Rondine Cittadella della Pace
Training and Engagement Program 2027-2028
In partnership with Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, Colombia

Rondine Cittadella della Pace

Rondine Cittadella della Pace is a no-profit organization committed to reducing armed conflicts worldwide. With the goal of contributing to a world free from wars, Rondine disseminates its own methodology for creatively transforming conflicts in various contexts. This translates into the concrete objective of equipping individuals with the necessary tools to manage conflicts effectively.

The "Cittadella della Pace" (Citadel of Peace) is situated in Rondine, a medieval village in Tuscany, located a few kilometres away from Arezzo, Italy. It is within Rondine that the primary educational projects are developed, providing a dual opportunity to participants: the regeneration of the inner selves and the enhancement of leadership skills. These skills are intended to benefit both the individuals themselves and their communities, working towards the greater good.

The mission of Rondine Cittadella della Pace:

Rondine is committed to living, developing, and disseminating—starting from its hamlet—an innovative method for the creative transformation of conflicts: the Rondine Method, which focuses on relationship and trust.

Through daily life experiences, education, training, and research, Rondine prepares new generations of leaders capable of promoting dialogue, peaceful coexistence, and international cooperation, thereby helping to reduce armed and social conflicts and generating a positive impact on global society.

Thanks to over twenty-five years of experience, Rondine represents an international point of reference on multiple fronts:

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION – Analysis of conflict contexts, both local and international, and identification of strategies to manage needs and challenges through the enhancement of common goods.

TRAINING – Dissemination of an innovative educational methodology for managing and transforming conflicts, capable of generating positive redemption.

PROJECT DESIGNING – Ideation, development, and implementation of project ideas with concrete positive impacts in their respective contexts.

PARTNERING – Creation of innovative partnerships with institutional and for-profit entities, including international ones.

Rondine bases its educational programs and activities on the method for creative conflict transformation, the **Rondine Method - the relational approach to conflict**, encompassing the practices derived from two decades of psycho-pedagogical research, academically validated[1]. It is structured around the discovery of the "enemy" as a deception that hinders communication and reciprocal compassion. The Method proposes a model of interpersonal relationships applicable to all contexts, where the word "enemy" has a symbolic connotation, and conflict is not seen as necessarily negative, but as a generative opportunity. To put this vision into practice, Rondine finalizes training to create professionally prepared and humanly motivated youth to enact positive changes in their own communities.

Over the years, the association has entered into agreements and conventions with numerous Italian institutions, and collaborates with Italian and international universities. Rondine has been granted special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2021 and has been admitted as partner with consultative status with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 2025.

The *World House*

The vision of Rondine revolves around the World House, which has been welcoming young adults from war-torn countries or post-conflict situations since 1997. They are guided on a transformative educational journey that involves recognizing the humanity in their enemies through the establishment of entirely new relationships with members from the opposing side, in a broader intercultural and interreligious environment. **It is a challenging and surprising educational experience: a structured daily cohabitation in a comprehensive program that includes training (academic and non-formal), and civic engagement activities.**

Through the academic and the experience-based journey that includes lessons, workshops, events, volunteering activities, and community engagement, the program seeks to:

1) Engage in the creative conflict transformation following the Rondine Method;
2) Educate young individuals prepared to engage in constructive dialogue with the youth from the other side of the conflict and youth from other cultures, and share experiences;
3) Promote the development of initiatives having a positive impact within fellows' communities;
4) Empower young peace leaders, encouraging them to contribute meaningfully to positive change and societal development.

In addition, fellows benefit from the many informal social and cultural activities that Rondine has to offer with volunteers and participants to other programs run by the association.

The training and engagement program

It is now possible to apply to the current program running from **July 2027 to June 2028**.

The program combines educational, training, and engagement elements of the World House program with professional experience, thanks to the collaboration with offices at Rondine Cittadella della Pace. Together with professional training and mentoring, the program in Rondine offers an added value:

[1] *Ecologia del conflitto. L'approccio alla relazione secondo il Metodo Rondine*, F. Vaccari, Ed. Il Mulino, 2024
The Rondine Method: A Relational Approach to Conflict; edited by Franco Vaccari, Miguel H. Diaz, Charles Hauss. Lanham: Rowman&Littlefield, 2023
L'approccio relazionale al conflitto: Quattro lezioni sul Metodo Rondine. Franco Vaccari, Milano: Franco Angeli, 2021

the international, vibrant, and challenging community of young people coming from the Balkans, East Europe, South Caucasus, Middle East, North Africa, and West Africa.

The goal of the program is to provide professional and soft skills that can help support and better define the participants' career path and, at the same time, offer a transformative life experience in an international environment, where conflict transformation is practiced on a daily basis, adopting an experience-based approach.

1. Daily life: as an experience-based fellowship, daily cohabitation and interaction are at the core of the program, offering a unique perspective and approach towards conflict transformation. Engage daily in the experience of cohabitation within the community group - comprised of both the international members of the World House and the staff - is essential to grasp fully the goal of the program, and to understand social, cultural and religious diversity. Commitment in this area includes caring for people and relationships and, at the same time, responsibility towards the spaces entrusted to the participants (houses, common areas), plus preserving the environment.

2. Capacity building training: Rondine offers to the World House fellows several courses that constitute a structured educational path articulated into different modules. The training programs explore intertwined topics, linked by the common thread of creative transformation of conflict in relationships. It is also important to be willing to share personal memories, stories and feelings, as these are entrusted to others as acts of testimony and to gain a deeper understanding of one's internal conflict, the starting point to address broader conflicts – up to international, armed ones - according to the Rondine Method. International and local lecturers, trainers, scholars, and the staff conduct the training, covering the following modules:
   - *Conflict:* Exploring different dimensions of conflicts (intrapersonal, interpersonal, up to international), conflict analysis, narrative of the conflict, peacebuilding, international humanitarian law;
   - *Interiority:* Developing the ability to listen to one's own inner voice, and recognize how to manage and express emotions effectively (emotional intelligence, self-expression, personal and group dimension, and inner conflicts);
   - *Impact:* Project design (enhancing the ability to evaluate one's own personal context and territorial reference, understanding the essential components and stages of a project), environmental awareness and sustainability, communication and leadership skills;

3. Civic engagement: Fellows will actively participate in many programs, initiatives, and activities organized by Rondine that aims at fulfilling the mission of the association, raise awareness, and promote active and global citizenship. This component is interconnected with the capacity-building component with special focus of the interiority and leadership skills. Furthermore, fellow will have the chance to attend multiple events, activities, media opportunities, educational meetings with schools and civil society organizations in Italy, as well as volunteering opportunity.

4. Internship: participants will collaborate with 2 offices of Rondine Cittadella della Pace, among the following:

a. International Relations Office – International and Training Department *International, institutional partnership and networks; recruiting and selection of international program participants; advocacy and track II diplomacy.*
b. Quarto Anno Program – International and Training Department *A one-year program for Italian high school students, based in Rondine. More info here.*
c. High School Network Program – International and Training Department *Italian high school network adopting the Rondine Method. More info here.*
d. Academy – International and Training Department *Rondine Method training for businesses and teachers. More info here.*
e. Fundraising Office – Sustainability and Development Department *Stakeholder engagement; donor caring; project writing; sustainability.*
f. Communication Office – Sustainability and Development Department *Strategic communication; communication supporting programs; events, and media.*
g. Procurement and Logistics Office – Citadel Department *Procurements; logistics for trips and events; facilities management; secretariat.*

To diversify the experience and have a broader view of the Association's activities and functioning, we envisage a 3-month collaboration with the staff: January – March and April – June. Before each internship round, offices define specific terms of collaboration (weekly engagement, objectives, tasks, periodic reporting, and monitoring).

Please, note that Italian is the official language for communication and activities in Rondine, but it is not a precondition to apply. For this reason, the program includes an online Italian course and an intensive course upon arrival in Italy (see "Program phases" section). Internship languages are both Italian and English, according to the offices' work.

Program timeline

- **1st semester (July – December 2027):** the World House program begins online (inception phase) and continues on campus for the first semester (trail period). More specifically:
  - **Inception phase:** the online period starts on **July, 5.** This phase aims at: consolidating basic levels of Italian language (through an online course); group building; introducing Rondine activities and people. At the same time, participants apply for visa and other required documents, supported by the Rondine International Relations Office.
  - **Residential on boarding**: the residential part opens on **September 27.** Until December, participants are on a trial period to verify their motivation and commitment in the program. The staff evaluates Italian language proficiency, proactivity and cooperative attitude in the group: if positive, participants officially join the World House.
- **2nd semester (January – June 2028):** participants start the training program, following the curriculum of the World House junior cohort. They take part in lessons and activities primarily centered on the theme of conflict, plus the topics of the other training modules. Through the program, participants of the World House learn how to use these tools to experience directly the diversity in the group, which mirrors - on a smaller scale - the reality of the globalized world. Many of the lessons also provide content and several techniques to engage fruitfully in the Association educational and awareness activities. Usually, classes and workshops are

from Monday to Wednesday. Fellows start their collaboration with the Rondine offices (Thursday and Friday).

The Rondine staff evaluates the fellows' engagement in the program, especially when moving from a phase to another. Periodic individual meetings are aimed at assessing fellows' proactivity and their involvement in the 4 above-mentioned areas. These meetings focus on evaluating their understanding and application of the Rondine Method, their presence and punctuality, proficiency in the Italian language, as well as motivation and engagement in Rondine's activities. If fellows are not in line with the program requirements and commitment, Rondine reserves the right to discontinue their participation.

Economic conditions

During the residential phases of the program, the Association takes responsibility for covering the following costs:

- Cost of the training activities both at Rondine and during the online phase of the program;
- Cost of food and accommodation;
- Expenses incurred for Rondine civic engagement activities;
- Health insurance, residence permit.

Expenses under the responsibility of the student include the travel expenses to/from Italy and visa procedures, holiday travels, personal and medical expenses, and any other costs not specifically mentioned among those covered by the Association.

Eligibility criteria

- Aged between 21- 28
- Last semester students (enabled for internship)
- Engaged in civil society, willing to bring a positive change in their communities and the world

We strongly recommend youth showing predisposition to the following characteristics to apply:

- Sensibility and readiness to work on the topics of conflict of the country of origin and conflicts in general
- Leadership, goal-oriented
- Recognize and express emotions (theirs and in a group)
- Community life
- Public speaking and communication
- Team work, active listening and proactivity
- Volunteering and community engagement
- Knowledge about civil society and the non- profit sector
- Sensibility to major global issues

Applicants are responsible for checking the specific visa requirements.

Selection process

The selection of participants includes the following phases:

- **Application**: applicants must submit the required documents by the deadline (*see "How to apply" section*).
- **Individual interview**: the candidates are interviewed individually to verify their personal aptitude, their motivation to be part of the World House program. Interviews are either in person or online.
- **Assessment of Italian language knowledge:** Candidates will receive materials after sending their application and can start self-study of Italian basics. After the interview, only the shortlisted candidates are invited for an online Italian test. The test - an online individual meeting with a language teacher - aims at assessing oral, grammar, and written skills. The result does not imply direct acceptance or rejection, rather provides additional elements for a global evaluation of the candidate's profile.
- **Candidate selection:** Rondine Admission Team inform selected candidates after the Italian tests (May-June). To accept the participation in the program, candidates sign a Learning and Participation Agreement. After submitting the signed Learning and Participation Agreement, the participant undertakes the necessary administrative procedures (visa, other documents), supported by the Rondine International Relations Office.

Rondine notifies progresses in the application status after the individual interview, and at program admission. Non-selected applicants are informed as well.

How to apply

Please submit the following documents to apply@rondine.org (or international.rondine@gmail.com)

- Application form (here attached);
- Passport (valid at least until December 2028);
- Motivation letter;
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume;
- Notice on personal data protection (*hand-signed;* here attached)

The deadline for application is **January 17, 2027**

Questions?

Please visit https://callforparticipants.rondine.org/ - FAQ section. For additional information, send your questions to apply@rondine.org.

Rondine Cittadella della Pace Program 2027-2028
Application Form

General information:

Photo

Name ....

Surname .....

Gender .....

Date of birth .....

Place of birth .....

Nationality .....

Complete address .....

.....

Telephone contacts .....

e-mail.....

Marital status Married ☐ Single ☐

Children Yes ☐ No ☐

Ethnic background (where applicable) .....

Educational background:

Latest degree earned or expected.....

Date or expected date of award .....

Work experience, civic engagement, and interests:

Are you currently employed? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what is your profession at the moment? .....

Briefly describe your past work experience .....

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Have you, or are you currently pursuing any extracurricular activities?.....

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Do you consider yourself an artist? If yes, in which field of art? .....

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Preferred offices for your internship (*to be confirmed during the residential on boarding)*:

1).....

2).....

3).....

Do you have any dietary restrictions or requirements? (e.g., medical allergies, intolerances, vegetarian, vegan, halal, kosher, etc.) Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please provide details .....

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Do you require any accessibility accommodations or special assistance during the program? (e.g., mobility support, wheelchair access, visual/hearing assistance, specific room setup, etc.)

Yes* ☐ No ☐

If yes, please provide details .....

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Are you currently undergoing any regular/long-term medical or psychological treatment (including daily or essential medications)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please provide details .....

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Do you have a driving license? Yes* ☐ No ☐

References of the applicant (academic, professional or civic engagement sphere):

Please write name, position, contact and relation to applicant. References do not include family members.

1.(obligatory).....

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2.(optional).....

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I have included the following documents (check all included documents):

- ☐ Copy of valid passport (*must be valid until at least December 2028*);
- ☐ Cover letter of motivation;
- ☐ Curriculum Vitae;
- ☐ Driving license (*if available*);
- ☐ Notice on personal data protection (*hand-signed*).

If accepted into the Program, I fully understand and commit myself to be responsible for preparing and submitting the following documents to Rondine:

- Italian Visa;
- General health medical certificate;
- International Driving Permit (if a valid driving license is available);
- Any other documents specifically requested by the Association.

I hereby declare to have read the entire call for application.

Date ..... Signature .....

*To drive in Italy, an International Driving Permit (IDP) is required. For information: https://internationaldrivingpermit.org/