


INCONTRO FRA I POPOLI (Joining People Together)

Magazine n. 49 August 2015

JOINING PEOPLE TOGETHER IS NOW TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD

On March 16, 1990 a group of young people went to the office of a notary public in Abano Terme (Padua) to found a new co-operative association of international solidarity which they called "Tortuga Progetti" (Tortuga Projects) as an omen of the reversal of history remembering the island of Tortuga where centuries ago the robber pirates came from. Three years later the association was called „Joining People Together“..

 We have published THE BOOK on the way of thinking (ideas) and the work of the association (ask for it and we 'll send it to you)

 We have renewed our SITE www.incontrofraipopoli.it: visit it, it might interest you)

The values we believe in

Joining People Together empathises the „vision“ of the priority of „solidarity“ towards all other kinds of human relationship. And whenever empathy is the first parameter of contact to fellowmen, an impetus to cooperation, intended as joint commitment to reach common welfare. is born.

Even when solidarity becomes cooperation with those who are weaker, the final target is not welfarism, but the full realization of both partners because the stronger one is such only in some expression of personality and humanity.. thus he too still has to reach some targets.

And from the starting differences solidarity creates a kind of cooperation which is the mutual exchange of all sorts and ends in „sharing“ in which “nobody regards as personal property what he owns, but everything is in common and nobody is in need.“.

Works and achievements

Joining People Together collaborates with the improvement of the conditions of life which „the peoples trying to achieve their own development“ start themselves in order to get out of the marginalisation they have been subjected to“.

We help them in the setting up of new types of production and of society, enterprises in the branches of agriculture, breeding, handicrafts, commerce such as to produce jobs and to improve income..

We back the **improvement of social services**, the rescue and reintegration of street children, the teaching of literacy skills, the schooling and professional training for teens, and of young and adult people.

We assist them in realizing their projects aiming at the rescue of the dignity of the weaker social strata (women, children, handicapped people).

We support the endeavour of **safeguarding their own culture, and also of turning their own human, cultural and environmental resources to better account.**

“Utopia is like the horizon line: we take two steps forward, and it takes two steps backward. We take ten steps forward and it moves ten steps away. The horizon is unreachable. So, what's the use of utopia? It makes us keep on going forward..

Eduardo Galeano

Cittadella Being citizens of the world

Sunday, May 3

- Inter-religious prayer (Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim, Buddhist) and evidence given by Mons. Antonio Menegazzo emeritus bishop of El Obeid (Sudan)
- Music, games, ethnic supper (cooked by the women of the association Luce su Luce)

Padova Bounty and Privation

Saturday, May 9

- Kady Kasakarume and some members of Joining People Together
- Evidence given by Mrs. Kady Kasakarume, in charge of "Uwaki" (Union of Rural Women of the Kivu), a confederation of 264 cooperative societies of women in the Manama Region in the Republic of Congo, In the Rossini Room of Caffè Pedrocchi, on the occasion of the First Forum on International Cooperation in the Municipal District of Padua.

Cittadella "Town of children"

Sunday April 12

An event organized by the Coordination of the Voluntary Associations of Cittadella: 1.010 children (and their families) are going to take part.

Joining People Together has taken part organizing 3 stands run by some twenty volunteers, ten or so of foreign origin.

- **Carrying fruit in a basket on the head along a run full of obstacles as African women do.'**
- **Passing cotton from one basket to another „ to create a cloud of peace“**
- **Passing your name from the Italian way of writing to the Arab scripture to become a citizen of the world.**

Week for young people Ioinis, Rumania June 27 - July 6

"Ten days, eight young people, an experienced organizer, a new but not so strange culture, joyful laughter, fear turned to amusement by time and companionship, dissociation from and criticism of not-shared, yet respected choices of life, commotion listening to the testimony of people who have devoted their lives to love and service. Ten days that have changed our lives."

Sabrina Salvato, 17 years old

"Ten days spent in Rumania have completely changed me. Now I see everything with new eyes. <I have opened my heart to those people, and they have returned my love. Now I am back home in Italy but part of my thoughts will never leave those places and those people.."

Lorenzo Bortignon, 18 years old

New members of Joining People Together

I got to know Joining People Together during the yearly solidarity dinner, and I was able to appreciate the efficiency of their way of operating during my recent journey to the Congo

I believe in the values of this association, I embrace their ideals and I share the philosophy which makes them create, promote and support the realities they cooperate with. I demand to become a member of the association.

Lisa Marchioretto (29 years old) - Rome

Becoming a member of Joining People Together is a decision born from the sensation of fullness and the realization of the ideas I believe in.. I was so lucky to meet you some years ago. I consider you as a big family that will give me the opportunity to support and promote the ideas leading my life. Joining People Together will go on giving my emotions, experiences, opportunities of growing and ripening, making me a responsible, committed citizen of the world..

Francesca Lomartire (28 years old) - Jesolo

Peace marches with John Mpaliza

John Mpaliza is the Italian - Congolese who is famous for his marches all over Europe (Peace Walking Man).

In April 2015 Joining People Together organized with him fourteen meetings on the theme

„Bloodstained mobile phones“, twelve of which in various senior level secondary schools in Bassano, Cittadella, Camposampiero, Padua (1.600 students), one at Padua University, and three of the people in Cittadella, Camposampiero, Selvazzano Dentro

Grass is the loosing part in the fight among elephants.

Veronica Baldassa

Student of form 4 CL Secondary School, senior level, Fusinato (Padua)

Wandering thoughts after the meeting with John Mpaliza. Too many wars are hidden, forgotten, trucked away. Narrow-minded politics and mentalities are ready to point their fingers at “the different one”. We – coming from so-called civilized countries – believe conceitedly we are capable of putting the remedy to other people’s problems even before dealing with our own ones.

Abusing and afterwards disappearing, taking advantage and then leaving the problems behind is easy. Thus we establish the bases of inhuman wars and situations from Isis to Boko Haram to the endless immigration we moan about. But let’s not consider what we have done and, above all, what we support!

The Congo is torn to pieces by a war that has already over 8 million victims and continuous violence to have broken women, boys and girls. That’s a war we foster. The Congo is very rich, particularly in cotton, a mineral used by the most advanced technologies. The conditions in which the mineral is extracted are terrible, and everybody, multinational companies, armed bands, corrupt governments fight for its control. Our mobile phones and computers have cost people’s lives, forgotten lives the worth of which is not inferior to the worth of our lives. Mass media don’t mention them and their silence further aggravates the situation. e.

If there were the will to, the world might be changed. Everything starts from the single individual, but we need a network. Shutting our eyes and pretending not to see means fostering personal and civic immaturity.

Enquiring about problems is the first step. Culture helps in fighting I thank the good people who help me to grow opening my eyes..

Bloodstained minerals and the European Parliament

The European Parliament was going to pass an extremely mild law on the tracing of the origin of minerals from Africa used by high technology industries. Such a milder law would in fact allow that products sold on the European market would indirectly go on financing wars and troops as in the region of the Kivu in the eastern RD .Congo

The European civil society has protested against this masquerade. Joining People Together has contributed to this pressing, also thanks to those who promptly accepted the proposal made in our newsletter.

And the European Parliament has decided to re-start dealings regarding the so called „bloodstained minerals“. The members of the European Parliament have moved an amendment to the bill of the European Commission, introducing for eight hundred thousand companies in the European Union the mandatory of tracing the origin of the minerals used in the manufacture of their products. These companies will have to give information about all the steps taken to identify and solve the risks related to their chain of supplies.

“A vote closely connected to the problem of immigration. It is impossible to fight for the cutback of the stream of migrants and not to take consistent decisions when a bill favouring those tormented people is to be voted for.” – the chairman of the European group S&D, Gianni Pittella, states. In the Congo we have seen with our own eyes how the money out of mining finances those who kill, violate and recruits child-soldiers. Now we have ascertained the Parliament is in favour of complete tracing of the mineral supply line. This is a starting point success, in default of which our struggle would be vain. Now the confrontation with the Council and the Commission is on.“.

To go on living after death ... this is all it needs doing.

I, the undersigned Giuseppina Bianchi, in full possession of all my faculties designate the association Joining People Together as sole heir so that they may carry on doing their good works.

I, the undersigned Antonio Rosmini, designate my children as sole heirs except the sum on my bank account which I bequeath to the association Joining_People Together.

Cultural Exchanges

Christine's perfect ones

The shadow of a tree, a small table, three benches, a basket full of cream puffs, thermos flasks full of tea. Just absolutely necessary things. That's the Christine's restaurant.

One day during myin the town of Maroua, in northernmost Cameroun, I sat down on a bench in her restaurant waiting for some girls I was to go out with. I was afraid she might tell me : "Either order, or get out", as happens here in Italy. On the contrary , she approached and looked at me, sat down beside me, welcoming me with a big smile..

Thus, our friendship started, just by chance. But what a great „chance“ it was. In fact, I have met an exceptional woman, mother to six children, who every morning gets up at three o'clock to make the cream puffs she sells in her restaurant, who invited me more than once to her home, whom I called on as soon as I was free, and who introduced me – without being ashamed, rather being proud, as her daughter to her customers. The different colouring of our skins made them laugh because it showed the impossibility of blood ties between us, however, she stated resolutely I was her daughter though my skin was white!

On the Feast of the Assumption I went to her home, and, together with her daughters, she taught me how to make her famous cream-puffs which are good so good that they can be defined "perfect"; that's why I called them Christine's perfect ones. I took out a pencil and notebook to jot down the recipe, yet I discovered soon enough that everything is done approximately, trying and seeing what it needs; I mixed and cooked with them, and - while chatting and laughing - I learned about their culture, their way of living and their traditions.

I spent the last days of my stay taking leave of the people I had met, but with her I spent a whole day. When I arrived at her home, the members of her family came in turn to say good-bye, underlining once more how welcome I was. At a certain point Christine looked at me with her customary smile and told me: "Let's go to the sitting-room. We have got a surprise for you"; there I was given a piece of home-made pizza! What happiness and astonishment! The whole family had worked together to prepare it for me, for the "nassara", the white woman, the foreign one! When I exclaimed "it's excellent" (and the pizza really was, everybody was thrilled.

I gave my thanks to Christine, taking her in my arms and telling her if she had found a "white" daughter, I had found, 6.000 km from home, a black" mummy" wearing colourful clothes and a nice, gaudy head cloth.

Christine and Giorgia Barbieri, IfP trainee, in Cameroun

Welcome to life:

Anna, daughter of our member Stefano Benvenuti and Livia

Sofia, daughter of our members Cristina Tolfo and Sergio Bertoncetto

NEXT MEETINGS

- September 12-13 (Saturday -Sunday): The Dolomites Embrace Human Rights
Presence at the International Demonstration at Tre Cime di Lavaredo
- September 18 (Friday) at 21.00 - Patronato Pio X Cittadella: Sovereign Debt and Predator Finance,
by.Francesco Gesualdi, disciple of Don Lorenzo Milani (Centro Nuovo Modello di Sviluppo)
- October 14 (Wednesday) at 21.00 - Patronato Pio X Cittadella: Human Development and the Care of Welfare in the Social Teaching of the Church.
Michele Guidolin - IfP
- December 4 (Friday) at 21.00 - Patronato Pio X Cittadella: How to use public money against inequalities
Grazia Naletto – Let's disrupt-
- December 12 (Saturday) at 19.00 - Patronato Pio X Cittadella: Solidarity Dinner
- December 12 (Saturday) at 21.00 - Patronato Pio X Cittadella: Money for the social sector: from cost to investment.
Don Luca Facco - Caritas of Padua
- January 2016: Week for Young People in Umbria
For teens /15-20 years old; medieval residence in a village inhabited by four people, self-managed living together (with an adult educator/animatore); Assisi, Spello, Collepino, Marmore, Piediluco, Greccio, Spoleto, Verna; art, nature, history and Francis of Assisi; 150 €/each person.

Support at distance

Earthquake in Nepal

Joining People Together is answering the call for help in the post-earth-quake emergency situation launched by the Nepalese association „Women for Human Rights“ (**WHR**): a volunteer on the site and university trainee are staying in Nepal next September. Immediately after the earthquake, the women belonging to WHR have opened the doors of their Chhahari (houses welcoming disadvantaged women) putting up mothers and children who were in need of shelter, of help, and of medical care. They also ask for financial help. **Invest in solidarity! Thank you!** (Postal and bank codes on page 8)

Let us help the female sheep-farmers.

Sahelian sheep

In Cameroun there are many mutual aid cooperatives, called GIC (Groups of community enterprises). The **GIC “Togle” in Guidiguis**, was started in 1985 and is still alive and working. It is formed by about twenty women who, in 2000, attended a training course in animal farming, offered by Joining People Together and organized by the Cameroun's association Tammounde. At that time the women chose to breed swine because the „Christians“ like to eat their meat. In 2013 Joining People Together helped the group, with money collected in two secondary schools in the Veneto, to build a piggery. Their activity went on well up to the end of 2014 when the swine plague suddenly killed their forty pigs and the great number of piglets. The women want to overcome their discouragement starting the breeding of Sahelian sheep, well-suited to the climate, easy to feed, fast in putting on weight, not subject to plagues, and in great demand by the Muslim population. The piggery (building and pen) must be turned into a sheepfold, and a storehouse for the storage of food must be built. Then they will buy 30 sheep which after three months of fattening will be sold making a good profit to be reinvested in the purchase of more sheep, and in the financial support of the partners' families..

One sheep: 70 €

Turning of piggery into sheepfold: 400 €

First lot of food: 900 €

First lot of veterinarian products: 200 €

“We, the women of the GIC Togle in Guidiguis, have got 200 €. Who will help us to make up the resting sum?”

Giulia and Marta

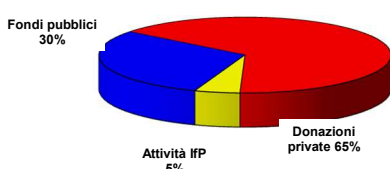
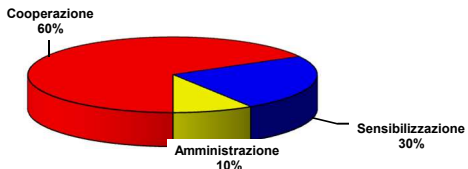
Giulia and Marta, the names of two young women who have been staying in eternity as shining stars for nine years.

Giulia and Marta, the names of two pirogues, fruit of the generosity of those who gave them here on earth the farewell for ever. For many years they have freed thousands of people across the River Congo at Kasongo Rive, taking a hundred people on each turn. But if the two stars Giulia and Marta are looking down on the big river nowadays, they will not find the two wood pirogues - destroyed by the tear and wear of time - any more. However, those two pirogues (making possible the connection between the opposite banks of the giant river) were the starting point at Kasongo River of a network of pirogues and pirogue-ferrying by which a number of young men earn their livings. Thank you, Giulia and Marta: every day you are the invisible companions of thousands of young people who have never met you but whom you are close to!

Balance sheet 2014

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Public bodies	44.700 €	Cooperation	89.819 €
Private bodies	98.468 €	Sensitization	44.057 €
JPT activities	6.650 €	Administration	15.942 €
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>149.818 €</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>149.818 €</i>

To the income VOLUNTARY SERVICE (that is hours of work, availability of means of transport and premises, etc, offered free of charge by about one hundred members and collaborators) quantified in about EU 500.000, must be added.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
			
Money used for International Cooperation			
country		operation sector	
Cameroun	21.033 €	Children, teens, young people	27.844 €
Chad	2.519 €	Family enterprises and societies	35.030 €
Congo R. D.	41.267 €	Local civic society	25.149 €
Rumania	25.000 €	Water wells	1.795 €

Cooperation among people

Two members of Joining People Together, sixty-five and twenty-five years old, have been to Cameroun, in the region of Boko Haram .With an escort of armed men they went to the place where.....courses for the diffusion of literacy for 500 women will be held, where two buildings for the women's cooperative societies helped on with microcredits will be constructed, where a plantation of Moringa Oleiphera will be set up, a primary school will get a solar-panel well, and a lavatory for pupils and teachers, and the cooperative society of twenty-two craftsmen(smiths) will at last get its own big workshop.

Alex Pra, member of Joining People Together

Our Challenge to Extremism in the Cameroun's Sahel

Two weeks of hard work saw me, together with Leopoldo Rebellato, as protagonist in the region of Northernmost Cameroun where Joining People Together has been supporting the development of civil society for twenty-five years.

Northernmost Camerou , the peripheral region of the Sahelian belt has always been considered a „b-series“ region in a country which has difficulty in developing a sense of democracy, in making tradition agree with modernity, and in warranting the representativeness of all its territories and ethnic groups. The Northernmost region is the only one that has not made progress during the last decades with reference to the Millennium targets of the UNO. „*In the Extreme North everything is extreme*“, a Cameroun's saying states. The extremities of the climate and of its territory are the chief elements of the critical state regarding questions such as certainty of food, management and access to resources, fist of all water. The lack of interest of the institutions; and the aforesaid difficulties make the region the sad protagonist of the growth of extremist terrorist movements, such as Boko Haram, which from nearby Nigeria gains from the situation and exposes the region to a dangerous risk of deterioration like the one in other territories of Northern Africa which have become „no-man's land.“ The more and more bitter situation has made, the greater part of the international NGOs to seek safety in flight, also because of the invitation of our authorities to „Europeans“ to leave the region.

The decision of Joining People Together, the mission of which is „service to the last“, to stay is important indeed as we are certain that a menace as Boko Haram is can be worn especially by investing in the diffusion of literacy, in the opportunity of developing individual and collective capabilities, and in the promotion of economic and civic dynamism.

The choice of working in “partnership”, that is to be present in third world countries only side by side with local operators in the present case with the NGO Tammounde, made by Joining People Together has proved winning. It is a courageous choice, yet it is often misunderstood by international cooperation.

The first step gained by our journey is the relaunching of our local partner Tammounde (meaning “hope” in the Fulfuldè language) which after the recent death of its leader Adama, risked disintegration. However, it has found members of the new generation full of energy, passion and ideals thus paving the way to becoming a strong moving –spirit in the region.

Two new projects financed by the Veneto region and the Waldensian Church. The first one regards the diffusion of literacy, microcredits and the development of several hundred women in the Mandarà Mountains, one of the hottest areas at the Boko Haram front, where we, too, could go escorted by armed soldiers. The second innovatory project will see the starting off of at least three real SMEs (Small and Medium enterprises) starting from small cooperatives. Some more are in the early stages.

In Cameroun Joining People Together is the example of an operating method which is widely diverging from common forms of welfarism and gratuitous help, it aims more and more at accompanying the civil society, supporting its internal sparks of dynamism; a civil society that will not fall in the trap of extremism only if its improvement is internal. It's a difficult job; but shouldn't the present scenario convince the new generation of international cooperation to make the Africans themselves take up the task of their own redemption?

Leopoldo, Alex and their armed escort in the Mandara Mountains

Education to World Citizenship

World Citizenship

The young generations acknowledge the values of justice, of the positiveness of variety, of social harmony.....provided somebody nourishes their availability, otherwise it will die out making them bored and listless young people. .

Education to world citizenship means discovering how strongly our “local” reality influences “global” reality, and how much “global” reality is present in our local reality. Therefore we must pay attention to what is happening in the world, to far off humanity but also to what is happening in our own small town, to the humanity next to us which is becoming more and more multi-ethnic.

This is possible if teachers, educators, parents, grandparents get involved, seek information, talk together, and mature this “attention” and these values, first of all, themselves..... because the young scan the grown-ups in order to understand if what they say is just “hot air” or coherently lived life!

Learning about World citizenship

New proposals for the school year 2015 – 2016

To Teachers, educators, animators: at infant schools, primary schools, junior and senior secondary schools, groups for the training of young and adult people Joining People Together offers **courses of Education to World Citizenship** conveying knowledge and **sensitiveness** of the injustice generated by the mechanisms nowadays regulating the world, informing of the initiatives of the emarginated peoples, and of the correct cooperation of people.

We offer about seventy laboratories organized in various manners on different themes: **discovering different cultures** (Fairy-tales from the world, Lafricabirinto, Lasiabirinto), **co-operative games** (The Right of Playing, The Right of having a Family, The Right of Having Water, Regulating), **role plays** (The long journey of chocolate, The bitter taste of bananas, The big world-banquet, The journey of a pair of jeans, Dying of debt, Multi-colouration, Denied Rights, The red thread of globalization), **table games** (Ciatibali, Naomba Maji, The Game of Peace, Mondopoly), **interactive multi-medial meetings** (Water spurting from a merry-go-round, Plug and Unplug, The creativity of the excluded peoples, Neo-Venetians and Paleo-Venetians, A European in the Sahel, Migrants of the Past and of the Present).

We present all these offers in a booklet. Require it and we will send it to you. You can also find it on the site www.incontrofraipopoli.it.

Joining People Together at school – school year 2014-2015

General statistics	<i>Most required activities</i>
441 meetings	<i>Lafricabirinto</i>
693 hours of animation	<i>The big world banquet</i>
10.327 children – teens- young people taking part	<i>Denied Rights</i>
83 serviced schools	<i>The long journey of chocolate</i>
7 pre-schools	<i>The right of playing</i>
26 primary schools	<i>Plug and Unplug</i>
32 secondary schools, junior level	<i>Young builders of peace</i>
16 secondary schools, senior level	<i>I gamble /bet on peace</i>
2 universities (Padua, Venice)	<i>Let's decode prejudice</i>
6 animators from Joining People Together	<i>Lack of water</i>

Our thanks to the hundreds of teachers and head-masters who authorized all these activities.

Operative seat and postal address:

- 35013 CITTADELLA (PD) - Contrà Corte Tosoni, 99
- Legal seat: 35137 PADOVA - Via S. Giovanni da Verdara, 139
- Other seats: Bassano del Grappa (VI), Peschiera Borromeo (MI), San Secondo Parmense (PR), Jesolo (VE)
- Fiscal code: 920 450 40 281

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