

Save The Date – Fragments of a civic calendar.

The proposed project, entitled 'Save The Date - Fragments of a Civil Calendar', promoted by the University of Studies of Turin, is part of the UNITA – Universitas Montium. The University of Turin with the other European universities partners aims to establish academic and cultural collaboration and exchange relations between students of the universities involved, with a view of promoting European citizenship. In particular, the present project investigates the concept of 'European identity European identity'. To do this, it was decided to focus on events considered 'fundamental', part of a 'civil calendar' - taking inspiration from the Civil Calendar edited by Alessandro Portelli, which represented a turning point for the creation and continuous evolution of a shared identity, albeit with national peculiarities. In particular, the aim is to concentrate the analysis on dates and events which have contributed – at a socio-political level, but also at a legal level – to shaping the national identity and, at the same time, even indirectly, the European one. The reason why this type of research is of great interest can be traced back to the fact that these events, directly or indirectly, represent significant passages in the European perspective, at the basis or confirmation of the existence of an identity whose cores are widely shared by several countries, each with its own history and experience. It is no coincidence, for example, that article 6 of the Treaty on European Union mentions the existence of constitutional traditions common to the member states, implying, albeit indirectly, the existence of a "European" identity, of a shared of interests and guarantees that characterize, on the one hand, the countries that have joined the experience of European integration, on the other, the citizens involved in this project.

Practically, the Save The Date project is intended to the creation and compilation of this "calendar", by means of reflection, in-depth analysis and the reworking of material relating to fundamental dates and events in the legal, political and social history of our country.

The project aims to realise a twenty-hour workshop programme, to be completed in the course of one school year. At the end, it is expected to create contents disseminating the workshop experience and the work done, as well as participation in a concluding conference. The concluding materials are shared on an online forum on which all the work resulting from the collaborations between schools and universities carried out in parallel in each of the UNITA project partner countries, thus to create a collective 'civil calendar'.

Getting into the details of the 2023 project, six dates have been addressed:

25th of April 1945 – Italian Liberation Day from nazi-fascist domination;

14th June 1985 – Schengen agreement, beginning of the project creating an area without borders;

1st January 2002 – Introduction of the single currency (euro);

1st May 2004 – EU's enlargement toward east Europe and post-soviet countries;

3rd October 2013 – Migration Victims' Memorial Day.

The choice of the proposed dates, part of a "civil calendar" designed to keep track of these events, aims to highlight both events that are well known for their relevance, and more "hidden" but no less significant dates. However, all the dates have in common the fact that they have had a strong impact on the history and society of our country and of Europe.

We also intend to underline the fact that the topics dealt with, from anti-fascism to the perception of a phenomenon such as migration and the introduction of the single currency, certainly have national, but also European relevance. The experience of our country does not therefore represent an isolated experience but is shared in many respects also by the other European countries, and, more specifically, by the countries represented in the UNITA group.

This awareness makes it possible to see these issues as pieces that each country undoubtedly faces and linked in their own history individually - with their own times, ways and peculiarities -, but also from the point of view of a common perspective, animated by the same principles and, at least ideally, moves towards similar objectives: the construction of a common citizenship space and, with it, the elaboration of a shared sense of identity and belonging.

The objective of each of the phases of the project is to provide knowledge and useful tools for working independently on the date under investigation. The final re-elaboration activity aims not only to verify the effective reception of the transmitted knowledge, but also to introduce the students to autonomous research activity. This year students are expected to make short interviews to professional and non-professional audience with the view to grasp their knowledge and their perceptions about the proposed topics. In this vein, students are required to elaborate the questions upon the background acquired during the workshop course.