



*REciprocal
maieutic Approach
pathways enhancing
Critical Thinking*



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Newsletter
issue no.

4

July 2022

December 2022

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1. Hot summer work for REACT consortium partner: The Manual at the starting line



The Manual

During this summer time, the first edition of the REACT Manual was released! This is the version that will be extensively exploited during the next steps of the project involving directly schools, teachers and students. The draft REACT Manual has been edited through a participatory method, involving researchers and external experts and finally involving well-referenced beta readers such as 15+ years' experience teachers and University students. The merging of the Montessori and Dolci approaches and the definition of the dialogic learning methodology for developing maieutic workshops is so made with the direct involvement of stakeholders and potential users.

The idea at the basis of the REACT Manual is to use the Reciprocal Maieutic Approach starting by posing questions, scenarios and terminological dichotomies rather than simply presenting established facts and/or opinion and to apply, during the discussion, theoretical and practical principles inspired by the Montessori experience of teaching and learning – such as observation principles, reshaping of learning spaces and cosmic/holistic education.

1. Hot summer work for REACT consortium partner: The Manual at the starting line



The Manual

The final section of the REACT Manual presents ideas and pathways for the development of group sessions, guided by a trained facilitator. Each pathway present a thematic element or a dichotomy but with a transversal methodology that includes thematic elements such as triggers that serve to launch the discussion on the subject. This section is explained in detail in the Guidelines for conducting the train the trainers sessions, a document that will be exploited during the training that will be realized at territorial level in the REACT countries. REACT consortium will update both the Manual and the Guidelines after the piloting experiences, thus being able to align them to feedbacks received by real users. Stay tuned for the launching of the REACT activities at school downloading the draft version of the Manual (English language) here:

https://www.react-erasmus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/3_1_REACT_Manualallcontributions.pdf

2. Engagement of the educational local communities for the next activities: an insight on Educating Communities



The Educating Communities

The time to engage directly REACT local Educational Communities in upcoming activities is here!

In all the territories involved by the project (central and south Italy, Corfu in Greece, Sofia in Bulgaria and Zaragoza in Spain) the staff members had formal and informal meetings to involve local educating communities in the planning and development of experimental activities at school. The materials produced by REACT consortium at this scope suggest strategies for the re-shaping of the Community and for its enrichment with REACT principles and methodologies.



2. Engagement of the educational local communities for the next activities: an insight on Educating Communities

But how the “Educating Community” can be defined? Which elements characterize this network?

The Educating Communities

The term “Educating” placed before the word *Community* refers to a group of social organisations (formal, non-formal and informal) involved in an educational path. In general, this social context is composed by adults who are educators, whose role is formally recognized by institutions (teachers) or educators who play their role without having specific recognition at institutional level (e.g. sport coaches, religious leaders etc). The target audience of the educational activity is young community members and children. The Educating Community becomes solidal when it has its core in the system of social relations in which everyone, but especially children, interact and from which they acquire their own behavioral code.

The relationships within the Educating Community are circular: all individuals exchange experiences with each other and in this way perform the various tasks necessary for the management of the community. As in the tradition of European local communities, the Educating Community could be defined as a kind of educating village in which bridges and roads represent social relations, which have a direct effect on the education of children and protect them from exclusion, marginalisation and violence.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION ACROSS EUROPE

We learn best when we learn together

Every learner should have access to meaningful, high-quality educational opportunities in their local community, alongside friends and peers.



Together...



Learners



Parents and families



Educational professionals



Community representatives



Decision-makers

...are working towards this vision

3. First in presence meeting for REACT staff! Discovering Villa Montesca and its relations with Maria Montessori



Villa Montesca and Maria Montessori

From the very beginning of the project's activities, REACT suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic situation and the vast majority of the activities have been realized in a virtual environment and thanks to distance learning tools.

Then, we were excited by the possibility to have our first Transnational Partners Meeting in presence on September 2022 hosted in the beautiful premises of Villa Montesca Foundation, in Italy. The meeting has been also the occasion to discover the relationship between Villa Montesca – and in particular Alice Hallgarten – and Maria Montessori. In fact, in 1913 when the first English edition of *Il Metodo della Pedagogia Scientifica applicato all'educazione infantile nelle Case Dei Bambini* was published under the shorter title of "The Montessori Method", Maria Montessori gives special recognition to Hallgarten saying "to the dear memory of the Baroness Alice Franchetti" since an English publication of the book was something Hallgarten had longed to see before she died.

3. First in presence meeting for REACT staff! Discovering Villa Montesca and its relations with Maria Montessori



Villa Montesca and Maria Montessori

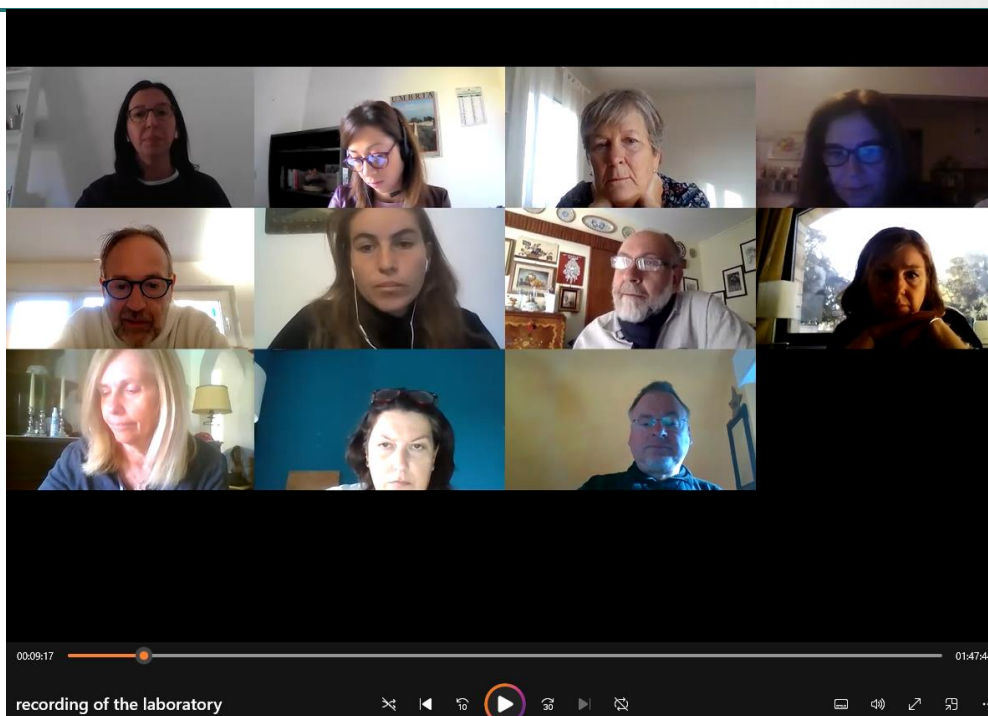
The meeting lasted three working days and, apart from the typical activities undertaken for the management of the project, partners were also able to activate the first international REACT reciprocal maieutic workshop, under the coordination of Amico Dolci (son of Danilo) and Tiziana Morgante, one of the teachers that collaborated with Danilo during his Sicilian experience of Maieutic. The workshop started from the reading of an excerpt by Maria Montessori about the value of "peace", and the dichotomy "peace/war" was the one focused by the workshop.



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Reciprocal Maieutic Workshop

Feedbacks, doubts and ideas to further improvement have been collected and another international REACT reciprocal maieutic workshop has been organized virtually, to take stock of experience gained and be prepared for the next action: train the trainers that will operatively facilitate the work in the classrooms with students.



To keep yourself updated on REACT activities and event, follow us on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/people/REACT-Project/100069260169418/?locale=it_IT

Visit the official website of the project to read the news and download materials about the topics covered by the project: www.react-erasmus.eu

Thank you!

