



“YOUNG PEOPLE OF EUROPE”

3RD MEETING

*“Central regions in the future of Europe:
historical and natural parks”*

CIVIDALE DEL FRIULI, KANAL, CAPORETTO 24TH -27TH AUGUST 2006

Friuli Venezia Giulia Transborder Cooperation

Synthesis of the lawyer Gianfranco Martini's report, member of the National Direction of the AICCRE and President of the Agency of Local Democracy of European Counsel Association

The goals of this convention are complex: improve the knowledge of some European locations and make the participants aware of the increase of this knowledge: elaborate planning ideas that these young participants could then realize in the future: therefore these ideas could find initial resources in order to create a "Bank of Young Ideas" and then realize out-and-out projects: incite national and European institutions to support and help the safeguard of naturalistic-historical locations pointed out during the meeting.

This report has to be considered as a working instrument, able to help all the participants during their research I talked about, formulating the best way to analyse all the options, and so learning to plan also other transfrontal projects.

The discussion that follows my oral report will help you clarify better our common work.

A first problem we have to face when we enter a new reality (territorial, historical, cultural or personal), is the Identity (of a location, a person or a territory). Nowadays people talk about identity in a deformed and ambiguous way, as if identity was something static and unchangeable. On the contrary the historical, cultural identity, or of a person or a place, is a dynamic, evolving element, because it's always open to comparison and sometimes even to conflicts with realities of other places and people.

This is the reason why it's important to consider always the risk of freezing the characteristics and so the identity of a place or a person, while these characteristics change during the contact with other ones exposed to the movement of history and culture.

So then if we really want to contribute to the realization of our territories, if we want to draw up development projects of these areas with their important meanings for the resident people, it is necessary to create cultural moves coming from those meanings to understand better our Europe, full of historical and cultural diversity and point out in which direction it moves and which are the conditions to generate unity in the diversity, in a vision that we could defy federalistic.

The attention doesn't go just to the single events, but it goes to their relationships and their reciprocal influences, keeping in mind first of all that globalization is certainly a reality that will characterize our MULTICULTURAL society always more, second of all that the real revolution is the development of INTERCULTURALISM, the relations of interdependence and of mutual influences within different cultures and different conceptions of the relations between men and environment, men and development process, men and history. This is the way to walk, hard but necessary in order to avoid that our reality implodes without any exchange between the several identities. In consequence of this the young participants to the meeting should understand if interculturalism is a positive event or not, and if not, they should understand how it could be avoided within the democratic rules and respect: or if the cultural pluralism is a useful social event, if it can be regulated by the law and custom, in which way and which initiatives should be taken in order to live peacefully and to let the several cultural components collaborate in the field of shared values and in the common belonging to Europe.

The political unification of Europe goes necessarily through these integration phases which have to be supported by a better knowledge of reality and history.

If we need to study the particularities of the locations we live in, that can be considered as "European locations" from the point of view of history, traditions and comparison between different cultures, we can rely on the fact that this area, which includes Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Trentino and Slovenia, was a victim of one of the most bloody phases of First World War (1915-1918 in the Italian front).

The memory of that tragic event is still preserved in some areas, even if successive events not less tragic produced by the II World War 1939-1945 have influenced on political, economical and territorial aspects, of these regions. I was born in 1925 so I didn't live through that tragic experience of IWW, but I got to know enough memories and diaries of that hard period. For example Caporetto, not Italian anymore but Slovenian,

when the big offensive of the Central Empires began and concluded only after few months on the Piave river.

Some questions are now spontaneous: which marks has this event left on the new generations that never experienced it? Which differences can be noticed in the perception of these historical events in a traditional system of Countries inserted for the first time in political and institutional solidarity?

This actual meeting is an encouragement to compare different experiences, explore the meaning and results of certain historical events in the locations where we live, in order to build some investigation methods and projects of developing our territory and its value.

Other numerous examples could be individuated, linked not only to history but also to the nature of the territory, to their influence on the resident peoples, on their mentality, on their custom, on their habits.

All this with particular reference to the border region inserted in a community that has chosen to share common values and to proceed along a unitary reality of solidarity, not only cultural but also political and institutional, respecting anyway all the diversity.

The process of unifying Europe should be valid in the time; it has to find valid support and has to be perceived not as an imposition from a higher level, but as a conquest that passes through the knowledge of men and women of Europe.