

## **A. PROJECT TITLE**

ARIADNE'S THREAD: ART AS CULTURAL IDENTITY

## **B. IT IS A THREE-YEAR PROJECT 2006/2009**

## **C. OBJECTIVE**

*The European Union respects the national identity of its Member States (article 6, paragraph 3 of the EU treaty). The EU should not be a fusion of states but a union of member states which preserve their national characteristics. It is this diversity of national characteristics and identities which gives the EU its moral strength put at the service of anybody. Also the Council of Europe states that in Europe cultural heritage is recognised as a vehicle of cultural identity. The knowledge of this heritage depends on both the quality of its enhancement and on the capacity of Europeans to recognise and appreciate national heritage and that of other EU countries.*

In order to meet some needs of our society, the scientific association I.C.S. International Communication Society made up of teachers from schools and universities, journalists, publishers who for about ten years have been dealing with the dissemination of art, culture and science through the use of new technologies (economically supported EC Perseo project, Culture 2000 programme, Multimedia Theatre, Netdays, eSchola on art and science) proposes the project "Ariadne's Thread": Art as Cultural Identity". The title suggests the strategy on which the project is based: rebuild, through the labyrinths of memory, the past of our Country from the origins to date, thus having the identity re-emerged as a value and culture particularly through its cultural heritage and its symbols.

## **D. INTERVENTION AREAS**

- training project promotion and raising awareness of young people to culture in all its aspects through the activation of educational itineraries which have as a starting point the artistic and cultural heritage of their region;
- collateral promotion of study, research and documentation initiatives (through paper and multimedia publications) regarding cultural heritage and activities in order to enhance history, culture and traditions of regions at a national level through experimental models which can be reproduced and adjusted to various levels of communication, information and training.

## **E. PROJECT SHORT DESCRIPTION**

The project "Ariadne's Thread: Art as Cultural Identity" involves public and private bodies and students from schools and universities under the guide of teachers of various disciplines in order to define the concept of cultural identity, first the Italian one and later the European one and of its connected values starting from art: "The Italian contribution to building a European cultural identity is and must be first of all a reflection on our identity, cultural heritage and safeguard culture".

In order to obtain the results highlighted, the project is developed into two intervention lines:

*the first line* regards young people and therefore schools and universities contacted through Regional and Provincial School Offices and University rectors. Every year we invite, through a contest, schools and young people to submit projects aimed to

define the cultural identity of their territory also with links to territories of other regions or at a national level.

The best projects, selected by a jury of experts, are presented during the Cultural Identity Days which take place in November in one or more venues. The selected works receive as a prize a participation certificate and a plaque, the best ones receive a prize consisting of multimedia material given to the school or university and the other participants receive minor prizes.

The finalists' works are put in the sites of MIUR, Regional and Provincial School Offices and in a website "Network of Cultural Identities " under construction.

*The second intervention line* regards study, research, documentation on the concept of cultural identity starting from art used as a guiding thread and is entrusted to experts who will analyse artistic, historical, geographical, scientific and literary aspects of the project. The produced material will be disseminated through methods suitable to a large number of users under the form of cards coloured, according to sectors, and divided into CD-shaped cubes so that they can be used in a puzzle reconstructing the age and its events and under the form of CD containing also documents and images. This material has art and the events' chronology as a guiding thread starting from the prehistoric age to date and is divided into periods. The project lasts many years and the first part will be made in the first year. All will have a bibliography and a sitography to get updated on the proposed themes so that any user, according to their interests, can realise their own reconstruction of "cultural identity".

## **F. INFORMATION AND CONTACT**

For any further information, please send an e-mail to:

[icsociety@tin.it](mailto:icsociety@tin.it)

or a fax to 0039 0677206257.

## **ARIADNE'S THREAD: ART AS CULTURAL IDENTITY**

### **The title suggests the research basic lines**

“Ariadne’s Thread: Art as Culture Identity” aims to rebuild, through the memory labyrinths, the past of our Country from the origins to date, thus having the identity/identities re-emerged as value and culture, particularly through the individuation of the inexhaustible variety of its cultural heritage and its symbols in an itinerary which has its pivots on the analysis of its history, geography, art, literature and science also thanks to possible links with other European countries. The research can be carried out through an “excursus” on a specific theme or highlighting the original phenomena of the local reality or an analysis on a specific period of the local history.

The contest is articulated into three annual phases: 2006/2007, 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 dedicated to three periods of the Western history, from the origin of the first life forms to late Medieval age, from the Renaissance age to the XIX century up to the modern age.

### **Project articulation**

The proposed model is developed into four big **THEMATIC** coordinates:

- 1) HISTORY**
- 2) GEOGRAPHY**
- 3) ART, ARCHITECTURE AND LITERATURE**
- 4) SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY**

and for the first year into the following four **TEMPORAL** coordinates:

- A) The dawn of history in Italy** (that is the phase which starts from the first life forms up to the development of organised human cultures)
- B) From pre-Roman civilisations in Rome and its classicism** (Italian pre-Roman cultures and the realisations of Romanism up to the III century crisis of the Vulgar era.
- C) The sunset of the ancient world and the Germanic- Carolingian age** (from the Germanic and Byzantine presence in the peninsula up to the year one thousand)
- D) The recovery of the year one thousand and the communal year and the communal world (from the year one thousand to the big plague in 1348).**

It will be possible to freely choose some topics regarding the study programme which have the capacity to focus on peculiar characteristics of that cultural identity which makes the various local realities different and original even if being pieces of a more general picture from the crossing between these topics.

As an **indication** we give the lines of a possible work for each of the **THEMATIC** coordinates, highlighting their possible link with **TEMPORAL** coordinates (which are indicated with corresponding letters).

## **HISTORY**

- 1- A historical phenomenon regarding the beginning of human adventure present in your reality. – **A**
- 2- Individuate and study a historical experience of the pre-historic age. –**A**
- 3- A cultural form of the phase of contacts between different Mediterranean cultures which left a mark in your reality. –**A**
- 4- Analyse one aspect of the first phase of Roman presence in the Po Valley. –**B**
- 5- Analyse one form of Romanisation of Po Valley. –**B**
- 6- Countryside and cities in the golden phase of Roman history: what are the testimonies? –**B**
- 7- Crisis in the Roman world and the phase of invasions through local testimonies. –**C**
- 8- Carolingian world and the new feudal dimension in the Po Valley reality. What are the historical testimonies left? –**C**
- 9- Monasteries, churches and society in the year one thousand. History and cultural identity spanning the millennium. –**C**
- 10- Testimonies of the new communal age in the Po Valley. –**D**

## **GEOGRAPHY**

- 1- Analyse the situation of the area where you live from the geological point of view. –**A**
- 2- The first forms of interaction between man and nature in the prehistoric age. –**A**
- 3- Changes of the geographical reality of your area in the pre-Roman age. –**A**
- 4- The intervention of Rome and the new territory formation. An example. –**B**
- 5- The territory in the Roman age. An example. –**B**
- 6- The city and its structure in the Roman world. –**B**
- 7- Individuate the commercial and geographical itineraries of the Roman age prevailing in your area. –**B**
- 8- What are the geo-climatic changes of early Middle Ages in your area? –**C**
- 9- Geography and demography in the Middle Ages, cities and lands of your area. –**C**
- 10- Geography and trade in the communal age. A local itinerary and its European perspective –**D**

## **ART**

- 1- Individuate the first forms of artistic expression in your area. –**A**
- 2- Aspects of the pre-Roman art in your local reality. –**A**
- 3- Individuate and analyse the first forms of the Roman art in your area and the contaminations between cultures. –**B**
- 4- The Royal-Republican Roman age: artistic and architectural testimonies particularly significant for the identity of your area. –**B**
- 5- The Roman age/Augustan period. Artistic and architectural testimonies particularly significant for the identity of your area. –**B**
- 6- The age of decadence. Individuate the IV and V century artistic forms particularly significant for your cultural reality. –**C**
- 7- Germanic and Byzantine world – Individuate the artistic testimonies of this period which are particularly significant for your historical reality. –**C**

- 8- Carolingian world. Individuate the artistic testimonies of this period which are particularly important for your historical reality. –C
- 9- The communal age and artistic testimonies. The new forms in your reality. – D
- 10- The communal age and its artistic testimonies. The new forms in your reality. – D

## **SCIENCES**

- 1- The origins of the Earth. Local testimonies (also Museums). –A
- 2- The first forms of life. Fossils and other testimonies. –A
- 3- Dinosaurs and their extinction. –A
- 4- The first forms of human life. Local presences –A
- 5- Nature and anthropization of the area studied by you. –A
- 6- The first scientific discoveries. –B
- 7- The study of science in the Roman age. –B
- 8- The development of the technique in the Middle Ages. –C
- 9- Science in the Middle Ages. –C
- 10- Science and technique in the communal age . –D

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

Students from middle schools (10 to 18 years old ) as well as university students (19-26 years old) are invited to participate.

Works can be made through the use of new communication technologies (CD-Roms, Internet, Videos) as well as the traditional paper material (in this case we also ask for a short summary in PowerPoint). The product should be accompanied by a synthesis of at least one page, illustrated by a particularly significant image of the chosen itinerary and by a bibliography and sitography.

### **Terms for the submission of the research works:**

Every school year, from 2006 through 2009 it will be possible to present the completed research (the best will receive a prize in Euro) or the research project (the best will receive a support in Euro or in new technologies for its realisation).

## **TERMS ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESEARCH**

**15 FEBRUARY 2007 (to submit the research 15 September 2007)**

**15 FEBRUARY 2008 (to submit the research 15 September 2008)**

**15 FEBRUARY 2009 ( to submit the research 15 September 2009)**

Upon receiving the enclosed participation form, we will send another form to be filled in and sent back together with the work.

## **SELECTION**

A qualified jury in the different sectors of the Italian culture and new technologies will select the best works in local and national events. They will be included in the project which has been previously presented. In any case all the works will be put in an Internet site dedicated specifically to the “Ariadne’s Thread” which can be a sort

of handbook for research and educational updating activities with the possibility of being a real project “in progress” open to dialectics between school and institutions, a synergy place aimed at giving voice to the “liveliest” forces present in schools and at contributing to their autonomous expression.

## **INFORMATION**

MPI and University websites will disseminate the contest notice which will be put also in the website of I.C.S. Association International Communication Society [www.icsociety.net](http://www.icsociety.net). For any updating information we invite to use the e-mail: [icsociety@tin.it](mailto:icsociety@tin.it) and the answers together with the questions will be put in a space in the ICS website and in those which intend to collaborate. (A list will be provided). There will be also a space for any suggestions and communications of both the participating institutes and those Bodies interested in the project.

## **TECHNICAL REALISATION**

Through the given coordinates, the THEMATIC and TEMPORAL, a complex of forty/fifty-two cards of cultural identities could be created for each of the three years of the project. They will be articulated by topics and a chronological dimension which can constitute the basis for a plurality of games, from the simplest to the most complex according to users.

From a graphic point of view every card should have the following characteristics: quite big a dimension in order to contain a captivating image and a short explanation.

Cards could be 85x175 mm or 114x173 (like the Tarocchi (Tarots) by Giordano Bruno, Jaca Book, 1984). These measures correspond to the ideal sizes of cards of the Renaissance classical tradition. From an intellectual point of view they allow to get out of the card interpretation as an instrument of game to enter a slightly more complex of the game as a process of memory learning/recuperation according to a system which should link Giordano Bruno and Jan Amos Comenio in our project. Since Italy as a political historical reality was created as a complex of local regional realities we intend to realise a series of Cards of Regional Identities which could be “exchanged” between the different regional school communities.

The whole project structure could be integrated through the use of new information technologies together with traditional techniques. This way could give a further original integration of the game we have presented here. In fact each card should be the result of updated research carried out by one or more schools and put in a CD-Rom to later be published on the net so that those students who would like to enrich their knowledge could access the site at the end of the game where this research has been stored, thus enriching their knowledge on a single theme. They could continue the research through the website and the sitographic indication present on the card. Since the given website should be of “quality” and tested, it could be possible to access the network of other related sites.

**PARTICIPATION FORM**

CULTURAL IDENTITY DAYS

ARIADNE'S THREAD: ART AS CULTURAL IDENTITY

I.C.S. RESERVED SPACE

RECEIPT DATE

CODE

DATA

NAME OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOL OR STUDENT

ADDRESS

POSTAL CODE/CITY

TELEPHONE AND FAX

E-MAIL

WRITE A CONTACT PERSON

1. MIDDLE SCHOOL/LAST YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2. HIGH SCHOOL
3. UNIVERSITY
4. OTHER (SPECIFY)

NATIONALITY

1 ITALIAN

(SPECIFY THE REGION)

2 EUROPEAN AND NON-EUROPEAN

ADD ANY OTHER INFORMATION

SEND TO ASSOCIAZIONE I.C.S. BY FAX OR E-MAIL

ASSOCIAZIONE I.C.S.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 626, 00100 ROMA ITALY

TEL. 0039 06 70453308; FAX 0039 0677206257

E-MAIL: [icsociety@tin.it](mailto:icsociety@tin.it)

WEBSITE: [www.icsociety.net](http://www.icsociety.net); [www.icsociety.it](http://www.icsociety.it)