie du Prix Africa e Mediterraneo

Africa
Mediterraneo

Lai-momo



In order to facilitate the integration of second-generation immigrants and encourage constructive dialogue between Italian and immigrant children, intercultural activities and expressive-creative workshops are organised and carried out in collaboration with teachers and experts in intercultural and media education, in which families and local associations are also involved.

Beyond promoting cross-cultural perspectives, these activities – which include comic-strip workshops led by African artists – aim to stimulate young people's creativity as a means of representing themselves and expressing their identities.

The project has been running since 2006 as a European project and has recently taken place in Emilia-Romagna, Piedmont, Lazio and Trentino Alto-Adige.

www.approdi.net

Screens

“SCREENS – Southern visions of the Millennium Goals” (Screens – Il punto di vista del Sud sugli obiettivi del Millennio) is a European project. Funded in December 2010 by the European Commission, which holds the project in high esteem, Screens seeks to facilitate, above all, the greater involvement of African partners in the international debate on the eight Millennium Development Goals identified by the UN in 2000. In this project, in which Africa e Mediterraneo acts as a partner organisation, particular attention is placed on “Southern” views of the MDGs – views that are

often overlooked. The project interprets the “South” not just as a source of migratory flows but, above all, as a base for cultural output and research.

Screens aims to raise public awareness of these issues and to encourage the provision of development education and decentralised cooperation networks by the local authorities involved, using new tools and methodologies designed in collaboration with partners in the South (Botswana, Cape Verde, Tanzania and Burkina Faso). A range of activities can be carried out, from creative-expressive workshops for young people, to meetings and training courses for associations, to the world of politics and schools.

The project leader is the municipality of Vittoria (RG) in partnership with the local council of Siggiewi (Malta), the municipality of Mateszalka (Hungary), and Africa e Mediterraneo. African partners include the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), the University of Botswana, Afrique in visu (Mali), the Association Planete Jeune de Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and the Sea Caela Association (San Nicolao, Cape Verde).

www.mdgscreens.eu

Promotion of the Caritas/Migrantes 2011 Statistical Immigration Dossier in Emilia-Romagna

Through this project, Africa e Mediterraneo has sought to raise awareness of the Caritas/Migrantes 2011 Statistical Immigration Dossier in the region of Emilia-Romagna through the organisation of conferences in various cities (Parma, Imola, Ravenna and Bologna).

These conferences have addressed various aspects of the phenomenon of migration through thematic discussions with industry experts based on the statistical data provided by this research. The conferences have been widely attended by participants from the world of academia, institutions, as well as from civil society. In addition to the Dossier, two other volumes were discussed: the Fourth Report of the European Migration Network Italia and the guide “Communicating Immigration: A Practical Guide for Information Professionals.”

Manifesta!

The title Manifesta! comes from the name of a European project carried out by Africa e Mediterraneo in 2006 to raise awareness among the European public of the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights. The project aims to create learning curricula based on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights for use in high schools in Bologna, using an intercultural methodology based on expressive-educational activities. These classroom activities aim specifically to create a sense of belonging to the European Union, to promote social and civic awareness and to promote awareness of citizens' rights and duties. Through workshop activities, the project encourages participants to express, appreciate and respect diversity and individual potential; to develop creative, expressive and narrative capacities related to verbal and non-verbal forms of communication; to develop forms of communication that allow them to express their views of themselves and others; and to create communicative products (text, videos, postcards, publications) based on a greater awareness of the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights.

www.manifestaproject.eu

Interculture Map

The analysis of interculturality in Europe involves a journey along a defined but varied path, made up of separate strands that intersect at various points. This process involves making choices: deciding to delve



into some areas and therefore, inevitably, neglecting others. In outlining this varied European map, we sought to take account of activities and practices with ‘intercultural’ aims or consequences in five macro-areas, conventionally defined as: arts, media and publishing, education, quality of life and university research.

We followed the same methodology to carry out research specifically in Piedmont and Liguria – two Italian regions with an intercultural panorama that offers particularly interesting insights into the concept and practice of intercultural dialogue.

www.interculturemap.org

Africa e Mediterraneo Reception Centre

The Africa e Mediterraneo Reception Centre for women with children comprises two apartments in Sasso Marconi (BO) used to welcome or provide emergency accommodation for women – either alone or with children – who are experiencing socio-economic difficulties.

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The aim of the project is to empower the women using the facilities, by increasing the level of control they exert over their own lives and by increasing their ability to become active members of the community in which they live. The aim is to engage the women in activities that will enable them to develop and/or recover the autonomy required to make decisions and solve problems affecting their lives and those of their children. An integral part of this process is the development of greater awareness of the women's socio-cultural context and the acquisition of a greater awareness and understanding of their roles and parental responsibilities. It also involves the development of greater awareness of the need for sustainable individual life plans and for the protection and nurturing of children, as well as the acquisition of knowledge of the way in which services work and the means available to them to access opportunities/resources in the local area.

The facilities provided are temporary and subject to progress towards meeting the specific goals of each beneficiary. The project was funded by the consortium ASC Insieme Interenti Sociali valli del Reno, and Lavino e Samoggia di Casalecchio di Reno (BO).

Collection of intercultural material



The Africa e Mediterraneo journal

The quarterly journal Africa e Mediterraneo has been published by the Lai-momo Cooperative in Bologna and promoted by Africa e Mediterraneo since 1995. Based on the input of an international scientific committee, the journal publishes dossiers on topics relating to the economies, history, art and societies of African countries.

Some of the latest issues include:

Art Creates Relationships;
Lewis Nkosi: South Africa, Exile and Writing;
Senegal and the Senegalese Diaspora;
The Challenges of Intercultural Mediation;
Stories and Practices of Football in Africa;
African Fashion: Dressing the Body and Living Fashion;
Cultural Policies in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries;
Tourism and Heritage: The Case of Bénin;
Africa: Tourism and Heritage;
Medicine and Migration;
Educational Cities, Migration and Education for Peace;
Africa in Museums and Western Collections;
“Artistic Objects” in Museums and Collections in Present-Day Africa: What is at Stake;
In/Out: Young People, Migration and Society North and South of the Mediterranean.

The Africa e Mediterraneo Study Centre

The Africa e Mediterraneo Study Centre aims to facilitate the cultural integration of immigrants and promote cultural cooperation with Africa at the local, national and international levels. It seeks to encourage collaboration, the formation of relationships and the creation of tools for professionals working in a range of fields, including schools, universities, local authorities, NGOs, associations, and public and private institutions involved in raising awareness of issues relating to immigration, development and human rights.

•Consultation of the centre’s material, by

appointment

- Organisation of intercultural workshops for schools using visual arts
- Media education and intercultural workshops for schools
- Exhibitions of comic strips by African authors
- Development of intercultural communicative products
- Development of communicative products in collaboration with African artists
- Consultancy services for social and educational sectors
- Focus group activities
- Planning and coordination of intercultural activities for health authorities
- Training on the following topics: activities aimed at teenagers in multicultural contexts, the teaching of L2 Italian, socio-linguistic and intercultural mediation, counselling, media education and intercultural education.

Bibliographic Resources

- Media and intercultural education
- The sociology of immigration
- Cultural anthropology
- Contemporary African art
- Traditional African art
- Albums by African comic-strip authors
- Narratives by African authors
- Narratives on immigration
- Magazines: African Arts, Revue Noir, NKA, Africa (ISIAO), The Economy of Culture, Liasons, Ponts



Exhibitions

3

The Africa Comics Exhibition

The Africa Comics exhibition presents a selection of original comic strips created for the Africa e Mediterraneo Award for the Best Unpublished Comic Strip by an African Author, established in 2002 and now in its sixth edition. The exhibition reflects the Award's three traditional categories – *human rights, stories of migration and free subject* – as well as two additional sections – *sport, poverty, food and food sovereignty, and the Internet and social networks in Africa*.

The Common Values Exhibition

The Common Values aims to highlight the existence of fundamental values within all major religions as well as systems of secular thought. This idea is gaining ever-greater importance in Europe, where migration is increasing the frequency of contact between different cultures, in a world which is witnessing the unexpected return of religion, and in which

religious and cultural conflicts are becoming increasingly prominent. In the Common Values exhibition, the viewer is guided on an ideal journey through different cultures and religions, based on the journeys presented by five comics created by African authors.

The Manifesta exhibition!

“Manifesta!” aims to raise awareness and promote respect for the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights through artistic events based around the creation of cartoons and humorous illustrations, aimed especially at children and young people of school age. As part of this overall objective, the project has two specific objectives:

- To encourage effective communication that emphasises the views of minorities through the involvement of both European and non-European artists;
- To encourage European society to engage in an active global reflection on fundamental rights, through an artistic competition.



Contact

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