

Lunaria



Lunaria is an independent and non-profit association, born in 1992. Lunaria promotes the “principles of justice, social and economical solidarity, democratic participation to the life of the community, promotion of the civil, social and human rights both at national and international level” (art. 3 of the Constitution Chart).

In order to contribute to the achievements of such principles, the organisation develops research, training, communication and consultancy actions in the following fields:

- international economy, third sector and ethical finance;
- immigration, fight to racism and social exclusion;
- international voluntary service and youth exchanges.

As an independent body, Lunaria manages a part of its activities through contributions granted by public authorities and the European Commission. On the other hand, Lunaria is also supported by those members who directly benefit from activities such as international workcamps and training courses.

The typology of the developed activities and the approach to its own *mission* prove the international orientation of our organisation and its positive attitude towards networking.

With a staff of 15 persons, Lunaria can rely on at least 20 volunteers working on a regular basis and about 400 joining the international workcamps every year.

Its structure is small and light, with an Presidency Committee composed by the President, the Vice-President and one member elected by the Assembly.

More info about Lunaria activities: www.lunaria.org

Activities about migrations and racism

Since 1996 Lunaria has been promoting research activities, awareness campaigns and information initiatives on migrations and racism. All our activities are supported by an intensive work of networking at local, national and European level.

In order to ensure full citizenship, civil, social, and political rights to non-EU nationals, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

- **campaigns** for the recognition of the rights of immigrants to vote in local elections, the reform of the laws on citizenship and placing the competency for residence permits under the civil authorities
- **public initiatives** to sensitize the public opinion on the cultural diversity
- **intercultural education** programmes for high schools
- **research** about immigration trends and best practices in fight against discrimination.

Research and social analysis are considered as fundamental instruments to support initiatives and campaigns aimed to defend immigrants' rights, against discriminations and xenophobia, and to promote alternative but sustainable policies. This kind of approach raised a deep knowledge of migration phenomenon in Rome, in Italy and in Europe, especially about immigrants' labour market inclusion-exclusion condition, important and critical barriers that obstruct immigrants access to social services (house, school, health services, active participation).

The rights are not a cost. Lunaria is now developing a research on Italian public expenditure on immigration. The research aims to collect data and information about the public resources aimed to fund politics for the fight against "illegal" immigration on the one hand and to fund social inclusion of immigrants on the other hand. Research reports are planned for march, june and September 2013.

Lunaria is one of the promoters of the national campaign "**L'Italia sono anch'io**" launched in 2011 to propose the citizenship law reform and the introduction of the right to vote for third country nationals resident in Italy. More of 100.000 signatures have been collected.

In 2011 Lunaria has launched Cronachediordinariorazzismo.org, a new website devoted to the analysis, information and communication on racism thanks to the support of the Open Society Foundations. It is managed by Lunaria in cooperation with individuals, associations and movements that fight for equal opportunities and for the guarantee of citizenship rights for all. An online database discloses the synthetic narration of cases of discrimination in our society and in the world of information, politics and within our institutions.

In 2011 Lunaria published the second edition of the **White book on racism** thanks to the support of the Tavola Valdese and Fondazione Charlemagne.

Lunaria is presently carrying out **Show racism!**, a project supported by Fondazione Intercultura. The working plan includes a non formal education programme in 10 classes of 3 high school of Rome on the theme of discriminations and racism; a postmeridian workshop

on the use of participatory cartography to map racism in Rome; a final public event which will involve all the students and teachers participating to the project.

Lunaria is presently co-ordinating **Multimedia in Cape Verde**, a project supported the European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI). The project aims to promote access to ICT technologies based on free software and trashware equipment in the Cape Verde island of Sao Nicolau, with the objective of enhancing social inclusion, communication between Capeverdian youngsters and Capeverdian 2nd and 3rd generation migrant youth in Italy and promoting local entrepreneurship.

In 2009 Lunaria published the **Rapporto sul razzismo in Italia** (Report on Racism in Italy), a qualitative report about the current forms of discriminations and racism in Italy. The report is focused on the role played by policy-makers and media operators in proposing and disseminating prejudices and stereotypes about immigrants. The report, which encloses the narration of 398 cases of discriminations and racism monitored on the press, encountered a big attention among the national media and the academic world.

From 2008 to 2009 Lunaria promoted **YouMap: young urban cartographies**. The project has been co-funded by the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission and the Charlemagne Foundation. YouMap focused on the creation of an innovative tool to build models of participation and active citizenship for young people. YouMap was intended to bring together native and second-generation migrant youngsters in European cities, to give them the chance to discuss cognitive maps of their urban, social and cultural experiences. The platform www.youmap.eu is one of the project results.

From 2006 to 2009 Lunaria has been involved in **TRESEGY** (Transnational Research on Second Generation Youth), a transnational research project on second generation youth promoted by D.I.S.A.-University of Genoa and co-funded by EU under FP6 program. This project aimed to explore the life experiences of second generation migrated teenagers in nine different local urban areas among six national contexts. This target group represents an important challenge for the EU and its member states. Their social and cultural location and representation varies dramatically within different European host societies. From this perspective, the project aimed to evaluate and compare the different structural, cultural, economic and socio-political factors that contribute to define the organization and orientation of socio-economic exclusion/inclusion phenomena among these groups in the public sphere.

In 2005 Lunaria published **Let's live in peace**, a kit addressed to secondary schools pupils, with the support of Council of Europe. The kit focused the issue of new wars and forms of racism in Italy and in Europe.

In 2005 Lunaria co-ordinated a local campaign to collect citizens' signatures aimed to introduce **the right to vote** of third nationals resident in Rome. The campaign collected 8.000 signatures.

In 2005 Lunaria published **Migranti, persone (Migrants, people)**, a publication aimed to inform Italian citizens and immigrants about the latest reforms of Italian law on immigration and asylum.

From 2002 to 2005 Lunaria participated as a partner to the IST project co-funded by the European Commission – D.G. Information Society on "The Regional Impact of the Information Society on Employment and Integration" (**RISESI**), led by the National Institute for Working Life in Sweden. The project included a survey about the production and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in selected European countries and a detailed analysis on ICT firms in the area of Rome, with an assessment of their effects in terms of innovation, employment and social integration of women and immigrants.

From 2003 to 2004 Lunaria participated as partner to **S.M.I.L.I.N.G.** (Skilled Migrants and Labour Market Integration) an European research project promoted by GES (Gabinet d'Estudis Socials) and co-financed by the European Commission – Dg Employment and Social Affairs. The project investigated the main obstacles and the main positive factors that favour the integration of skilled migrants in qualified labour market.

Potentiality and risks of immigrants' self-enterprising in Rome have been analysed during a research that Lunaria did in co-operation with Caritas of Rome in 2003. The report has been published in **Immigrants in roman economy: work, enterprising, saving**, edited by Caritas and the Chamber of Commerce of Rome.

The transformation of job market for immigrants in Rome, in the context of precarious working that affect the national and international labour market, has been analysed during a researched made in co-operation with IRPPS-CNR (Institute of Research on population and social policies) in 2003. In particular, the attention has been focused on social and labour needs of immigrants living in Rome and on the analysis of public support policies actually at existing. The report **Immigrants' work in Rome: social-labour conditions and possible policies for the local administration** is available on our web-site.

In 2002 through the publication of **Bada alla Bossi-Fini!** (Take care to Bossi_fini!), Lunaria edited a publication about the reform of the immigration law introduced by the Law. N. 189/2002.

Foreign workers inclusion in economy and labour market of Rome. The study, developed by Lunaria in co-operation with Lelio Basso Foundation in 2001, highlights the connection between some specific labour sectors (services, restaurants, ethnic economy, house keeping, etc.) and some immigrants' community, and shows the transformations occurred after the diffusion of precarious jobs, offering data on work condition (salaries, health, contracts, etc.) and on informal ways to enter the labour market.

In 2001 Lunaria developed a research on immigrants' discrimination in the access to housing rights. The study was part of the project "**The world in my home**", promoted by ASAL and co-funded by the European Commission-DG Occupation and Social Affairs. Representatives of Rental House Agencies, owners' association, banks, municipalities, voluntary associations,

associations for immigrants' rights defence have been interviewed to highlight what kind of actions have been done to find new access way to housing for immigrants in Italy. The report is available on our web-site.

In 2000 the European Observatory against Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) promoted the creation of a European information network on racism and xenophobia phenomena (RAXEN). The RAXEN Network promoted 2 kinds of actions: mapping activities to create a database of all social, associative and co-operative realities working against racism and discrimination; research, data collection and case studies on racial violence, legal frameworks and education. In 2001 Lunaria took part of **RAXEN**, collecting data and information on anti-discrimination activities promoted by institutional subjects and civil society actors in Lazio Region.

From 1999 to 2000 Lunaria promoted the action-research project **Support immigrants' access to bank services** co-funded by the European Commission under the Budget Line B3-2006. Access to basic bank services is not always guaranteed for immigrants respecting the same condition used for local inhabitants. This is a treatment inequality that obstructs the social and economical inclusion of migrants in the hosting societies. The project developed at European level a monitoring of existing discriminations in the bank sector, through case studies, interviews to immigrants and bank's representatives. A guide to facilitate immigrants' access to bank services has been produced.

From 2000 to 2002 Lunaria managed a **legal assistance service** to support refugees and people claiming asylum.

In 2000 Lunaria carried out the intercultural project **Voci Migranti** (Migrant voices) in 15 classes of 5 primary and secondary schools in Rome. A course of 3 meetings focused on issues such as under-development, the myth of welfare as the main reason for migrants to leave their countries, immigration in Italy and the features of literature created by migrants. All meetings between students and authors were preceded by class works on writings from the anthology "Voci Migranti". Activities in class were accompanied by two plays written by immigrant authors.

In 1999 and in 2000, together with other local and national associations Lunaria promoted demonstrations and initiatives for the **regularization** of all immigrants who were working without a permit to stay in Italy.

In 1998 Lunaria collaborated with the Association for Peace in setting up **Immifax**, a fax agency to up-date information on legislation regarding immigration and the campaigns and initiatives undertaken by antiracist associations in Italy and in Europe.

In 1997 Lunaria took part in **collecting signatures for three popular proposals of laws** aimed to the recognition of the right of immigrants to vote in local elections, the reform of the laws on citizenship and placing the competency for residence permits under the civil authorities.

Zingari e gagè: a CD-ROM was realised in 1997 in the framework of a project aimed at fighting racism. It was co-financed by the European Commission and it showed the relationship between Gypsies and Italian society. The cd-rom has been presented to the students of secondary schools.

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