



Foreword

Our Mosaic is that of intercultural relations in contemporary society, which sees in the phenomenon of human mobility and its cultural and social contaminations an opportunity for the full achievement of coexistence in the living community of society.

We want to overcome the culture of permanent emergency and fear, which today often characterises the lives of citizens and cities, states and governments with regard to immigration. We see migration as a structural phenomenon in a mobile world. We want to create approaches whereby multicultural coexistence - even with its own administrative, economic and cultural difficulties - can be perceived as a positive element of a new global community of citizens. A society rooted in the local, but integrated in the global life of the planet, which sees itself as an interdependent network of communicating people and places and which consciously uses digital reality for intercultural relations, information and solidarity.

In this context, urban space is today the most interesting and important geographic area: it is here that human life is increasingly concentrated, it is here that the everyday life of citizens takes place in both its public and private dimensions, and there is no reversal of this trend in sight. Science and international organisations, including the United Nations, have long agreed that human mobility and urbanisation are in turn closely linked to other phenomena such as climate change and the implementation of



sustainability projects to limit the damage to life on our planet. The impact of this development can be observed especially in the 'Global South', in developing and southern European countries, in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Mosaic

The name Mosaic recalls the plurality of identities and forms of coexistence and the search for harmony. Mosaic is a symbol of the wealth of ideas and cultural expressions that characterise the history of the Mediterranean world, the cradle of all cultures living in Europe today. The Mediterranean Sea is the geographical space of our project: with Europe, Africa and the Middle East, with Sicily and Palermo at the centre.

In the Mediterranean region, the need for global cultural, social and economic change is increasingly emerging today. Cultural, religious, political, economic and environmental values and models have often become, in our times, justifications for war conflicts, violence, exploitation and oppression, whereas historically they were born to promote and defend harmonious coexistence and respect for the rights of individuals and communities.



The Foundation, Palermo and Leoluca Orlando

"Coming out of the tunnel of 'abnormality' - a place ruled in the past by the Mafia - Palermo today seeks to be a living community of tolerance and peaceful coexistence between citizens of different cultures and backgrounds."

"I have encountered, in the course of my life and political experiences, values such as Race, Identity and God that are often manipulated in the culture and daily lives of people, including those living in Palermo."

"I firmly reject the belief that identity depends only on the blood of parents and I am convinced that identity is always a supreme act of freedom. No two identities are the same anywhere in the world. There are about 7 billion human beings living on our planet and each one has a differently composed identity, so as many human beings on the planet as there are identities'.

"I defend the only Race that exists: the human race. Whoever makes a distinction between human beings and speaks of races prepares intolerance'.

"In Palermo, I maintain, there are no migrants: we are all the same, we are all different, without distinguishing who was born in Palermo and who lives



in Palermo. In the name of the inviolable rights of every human being, my credo is: zero intolerance'.

"And finally, I believe that God is one. Someone meets God in Allah Square, someone else in Christ Street or in Jahve or Buddha Avenue or in the path of reason'.

"The Mediterranean, rich in history and cultures, presents itself as an extraordinary miscellany and interdependence, as an alternative to and against intolerance and conflict."

"The Mosaic Foundation is committed to verifying that in every community on the planet it is possible to find the seeds and reap the fruits of this inevitable miscellany and interdependence."

(Leoluca Orlando, Founder and President of the Mosaic Foundation)

Palermo today embodies a concrete attempt to create a new urban 'normality'. Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of the city for many years, has dedicated his work and political commitment to this task for over 40 years. Today's Palermo proves that positive renewal and regeneration of a society is possible. Palermo is no longer the 'capital of the mafia', as it was in the 1980s, but a modern metropolis on the Mediterranean.



The city has become a symbol in the fight against the mafia, its organisation and its involvement with politics and civil society, the result of the tireless struggle of citizens for the individual's right to democracy and freedom, against the oppression of the mafia, against the 'abnormality' to which Palermo society was subjected for decades. A struggle which has created a new awareness of the fundamental rights of emancipated citizens and which, in recent years, has become the basis for a model of coexistence even with those who were not born in Palermo.

This recent history of Palermo and Orlando are examples of a development that, of course, is not only typical of Palermo or Sicily, Italy, the Mediterranean and Europe, but has global validity. Every local community can and must free itself from the state of oppression, emancipate itself and regenerate with the help of new values.

Today, Leoluca Orlando is no longer mayor of Palermo. The Mosaic Foundation was established to give continuity to his political work and the human, social, administrative and cultural efforts and achievements of the citizens of Palermo, and to develop this model for their future and that of other cities and local communities. This is the *raison d'être* and mission of the Mosaic Foundation, which originates from the heart of the Mediterranean.



The objectives

The intention is to promote a thread which, in the coming years, it is hoped will create a virtuous circle: full of concrete experiences and projects, embodied in the form of courses, conferences, cultural, artistic and business initiatives, accessible at any time to cities, municipalities and regional communities in the Mediterranean and Europe interested in the Foundation's themes.

In order to achieve this objective, the Foundation intends to initiate research and training activities mainly addressed to the actors of local realities, municipalities and communities in the Mediterranean and Europe: administrators, social and political workers, entrepreneurs and cultural operators. With the help of theoretical approaches and reports of experiences from already implemented projects, they will be enabled to create impulses for positive change and regeneration also in their own contexts and to develop and transfer new models of cultural change themselves with the help of what they have learnt.

The Foundation will organise 15-day courses, called 'Summer' and 'Winter' Schools, which will be held twice a year in Palermo. Each of these courses will be open to fifty participants, and especially the youngest should have the opportunity to participate. These training courses will be the heart of our work.



At the end of each course, participants will have the opportunity to join the Mosaic Foundation's international network. This aims at a lively exchange and active cooperation of the participants after their return to their respective regions. In this way, a stable network of communicating municipalities and communities is to be formed, in which cultural contamination and 'good practices' become spurs for international dialogue and peaceful coexistence. The aim is to achieve the effect of a 'snowball system': in this way, after the first three years of life, the Foundation would like to be able to count on around two hundred 'branches' for civic education and the promotion of an intercultural model of society in the Mediterranean region, capable of dialogue on interculturality also with realities on other continents.

The 'eclectic' education

Palermo, the new, the old, the contradictory city is the 'integral' centre of the training school. The change and regeneration of cities and communities must be observed and gathered, in fact, in the places where crises have already been perceived as opportunities for change and the corresponding regenerative models have been practised.

The course lecturers will be internationally renowned experts and researchers, but also representatives of practical experience in traditional



and innovative activities: local administrators, entrepreneurs and start-ups, scientists, artists, but also craftsmen, chefs and fashion designers, communication experts, IT experts and artificial intelligence developers. The lecturers will work on a general and individual approach to the training of each participant.

Training Complements

"Research and documentation" team: The team will carry out research on the themes of mobility, environment, identity, rights and lifestyles in urban spaces and metropolitan cities to support the structuring and construction of the courses. Many results will be made available to journalists as a database.

Mosaic Award: Starting in 2024, the Foundation will present the 'Mosaic Award' once a year, awarded on the basis of its relevance to art, economics, society, politics, community life, to the person who best embodied the themes of 'Freedom, Equality, Peace' in the previous and current year.

"M - Mosaic Magazine": The Foundation will publish the magazine "M" with articles, essays and reports by international journalists and experts on the central themes of our work. The magazine will be multilingual.



Think Tank/Lab: The place where international experts and journalists will discuss the Foundation's main topics, complementing the work of the research team and 'M' magazine.

Local and individual initiatives: To complement the Foundation's core programme, local projects are also scheduled, both in Palermo and in the places of origin of the lecturers and seminar participants, in Italy, the Mediterranean area and Europe. Specific research projects, archive seminars, conferences, exhibitions and artistic initiatives on the themes of intercultural relations, interdependence and cultural contamination will be developed and implemented.

Scholarships: scholarships are provided for courses, studies and research for Fondazione Mosaico schools

The Foundation's activities

First step: the establishment

Notarial deed of incorporation of the 'Mosaic' Foundation, 21.3.2023; founder: Leoluca Orlando; official seat: Via Francesco Guardione 3 - 90139 Palermo - Italy; deposit of the Foundation capital.



Registration and recognition of the legal entity of the Foundation "Fondazione Mosaico E.T.S." (E.T.S. - Ente Terzo Settore, Charitable Foundation) in the Unified National Register of the Third Sector, "Runts", on April 20, 2023.

Appointment of governing bodies, structuring of sectors and operational teams, working groups:

- Research and Training Working Group, head Roberto Di Giovan Paolo.
- Registration of the magazine Mosaic; Head: Constanze Reuscher.
- Think Tank/Lab: Roberto Di Giovan Paolo and Constanze Reuscher.
- Activation of the website, social media presence and press relations.

Phase 2: Start of activities

Official presentation of the Mosaic Foundation during an international conference with high-level speakers.

During this event the first 'Winter School' for the spring of 2024 will be presented as well as the awarding of the three Mosaic Prizes, followed by a debate between the prize-winners and guests, and the introduction of the first issue of the 'M' magazine.



Venue: Seat of the "Fondazione Sicilia", Palazzo Branciforte - Palermo.

Third phase/Planning and organisation of training courses

Winter 2023

Preparation of the first "Winter School" for spring 2024: selection of participants and lecturers, specific invitations, two-week programme.

2024 e 2025

All activities described so far will be further developed (research, magazine, seminars and conferences, monographic publications, awards, also in cooperation with other foundations and public and private institutions).

Explanatory note - background

The Mosaic Foundation refers to historical human mobility, which today takes on a dimension and quality of great impact in the life of urban areas and initially refers to the experience of the past 40 years of the city of Palermo. The Sicilian city has become today, as never before, a meeting



place and contamination of the South and the North of the world. A contamination destined in time to be not only emergent but structural, even in geographical areas far from the Mediterranean. The name Mosaic is intended to express diversity of identity, complexity of coexistence and the search for harmony. For us, human mobility is a structural factor of our age, not a singular movement that can be reversed. Our society must therefore find new approaches to coexistence instead of building walls.

The Foundation refers to the transition from the fight against the mafia, with its characteristics of violence and mortification of laws and rights, to the welcoming of those from other realities and, in particular, migrants with their diversity, but bearers of rights like every human being. A path which involved citizens and the entire experience of Leoluca Orlando, mayor for 22 years over the last four decades.

The Mosaic is a symbol of the wealth of ideas and cultural expressions that characterise the Mediterranean world and its history. The Mediterranean Sea is the geographical space of our project: with Europe, Africa and the Middle East, with Sicily and Palermo at the centre. Human mobility is a historical dimension of the Mediterranean, influenced by armed conflicts, colonisation, and economic interests. In its contemporary form, marked mainly by the flight from persecution, poverty and hunger, it has an enormous impact on life, especially in cities and towns, both in the Mediterranean and in Europe.



Palermo, in the years of the great refugee movements in the Mediterranean from 2010 onwards, has become a central place of encounter and contamination of the South and North of the world, especially of Asia and Africa with Europe. This is, of course, also true for other places in Europe and the Mediterranean. What makes Palermo so special in this context? The city of Palermo and its citizens have been forced to create a new code of values for decades. Decades of suppression of the democratic rights of civil society, of violence and erosion of law and order by organised crime and its political henchmen have led to an intense awareness.

Leoluca Orlando, as a politician and mayor, had to face the threat of the Mafia in the institutions and daily life of the city. Other public officials - law enforcement officers and magistrates - have constantly measured their actions against the law and their own strengths, on the one hand, and the necessities of the fight against a criminal secret society, on the other. The population had to fight against fear and the violation of their rights. The fight against the Mafia had become a civil revolution in which the rights of the individual and the community were put at the centre of the discussion in a way that rarely happens so radically in local communities. This, thanks also to the struggle of Orlando and of magistrates, policemen, journalists and civilians, led to a special public awareness of fundamental rights. Civil society was forced to shift from passive to civically active, consciously integrating global values such as equality, freedom, humanity, life and peace into everyday actions.



Therefore, it was not difficult for the city and citizens of Palermo to also respect the rights of others, those of migrants; to welcome and include in the city community people fleeing hunger, poverty or violent regimes and wars. People, even those who were not born in Palermo, are not considered a potential danger here. Rather, they are victims, just as the Palermo people themselves had been. The alleged fear of the foreigner was therefore not an argument for Palermo - the city that for decades has lived in fear of real violence and is well capable of recognising it.

The development of a new code of values that puts the right and freedom of every person and citizen above all others first found expression in the anti-Mafia movement. In the last decade it has been translated into the 'Palermo Charter' adopted in 2015, which defines international human mobility as an inalienable right of every human being, and has been translated into numerous political actions of Orlando's City Council, even in times of open contrast with national governments which included politicians expressing a sovereigntist and intolerant culture.

Today, Leoluca Orlando is no longer Mayor of the city. The Foundation therefore aims to give continuity to his experience and that of the Municipality and Community of Palermo, to his human, cultural and administrative efforts and achievements, and to become a model or an impulse for others.

In the historical reality of the Mediterranean area, the values of culture and



economy, identity and religion have in many ages led to the cultural elevation of societies and to peaceful coexistence and tolerance within them. In the name of the same values, wars have also been waged, conquests and colonisations justified. In our times, there is hardly any peace and respectful coexistence. Constant conflicts, dictatorships, violence, oppression, serious economic and social crises determine the climate in the Mediterranean region and southern Europe. This often has to do with a perverse conception of identity, which is not acknowledged as the highest act of freedom of every human being, but is defined as a racial issue. Distinctions are made between races and religious affiliations, between rulers and minorities, between poor and rich; what fits best with the respective propaganda is cannibalised politically. Unfortunately, this only leads to the assumption of fear, intolerance, hatred, exclusion and, in the end, terror and genocide. Even the citizens of rich Europe turn away when people drown in the Mediterranean.

What should the Mosaic Foundation do?

The Foundation aims to promote a global dimension of the values of respect for the individual and the promotion of community. These values seem particularly necessary in this time of wars and confrontations, of criticality of the role of the United Nations and of environmental disasters and their already imminent consequences for broad segments of humanity, and are evoked by many: among others, by the Dalai Lama, by (Black) Lives Matter, by climate protests, including the most recent ones by students around the world, and by Pope Francis' encyclicals 'Laudato sii'



and 'Fratelli tutti'. In short, the themes of the environment and the common home, fraternity, rights and peace.

The Mosaic Foundation wants to convey knowledge and awareness about the potential of a free and intercultural society and approaches for the possibilities of social regeneration. Migration policy and related internal and security policies are almost exclusively the responsibility of states and national governments. This ignores the fact that positive models of integration and coexistence of exemplary character often emerge or have already emerged in local contexts. There are many very positive social, administrative and economic 'good practices' in communities and cities in Europe and across the Mediterranean. They are often preceded by artistic and political inspirations, courageous and creative precursors of processes of coexistence and liberation from the fear of social diversity.

The Foundation aims to promote the values of respect for the individual and the community in a global dimension: the common home, fraternity, rights and peace, environmental protection. These values appear ever more urgent at a time of permanent crises and wars on a global scale, the weakening of the role of the United Nations and environmental disasters. The disastrous consequences have been invoked by many for years: from the Dalai Lama to (Black) Lives Matter, from climate activists to Pope Francis in his encyclicals 'Laudato sii' and 'Brothers all'.



Research references

A common thread links the literature, scientific analysis and human encounters to which Leoluca Orlando has devoted his attention as a politician and mayor.

These include Hans Magnus Enzensberger's "The Great Migration" and Benjamin Barber's "Jihad versus MacWorld": both, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, predicted critical aspects of our contemporary world, which would be increasingly characterised by mobility and interdependence, and at the same time by identity, racial and religious crises, demarcations and conflicts.

In "If Mayors ruled the World", Benjamin Barber uses the example of twelve major cities in the world, including Palermo, to demonstrate that the responses and governance policies related to interdependence and social coexistence are developed by local communities, not by states and governments, the so-called 'dysfunctional nations'. Based on these insights, Benjamin Barber developed the idea of the 'Global Parliament of Mayors'.

Criticisms and perspectives of this world are now developed by scholars and experts such as the Indian Parag Khanna in his books, such as the recent 'Move', for a macrosystemic analysis of the current epochal human



mobility.

On a scientific level, the foundation and work of the École Urbaine of the French University SciencePo, with the research projects of its first rector, Patrick Le Galès, also stands out. Leoluca Orlando, at the invitation of Le Galès, opened the academic year of the École Urbaine in 2018 with a Lectio Magistralis on social regeneration in urban space.

A positive approach to the potential of group social regeneration is offered by the recent book by international marketing experts Philip Kotler, Christian Sarkar and Enrico Foglia, 'Regeneration: the future of Community in a Permacrisis World'. In the development phase of this theory, the city of Palermo 2021 was chosen by the authors as a 'pilot'. In the course of the project, new interest groups, initiatives, actions and supportive communities emerged in response to deliberate impulses, spontaneously and surprisingly quickly for the authors.

In most of the debates, dialogues and analyses, it is clear that social and political responses to human mobility emerge in urban areas; that the success and failure of social developments and projects are decided in urban spaces, because this is where the effects of migration are most concentrated and crystallised.

In recent years, important interlocutors on these issues for Leoluca Orlando have been - in addition to numerous 'colleagues', mayors of large



European, African and Middle Eastern cities - exponents of art, culture, the church and politics such as former EKD Council president Heinrich Bedford-Strohm or Romano Prodi, former president of the EU Commission and Italian prime minister. The same applies to former French Minister of Culture Jack Lang, German film director Wim Wenders, Nigerian Nobel Prize winner for Literature Wole Soyinka, German-Israeli conductor Omer Meir Wellber and Aldo Civico, professor at the University of Miami/USA. David Sassoli, journalist, politician and former President of the European Parliament, was always part of the historical circle of his confidants, friends and comrades in his political commitment to human rights - until his untimely death.

The activity plan for the three-year period 2023/2025 makes reliance on the involvement of donors, collaborative relationships with other Foundations and public and private Institutions, participation in international calls for proposals, sponsorships and initiatives with a direct economic return to cover expenses, in compliance with the specific regulations for Foundations registered in the National Register of the Third Sector.

The Foundation undertakes to envisage over time, starting from 2024/2025, forms of involvement and participation of service users and trainees - in compliance with the conditions of merit.



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