

On 21 June 2019 the Provincial Centre for Adult Education (CPIA) in La Spezia held a conference to disseminate the results of its ERASMUS + KA 1 project, Diversifying teaching, teaching for diversity at the Mediateca Fregoso.

The conference was opened by Roberto Stasi, principal of the CPIA, and during the first part the Inspector for education in the Liguria region, Roberto Peccenini, spoke about the the important role that Provincial Centres for Adult Education play in terms of teaching Italian as a foreign language but also to counteract early school leaving and provide life long learning. The CPIA in La Spezia is also a research and development centre for the entire region of Liguria which gives ample opportunity to inform and shape educational policies. Also during the first session the video of the project, compiled by Marta Meozzi, was presented in which participants of the 33 mobilities, which included English language courses for administrative and teaching staff as well as jobshadowing in three adult schools in Latvia, Sweden and Spain, spoke about the professional and personal benefits of participating in the project. The trickle down beneficial effects of these training experiences were highlighted at the end of the video featuring interviews from a diverse range of students attending courses at the CPIA: university students, old age pensioners as well as immigrants from northern and southern hemispheres. Clearly, CPIAs as educational institutions have the potential to bring together a wide range of learners and make a significant contribution to the building of a sense of community Europe-wide. ERASMUS + was represented by Alberto Benvenuti, from the adult education sector and Alessandra Ceccherelli from the communication office. Also present were Gloria Rossi and Gisella Merenda from the Regional Education office and the principal of the CPIA in Genova, Maurizio Ambrosini.

During the second part of the conference the results of the project were presented. Project coordinator, Claire Marie O'Neill, outlined the background of the project, its aims and strategies. Andrea Rabassini explained how the Swedish adult educational system, especially Swedish for immigrants worked, highlighting its strong points and what the Italian educational system can learn from this. Arianna Biasotti presented the Latvian system which has a strong concentration on recuperating early school leavers and provides different educational paths for learners to choose. Daniela Garau illustrated the Spanish system and especially how semi-distance courses are organised in Granada. Subsequently, DSGA Anna Maria Cappetta gave an excursus into administrative procedures in the abovementioned countries. Genova CPIA presented their recently approved ERASMUS + KA 1 project called integrAZIONE and Margherita Campi from Asti CPIA presented their recently completed ERASMUS + KA 1 project, BABELE, and their newly approved project.

The importance of conferences like these for dissemination and sharing of best practices was highlighted as Genova CPIA presented their successful project proposal after the last conference organised by Asti CPIA. At this present conference, two new ERASMUS + KA 1 project winners as well as participants from the CPIA in Massa and various associations working with adult education were present.