



What is Chance, Napoli

- a new type of second chance school for drop-out adolescents in Naples, Italy,
- public financed (township and regional funds based on National Welfare Bills funds targeted on children's rights),
- active since 1997,
- an educational institution that:
 - accompanies each young person from age 14 through 18,
 - that copes with juvenile social exclusion and violence,
 - that works together with adolescents and their families,
 - has a "rights oriented" approach based on empowerment.

Some data on Chance and Chance students

Young people are not numbers: they are people, *single growing human beings,*

Nevertheless numbers show how we are doing, our strong points and our weaknesses:

- **Over the past 7 years we have had 1050 lengthily interviews with 14 year old boy and girl drop-outs from 3 areas of the city of Naples,**
- **Over 500 fourteen year olds have entered the project,**
- **460 (about 90%) have past the compulsory *media* school test in one year,**
- **About 290 have continued vocational studies and training for at least one more year and only 6 have gone to regular high school,**
- **80 have finished a three year regular course for formal professional training,**
- **26 adolescent girls have given birth to at least one child,**
- **At least 150 are working in black labor situation,**
- **11 have gone to jail,**
- **8 have emigrated**
- **2 were killed**

Where CHANCE is in action

Within 3 different metropolitan crisis areas (Barra - San Giovanni, Historical Centre, Soccavo) with very strong linguistic and anthropologic inner city identity where there are:

- over 40% unemployment rates,
- income rates under the Italian national poverty rate line in over 70% of families,
- bad housing,
- strong criminal activities (drug market, organised crime, racketing, petit crime, fierce gang wars with many dead)
- 15 - 25 % of both male and female school truancy rate starting from ages 12-14 (very high on UE standards)



Chance in Montesanto

But, at the same time Chance operates:



as a community school, located in each of these three areas, where all spaces, time / rhythms, activities and adult presence are thought for well being and for learning by attending workshops, labs, job guidance and training...

*If you are a CHANCE student,
you:*



**Work on
integrating your
past formal
knowledge
(whatever your
level may be)
and/or go back
to learning basic
literacy Italian
and elementary
English),
numeracy,
science, social
studies, etc.**



If you are a CHANCE student, you also:



- **Have free breakfast and lunch 5 days a week,**
- **May receive professional guidance to medical care, to counselling on drug abuse, violence and sexual or other abuses, to responsible sex and procreation, to early motherhood and fatherhood,**
- **Help build up your own school and are held responsible for your acts and attitudes within the school community.**





And

- **Attend regular sports,**
- **Have access to regular peer group discussions and group and/or individual counselling,**
- **Have access to many different possible creative activities you may choose from such as arts (painting, sculpture, printing, photo, video, etc.), performing arts (film- video, theatre, dance), music,**
- **Go on outings and camps within your city, in other cities, in natural environments.**

Young people and family participation



- To sign-up for Chance school, you and your parents must show good will by attending regularly, by asking for help and by accepting a formal pact with your teachers and mentors. The pact is an important social and institutional ritual.

*If you are a CHANCE student, you:
experience guidance and “taste”
and test work*



Chance has learned that

in young people’s “anthropological culture”, black labour is not a crime, but a way to live, to learn, to discover yourself;

this informal learning is a resource that our students can use and make the most out of;

often young people are very capable; yet they have weak life skills (emotional, citizenship, etc...) that can be empowered.



Guidance isn't only a matter of overcoming job mismatching ... it's about matching your own character

In our project, **we have learned** that, for socially excluded young people, the experience of early work isn't only a matter of earning money.

As for every adolescent, it's a way to try yourself out in real life, discover your character, find out what you like and dislike, etc...



When it's not exploitation, it helps build up emotional competence and not only vocational and on the job competence.

Gender education



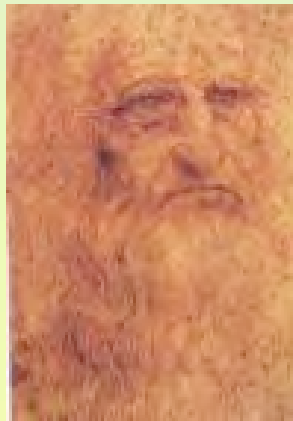
Lina, 14, for the first time in her life, is not only talking but reading about pregnancy...

We have learned about the importance of dedicating time to thoughts and individual reflexion of young women on sex and motherhood.

At the same time **we've learned** to cope with conflict and favour open discussion between young men and women on gender issues.

We have learned

that we need both a National and a European network.... Our teachers, educators and our students like learning by travelling, visiting and listening to other experiences, ideas, dreams..... finding common tools together



An integrated policy?

Chance students dance with the Mayor in Naples' ancient City Hall



After the common dancing, our students, families and teachers signed an agreement with our policy makers... to help Chance to be a chance. **But we have also learned** that our timing isn't their timing and our priorities are not their priorities.

Napoli, 18 dicembre 2003



Io Sindaco di Napoli, Rosa Russo Iervolino, che rappresento i cittadini e i servizi educativi e sociali per i giovani, mi sono impegnato a offrirti una nuova occasione per realizzare il tuo diritto costituzionale allo studio, all'istruzione e alla formazione attraverso le scuole e i maestri del Progetto Chance.

WE ARE CHANGING OUR MINDSETS AND WE

- **attend regular meetings**
 - to plan
 - to validate good practices and learn about strengths and weaknesses,
 - on case studies,
 - on policy building
 - on budgets
 - on written observations of work in progress
 - on emergencies,
- **produce written work and collect all materials,**
- **participate to scientific and on the job training seminars**

*Reflective
practitioners*

