

Living Memory in Europe

*Narration and writing about oneself
as a form of Active Citizenship in Europe*

Narrative Diary

Monday September 6th

Monday afternoon – Arrival of the participants.

Someone by car, someone by bus....we are all in Pieve di Santo Stefano – the city of the Diary.



We are accomodated in an old monastery, which is now a girl's boarding of the “Scuola Superiore di Agraria”. On our arrival, we found upon every bed a “zuccherino”, a speciality of this region, wrapped in an old handmade piece of cloth which is more than 60 years old.



This cloth, handmade from the wool of this area, belonged to the family of Grazia Cappelletti, vice-president of the “National Diary Archive”. The Tiberina Valley, traditionally an area of share farming and livestock breeding sheep, was famous for the manufacture of woolen cloth. The wool produced by sheep shearing was distributed

half to landowners and half to tenant farmers. Handmade clothes were produced with this wool, and the one which Grazia Cappelletti donated us, is a valuable example of this product. These clothes were used by women to make sheets, tablecloths and anything that could be useful in the house.

These are the words written down on a paper we found together with the “zuccherino”:

*“These ancient walls and the flavour of a zuccherino wrapped in our grandmothers' cloth, welcome you , wishing quiet nights and a joyful awakening in our small country, but as big as to keep 6270 life stories in. Writing reveals the human life across the time, leaving signs of memory
Have a nice staying.*

National Diary Archive

We had meals in the canteen of the male students residence next to the “Scuola Superiore di Agraria”. This is situated in the higher part of Pieve di Santo Stefano, from which we could appreciate a nice view. All around there are trees and everywhere it's green.



Tuesday September 7th

We start having breakfast together at the Caimati Institute and afterwards we moved to the library of the Scuola Superiore di Agraria to start our activities.

Andrea Ciantar introduced the work activity with “breaking ice” exercises.

In the library we find some colored folders, they will keep all the autobiographical material that we’ll produce during the workshop. And upon every folder there is a coloured paper with a message on memory:

*“Memories are like eggs in a bird’s nest.
The soul keeps them warm for many
years, and suddenly they break out of the
shell, inexorably, inevitably...”*

I. Metter

The first exercise is aimed to know each other by the background of memory! People stand in a circle in the center of the room and then they know two by two; each person says his name and his nationality and then tells the first memory that comes to his mind ... Then the participants do the autobiographical exercises alone, and then, who wants can read the exercises to the others. This is one of the autobiographical exercise that was proposed:

I REMEMBER

- **ICH ERINNERE MICH**
- **LEMBRO – ME...**
- **MI RICORDO...**
- **CNOUH M CU**
- **RECUERDO**
- **СПОМНЯМ СЯ**

In the afternoon, after lunch time, each member of the group made her/his own presentation.



At 5 o'clock p.m. all the group went to the National Diary Archive, where Daniela Breghini explained us the history of the Pieve di Santo Stefano's Archive. It was founded in 1984 and collects, at the moment, more than 6.000 diaries and autobiographies.

In the evening there are celebrations in the village. A religious procession starting from the Colledestro Church which reaches the sanctuary of the “Madonna dei Lumi “. The village was adorned with such sumptuous coreographies. In 1631 Pieve di Santo Stefano and the whole Tuscany were hit by plague. The population of Pieve started praying the Madonna dei Lumi promising to the Virgin that they would celebrate her every year if the contagion would end. The plague stopped and the people from Pieve kept their promise: since then they have made these celebrations.

Tuesday, Sept. 8th 2010

In the morning participants continue the elaboration and writing of one of their autobiographical memories. Each participant is asked to write promptly twelve memories connected to their life experience and select one of them.

After that we worked on how to collect a life story. The autobiographical writing and interviewing methods - two different tools which lead to the elaboration of a life story. The all group is divided in couples and each participant tells the childhood memory he has

chosen to his partner. This one writes down what he has been told. She or he facilitates the storytelling process by asking questions to the narrator as if she or he was interviewing the partner to have a clear understanding.

1. Why is this memory important for you today?
2. What did you learn from that memory?
3. Are there still unresolved questions related to that?
4. In that memory is there something important for others?

The partner who is listening has to organize the text, he has to read it to the narrator who can propose changes, in order to have a version in which she or he recognizes all the contents she or he wants to narrate. At the end the partner write down the effective story elements giving them a structure and adding, if he or she wants, a photo, a sketch... finally he gives it back to the narrator.

In the afternoon Luca Piergiovanni, a teacher from Pieve di Santo Stefano, who won a national prize as “The Best teacher of the year 2010” (“Miglior Docente dell'anno 2010”) made a conference exposing his pedagogical and didactic approach by using the new technologies . He explained how the podcast can be an alternative to the traditional even passive way of teaching.

The conference goes on with the experience of Lucia Pannese which presents the “Serious Games” project. These are games created from stories using technology to bring ideas to life that make engaging learning experiences. A sort of simulation game who looks like real games that engage, entertain and educate with didactic principles and explicit learning objectives.

Dinner together at the restaurant “Il Diario” in the evening.

On September 8th, Pieve di Santo Stefano continues with the celebration for “Madonna dei Lumi” with different activities like the “tombolo in piazza”, a midnight fireworks show and the popular “calcio in costume”.

This last event was introduced in 1978, 32 years after the two historic boroughs of the Ponte Vecchio and Ponte Nuovo were created. In 1969 was added the Rialto borough and then the Centro Paese one in 1984. Four teams play two semi-finals and a final game. The winning team wins a symbolic prize.

Thursday September 9th

Thursday morning the group moves to Anghiari, a little town located a few Km far from Pieve di Santo Stefano. Welcome at the “Libera Università dell’Autobiografia”, founded in 1998 by Duccio Demetrio (Teacher of Philosophy of Education and Narrative and Autobiografic techniques at the University of Milan-Bicocca) and by Saverio Tutino, journalist, founder and tutor of the “National Diary Archive” in Pieve di Santo Stefano.

Stefania Bolletti, explained the activities of the “Libera Università dell’Autobiografia”. Sara Moretti presents the project “Attraversando insieme la Vita” (Passing together through life) - an autobiographical workshop for children and their grandparents to develop cross-cultural values between generations, using narration and written methodologies in order for the participants (young ones and old ones) to narrate themselves.

In the afternoon Andrea Ciantar introduces the methodologies of social animation: the method of “Circle of Stories”, explained with the support of Gisella Anselmi and Giuliano Testa, from the association “Granello di Senape” .



After dinner we go together in the “Sala del Camino”, the girls’ boarding hall, where we attended the show "Visible Cities", directed by Silvia Martini, a theatrical performance within the project "migrant(s) voices".

Friday September 10th

Friday morning is devoted to theater history: the method of personal narrative stories through theater.

In the first part of the morning there is a workshop on the interpretation of the stories led by Daniele Anzalone.



The morning continues with a meeting with Ginetta Maria Fino and Giuseppe Raffaele Mainieri.

Afterwards we had lunch.

Many thanks to those who cooked and served us.



In the afternoon the activities took place in the Sala del Camino. “Autobiographical Europe. The role of the memories and autobiographical narrations in developing Active Citizenship”. Examples of projects: different experiences, languages and contexts have been presented.

The activity of a group of volunteers who started collecting stories was presented as a part of “European Memories”. The group continuing the experience of the workshop made a video to narrate the story of an umbrian village – Penna in Teverina - and the life of its inhabitants. The group motivated all the people in the community to organize a permanent nativity. The video is an experience of collective work, because the narration was entirely realised, step by step, by the whole team .

Violeta Stoyceva and Vanya Ivanova, from EIC, European Information Centre, Bulgaria, partner of the project European Memories, presented their work consisting in training teachers of history to use methodologies of oral history at school.

Claudio Casseti, from the sozial.label association and Berlin AWO's group presented their experiences linked to the project Stories of o Possible Europe to narrate the town and the places of life, where several people wrote and made interviews to narrate life stories of turkish migrants in Germany.

Sara Lusini presents her project "La mia inquadratura" - My way of making photos – in which gipsy and italian children narrate their way of life by using photography .

At the end, Valco Project San Paolo, presented by Diego Di Masi and Fabio Olivieri, gave a contribution of a kind of work in which people's narratives from a specific area of Rome becomes active citizenship.

Anna Iuso, european archive expert and Primapersona vice-director (the Diaristic Archive revue) before closing the session made some general conclusions She mentioned for example the high possibility of diffusion that stories have nowadays, thanks to the web and the way in which the new technologies have changed the reasons and motivations for writing .

The day finished with a dîner together at the restaurant "I Romagnli". After that we had the opportunity to see "*MEI[MEIG] "Voci migranti" – Migrant(s) voices - a video made by Federico Greco. Four different voices from four different countries (Tunisia, Argentina, Kurdistan and Morocco, all of them immigrants in Valtiberina, represented by another one who collects them all "observing" from a unique perspective . Immigrants voices coming from distant cultures and cultures linked by the need to communicate their ideas and to live their lives in freedom, although they left their native countries with pain and regret. They have a common trait: the choice of the Valtiberina as a place to start again.

Saturday September 10th

In the morning we had the opportunity to participate in the round table on the theme Memory and Culture "La memoria, le culture". The experts were Anna Iuso vice-director of the Prima Persona, Andrea Ciantar, the *European Memories project coordinator*, Philippe Lejeune, one of the most important experts in autobiography

issues at an international level, Luca Novarino, coordinator of the project "*La banca della memoria*" and Alessandro Triulzi, a representative from the *Archivio delle Memorie Migranti* – Asinitas. The debate was focus on different issues connected with autobiography from traditional methods of collecting memories to the new ways of collecting stories: emigration, new migrants, ...regarding national and international dimension.



After lunch at Piazzetta delle Oche those interested could assist to the presentation made by Anna Iuso, Duccio Demetrio and Andrea Taglissacchi of the book, who won the 2009's Pieve Prize - "Die Katastrophe", written by Sabrina Perla, a young lady of 30 years old who was born in Germany and experienced a complicated existence. She wrote her diary to resist and not to lose memory of what she has lived in five years during the period she was locked in a judicial mental hospital.



After that we move to a green zone of Pieve, called Colledestro to the next step the “Merenda sul Prato”, during which the reading commission meets the eight Premio Pieve's finalists of the honour list 2010. Music and snacks in a typical Tuscan Garden, with local food.

After having the delicious “Merenda” it's time of the “Narrating Europe competition awards” in the Colledestro Temple nearby. After the presentation of the project and the partners, short parts of the winner texts and video have been read and seen concerning the three thematic areas of the project.

Concerning the thematic area “Pathways through Europe through its diversity” the winner was an autobiographical narration “Nicht so bosc” an written by Leif Draeby from Denmark.

Concerning the thematic area “Experiences of Belonging to Europe” the winner was the autobiographical narration “A story of a life between two colours” written by Jose Prieto from Spain. Concerning the thematic area “Another Europe is Possible, Work in Progress” the winner was a video-narrative “The darkness was gone” made by Nicolay Tsonevf rom Bulgaria.

Sunday September 12th

Sunday morning the reading comission meets the eight honour list diarists 2010

Afterwords Silvia Bragagni, a volunteer from Pieve di Santo Stefano's Archive explained to the participants of the workshop the story and made them see Clelia Marchi's sheet, which was exposed to the public.

“Dear people protect this sheet because in it there is a peace of my life; there is my husband; Clelia Marchi (72 years old) wrote the story of the people from her village on a sheet: she started from the agricultural activities and ended with private feelings and emotions ”

Tuscany typical lunch. Participants of the workshop, the guests of Pieve di Santo Stefano's Prize and the participants of European Memories had lunch together.

In the afternoon at 4.00 p.m. Piazza Plinio Pellegrini people could attend the closing ceremony of the 26th Pieve Prize. The eight autobiographies chosen have been presented to the public Mario Perrota and Paola Roscioli read them . Mario Arcari and Maurizio Pellizzari arranged the music sound. The winner is the diary of Magda Ceccarelli.



During the event Mario Dondero a photographer has been awarded with the Prize “Città del Diario” 2010.

In the evening participants move to the Euro Hotel where they have dinner and lodge for the last night.

Monday September 13th

Departure of participants...

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