

SUMMARY (for ERASMUS +)

Maria Laura Santucci -

- Esperienza di una docente e madre – My experience as teacher and mother

My name is Maria Laura Santucci and I am an English Teacher in High Schools in Rome, now retired.

I taught English language and English Literature in the Licei of Convitto Naz. V.Emanuel II from 2010 to 2017 ; at the moment I continue teaching English to Italian students, young and adults, helping them to choose qualifying courses abroad and Projects of Mobility Framework in their Schools; in addition I have joined Projects of the British Council in Italy and U.K. .

According to my experience as teacher and as mother of two daughters, I have always focused my attention on how girls, among my students, could develop their abilities without any differences with their male classmates.

I have tried to monitorize with other teachers and their families too, if they suffered any discriminations in their choice of studies or in the way they presented their schoolwork: sometimes I found a sort of 'gender gap' when the girls were asked to achieve a school project outside their School or their home; at the same time, I can say that very often girls obtained better results because more able than boys to plan and organize their work.

After years, I see that nowadays a lot of my female students have been able to reach excellent results choosing at University subjects from the scientific field like Physics, Maths, Engineering and Medicine, which had been the first choice for male students for a lot of time.

Obviously the context of Italian society, strongly based on family structure and desire to 'protect' our children, girls in particular, has slowed this process of helping girls in choosing a way of life completely up to them, but I can say that new visions are developing. Considering also my daughters' experience I've always tried to push them to get the results they wanted, even if they were in minority about sex.

One of my daughter is still studying at University in London and I have seen that some British Institutions offer scholarship to female students , just to facilitate their studies also far from their countries of origin: this is a good practice to be introduced also in other countries. The other one is starting to work in a big Company in Italy, where the female heads of the Departments are greatly fewer than the male ones: she is aware that she will have to struggle to go on but I know that this Company, as any others now in Italy and abroad, have put the overcoming of the gender gap in an important place of their Policy.

Last but not least, it's important to help girls and offer them tools to achieve important goals, because they must have the same opportunity as boys even if sometimes they depend on stereotypes difficult to change. They must be aware that if they work hard can reach the same goals as men, qualifying themselves even with sacrifice .

The aim of this Erasmus Project, thanks to the qualified Organizations and Federations involved in it, will sure be able to create a positive link in a lot of countries

