

# JOURNEE MONDIALE DE LA PHILOSOPHIE 2012 - UNESCO -

## *PHILOSOPHY as an Educational Experience*

22 november 2012

Savona Town Hall, "Sala Rossa"

Philosophy Pole - Liceo Classico-Linguistico-Artistico "Chiabrera - Martini" -

in collaboration with S.F.I -A.F.L - A.I.P.Ph

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On Thursday, November 22nd 2012, in the "Sala Rossa" of Savona Town Hall, took place the "Journée de la Philosophie". As usual, it had the participation of many students, teachers and school principals, as well as external public which shared an interest in philosophical reflection.

After a short presentation by headmaster Prof. **Alfonso Gargano**, who talked about the importance of philosophy as shared reflection, professor **Anna Sgherri Costantini** highlighted how the teaching of the disciplines should focus on research, done by students and teachers, which can only be conducted usefully during laboratories activities.

She then mentioned the support of the Italian Philosophy Society and Liguria Philosophy Society, observing that during this year it had organized at a national level the Championship of Philosophy, consisting in written compositions in our native language.

Professor **Riccardo Sirello**, secretary of the "Association International des Professors de Philosophy" has thanked the most important students of the Pole for their efforts during the laboratory researches supported by the technical staff which nowadays uses not only the Portal and the magazine *Nuova Didattica* but also new, more interactive, ways such as *YouTube* and *Twitter* which allow a better sharing of philosophy reflection and culture.

He then reminded that the *Journée* is also held in other European countries and worldwide, normally meeting on the third Thursday of November, since UNESCO, with which we are partners, created it.

The reading of the speech of UNESCO General Director, Irina Bukova, was an important moment for the whole *Journée*.

In conclusion, Prof. Sirello read the communication from A.I.P.Ph. President, Professor **Lodewyckx**, suggesting that in the pursuit of philosophy the real values of life such as friendship should never be abandoned.

Around 10 o'clock professor **Luis Maria Cifuentes Perez** gave a speech about "Philosophy and Citizenship during the global era".

The first fundamental consideration is that during the globalization era philosophy must be placed in a different context, which has as protagonists three powers: *economical power*, *the power of new technologies* (TICS) and *political power*. Nowadays teenagers are "digital teenagers" used to fast and pressing rhythms (referring to Wikipedia whose prefix "Wiki" means fast), but philosophy needs longer time frame..The multimedial encyclopedia allows a fast access to knowledge, but not to reflection, whereas the main objective of today's school - as always - is "shaping" young and the education should have as its main purpose the transmission of "capabilities" to be spent in everyday life and, especially, on the planning of their future.

Currently, European education has to face many problems, not easy to solve. For example, the abandonment of the reading of classic texts, the obsession for the present and immediacy, the crisis of authority in the family and the manipulation of thinking driven by mass media.

Philosophical education proposes itself as a school of liberty and moral autonomy; as a lesson in universality,, as a supplier of a new intercultural code, as a criticism of science, of religion and politics, through the creation of an inter-disciplinary language.

How should philosophical education be structured in High schools then? Cifuentes reminds us that in Spain the High School is not divided into different orientations as in Italy. He affirms that philosophy is a critical dialogue between the philosopher - study subject - and the students about "problems" and for this reason it should not be an uncritical indoctrination; it is not doxography; it is not academics hermeneutics; it is not empty gossip; it is not a text from something dead or fossilized. *Philosophers are always alive for those who study them* and, through confrontation they can keep them up to date.

The new philosophy is informal and "goes out" from the school, it is practiced in many places as debate; it includes values, concepts and methods, and must be free of any prejudices, stereotypes and, above all, religious or political fanaticism.

Logos needs time and exchange, the "dialogue" , in a literary sense, in a society where the thought "Homo homini lupus" must be abandoned, in favor of "Homo homini homo", in a perspective of total equality and solidarity, where the multimedial ways must not substitute man in his whole physicians, a good which cannot be given away.

There was an interesting debate in which some students discussed the main themes, asking for clarifications and expressing some doubts which the lecturer answered with the courtesy and vivacity that marked the whole conference, making it incredibly interesting and useful, never forgetting that philosophy really is an experience of life.

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Con la cortese collaborazione del prof. Gianmaria Toscano

