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# MEDITERRANEAN FRONTIER OF PEACE, EDUCATION AND RECONCILIATION



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# MEDITERRANEAN FRONTIER OF PEACE, EDUCATION AND RECONCILIATION

The Mediterranean Sea has always been a cradle of life, exchanges, cultures and ideas, a frontier that divides and connects lands and peoples, and also a space that encourages dialogue and the meeting of cultures, traditions and knowledge. With an eye to the Mediterranean and its richness, in February 2020, the **Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI)** promoted a meeting of reflection and spirituality: "**Mediterranean, Frontier of Peace**". During the event that took place in Bari, CEI, together with Caritas Italiana, launched the ensuing project "**Mediterranean, Frontier of Peace, Education and Reconciliation**."

The initiative, developed by *Rondine Cittadella della Pace*, provides higher level training for young people from Mediterranean countries characterised by situations of conflict and political and social tensions (Algeria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria). The project aims to provide participants with the methodological and operational tools to intervene in rapidly changing and highly complex contexts, strengthening their strategic and leadership skills.

At the end of their training, the young professionals return to their countries of origin with a wide range of valuable transversal and relational skills. The acquired skills will enable them to manage sociocultural changes underway, promote cooperation interventions and design peacebuilding initiatives with a high social impact.

During the training course, a team from the **Family Studies and Research University Centre of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan** - having a long-standing collaboration with Rondine - is responsible for conducting the action-research. Through questionnaires, interviews and focus groups, the team monitors changes in some aspects of the participants' interpersonal and social relationships over time to direct and reorient the course as it progresses.

# SPONSORING ORGANISATIONS

## SUPPORTER AND PROJECT OWNER

Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI)

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Rondine Cittadella della Pace

## PARTNERS

Regional Episcopal Conference of North Africa, Archdiocese of Algiers

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Patriarchate of Antioch of the Maronites

Catholic Church of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Archdiocese of Vrhbosna

Italian Caritas

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan

## PARTNERS FOR ON-SITE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

"John Paul II" Diocesan Youth Centre – Sarajevo

War Childhood Museum Sarajevo

Caritas Algeria

Caritas Syria

Parish of Zababdeh

Parish of Birzeit

Notre Dame University

In 2020, following the "**Mediterranean, frontier of peace**" meeting, the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) entrusted Rondine Cittadella della Pace to design and implement the

advanced training programme for young people, and support the implementation of the projects developed by them.

**The Rondine Cittadella della Pace Association** is committed to reducing armed conflicts worldwide and disseminating the **Rondine Method for the creative transformation of conflict** in every context while promoting the development of generative relationships on all levels: interpersonal, social, political, and international. Founded in 1998 by Franco Vaccari, Rondine welcomes young people from countries experiencing or that have experienced wars and conflicts. Its epicentre is the **Studentato Internazionale - World House**. It is a two-year programme that couples training and coexistence to help the participants discover the person in their "enemy" and become ambassadors of peace in their own countries to foster conflict resolution. The Association applies the Rondine Method in carrying out cultural, training, and educational activities. The programme is aimed principally at young people, stimulating them to develop initiatives that focus on discussion and intercultural dialogue to build peaceful relations and promote concrete actions in the territories and social change. The goal is to contribute to the establishment of a socially sustainable habitat, free of armed conflict, where each person has the tools to develop generative relationships. Rondine Cittadella della Pace was nominated for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize and, since 2021, it has gained a special consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.



“““

*Despite the challenging past year, we are pleased to have been able to come to Italy to work on our projects and show that coexistence and dialogue are possible. The projects that we will carry out in our countries upon our return aim at dialogue, reconciliation, and peace. We will continue to develop the network we created in Rondine of young people willing to promote social cohesion in the Mediterranean.*

**Amina, Bosnian**



# TRAINING PROGRAMME

The training programme of the **Mediterranean, Frontier of Peace, Education and Reconciliation** project is based on an integrated and cooperative intervention model. The area and multi-stakeholder approach (third sector, pastoral world, and academic world) aim to meet the educational, cultural, political and economic challenges of the Mediterranean, promote regional cohesion and guarantee the co-development of the partner States. The definition of a new system of relations between the shores of the Mediterranean is the essential prerequisite to bringing the Euro-Mediterranean area back to the centre of multilateral and inclusive processes.

**The 30-month project started in March 2020 ends in October 2022. It is organised as follows:**

## 1. ONLINE

In the first stage, Rondine contacted the Partner Organisations, a network of Dioceses, Associations and Universities identified to play a role in implementing the projects.

Selections and interviews were carried out with all the participants, followed by a first acquaintance with the world of Rondine. In addition, the participants took an online A1 level Italian language course.

## 2. RESIDENTIAL

In the residential part of the programme, the young participants spent a year of advanced training on campus learning how to:

- **define and manage** a social, cultural and educational, research project;
- get to know the **Rondine Method** on creative transformation of conflict to "learn how-to-live-in-conflict", consciously aware that it is unavoidable in everyday life;
- strengthen each person's strategic and **leadership skills**.

In addition to their training at Cittadella della Pace, the young participants attended a first level Executive Master in "**Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action**". This course results from a long-term collaboration between Rondine Cittadella della Pace and the Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Sciences of the University of Siena. It offers highly specialised skills on both theoretical and practical levels in the management of conflict and post-conflict areas and situations, therefore responding to current needs. The course modules include lectures, seminars, workshops, and testimonies of professionals in the field involving interactive and interdisciplinary discussion approaches.

### 3. ON-SITE

At the end of their training in Rondine, the young professionals return to their countries of origin with a wide range of skills suitable for promoting and implementing sociocultural impacting initiatives, by launching international cooperation, peacebuilding, and training activities with partner organisations. These organisations will be the reference point, coordinating the projects -

defined and (re)elaborated in Rondine by the participants - and contributing to the implementation of the activities.

In addition, Rondine will provide support by offering training in the second year, assisting in the administration and reporting of projects, and monitoring the participants and the group.

In the last stage of the project, the focus remains on the implementation of social impact projects, including applying the Rondine Method for creative conflict transformation in different contexts.

Monitoring events and workshops will take place both online and in-person, to strengthen the network between Rondine, the participants and organisations, thus building together a culture of dialogue and reconciliation in the Mediterranean.







# THE PROJECTS

**Mediterranean Frontier of Peace, Education and Reconciliation** aims to transform into concrete projects the participants' ideas with a strong social impact - identified together with the partner organisations. - Thanks to the elements acquired during the high-level training course in Rondine and the university studies in "**Conflict management and humanitarian action**", during the residential phase, the young people reworked and developed projects to bring to their countries of origin initiatives with a strong social and cultural impact on pressing current issues, with the aim of reconciling divided and conflicting societies.

The following project outlines summarise the main points of the training, awareness - raising, educational, and peacebuilding initiatives that **Rondine Cittadella della Pace** will support in the second year of the Mediterranean Frontier of Peace, Education and Reconciliation project.

A composite image featuring two women. One woman is sitting on the floor in the foreground, wearing a patterned top and green pants. The other woman is standing in the background, wearing a light blue shirt and dark pants, positioned next to a dark wooden piano. The piano has the name 'PETROFF' visible on its side.

# DISABILITY AND FAMILY

## OSONS VIVRE ENSEMBLE

### Le vivre ensemble pour le changement du regard sur le handicap

The issue of disability remains taboo, and many Algerian families still hide their children for fear of the 'hostile gaze' of others. There is a need to support the integration of people with disabilities within families and society, promoting inclusion in different sectors (education, professional, sports, cultural, social, etc.). The main objective is to achieve a change in the perception of disability.

The project consists in building a network of several associations, NGOs, and public and private foundations to increase awareness and social impact on disability in various Algerian cities. The programme includes information, awareness-raising days and meetings with professionals; it also utilises the testimonies of parents of children with disabilities, to improve public policy on the issues of inclusion and accessibility.

## **PROJECT BY**

Rawya Zamouchi and Amira Kalem

## **AREA OF OPERATION**

Awareness-raising and training

## **INTERVENTION AREA**

Algeria

## **BENEFICIARIES**

Families with a disabled member, children and young people with disabilities, as well as national and local institutions, schools, associations, and NGOs sensitive to the issue

## **DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

July 2021 - September 2022

## **SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS**

Caritas Algeria  
Association Cham's pour les Arts Thérapeutiques  
Rondine Cittadella della Pace

## **DISSEMINATION CHANNELS**

In-person meetings, social networks (Facebook, Instagram, etc.), local radio and TV, advertising

A man with a beard and a white cap is looking thoughtfully to the side. He is wearing a white t-shirt. The background is a blurred stone wall.

# EDUCATION AND SPORT

## SPORTS FOR EDUCATION

The importance of hands-on learning is that of making us move, develop, and build relationships. Education, play and sport, in particular, form an inseparable combination for individual and collective development. Games and sports activities sharpen skills such as communication, decision-making, conflict management and other soft skills crucial to personal and relational growth.

The informal education project is based on sport and play and involves child-initiated learning and that supported by the teacher. Each training session focuses on a social skill. In addition to sport and play, the activities end with a reflection circle - which differs according to age group - on the practical and daily implications of the skills used in the game itself. The teacher encourages learning and research in the children through interactions aimed at expanding their thinking to higher levels.

## **PROJECT BY**

Majdi Abdallah

## **AREA OF OPERATION**

Training and informal education

## **INTERVENTION AREA**

Palestine

## **BENEFICIARIES**

Teachers and students

## **DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

July 2021 - September 2022

## **SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS**

Almutran Sports Club  
Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem  
Parish of Zababdeh  
Rondine Cittadella della Pace

## **DISSEMINATION CHANNELS**

Website, Facebook, Instagram and Tiktok



# LEGACY OF WAR

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS TO THE WAR CHILDHOOD MUSEUM

The project organises educational museum visits and workshops at the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo, opened in 2017. The participants visit the permanent exhibition of objects and stories of children who have lived and experienced the recent war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other conflict-affected areas. The kids take part in educational workshops, which provide a platform to talk about their impressions, feelings, and the importance of preserving peace.

Young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina have not experienced war, but they live with its legacy and often remain divided. It is necessary to create an unbiased discussion among the students and teachers on the country's recent history to overcome the limitations and divisions induced by the legacy of the past.

In collaboration with the War Childhood Museum and through a carefully developed training methodology, the educational staff will present the unique experiences of war-affected childhood, not showing children as victims but as survivors empowered to take an active role in everyday life.

## **PROJECT BY**

Amina Surkovic

## **AREA OF OPERATION**

Training

## **INTERVENTION AREA**

Bosnia Herzegovina

## **BENEFICIARIES**

Teachers and students, aged 9 - 17, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who did not experience the war but live with its legacy. Indirectly: parents and relatives

## **DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

July 2021 - September 2022

## **SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS**

WCM-War Childhood Museum  
Rondine Cittadella della Pace  
Ministry of Education  
Primary and secondary schools  
Local and regional institutions and bodies  
Other organisations and NGOs in the education sector

## **DISSEMINATION CHANNELS**

Social media, newsletters and all major WCM events and communication channels



# ANTICORRUPTION

## **CORRUPTION: ENEMY OF FREEDOM, PEACE AND PROSPERITY**

Over the last two decades, corruption in Lebanon has increased exponentially contributing to widespread instability and poverty. In addition to the need to reform corrupt and chaotic political systems, there is a need for individuals to be fully aware and educated on the issue to create a powerful social movement against corruption.

In collaboration with Notre Dame University, the project includes a preliminary step. studying and collecting existing legislation on administrative transparency and anti-corruption preventive measures, and the analysis of yearly legality monitoring reports and available anti-corruption tools published by governmental and international organisations and relevant NGOs. The aim is to create a digital platform as a guide for users and a 'corruption free' area where they can report corruption cases and find information on available protection tools.

The collected data will also be used to publish annual reports monitoring and measuring corruption levels.



## **PROJECT BY**

Daisy El Hajje

## **AREA OF OPERATION**

Social innovation, Research

## **INTERVENTION AREA**

Lebanon

## **BENEFICIARIES**

Law students, young professionals and all those exposed to different forms of corruption or simply interested in broadening their knowledge on the subject

## **DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

August 2021- August 2022

## **SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS**

Notre Dame University  
Rondine Cittadella della Pace

## **DISSEMINATION CHANNELS**

Website, Facebook, Instagram



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# YOUTH RECONCILIATION

## LET'S STEP FORWARD TOGETHER

Twenty-five years after the end of the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina is divided internally between ethnic and religious communities. There is a lack of a shared vision and awareness of the importance of interreligious dialogue, especially among young people. Without prospects for a sustainable and progressive future young people are leaving the country. Emigration is an evident trend.

Communication is a need, as well as giving young Catholics, Orthodox and Muslims the opportunity for cultural exchanges and encounters. LEAVE AS IT WAS

The project's main objective is to encourage young people to develop a sense of responsibility towards their country and discover the richness of diversity by dismantling prejudice and getting to know each other, and work together to build a culture of peace and a better future.

The project is promoted by the John Paul II Youth Centre, which works through informal education for inter-religious dialogue, democracy, protection, and enhancement of ecology, by promoting youth activism.

## **PROJECT BY**

Nadežda Mojsilovic

## **AREA OF OPERATION**

Education and interreligious dialogue

## **INTERVENTION AREA**

Bosnia Herzegovina

## **BENEFICIARIES**

160 direct recipients - university students, aged 19-25, from different ethnic communities in Bosnia Herzegovina. 490 indirect beneficiaries - High school students (Catholic, Serbian Orthodox and Muslim), aged 14-18

## **DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

July 2021 – September 2022

## **SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS**

Parishes in the Archdiocese of Vrhbosna  
Serbian Orthodox Church and Islamic Community of Bosnia Herzegovina  
Catholic school centres  
High schools in Bosnia Herzegovina  
“John Paul II” Diocesan Youth Centre - Sarajevo  
Rondine Cittadella della Pace

## **DISSEMINATION CHANNELS**

Website, Facebook, Instagram



# CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

## CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION: EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH FOR HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS

There is a strong need to educate young people in active citizenship, civil society, conflict transformation, and democracy in Lebanon.

Lebanese academic curricula do not effectively cover these topics, so students graduate and are expected to participate in student union elections and political life without basic knowledge.

In cooperation with Notre Dame University, the project includes carrying out a statistical survey, using student surveys and questionnaires on conflict transformation.

In a second phase, the training programme will be implemented by applying the Rondine Method for conflict transformation, workshops and training sessions.

The training process will be assessed through feedback procedures to draw up a final report on the results.

## **PROJECT BY**

Nathalie Abdallah and Roa Zebian

## **AREA OF OPERATION**

Education and training, Research

## **INTERVENTION AREA**

Lebanon

## **BENEFICIARIES**

30 High school students, aged 15-18 years

## **DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

September 2021- September 2022

## **SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS**

Notre Dame University  
Rondine Cittadella della Pace

## **DISSEMINATION CHANNELS**

Website, Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok



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## YOUNG PEOPLE AND DIGITAL TRAINING

### **ACTS 29: THE NEXT GENERATION**

Young Palestinians need technological and digital knowledge and skills to transform ideas into concrete projects and also to share and compare their ideas and opinions with the world.

This knowledge, not yet widespread, would increase their sense of belonging to their society and their exposure globally.

The project involves training tutors and holding weekly digital training sessions, during which each group will create a small social project.

Through specific training sessions at the parish, participants will acquire technological skills such as photo and video editing, simple programming, and coding.

The project will also encourage young unemployed graduates to gain experience by engaging them as tutors, thus contributing to local employment.

## **PROJECT BY**

Nirmeen N.L. Odeh

## **AREA OF OPERATION**

Training (technological and digital)

## **INTERVENTION AREA**

Palestine

## **BENEFICIARIES**

30 Students aged 15 to 20

## **DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

September 2021- September 2022

## **SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS**

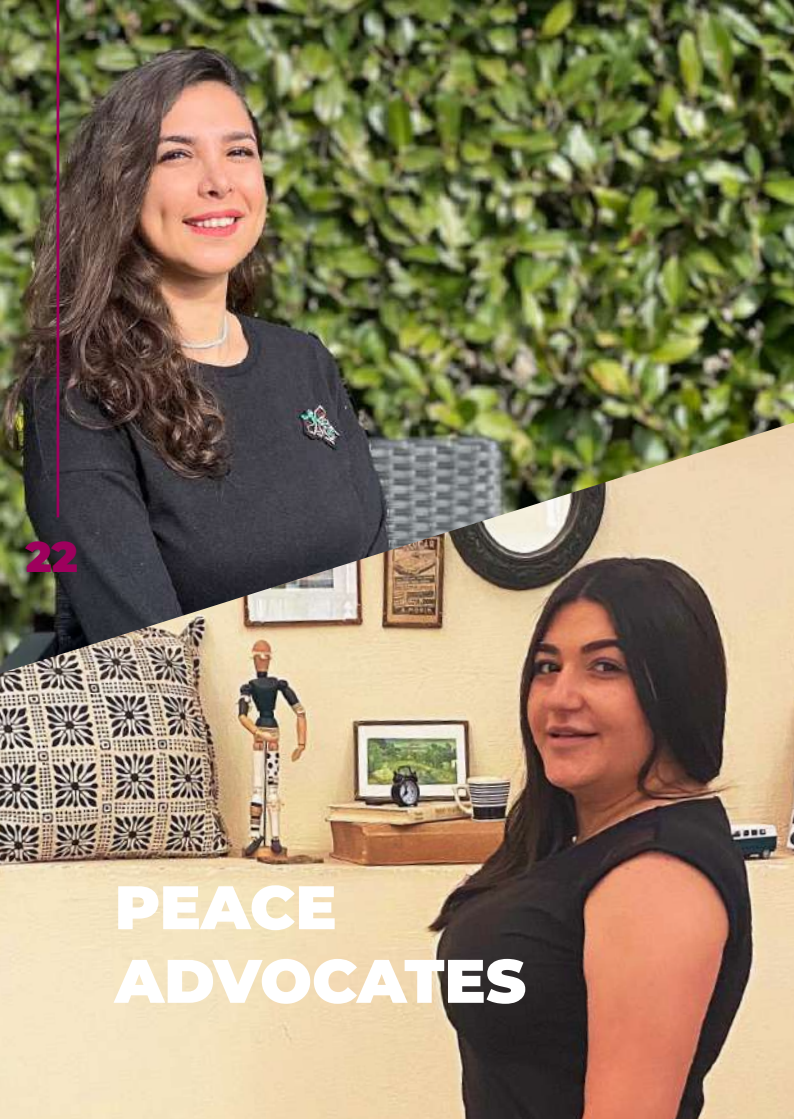
Parish of Birzeit

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Rondine Cittadella della Pace

## **DISSEMINATION CHANNELS**

Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok, word-of-mouth



## PEACE ADVOCATES

### YOUTH CENTRE AND PEACEBUILDING

The young Syrians affected by the conflict inevitably grow up quickly. Many of them have become adults despite their young age and have been involved in armed conflicts.

The main objective of the project implemented by Caritas Syria is to rebuild a bridge between society and young people.

A variety of training methods will be employed to address different learning styles and meet the basic methodological principles of non-formal education, ensuring direct interaction between the group and each participant. The Rondine Method for Conflict Transformation will have a unique role in this training, as it allows the encounter "with one's enemy" and the transformation of the conflict.

The specific objectives are: to ensure a well-coordinated response that provides the beneficiaries with opportunities and create/set a package of essential services to help young people gain crucial soft and hard skills. These skills will enable them to defend peace in their communities and strengthen the role of women in society.



## **PROJECT BY**

Rasha Fakoush and Jacklin Kikoloff

## **AREA OF OPERATION**

Training

## **INTERVENTION AREA**

Syria

## **BENEFICIARIES**

Young people aged 18-35

## **DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

September 2021- September 2022

## **SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS**

Caritas Syria

Rondine Cittadella della Pace

## **DISSEMINATION CHANNELS**

In-person meetings, Social media



ASSOCIAZIONE RONDINE CITTADELLA DELLA PACE

Loc. Rondine, 1 - 52100 Arezzo (Italy)

Tax code. 92006970518 | +39 0575 299666

info@rondine.org | [www.rondine.org](http://www.rondine.org)