

Results of the questionnaire on Cultural awareness

In the first place, we must say that we decided to adapt the questionnaire to our local context so some questions were dropped off while others were changed to suit our needs. For instance the questions relating to the minority issues do not appear in the final version as we do not have minority ethnic groups in our town or regional area. However, we modified those questions into those ones regarding groups of immigrants who have settled down in our town for a number of years now. The reason why they have come to our place is to search for better job opportunities. There are three main groups: the Romanian, the Chinese and the more varied one coming from North Africa. The first group is mainly involved in jobs dealing with the caring for the elderly, the second is basically made of shopkeepers and the third one has found a steady occupation in agriculture.

We submitted the questionnaire to 60 sts, aged 16, attending the third year of our high school "E. Carafa" during an English class and subsequently we devote one more English class to discuss the results. As far as the first part of the questionnaire is concerned, the picture which comes out is quite interesting. On general issues regarding cultural integration, it shows that almost the total number of the sts interviewed seems to appreciate cultural diversity and consider it a factor of social and cultural development for a country. Yet, when asked questions regarding practical aspects of integration such as whether the minority groups should or not accept and adapt to the values of the majority, the number of the indecisive increases as to suggest that they do not know yet how to handle the issues of cultural integration. Again, on general questions like the ones relating to the equal right to education, to the respect of cultural diversity and discrimination they appear to have no doubts: they all agree that these are to be guaranteed in any social context and that discrimination should be fought against. When asked whether they know about any cultural events or have they ever joined them when organized by the minority groups or if they have any friends from these groups, well the answer is quite disappointing as if they were open-minded in theory but then when it comes to the practice they show a sort of reactionary attitude.

The results of the second part of the questionnaire, which is focused on local culture, shows that sts are generally very little interested in local or national cultural issues, as a matter of fact they participate to almost none of the public national ceremonies organized in town, they rarely visit the local library or a museum and in general they don't know much of the local history except for the local events organized in town. On the contrary, when asked what cultural events they generally attend the answer is for most of them: concerts, cinema and local fairs. In the end, dancing and music seem to be their favourite pastimes followed by traditional food tasted with their friends in a Pizzeria or at a coffee bar.

Cecilia, Grazia, Nunzia

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