



Heritage's toolkit 4 teachers

Summary

Monumenti Aperti is a large-scale local engagement project that every year, in a lot of Italian cities, brings together thousands of volunteers who, motivated to reclaim the cultural heritage of their community, "adopt" a monument, offering free guided tours and contributing to the dissemination of knowledge of the local cultural heritage, tangible and intangible.

To ensure a more aware approach and ever new interpretations of cultural heritage, for several years Imago Mundi has been activating growth paths and skills learning workshops, aimed at teachers and students of schools of all levels.

In this context, the project **"Heritage's toolkit 4 teachers. From Heritage Interpretation to a shared choice of the annual theme of Monumenti Aperti"** aims to design a training course in modules that, in line with the principles of Heritage Interpretation and European Values, guide teachers in structuring an interpretation plan of the monument adopted, with quality criteria shared by all the social actors who contribute to the success of the event (students, volunteers, associations), effectively constituting a "Heritage community". The creation of the interpretative plan is the preparatory module for a local engagement action, with the aim of sharing the theme of the 2022 Open Monuments edition between teachers and the organizing association Imago Mundi Onlus.

For one weekend a year, a city's monuments are adopted by volunteers, who tell their story to visitors. This is Monumenti Aperti, an innovative proposal for guided tours, events, activities and workshops, focused on cultural heritage.

Born in 1994 in the city of Cagliari from the intuition of an informal group of young people, today the network of Open Monuments extends into 62 municipalities in the Sardinia Region alone, to which are added 11 municipalities in the national territory, in the Emilia Romagna, Puglia and Lombardy. The local engagement of the event is of large proportions, in 2019 the community of Open Monuments was made up of 22500 volunteers, 270 associations and 150 schools, involved in the enhancement of the Cultural Heritage through the opening to the public and the offer of guided tours free in 780 monuments, of which 140 can be visited for the first time in 2019. An audience estimated at 280,000 presences.

Today, the work of planning the guided tours, as well as the preparation of volunteers for the MA days is not managed directly by the Imago Mundi Onlus Cultural Association, but is made by teachers. Each teacher uses a different educational approach that is strongly influenced by their own skills in the field of school education. Skills that in most cases are not specific in relation to cultural heritage education.

As a result, the visits to the monuments are often very different in terms of quality, duration and scientific accuracy. Alongside well-constructed and stimulating interpretations, we have guided tours that bring back information that is not always



scientifically validated, but also small volunteers who memorize dates, names and concepts without real attention to understanding the history, events and phenomena of the site as bearers of values to be passed on to future generations.

Since 2010, the extraordinary richness and diversity of the cultural heritage of the cities and countries belonging to the Open Monuments network, has prompted the Imago Mundi Cultural Association to present the event with the modalities of thematic communication, developing a real branding action territorial, through an annual theme. A theme capable of stimulating teachers and volunteer guides to search for new European values and meanings in the sites and their phenomena to be transmitted to the large audience of the event. Today, all the territorial branding action is developed unilaterally by the Imago Mundi Association, which subsequently communicates the topic to the volunteer teachers involved in the event. The lack of real sharing with the teaching staff on the annual theme has very often led teachers not to understand the methods of communication of heritage suggested by the organization, organizing guided tours that are often flat and unattractive, using methods and contents that have not changed for years, not aimed at the search for new values and meanings for the Cultural Heritage.

From the analysis of the Action Field therefore emerges:

- ξ The need for greater involvement of the organizing association Imago Mundi Onlus in the work of preparing volunteers for guided visits to monuments, alongside teachers, in order to standardize the quality and duration of interpretations;
- ξ The need to involve teachers in the annual choice of the theme of the event, in order to guarantee the reception and communication of values by all the social actors involved in Monumenti Aperti.

The Heritage's toolkit 4 teachers training course, organized by the Imago Mundi Onlus Cultural Association, aims to introduce the teachers and educators participating in the subject of Heritage Interpretation through the acquisition of useful and innovative tools to learn how to transmit knowledge, meanings and values of the cultural, historical, artistic and monumental heritage, both material and immaterial. The Teacher / Heritage Interpreter will be able to encourage their students to acquire a personal interpretation of the cultural heritage experienced during the Open Monuments event. The activities will make it possible to benefit from the possibilities offered by a non-formal learning context, approaching our cultural heritage through above all practical exercises, but also theoretical lessons. That said, the course has the following goals:

- Transfer the basic elements of Heritage Interpretation to teachers so that they can better organize guided visits to the monuments in their communicative aspects (timing and duration, narration methods, stepping stones and techniques for involving the public), together with students;
- Provide teachers with the tools to set up work in the classroom and transfer



to students and volunteers the ability to recognize universal values in the phenomena and history of the monuments adopted, so that together they can create an interpretative plan of the monument adopted, based on the theme of the Open Monuments

- Develop, together with the teachers, a co-creation action on the theme of Open Monuments as a territorial branding action, managing conflicts and positive tensions based on the rectangle of value and always within the limits of universal values.
- Perceiving that carrying out a guided tour for any tangible or intangible Cultural Heritage is an interpretative act and that, by applying the correct design methods, this simple activity can become a meaningful experience for teachers, students and the public;

To achieve these general objectives, the Interpreting Cultural Heritage training course considers a structured path on 4 Phases / Modules and a final assessment, in a step by step process with the following specific objectives:

- present the didactic plan of the course, share it and adapt it with the teachers;
- introduce the discipline of Heritage Interpretation, understand its historical roots and evolution; • learn to manage the times and methods of an interpretative guided tour;
- learn how to use the stepping stones during interpretation;
- transfer to teachers the basics of thematic communication, so that they can design the interpretation of the heritage adopted in the annual theme of Open Monuments
- introduce teachers to the values and meanings of Cultural Heritage;
- introduce teachers to the knowledge of the rectangle of values and its functioning; • transfer the basic skills to teachers to use narrative structures during the guided tours;
- transfer to teachers the advanced skills for which they can develop learning experiences for students, based on the adopted heritage;
- transfer to teachers the key skills to put into practice what they have learned with their class,
- structuring an interpretative plan for the monument adopted, to be presented to the public during the Open Monuments event;
- identify with the teachers the specific, unique, typical values of the territory on which to structure the branding action for the choice of the annual 2022 theme.

To achieve these general objectives, the training course considers developing the "Interpreting Cultural Heritage" training course project already carried out by the Imago Mundi Association between January and February 2020 and preceded by a general meeting with the teachers, carried out on 23 October 2019. The new path is structured on 4 Phases / Modules and a final evaluation



Meeting with the teachers/23 October 2019

The first meeting with the coordinators of the schools of the Cagliari Monumenti Aperti network was held on 23 October 2019. The meeting proved to be a precious appointment to talk about the organizational aspects of the event, declining the new theme of OpenMonuments for the year 2020/2021. The contribution in terms of participation and involvement of the teachers present was fundamental and we hope to continue meetings periodically for the constant improvement of the event. From the meeting it emerged the need to provide teachers with new motivations and ways to organize their own training and work experiences to bring students closer to the Cultural Heritage.

Module I - Interpreting the Cultural Heritage

21, 30 January and 7, 24 and 26 February

The first module of the training course starts from the development of the experience gained during the pilot project "interpreting Cultural Heritage" organized by the Cultural Association Imago Mundi Onlus for the training of teachers and educational operators involved in the Open Monuments event, on 21, 30 January and February 7, 24 and 26.

- The experimental workshop was offered for free to the teachers of the city of Cagliari for the 2020 edition, with the aim of introducing the teachers, guides and educators involved in the Open Monuments event to the Heritage Interpretation, through the acquisition of useful and innovative tools to learn how to transmit the knowledge of the cultural, historical, artistic and monumental heritage, both material and immaterial, of its values and meanings.
- As in the design idea phase, the location of the course was identified in the National Archaeological Museum of Cagliari. The Imago Mundi Association has granted free participation in the workshop to the staff of the Archaeological Museum and the National Art Gallery, who have been involved in the event for years.
- In total, 97 registrations were received, to which 18 requests were added from the Vestigia Unica laboratory of the University of Cagliari and the operators of the national museums and cultural centers of the city. There were a total of 125 participants. To cope with the number of participants beyond expectations, two were added to the three agreed dates.
- The choice to offer the course free of charge is motivated by the desire to experience what has been learned in the European Delphi project and adapt it to the needs of the Event in the best possible way, in order to improve the quality standards of the guided tours. For this reason, participants were given an evaluation questionnaire useful for evaluating the impact and impact of the training activities for teachers and for planning guided tours.

The questionnaire was sent by email to all course participants. The responses received constitute a large enough sample to formulate a meaningful assessment which is being



worked on in anticipation of the start of the second module. However, the general satisfaction of the participants was excellent and useful suggestions emerged from the open questions of the monitoring form.

Module 2 - The Words of Beauty

Fabio Marceddu and Antonello Murgia, actor and director of the Teatro dallarmadio, a popular local theatre company, who have been collaborating for years in the realization of special projects within the Monumenti Aperti event, will guide the participants in the acquisition of the essential basic tools and techniques of dramaturgy, in order to "theater" the guided tour, in a magical relationship of exchange between the narrator and the listener. Learning to stand in front of others without fear, knowing where to look, being aware of one's own body, having the awareness of making all the interlocutors feel involved. Being present to what we are doing. The main instrument we have: our voice. How to learn to use it. Exercises in articulation and phonation. How to use words in the best possible way. Putting the two things together: the body and the voice must be reconciled. sound and matter are the same, one could not exist without the other.

The module aims to transfer basic skills to teachers so that together with their students, they can use appropriate narrative and media structures during the guided tours.

Unfortunately, due to the covid-19 emergency, the second module of the course was not tested with the teachers, however the entire Heritage's toolkit 4 teachers training course was accredited on the SOFIA platform of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, the operating system dedicated to training and refresher initiatives for the teaching staff of the Italian school, in order to guarantee even greater participation for 2021, extending the training offer to teachers in the Emilia Romagna, Puglia, Lombardy regions, in addition to Sardinia.

Module 3 - Assignments

The third module of the Heritage's Toolkit 4 teachers project will be implemented in the form of homework. The objective of the module is to teach teachers to transfer to students and volunteers the ability to recognize universal values in the history of the monuments adopted, so that together they can structure an interpretative plan, based on the annual theme of Open Monuments 2020. Three assignments were identified in the design phase:

- Each teacher will have to make a video-selfie lasting between 2 and 5 minutes, which highlights the connection between the phenomena of the monument adopted for the event and the universal values expressed by the annual theme 2020-2021 Memorable Experiences;
- Each teacher will have to fill in a learning pathway through which to design the learning experience of their students starting from the cultural heritage adopted, which highlights the development of skills through objectives related to the dimensions of Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes. It will be the task of the



association's cultural heritage education experts to evaluate the work and start discussions with the participants, suggesting changes if necessary;

- Each teacher will have to create together with their class the interpretative plan of the monument adopted, which highlights the choice of phenomena in relation to the annual theme 2020-2021 Memorable Experiences, their relationship with universal and unique values, typical of the territory, use of stepping stones, media and narrative structures.

During the three phases, the cultural heritage education experts of the Imago Mundi association will be able to support teachers in the creation of homework. For this reason, the association will be responsible for identifying a web platform on which to share the works (for example: ThesaurUS platform Delphi Project work by Mattia Sanna Montanelli). As for the progress of the project, as already mentioned, the Covid emergency has forced the postponement of the form (already accredited on the SOFIA platform of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research) to 2021, however the assignment has already been tested 1, with the creation of some video-selfies.

The interpretative plans of the teachers will be evaluated during Monumenti Aperti 2021, with the technique of cross evaluation

Module 4 - Co-creation

The fourth module of the course, unfortunately also postponed between the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022 due to the COVID-19 emergency, will be structured as a local engagement action, which consists in offering teachers and operators an opportunity to co-create the territorial brand of Monumenti Aperti, a shared choice of the 2022 annual theme, managing conflicts and positive tensions based on the rectangle of Value and always within the limits of universal values. The choice of the theme will be treated as a territorial branding action (competence framework N° 10 - To brand the area / region based on the available (multi-) cultural and natural heritage assets), through subsequent steps:

- the videos - selfies made by the teachers and the interpretative plans designed with the school volunteers in the form of mind maps, will be shared on the website / platform of open monuments and made available for consultation to course participants and the public.
- through the online platform, each teacher can vote on the three interpretative plans of the sites / phenomena considered specific / unique / typical of the area. From the intersection with the data of the interpretative plans, the universal values connected to the sites / phenomena voted will emerge, in relation to the annual theme of the previous year 2020-2021;

The Imago Mundi Onlus Association will organize a meeting open to teachers and educators, with the aim of sharing the choice of typical / unique / specific universal values on which to structure the territorial branding action.

The teachers, authors of the interpretations of the three most voted sites / phenomena, will present the work done in the classroom to the participating



colleagues (learning pathway, Heritage mind map interpretation). Three round tables will therefore be launched, one for each site / phenomenon. Each table, in addition to the teachers, will see the participation of a moderator / educator and one or more representatives of the Imago Mundi Onlus Cultural Association, organizer of the event. The purpose of the discussion is to identify and share the universal values on which Imago Mundi will build the territorial brand, the annual theme of the 2022 edition of Monumenti Aperti.

Media

During the project we will ask teachers to use both traditional and technological media. In general, discussion and discussion of opinions will be encouraged with short meetings to be held after each exercise.

Module 3 will be carried out completely online (distance learning), which will require participants to acquire new technological skills.

In particular, the Imago Mundi Association will take care of the creation of an online crowdsourcing platform (project work ThesaurUS by Mattia Sanna Montanelli) in which participants will be able to share and evaluate the projects of other teachers and operators. The sharing and the cross evaluation system through the vote on the project platform will be a first moment of participatory democracy, aimed at sharing the 2022 annual theme by all the social actors involved in the Open Monuments days. See the timeline of the project work on: www.sutori.com/story/heritage-s-toolkit-4-teachers--fCfFtXcyxVGyoEU34c1pfT2z

Final results

It will be interesting to understand how the teachers will use the skills acquired, during the normal management of their class. Unfortunately, this figure could not be measured after the implementation of the first module, due to the COVID emergency which in Italy led to the closure of schools and therefore the failure to experiment with the good practices acquired.

The Imago Mundi Association will prepare an evaluation questionnaire for the long course accredited on the SOFIA platform of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, in order to better evaluate the educational impacts.

As already mentioned, following the experimental phase of the Module 1 project, an evaluation questionnaire was sent to the teachers. Although the sample of responses received is not yet sufficient to formulate a serious assessment of the progress of the module, some useful suggestions have been received to improve and adapt the module to the needs and requirements of the participating teachers.

In general, the application of heritage interpretation has proven to be useful for providing new points of view to teachers, useful for designing the learning

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experiences of their students in relation to Cultural Heritage. We hope that the long course will succeed in encouraging teachers to offer their students educational experiences with a higher qualitative value.

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