



DIVERSITY IS WEALTH

The Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Dialogue
As Instruments for the Peaceful Cohabitation in the Multi-Ethnic Society

Organizing Committee

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Dear Rotarians

from 3rd to 5th of June 2008 an International RYLA will be held in Rome for young people living in all countries around the Mediterranean Sea. This geographic area was always in the past times characterized by cultural, ethnic and spiritual diversity: this occurrence was the actual wealth of this area. In fact all these diversities led to the development of many of the present cultures and sciences.

The fortune of still having such a diversity in present time may be an actual opportunity to get further developments of the present "modern culture", with new conceptual frames and new social paradigms. However there is a background basic principle to make all these upgrades possible: the "value of peaceful cohabitation", where tolerance and respect of diversity is the main way to transform the diversity from a cause of conflict to a chance of wealth.

The International RYLA of Rome will be focused on learning, discussing and making a community experience about the intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

The originality of this RYLA is its format, where a high importance is given to both the cultural and affective aspects of human experience.

The explicit cultural contents may be matched by the paradigms of rational dialectic, in which opposite opinions, hypothesis and thesis matching together may produce new contents for the shared culture; instead the match of absolute values, praxis and deep personal feelings may be performed just by sharing the experience to be together in peace and cooperating each other.

Following such general perspective, the course will be articulated into theoretical lessons and group debates, but also in practical workshops in which the experience of cooperating will be received. Workshops are structured and supervised by experts, but self-managed directly by participants. The social moments outside classroom will enforce such an experience.

The program goes through three days, splitted in two modules of one day and half, dedicated to the intercultural dialogue the first one and to the interreligious dialogue the second one.

The two modules are planned and lectured under the management of two University Institutes: the intercultural module is managed by the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of "Roma Tre"; the interreligious module is managed by the Athenaeum of



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S. Anselmo in Rome. Both the structure have already a wide experience in the two specific fields. Professors lecturing in the interreligious module belong to all the three introduced religions and all of them will be present for the whole duration of the module.

Targets of the course are young people from 18 to 30 years old, representing all the cultures and spiritualities of their own country.

Applicants have to be selected by Rotarians of the Mediterranean Rotary Districts taking into account their abilities to be peace leaders in their country and their share of the basic principle of the "value of the peaceful cohabitation". This basic value is the only operational constraint for inclusion of participant. The home Rotary Clubs will sponsor the Registration fee (200 Euros) and the round trip. All the other costs will be sponsored by Rotarians, private sponsors and local government of the District 2080. Possible cooperation with Italian Rotary Clubs to share costs for the round trip may be found by the Inter Country Committees or by Roberto Scambelluri (<mailto:scambelluri@libero.it>) of the Roma International RYLA Executive Committee.

It is an hope this RYLA will be followed by other ones in different mediterranean countries in next years, if it will be shared the idea of a wider Rotary International Program designed for young people with the aim of increasing the probability of a peaceful cohabitation and cooperation in the whole Mediterranean Area.

It is proposed the start from Rome, since, beside the hystorical relevance in the past, increasing the social and cultural exchange in the Mediterranean Area, at the present time the city of Rome demonstrates a high disponibility in welcome people with different cultures and spiritualities. Spiritualities, arts and rational cultures have in Rome all a relevant importance, and in this moment no one of the different choises is denied.

The hope for the future is to repeat such an experience in other Mediterranean Countries, where periodically RYLA continuing the present experience can make young people from all the nations and all the religions meeting each other. In such repeating events they will continue learning and experiencing how peaceful cohabitation and cooperation may be possible and how much the diversity is actually a chance of wealth. Each time such an event will be organized again in an other city, it is hoped also reaching the goal of stimulating the development of further local courses for professionals about intercultural and interreligious mediation.

Attached is the Presentation Brochure of the RYLA and the Application Form.

Looking forward peace where diversity is wealth

Pier Luigi Marconi

Organizing Committee Coordinator



ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION BROCHURE

The Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Dialogue As Instruments for the Peaceful Cohabitation in the Multi-Ethnic Society

In the present “globalized” society, where the cultural contacts, the migratory exchanges and flows stretch to extend in all the directions of the globe, the differences among the values, the uses and the customs achieve more importance, especially for their impact on the quality of the cohabitation.

The sharing of some basic values is implied in any case for getting a solution to this social complexity, apart from the various ethical and religious principles of the different cultures.

The value of the peaceful cohabitation rises from the share of appreciating any other person as a source of human wealth in the moment in which it becomes cooperatively part of the social network with its own role. This recognition is kept as valid despite the own creed and the own faith could imply the feeling of absolute certainty in the quality of personal religious and ethical choices. This value of peaceful cohabitation can be exquisitely human in the interpersonal exchange perspective; it can create a kind of “social capital” and it can be even an economic one, for the ability of “creating new wealth” embedded in the resource exchange trading between two or more subjects. But it has also an intellectual and cognitive value, deriving from the greater ability to problem solving and from the greater guarantee of quality of the life that emerge from a “collective intelligence” of individuals sharing and cooperating each other; it is the value of an extended social group that generates greater creative, intellectual, economic and human resources in support of the peace and of the life as a whole.

If such assumptions are actually shared, a ground set of guidelines necessary to the vital and creative cohabitation between heterogenous communities may be possible to be proposed.

Many problems are still to be resolved with compatible solutions to the freedom of thought, creed and existence of every human being. Freedom that must necessarily to be linked with the principles of “living together”, between individuals even much different each other.

In this perspective, many people have put their attention on the instruments that the reason have developed, in the course of time, like creative modalities in order to conjugate differences. It is the principle of the dialectic debate, whose origin in the Mediterranean culture go back to ancient civilizations, but that today still gives a structure to the ground of the academic life.

However the dominion of the intimate personal experience also exists, beside the dominion of the instrumental reason; it is the dominion of inner feelings, of the existential values, of the absolute principles

in which everyone finds its own identity. These principles are lived precisely absolute and therefore they are not negotiable; therefore they are subjected only to mutual tolerance and respect.

We are talking therefore of two different aspects: the negotiable and dialectic matter, which can be seen as relativistic, and the non-negotiable and absolute matter, which can be however concerned as compatible with “living together”.

It is the challenge of a reason that it always recognizes its self with a limit, which can be overcome only by the comparison with other people, especially if different.

It is the challenge of the “absolute” and of the “relative”, which must meet each other as Geometry and Arithmetics in the “diagonal of a square” do like.

The last aim is to cohabit; it is to know each other in order to appreciate each other; it is to learn to never renounce to that resource that every human being represents.

AIMS AND FRAMEWORK OF THE RYLA

In order to face this problem of the pacific cohabitation in an intercultural and inter-religious society, a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) to study and to make a community experience on the Intercultural and Inter-religious Dialogue will be held in Rome for young people coming from the whole Mediterranean Area.

The program will go through three days, splitted in two modules of one day and half each one, dedicated to the intercultural dialogue the first one and to the interreligious dialogue the second one.

The theoretics will be alternated to laboratories, which are structured and supervised by experts, but self-managed directly by participants.

The two modules are planned and lectured under the management of two University Institutes: the intercultural module is managed by the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of “Roma Tre”; the interreligious module is managed by the Athenaeum of S.Anselmo in Rome. Both the structure have already wide experience in the two specific fields. Professors lecturing in the Inter-religious module belong to all the three introduced religions and all of them will be present for the whole duration of the module.

The official language of the RYLA is Italian, but simultaneous translation in English, French, Spanish and Arab will be possible on request.

PROGRAM OF THE COURSE

- **1st Module : The Intercultural Dialogue (School of Political Sciences – University of “Roma Tre”)**
 1. Freedom and human rights in comparative perspective
 2. Culture and Cultures in game
 3. Comparing identities and cultures.

- **2nd Module : The Inter-religious Dialogue (Athenaeum of S.Anselmo – Roma)**

1. The Inter-religious comparison in Judaism
2. The Inter-religious comparison in Christianity
3. The Inter-religious comparison in Islam

ELIGIBILITY

Participants will have to be young people from 18 to 30 years old, coming from all the Countries pertaining to the Mediterranean Area. They will be selected in a maximum number of 3 delegates for each Country, possibly being representative of the various cultures and religions present in it.

In order to participate to the selection they have to be in possession of a Curriculum Studiorum and of the experience more appropriate for supporting their future leadership in the peace processes. Rotarians are encouraged to select applicants with past experiences in Rotary-sponsored peace or intercultural/interreligious dialogue programs/events.

The selection of participants will be carried out by the Rotary International District of home Country on the basis of the proposals of the local Sponsor Rotary Clubs, which will support travel expenses and the registration fee. The applicants are preferred being members of a Rotaract Club or being Rotary Foundation Alumni, but this is not a constraint. They have to be not already members of a Rotary Club.

HOSPITALITY

RYLA Participants will be housed in same-gender accommodations. The arrival is planned in the afternoon of the 2nd of June, and the departure in the morning of the 6th of June, with a total duration of the stay of 4 nights. Lunches will be supplied during the days of course by the University caterings of the two Athenaeums. Dinner will be supplied by Rotary Clubs of Rome and Lazio.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee is 200 € per participant and comprises participating to the course, didactic material, lunches and dinners, lodging and transports from and to the centers where the course will be held.

APPLICATION

Every Rotary International District interested to participate to the RYLA with the sponsorship and the shipment of a group of young people will communicate to the Organizational Secretariat the name and the addresses of a referring person for the necessary contacts by 15 April 2008. In order to facilitate the contacts and the international organizing meetings at distance, such representative must have the possibility to operate through Internet, by mail, Chat or AudioVideo Conference. The list of the representatives of every Rotary District of the Mediterranean Area will have to be communicated you by each Districts to the Organizing Secretariat by 30 April 2008 using the attached form.

The round-trip travel expenses will be sponsored by the Rotary International District or by the local Sponsor Rotary Club, who will check the regularity of the travel documentation and they will contact the administrative authorities for the necessary approvals.

The confirmation of the received application will be communicated by Organizing Secretariat via e-mail, where will be communicated also modalities to pay the registration fee. Confirmation of the registration will be done also via email as the registration fee will be receipt. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of the application within one week of submission, please contact our office immediately.

Organizing Committee

Pier Luigi Marconi
Bartolomeo Bove
Nicolino Tamilia
Giuseppe Tota
Markus Muff
Mario Spizzichino

Rome International RYLA Secretariat

00196 Roma – Lungotevere Flaminio, 22
Tel. 063215758 – Fax 0632500742
E-mail: rotaryromappia@virgilio.it

Scientific Committee

Salvatore Bonfiglio
Maria Luisa Maniscalco
Mark Sheridan
Stefano Visintin

Connections with District 2080 of the Rotary International

Filippo Fadda

International Relationships

Antonio de Majo	(CIP International Vice President)
Giovanni Jandolo	(CIP Italy National Coordinator)
Gabriele Franciosi	(CIP Italy – Algery)
Sergio Vinciguerra	(CIP Italy – France)
Pier Luigi Marconi	(CIP Italy – Greece)
Giorgio Campagnano	(CIP Italy – Israel)
Francesco Ferrazzano	(CIP Italy - Morocco)
Bruno Gallo	(CIP Italy – Spain)
Domenico L. Cacioppo Maccagnone	(CIP Italia - Tunisia)
Ambrogio Locatelli	(CIP Italy – Turkey)



INTERNATIONAL RYLA

3-5 June 2008, Rome, Italy



APPLICATION FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANT

To be completed by the Rotarian representing the sponsoring district or club

(Please print or type)

DISTRICT: _____

YOUTH NOMINEE:

Family Name First Name & Middle Initial Call Name (to be used on name-badge) Gender*

Address

City State/Province

Postal or Zip Code Country

Telephone (business/school) (Include country/city/area codes) Telephone (home) (Include country/city/area codes)

FAX (Include country/city/area codes) E-mail (very important as most communication will be sent via e-mail)

*RYLA Participants will be housed in same-gender accommodations.

Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year): _____

Occupation: (If you are a student, please indicate your Course of Study): _____

In which languages is he/she fluent? Arabian English French Italian Spanish Other _____

For which cultural and/or religious background is he/she representative: _____

ROTARIAN REPRESENTING THE SPONSORING DISTRICT OR CLUB:

Family Name First Name & Middle Initial Call Name

Address

City State/Province

Postal or Zip Code Country

Telephone (business) (Include country/city/area codes) Telephone (home) (Include country/city/area codes)

FAX (Include country/city/area codes) E-mail (email is very important as correspondence will be sent via email)

Rotary Club District

YOUTH NOMINEE PEACE KEEPING ACTIVITIES:

List a Rotary-sponsored **peace keeping** or **intercultural dialogue** program/event in the district in which the awardee participated:

Please attach *curriculum vitae* or other supporting documents which describes how the nominee has been involved with Rotary and demonstrated outstanding leadership potential. **LIMIT TO TWO SINGLE-SIDED PAGES.**

Family Name

First Name & Middle Initial

Call Name

In order to face this problem of the pacific cohabitation in an intercultural and interreligious society, a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) to study and to make a comunitary experience on the Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue will be held in **Rome, Italy, from 3 June to 5 June 2008** for young people coming from the whole Mediterranean Area. The program is articulated in three days, splitted in two modules of one day and half each one, dedicated to the intercultural dialogue the first one and to the interreligious dialogue the second one. The theoretics will be alternated to laboratories, which are structured and supervised by experts, but self-managed directly by participants. The two modules are planned and lectured under the management of two University Institutes: the intercultural module is managed by the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of "Roma 3"; the interreligious module is managed by the Athenaeum of S. Anselmo in Rome. Both the structure have already wide experience in the two specific fields. Professors lecturing in the Interreligious module belong to all the three introduced religions and all the faculties will be present for the whole duration of the specific module. The official language of the RYLA is Italian, but simultaneous translation in English, French, Spanish and Arabian will be possible on request.

Application:

Every Rotary International District interested to participate to the RYLA with the sponsorship and the shipment of a group of young people will communicate to the Organizational Secretariat the name and the addresses of a referring person for the necessary contacts by **15 April 2008**. In order to facilitate the contacts and the international organizing meetings at distance, such representative must have the possibility to operate through Internet, by mail, Chat or AudioVideo Conference. The list of the representatives of every Rotary District of the Mediterranean Area will have to be communicated you by each Districts to the Organizing Secretariat by **30 April 2008** using the attached form. The round-trip travel expences will be sponsored by the Rotary Interantional District or by the local Sponsor Rotary Club, who will check the regularity of the travel documentation and they will contact the administrative authorities for the necessary approvals. They should complete this form, nominating the participants selected for the International RYLA, and after discussing the event with the applicant, obtain his or her signature. The form, signed by the district governor, should be submitted to:

Rome International RYLA Segretariat
00196 Roma – Lungotevere Flaminio, 22
Tel. 063215758 – Fax 0632500742
E-mail: rotaryromappia@virgilio.it

Eligibility:

Participants will have to be young people from 18 to 30 years old, coming from all the Countries pertaining to the Mediterranean Area. They will be selected in a maximum number of 3 delegates for each Country, possibly being representative of the various cultures and religions present in it. In order to participate to the selection they have to be in possession of a Curriculum Studiorum and of the experience more appropriate for supporting their future leadership in the peace processes. Rotarians are encouraged to select applicants with past experiences in Rotary-sponsored peace or intercultural interreligious dialogue programs/events. The applicants are preferred being members of a Rotaract Club or being Rotary Foundation Alumni, but this is not a constraint. They have to be not already members of a Rotary Club.

Registration fee:

A 200 € registration fee per youth is required and will be due upon notification of a nominee's selection as a participant. The fee will cover participating to the course, didactic material, lunches and dinners, lodging and transports from and to the centers where the course will be held. Please note that housing and meals pre/post event are not provided.

Other costs:

The district or club sponsoring the nominee is expected to arrange funding for the nominee's round-trip transportation to Rome (arrival on 2nd June – afternoon - and departure on 6th June – morning). The sponsoring district or club, or the individual youth, will be responsible for their own insurance as well as any pre-or-post event travel, meals, and lodging. If funding will not be arranged, the sponsoring district or club must clearly communicate to the RYLArian the amount and extent of funding that will be provided.

Confirmation of application:

The confirmation of the received application will be communicated by Organizing Segretariat via e-mail, where will be communicated also modalities to pay the registration fee. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of the application within one week of submission, please contact our office immediately. Confirmation of the registration will be done also via email as the registration fee will be receipt.

Participant selection:

The selection of participants will be carried out by the Rotary International District of home Country on the basis of the proposals of the local Sponsor Rotary Clubs, which will support travel expenses and the registration fee. Completion of this application constitutes agreement that the nominee will abide by the guidelines and rules established for the International RYLA on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue that it will be held in Roma 3-5 June 2008.

Signature of youth applicant

Date

Signature of Rotarian representing the sponsoring district or club

Date

Signature of 2007-08 District Governor

Date