RAS sponsors multi-cultural project Mus-e

RAS supports the Mus-e Italia Onlus Association, an Italian non-profit organisation established in 1999. It is affiliated to the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation set up by the violinist in Brussels in 1991 and operates in favour of multi-cultural integration. Artists from all over the world explain to schoolchildren – through music, painting, dancing, acting, miming, figurative arts and body expression – how to overcome mistrust towards diversity.

More precisely, the Mus-e project, which is in line with RAS’ sustainable development approach, aims to foster mutual understanding and to transform diversity into an opportunity for human growth. Mus-e’s intervention is implemented through a three-year cycle in school classes selected based on a particularly high multi-racial attendance or on the presence of social issues. Schoolchildren, helped by teachers and artists, experience learning and free expression moments, transforming their natural playing and socializing inclination into an occasion for creative exchange. Also thanks to RAS’ support, the Mus-e project – already active in some ten Italian cities – will concern a total of 81 classes of 12 elementary and middle schools located in Milan city and its province, involving over 1,700 children.

In addition, the experience will be monitored for three years, in cooperation with the Training Science Department of Milano-Bicocca University.

Allianz concluded a cooperation agreement with the south China city of Guangzhou in September. The agreement, promising Allianz support and assistance, was signed by Heinz Dollberg, the head of the Asia Pacific Section, and Yuan Yue, the deputy general director of Guangzhou’s trade authority. Guangzhou, headquarters of Allianz Insurance Company, is the capital of Guangdong province (Canton) bordering Hong Kong and is one of China’s biggest cities. The metropolis, which has developed rapidly in recent years, hosts the biggest export trade fair in the People’s Republic. It also boasts one of the country’s most modern airports, whose capacity is set to grow from 27 million passengers a year now to about 80 million in ten years’ time.

Guangzhou lends its support


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It’s an initiative that clearly demonstrates a different way of doing things. In spring this year the New York arts organization CITYarts invited schoolchildren from all over the world to take part in a project called Pieces for Peace. Hundreds of boys and girls took up the call and translated their ideas for a peaceful world into images, drawings and poems, which will be displayed on the CITYarts website. Many of the ideas were adopted for the second part of the project, which is being sponsored by the Allianz Foundation for North America: over several months hundreds of U.S. schoolchildren transformed a wall in Harlem, measuring 50 meters in length by two meters in height, into a huge mosaic. Four young people from Germany, Israel, Namibia and the Fijis also came to New York for ten days to lend a hand. CITYarts has initiated 250 such public art projects since 1968. Pieces for Peace is intended to overcome barriers in times of growing intolerance and to foster better understanding between young people of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. “It is precisely because we live in times of great uncertainty that this is an important opportunity to give voice to the concerns of young people across the globe,” explains CITYarts executive director Taipi Ben-Haim.

Apart from the virtual art gallery and the peace mosaic in Harlem, the organizers hope that one venue could be the UN headquarters. “Pieces for Peace gives young people the opportunity to share their concerns and ideas of a more peaceful world with others and transcend all borders,” emphasises the head of Allianz Foundation for North America, Reverend Christopher Worthley. “That’s what makes the project so unique.”

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For further information: www.allianz.com/foundation-na www.CITYarts.org

50 meters for peace

Pieces for Peace aims at fostering better understanding between young people worldwide

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