

# Summary of Palermo Seminar workshops

## First day

### *Police and Justice*

Summary of the Palermo Seminar's Workshops:

During the workshops of the 1st day the youngsters discussed about Police & Justice:

What emerged is that there isn't good relationship between young people and police,

- Polish participants declared that Italian youngsters showed trust in law enforcement, whereas Polish ones found it strange. There is a kind of different relationship between them and police.
- France participants declared that they share the same point of view of Polish youngsters.
- Belgian participants declared that they share the Italian point of view of trusting law enforcement. However, they think that police could work in a more efficient way.

The conclusion was that youngsters want to have trust in police, but they are discouraged because sometimes law enforcement misuses its own power. In general, police should be neither corrupted or too powerful. This is a common issue among all countries. In Poland the situation is the worst, since there is more corruption and lack of information, Polish people trust more in EU than in their government. The several rules in force concerning the duties and do's & don'ts of police officers are different among the EU countries, this depends on different factors:

- Discriminatory role of police;
- Bad habits of young people.

Then, the young people discussed about how to participate at EU level in the democratic life, in Italy i.e. there are different ways to active participation both for citizens and for stakeholders.

#### Potential Solutions:

- Finding forums, EU platform to participate and to express opinions;
- Organization of civil society should provide tools to let young people trust the police, i.e. informative actions;
- Plan initiatives and common space where police officers and youngsters can confront themselves.

Moreover, the police should be trained to be more neutral - e.g. when dealing with foreigners - and the social systems should be revised, all the Institutions should analyze and understand which is the bottom cause of such a distorting phenomenon, e.g. drugs dealing.

## Second day

### *Palermo Seminar and Legality Tour*

During the workshops held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day the young people discussed about their impressions and feelings of Palermo. They thought that it is a very good example of the integration of different cultures. They had the opportunity to know better its history and the one of its criminality. As a matter of fact, they were amazed about Civil society organizations which have the power to fight against mafia (i.e. Addio Pizzo) and all the stickers put in a lot of shops around the city.

The youngsters were very happy to share such inspiring moments and to know more about Falcone and Borsellino. Those who already knew about them didn't imagine how their work was important and relevant for the Sicilian youngsters.

The young people talked about the power of mafia - especially in some neighborhoods -, the different perception of mafia, and the differences between

Media and reality. Youngsters could be split in 2 clusters: one with those who want to change things and would fight against the discussed issues. On the other side, one with those youngsters who do not care. Some of them are happy because they get job thanks to mafia.

All participants to the workshop felt the legality tour as way to get in direct contact with Palermo and its history. They were astonished by the numerous historical hotspots, scars of the organized crime. Furthermore, with concern on the neighborhood where crime is more widespread, they felt that their cities share a similar environment.

Talking with some local youngsters around the city they felt that sometimes the issues of organized crime is underestimated.