

PRESENTATION

Associazione Centro Orientamento Educativo - COE is an Italian no-profit association created in 1959 by a group of volunteers working for the development of a more inclusive, sympathetic culture both in Italy and abroad.

In Italy, COE realizes projects of Global Citizenship Education, training and education, considering in particular the needs of the youth and schools. Nowadays COE trains groups of volunteers that are going work in its projects, also in the sphere of Italian Servizio Civile and European Voluntary Service.

Particular importance is given to valorization of art and cinema. Among the rest, every year, from 1991, COE organizes in Milan the African, Asian and Latin America Film festival- FCAAAL, the only film festival organized by an NGO in Italy. The objective of the Festival is to promote throughout Italy knowledge about the reality and cultures of the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America through films made by European and non-European directors (fiction and documentaries) to stimulate intercultural dialogue and contribute to the formation of an Europe aware of its plurality and that is more welcoming and supportive.

Besides, during the Festival week and beyond, exhibitions, workshops, master classes are organized.

Thanks to this event the Association, in collaboration with COE Foundation, helps to spread in Italy a series of films from less celebrated countries and artists.

From 2011 COE hosts a group of refugees from Africa and Asia in its structures as First Reception Service. Thank to the cooperation with Municipality and regional administrations, COE is providing a range of different services: alphabetization and language courses, legal aid and, whenever is possible, community services.

From 1974 COE has been recognized suitable as NGO by Italian government. From then, COE makes its professionals available to work in a self- development perspective, in collaboration with local partners, for human and social promotion.

The Association realizes projects in different fields: training and education, arts and culture, healthcare, rural and social development; and it's present in different countries: Cameroun, D.R. Congo, Bangladesh and Guatemala.

COE participate in different federations: at National level FOCSIV, AOI- Cooperazione e Solidarietà Internazionale two NGO federations, at regional level CoLomba a group of NGO settled in Lombardy, for what concern the FCAAAL, COE adhere to Milano Film Network, a network of seven Festival organized in Milan, and SIGNIS, an international network of NGO that deals with communication and media.

PAST AND PRESENT PROJECTS

From 2007- now: African, Asian and Latin America Film Festival: Activities for the involvement of immigrants and foreign communities

Every year, during the African, Asian and Latin America Film Festival, COE has started a series of activities directed at involving immigrants and local foreign community: scholastic activities integration, cultural and linguistic mediation (both in school and outside), social and cultural integration through cinema, support to activities aimed at creating network among associations dealing with refugees and immigrants. Total beneficiaries: almost 400 every year.

May 2011- February 2013: “North Africa Emergency”

16 people, born in Cameroon, Sudan, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Mali but who had been working for long time in Libya before they left, are hosted in Barzio in a COE structure. Activities: training in language and civic education, vocational guidance, community service. In addition, the guests have been guided in sanitary, legal and translation services. All of them have obtained a residence permit; most of them joined their families or friends in Italy and Europe; 3 of them have been integrated in work places in the province of Lecco and Sondrio. The project is also implemented as a part of an agreement with Lecco Prefecture.

March 2014- Now: “Sub-Saharan and Middle-East Emergency”

16 people from Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Pakistan are hosted in Barzio in a COE structure. Activities: training in language and civic education, vocational guidance, community service. In addition, the guests are guided in sanitary, legal and translation services. Community services are facilitate thanks to an agreement with the Municipality. The project is also implemented as a part of an agreement with Lecco Prefecture, Comunità Montana Valsassina, and Lecco Consolida Consortium.