

VareseNews

Institutional communication for foreigners is not professional

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In 1981 in Italy we had 1 foreigner for every 250 residents. Today, the impact on the total population is one for every twelve residents. Yet, Italy does not seem to have noticed much of this social change. It will be supported by some professors of the University of Insubria that data and samples in hand, will demonstrate how foreign immigration has changed the ways of communication and training, entrusted only to improvised experiments of integration.

In schools, for example, **the task is given more to the good will of teachers and managers than to institutional projects.** The same diminution of support hours poses a serious help problem for those who become close to the culture and Italian language: “The support teacher”, explains **Professor Gianmarco Gaspari**, “is a figure that is a bridge between the foreigner and the community in which they must enter. It is not a matter of just learning the language, but to integrate into a new community. Placing barriers or obstructing the entrance leads only to **an isolation of the community both linguistic and social and this is a big problem** “

The detailed picture will be presented Wednesday **25th March, at 14.15** in the Aula Magna of the College “Carlo Cattaneo”, via Dunant 5, in Varese when they will talk about the “**Immigration Statistics Dossier**”, published annually by ‘UNAR, National Office against Racial Discrimination.

The meeting takes place within the **Project “Permanent Observatory on the Italian language”**, coordinated by some teachers and staff of the degree in **Communication Sciences** of the **University of Insubria** in particular, professors Alfonso Sabatino Anecchiarico, Giulio Facchetti, Gianmarco

Gaspari, Alessandra Vicentini.

UNAR operates within the Department for **Equal Opportunity** of the **Presidency of the Council** of Ministers. Established in **2003**, it has the function to “ensure, in full independence of judgment and in conditions of impartiality, the effectiveness of the principle of **equal treatment between persons**“, to verify the effectiveness of the protections against discrimination, and to “contribute to **removing discrimination based on race and ethnicity**.”

According to the final data of **2013**, migrants in the world are more than **232 million**. In Italy, foreign residents are almost **five million** in a population of 61 million, that is, eight percent. Noteworthy is the level of education: 10% have a **bachelor’s degree**, 32% **adiploma**; minors are over **one million**, of which **800,000 are enrolled in schools**. As we said, in 35 years the situation has changed dramatically it has gone from one foreigner for every 250 residents in the early 80s, to the current ratio **one every twelve**.

“The migratory phenomena in our country are still linked to the **underground** and criminal organizations; our **school system** has from year to year **decreased the logistic support and linguistic** foreign students, “say the organizers; “and yet in Italy live almost two and a half million families with at least one foreign member. **The University has a duty** to monitor this situation, to help interact the most active operators on this front and to indicate, if not actual solutions, possible directions of growth. “

In a historical moment in which to understand each other is the real deciding factor, the words of **Elias Canetti** – the great Bulgarian writer of German language – perfectly introduces the central theme of the meeting: “**One doesn’t live a country, one lives a language**”. What is being done, in Italy, so that this “living” is peaceful, so that it prepares a better future for us and the next generations? One answer is offered by the intervention of **Alessandra Vicentini**, Insubria, and **Kim Grego**, of the University of Milan and Fulbright Scholar in Albany (New York, USA): “In an area as sensitive as **the communication of the local health authorities, documents online in English and in the languages of immigrants on the websites are generally poor** (which also applies to the **local health authority of Varese**) and most of the texts to communicate in English with translations immigrants are often qualitatively **very poor** and not professional. ” The problem, therefore, is to relate effectively to the foreigner: “The lack of professionalism in the translations creates the risk of misunderstandings: ” **The University of Insubria**, In its role as a cultural institution,” explains Professor Gaspari, “has a duty to propose solutions. And this university **has the skills and professionalism, with our students, to provide appropriate tools for integration and communication**“.

Other answers will come from **Giulio Facchetti** who emphasizes the multiplicity of cultural foundations underlying the modern European and Mediterranean societies investigating the propulsive character of migration and ethnic mixes in the formation of these foundations, and by **Elizabeth Moneta Mazza**, regarding the cultural identities of young migrants. **Sabatino Alfonso Anecchiarico**, writer from Argentina, will investigate the delicate short-circuits that are established between language and identity, between citizenship and nationality. **Gianmarco Gaspari** will discuss the role of Varese, and the University of Insubria in particular, in monitoring a reality crowded with cultural references as diverse and complex. Concludes the presentation of the 2014 work of the dossier by **Franco Pittau**, outgoing president of the Center for Studies and Research IDOS, internationally renowned specialist in issues related to migration and integration.

Free entry.

di traduzione Prof. Robert Clarke

