**RADIO MIR, 18/7/2022: Project of Liceo Albertelli on migrations**

**Fabio Sebastiani: interviewer (RADIO MIR)**

**Michela Nocita: interviewee (LICEO ALBERTELLI, ROMA)**

**F.B.** We start with the first guest, Prof. MIchela Nocita from Rome. Professor Nocita will tell us about a project on migration involving high school pupils.

**M.N.** Thank you for the invitation. The project is in line with your goals; I am happy to talk about migration on your radio. The high school where I work, Liceo Classico Pilo Albertelli in Rome, is located in the city's most multiethnic neighborhood, Esquilino; for teachers and students, inclusion and multiculturalism are elements of daily life.

In 2017 we started to deal with the topic of migration with the children, a topic that is still not part of the Italian school curricula. With History and Philosophy teachers, we dealt with migration in Italy and the emigration of Italians abroad. Then we invited specialists to give lectures at school, for example, the writer Erri De Luca who presented his poetic work on “ travels of hope” from Africa to Europe titled *Sola andata*; representatives of the Community of Sant'Egidio and their Syrian guests came to Liceo Albertelli as well. Students read to our guests the funerary epigrams written in ancient Greek that recall voyages and castaways of the 4th -III century B.C. on the same routes along which the refugees of the modern world die. Also, our students in that year participated in a political forum by Andrea Segre, a filmmaker, entitled "To Change the Order of Things"; the students proposed motions to change the laws that regulated immigration in Italy in 2017.

Later on, in 2018, we won a competition announced by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture: thus we made a docufilm of the activities carried out by the students on migrations. Our students met that year with immigrant youths working as tour guides in Rome. These foreigner youths are called "invisible guides” and theu showed us our city, Rome, but from their point of view. In addition, on Saturdays at school, pupils of Liceo Albertelli participated in a writing workshop organized by journalists of the e zine "Più Culture." The students interviewed pairs of people, one Italian and one foreigner, who were doing the same job. In each interview was a key word inspired by the work of journalist Leogrande, an expert on migration in Italy, who died in the previous year. In addition, the students wrote a graphic novel for the publisher Laterza; the written part recounts the journey of a Syrian refugee who fleeing war reaches Rome and becomes a writer. The cartoon part is about a little slave, Damis, who is kidnapped in Syria by the Romans, sold in Delos and then brought to Italy. All the ancient history is based on real history, and the illustrations depict real landscapes and ancient objects

**F.B.** Your project over the years has made it clear that there is a “migrant nation”, people always on the move; we cannot ignore them. Studyin migrations is a way to preserve the memory of these people.

**M.N.** The goal of the project was for students to understand that migration is not an emergency phenomenon, an impromptu advent, but movements of peoples have always been there in human history. They are long-lasting phenomena. This year, 2021-2022, the migration project has become an Erasmus Plus project; the lead institution is the Colosseum Park with Director Dott.ssa Russo. We were greatly helped in the project by Dr. Boldrighini. Our students worked with students from Serbia, Hungary and Turkey. In June all the students worked together in the Roman Forum, in the Curia building, on the topic of migration in Europe. Now I am pleased to invite you to the closing of the Erasmus project, the conference that will be held in the Curia on October 3. We will present a manual on migration for schools, because it is needed. The manual will be translated into English, Italian, Serbian, Turkish and Hungarian

Moreover, the title of the project TRAME means "Traces of Memory" because memory tells us what European identity is, it explains our history. I strongly believe in the teaching of history that creates a collective consciousness in young people. We also have a film of all our work done, the film was made by the French-Italian company Hirya Lab, which deals with issues of high content.

**F.B.** In your work there is not a part for Italians abroad, it would be nice to include their stories, especially those of “second generation Italians”. Now a question about the Mediterranean: once it was a place of exchange between peoples, now not anymore. How do students interpret this?

**M.N**. Through the project, the new generations have understood that they are the result of a melting pot of different peoples. Within their families, parents often come from different regions, from the North and the South of Italy, or from different Nations.

The students were able to understand that in ancient Rome there were many foreigners. In Rome people spoke and wrote in Greek as well as in Latin; many famous gladiators were foreigners, there were many foreigners in the non-paying public of the Colosseum. Many people came from the eastern provinces and were called "graeculi", but many foreigners also came from Africa. Many athletes were African, we see it from the mosaics of the Roman baths; many were the Egyptians who took care of the gardens of the imperial villas. Ancient society was a slave society in which, however, there was social mobility. There were also foreign emperors in Rome. This was noticed by the young people and today this mobility no longer exists in our Italian society. Closing borders and building walls as obstacles makes no sense..

**F.B**. Creating barriers against migrations makes the situation worse, as we have seen in recent years. Well, we will see you on October 3 and we will also bring the testimony of Italians who emigrated abroad.

**M.N.** While we were doing our work during the year, we were contacted by an Italian abroad, Eric Lanzieri, who reconstructed the story of his grandmother who emigrated from Campania to the United States at the beginning of the last century. Even the stories of Italians abroad are very important to us!