

The Erasmus+ project presents

# SEE & ACT

Special edition 18-23/03/2018

## *Immigration, corruption and crime*

### Impressions

*It was an unique and extraordinary experience that helped bring people with different cultural backgrounds together and deepened the understanding from our perspective and from theirs.*

*-Lisann and Jasper Berlin*

*This experience has made me think about all the things and possibilities that I have in my life while other people live everyday trying to survive and searching for their happiness and freedom, so after listening to the refugees life and all the things they had to overtake I think that we all have to show more respect and appreciation to all of the opportunities given to us.*

Jan Vergès

## The danger of being an excellent writer

A story of Giulio Francese, crime journalist, fighting the code of Omertà

**29th of January, 1979 has been and will always be a moving date within the world of crime journalists. The loss of Mario Francese wasn't the first neither the last result of the Mafia violence on the people that spoke up to the silence. The result of the simple act of performing their work puts these people's lives on the line every day.**

Even though the criminal circuit resigned their strategy from a violence implying presence to a more underground business, the threats didn't diminish. But even with this weight of danger on their shoulders, journalists reporting on these cases deliberately bring up discussion that might otherwise would have stayed under the pressure of the code of Omertà, the code of honor that places importance on silence.

Breaking this acknowledged rule with the truth is the highly respected job of a journalist working in the crime department of Sicily. The result of carrying this action can be seen as a vicious circle. The publishing of articles containing Mafia relating information, breaking silence and coming closer to the truth is like putting a target on yourself for the Mafia.

Everyday consciously choosing to speak instead of keeping quiet is a symbol of democracy, freedom of speech and equal distribution of knowledge.

When the assassination case of Mario Francese was reopened after many years the convicted took the stand and admitted with the following statement: "It is a fact that Mario Francese was an excellent journalist, this is what resulted in his death."

But murder isn't the only way to confute one. His son, Giulio Francese, spoke his thoughts on the matter: " You die twice, the first time you get killed, but the second time it's a matter of legacy. It is the oblivion. The silence."

By remembering the words of those who have been confuted, by just standing up against the rules we follow, we do not only respect those who put their lives on the line for this matter, we take away a little bit of the danger.

Laurélie Mathé & Lea



# Wouldn't it be good?

As a German I can tell that it is pretty simple to impress us with simple things like sunshine, mountains and architecture from another age. Sicily is the dream for every German tourist. They can make photos of the nature and cities here and after doing that they can lay down on, lazy as they are, on the beach. In simple words, Sicily is a wet dream for everyone from northern Europe.

Sicily doesn't feel like an island. Every time I've been travelling around here, I felt like I am on the mainland of Europe. I mean Sicily is like many other vacation countries that I visited before, but it also has something unique and I can't really tell what it is. I mean, everything I've seen here isn't really new to me. And still...I feel more relaxed here than I ever felt in Germany.

That could be because of all the people here. The natives are friendly, polite and especially incredibly relaxed. They like to take their time and don't seem to be stressed like the most people in my country. They wake up with a smile, don't complain about their lives and enjoy each other's company. This is hard to progress for a person from Germany, but I can tell that the lifestyle of the Italians is addictive. I mean, have you ever received pancakes, cake and pudding for breakfast without a special occasion? Yes, me neither. The food in general is just simply perfect. It doesn't matter if you get pizza, pasta or even simple fast-food, because it tastes so much better than in Germany.

While we have snow in Germany with a total temperature of 0 to -5 degrees, there are like over 15 degrees here in Italy and consider that I'm here in March. I mean, you can run around here in just a T-Shirt and maybe a thin jacket and I can assure you that won't even shiver. Even when it is raining here you won't freeze to death, because every raindrop is warm and barely wet. The wind here is warm as well and feels quite comfortable when it blowing through your hair.

So, what is Sicily? The grass here is greener, than a Dutch tomato is red, the sky and the ocean are more blue than the eyes of a person from the UK and landscape is shaped like the nightmare of a neurotic person, but you can believe that this is something good.

Sicily is a country where they write "friendly" in big bold letters and a country where they judge no one for what they're are. I believe a person from Sicily would even say that an enemy is a friend you haven't made yet. I can assure you that they won't judge you for your skin colour, your looks, sexuality and age.

So in the end there's just to say that Sicily can be simply described with the lyrics from the 80's classic "Wouldn't it be good" from Nik Kershaw:

***"Wouldn't it be good to be on your side? The grass is always greener over there!"***

## The Combination of Equity and Equality in our schools

Equity and equality are two of the main pillars in our society, they provide fairness and justice for everyone. However, supporting one concept more than the other can disturb and even destroy our community. Do you not think that the best recipe for a balanced society is a combination of both? Indeed it is, we will show you why.

Let's face the fact that, as students, we sometimes come across unequal situations in our everyday school life. Gender inequality is an issue which still exists in our schools; for example, many of the dress codes that we must follow are incredibly sexist. Generally, girls have to obey more rules than boys; for instance, while boys can wear almost any kind of clothes, girls are restricted to their type of clothing. As *Marta Pascual* described, a 17 year old student from Spain: *"A teacher from my school once told me I was revealing too much skin, so, I had to put on a jacket or go home and change."*

Nevertheless, there are also positive situations within our school community. As we said, equity and equality are two concepts which are importantly related. A great example would be the fact that certain students in our schools have additional needs, some suffer from learning difficulties like dyslexia or ADHD (lack of attention), and so they require extra support. This is why they are offered opportunities such as extra time in exams or even easier tests and tasks. For us this is, without a doubt, equity. We are aware that some people may find this special treatment unfair. However, in order to get justice for everyone and the proper education sometimes a lack of equality is needed. Despite some students experiencing gender inequality, the students who work hard are recognized for their achievements; thus, everyone is accepted and has the right to study and do well. Therefore, equality exists in our school.

Overall, we wrote this article to widen your horizon on equity and equality in our school, that is our second home and the place where our education began. In this way, it is important that equity and equality exists within our school community.



# Who do we blame?

Throughout Europe, millions of crimes committed annually but how much blame do we put on the people?

In Sweden in 2015, there were 5918 rape allegations, but only 176 convictions. With the law being 2 to 6 years for rape ,this isn't surprising, placing undoubted blame on the government. In the UK, it would seem we have harsher laws on rape, the maximum sentence being life, nevertheless it seems the UK government has some sexual scandals of its own. Bex Bailey was raped when she was 19 but was told not to report the case. How can the British public trust the government enforcing the correct laws, when they themselves are committing the crimes?

Similarly, the fear of reporting crimes by the government by the Mafia in Italy could place some accountability upon the government. Both the presence of corrupt politicians and rare but existent alliances with Mafia members, combined with fear, means some people are reluctant to speak. We question whether the government could do anything to change this, and if they can be held liable in any way for the influence of the Mafia in society.

Spain felt strongly that the government do not spend enough money on social issues and focused spending on the government internally. From an article written about Spain's social issues; "the underfunded and under resourced nature of Spain's welfare state is leading to an acute social crisis within the country, disproportionately affecting poorer citizens.' Main sections in society remain underfunded , with money being spent on buildings and not on people.

On the other hand, when speaking to some German students, they felt 'strict laws' within their country were sufficient protection, and thus the people who committed the crimes were of full accountability

On the other hand, when speaking to some German students, they felt 'strict laws' within their country were sufficient protection, and thus the people who committed the crimes were of full accountability. Yet somehow, there are still no immigration laws and this is why Germany is facing unemployment amongst refugees. Some Germans refuse to accept the immigrants and act violently against them. This is emphasized by the vague immigration laws which allows people to enter the country in great numbers.

It can be concluded that crime prevalent across all of Europe , is as a result of both the government and the people. There will continue to be social issues which are at the hands of the government and contribute to crime , nevertheless they cannot be hold responsible for everything.

Eleonor, Natasha, Zara, Pontus & Lisann

## MAFIA & PIZZO

The word "pizzo", in the slang of mafia, means a way of extortion actualized by "Cosa Nostra" ( Sicilian mafia) which consists in forcing business owners to pay a part of their profits. The term "pizzo" is taken from the sicilian dialect " u pizzu" , a word that refers to a bird's peek .

Victims of pizzo are forced to pay by intimidation and physical, economical and moral threats. If they decide not to pay for it, mafia could destroy their activity or even kill the business owner or a member of his family.

This phenomenon is widespread especially in Palermo, where the 80% of business owners pay pizzo.

Let's talk about numbers. In Catania, MeridioNews' journalists have done a survey asking the business owners if they were forced by mafia to pay pizzo. The 51% decided not to answer to the question.

There are antimafia's committee such as "Addiopizzo", which is located in a house in Palermo which was confiscated from the Spataro's family, who was related to mafia.

It was born on the 29th of August 2004 when a group of anonymous young people covered the city of Palermo with many posters where there was written: "Un intero popolo che paga il pizzo è un popolo senza dignità", which means "a society that pays the pizzo is a society without dignity". After this event the same people decided to create an association against pizzo. During a conference, Giulio Francese, the journalists order's president, stated that shops with Addiopizzo's stickers are not pressed by mafia,which means that Addiopizzo is a very useful association.

Flavia Costarelli, Anna Desiree Gresti e Matilde Di Fazio



# Anti-mafia

By the end of the 20th century, people began to oppose the Mafia and the anti-pizzo organization was one way of doing this. Addiopizzo means: 'goodbye to protection payments', and was a movement endeavouring to oppose the extortion forced upon millions of businesses across Italy.

In 2004, Addiopizzo took a huge stand; they demonstrated wearing black t-shirts with their logos and spread stickers across the whole of Palermo union that read: 'an entire populous who pays Pizzo is a mob without dignity.'

The aim of Addiopizzo is to encourage as many businesses as possible to own Pizzo free businesses by creating a strong network of people. At rallies, speakers cry out 'There is no better time to say no. You will never be the same'. However, the key message the anti-pizzo organisation want to portray is, 'A whole lot of people who pay the Pizzo is a people without dignity'

In 2007, members of the association included 210 traders and entrepreneurs and over 9000 consumers who promised to only buy from shops belonging to the 'pizzo free list'.

The Palermo police agreed to look after the member shops. Also more than 90 schools took part in the Addiopizzo organized programs. Additionally, Addiopizzo made global headlines through launching a "pizzo-free" festival and a supermarket named "Punto Pizzofree" in Palermo.

The strengths of the Addiopizzo organisation in opposing the Mafia has contributed to the increased awareness surrounding extortion, with the Mafia extorting more than 160 million Euros per year from Italian businesses.

**ACROSS:**

1. The moral principle determining just conduct or behaviour.
2. Government by the people.
3. Express an opinion .
4. That which is morally correct, just or honorable (plural).
5. The state of being equal.
6. Synonym of tribunal.
7. Rule created to regulate behaviour.

**DOWN:**

1. Someone who has, who claims to have, or is thought to have knowledge relevant to an event.
2. Group formed when two or more people, political parties... agree to work together temporarily in order to achieve a common goal.
3. When someone with authority uses his position in a bad way.
4. Justice according to natural law or right.
5. Judgement, view point or statement that's not conclusive.



# Mirko e il cane siamo tutti bene

Hi, my name is Mario and I'm 7 years old  
7 and half, to be exact

I like the sun, friendships, good people  
football, cheerful songs and the good smell of my mom's skin  
It's been a few months that my dad isn't coming back  
but it causes trouble to talk to someone about it  
especially with my mom  
because then she feels bad  
she yells, cries and it doesn't stop  
and she hides and one can't see her for three days

FOR THE REST OF THE SONG  
SCAN THE FIRST QR CODE

# Abuse of power

we didn't start the fire  
it was always burning  
since the world's been turning  
no, we didn't light it  
but we'll try to fight it

FOR THE REST OF THE SONG  
SCAN THE SECOND QR CODE



## The Erasmus Quiz

- What was the name of Giuseppe Francese's father?
  - Pippo
  - Mario
  - Mauro
- The capital of Sicily?
  - Syracuse
  - Catania
  - Palermo
- How many refugees came to Italy in 2016?
  - 181.377
  - 106.100
  - 4.165
- In which year did the "mafia war" begin?
  - 1986
  - 1979
  - 1769
- Who is the most infamous mafia boss from Sicily?
  - Salvatore Riina
  - Carlo Gambino
  - Vito Genovese
- What's the name of the boy in the previous picture?
  - Giuseppe di Matteo
  - Mario Francese
  - Peppino Impastato
- Are Ismael and Sangie refugees or immigrants?
  - Refugees
  - Immigrants
- Nowadays in Italy 20 journalists are escorted. True or false?
  - True
  - False
- What is the closest Italian island near to Tunisia?
  - Pantelleria
  - Lampedusa
  - Malta
- Describe the difference between equity and equality  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# APPEAL TO OUR HEART

Do you really appreciate what you have? Are you actually aware of what slavery, war and famine means? We don't think so. We believe that we are born into a capitalistic society of consumption, only caring about what people demand. Nobody thinks about what they already have, they are never satisfied because of their voracity. For instance, people like Ismael and Sanji, two refugees from mid-Africa, don't care about appearance, but people's heart. They lived through unimaginable inhumane situations of agony, dominated by fear, slavery and death, while we are complaining about food tasting weird and smartphones running out of energy. We think that everyone should stop for a minute, and think of all the stuff we take for granted and be grateful for what we already have. All of us have a home with running water and electricity. All of us are living in a democracy with human rights. All of us are able to go to school and have an education. If you really think about it, you will realise that your life is pretty amazing. We should use the good in our lives to help the people, who are not as lucky as we are. It's really not important how a person looks, or what clothing he/she's wearing. The only important thing is the heart of a person, his/her's story. So even if you don't have a lot of money to help the ones who are in need you can always give them your time. Listen to their stories. Get to know their heart and not their face.



-Roberta Grasso, Janina Franke, Maria Engel and Jasper Merz

## Impressions about our experience with immigrants

*Eye-opening truth of something we've tried not to see*

-Laurelie, Bergen Op Zoom

*Yesterday was a touching experience, it was an honor to be in the company of such amazing people who had gone through awful things.*

-India, London

*When we heard the stories of the refugees, I was very moved and saddened to learn the horrors and suffering faced by young people of a similar age to us. It is hard to imagine that people, who are in many ways so similar to us, faced such pain. In the evening, the party was a great way to bring everyone together, and it was wonderful to see such happiness on the faces of people who have experienced so much hurt.*

-Eleonor, London

*I think that sharing the day with Father Mario and the immigrants helped me to see life in a humble way. As Father Mario said, we should look to the disadvantaged people instead of only listening. We should look through their eyes and know what they've lived to understand them.*

-Lorca, Barcelona

Q	W	X	G	F	T	F	R	A	U	D	N
I	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T	O
M	Z	S	M	I	T	C	I	V	Q	T	I
M	V	C	N	T	U	Y	O	W	F	L	T
I	B	O	A	Y	G	S	T	A	T	E	P
G	U	S	I	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	U
R	T	A	C	X	O	U	S	R	C	X	R
A	S	N	I	A	Z	R	W	D	P	Y	R
T	Q	O	T	I	S	O	F	S	O	I	O
I	W	S	I	F	D	P	U	J	K	J	C
O	Y	T	L	A	N	E	P	O	H	F	G
N	X	R	O	M	V	A	P	A	T	H	Y
U	H	A	P	N	I	L	L	E	G	A	L
D	T	A	X	E	V	A	S	I	O	N	D

- IMMIGRATION
- VICTIMS
- GOVERNMENT
- FRAUD
- CORRUPTION
- TAX EVASION
- COSA NOSTRA
- MAFIA
- EUROPE
- APATHY
- FREEDOM
- PENALTY
- ILLEGAL
- STATE



# Meeting the Italian Coast Guard, a memorable experience.

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The excellence and humanity of the Coast Guard rescuing migrants and carrying wretched corpses showed us the reality of migration.

Watching the videos and listening to the range of activities they perform was truly incredible.

Lieutenant Commander Fabrizio Colombo did not want to be dramatic, nor sensational he simply showed us the reality of their jobs and explaining the details and complexity of their duties.

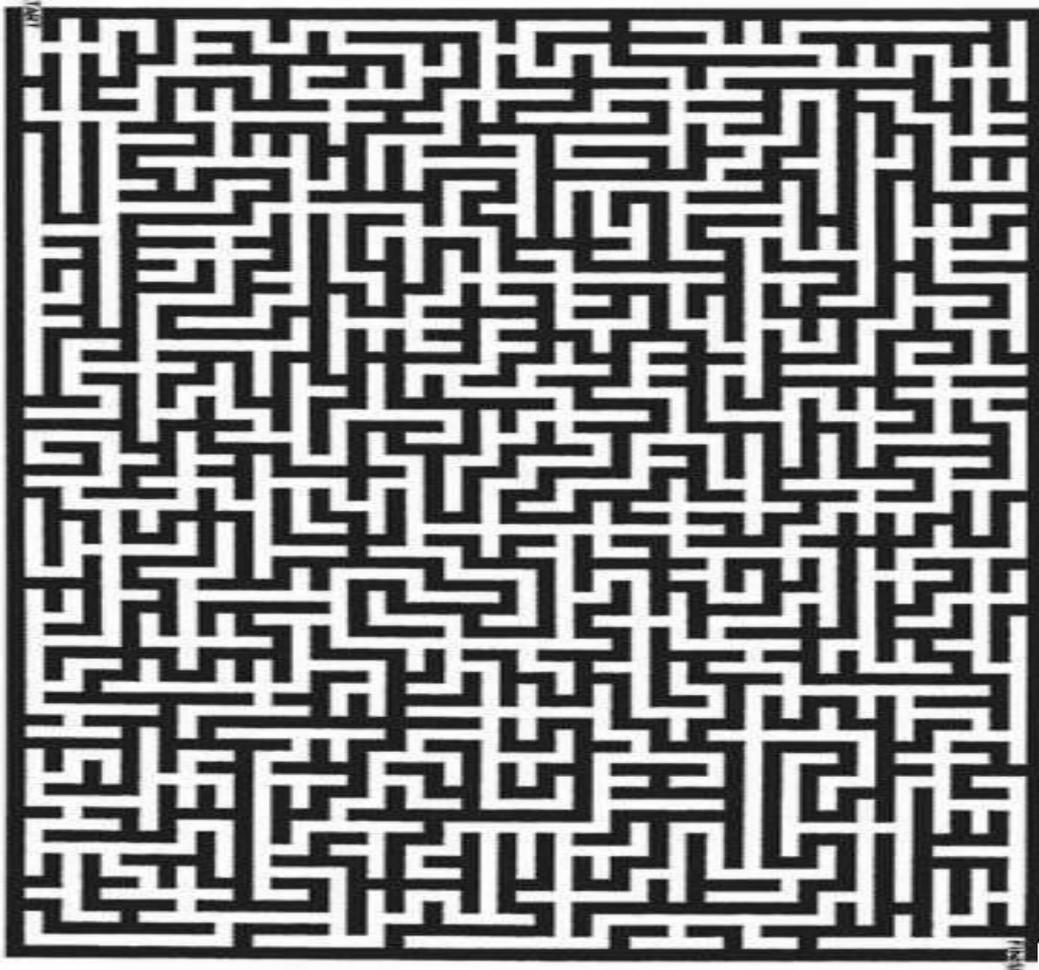
The students and teachers were really moved by the scenes they could see during this presentation. We knew it was not a film it was the real account of what has happened and still happens to thousands of desperate migrants from Africa and the Middle East who are hoping for a new life in Europe.

How can you forget their faces, their eyes, their arms when they try to reach out to the coast guards. These people have horror in their eyes. The crossing of the Mediterranean from Libia or Tunisia to Sicily is hell. The Mediterranean has become a cemetery. Those who survive have been threatened, beaten, they have seen people drowning, or have sat for hours next to some their dead companions in those unsafe boats or inflatables. Some have been burnt or poisoned by the fumes from the diesel. And then they see the Italian coast guard ships. They shout and the Coast Guard has to make the operation as safe as possible. Most people cannot swim, some stand, others fall in the sea.

Their faces show fear, horror, gratitude and we feel honored and very proud to be Italians.

The endless tide of migrants has made this horror movie an everyday horrible reality for the coast guard people who, with selfless devotion to duty and heroism, risk their life and have saved hundreds of thousands of people.

We will always remember and honor the Coast Guard for their generosity, for their great responsibility and excellent skills in performing their jobs. We knew they receive advance training but we were not completely aware of the difficulty and stressful reality for these special men and women.



SCAN HERE FOR  
THE SOLUTIONS

