“Mundo kriol”: against social exclusion

by Maria de Lourdes Jesus

The two-year-long "Mundo kriol" project came to a close on the island of St. Nicolau Island in March 2011, and on the island of S. Antão in August 2012. The project involved the provision of training and the establishment of a youth-run multimedia centre open to the public on both islands.

"Mundo kriol" is a space managed by both young Cape Verdeans born in Italy and young people born on the two Cape Verdean islands. As such, fifteen young people born in Italy travelled to the first island, S . Nicolau, having completed a training programme organised by OMCVI (Associazione delle Donne Capoverdiane in Italia which organised the initiative in collaboration with Lunaria, Binary Ethics, OMCV and AJS), taking twelve donated computers with them. Both the Italian and Cape Verdean trainers (supported by AJS, Associazione Giovani Solidali) then involved the local youth in training programmes, which provided them with the skills required to engage in careers as computer programmers, computer hardware technicians (involving the installation and configuration of PCs), computer repair technicians, and video and radio programmers.

The same multimedia training was then also carried out on the island of St. Antão, despite a media centre already existing on the island, in which twelve girls from the island took part. The local partner was the Associazione delle Donne Capoverdiane in Italia (OMCV).

Another interesting aspect of this project is the exchange that took place between the young people from Cape Verde and those born in Italy (twelve in the first group and fifteen in the second). Both groups of young people visited the home countries of their counterparts in order to learn more about their lives, including the most difficult challenges faced by young immigrants. Both groups agreed to talk about their experiences with the media and in various meetings organised by the participating associations.

The project concluded with the creation of a website (www.mundokriol.net) on which young people from Cape Verde and Rome can exchange information about their countries in Portuguese, Creole, Italian and English.

This interesting project has not gone unnoticed. Indeed, on 19 October 2012 "Mundo Kriol" won the award for best project in the ICT category for social inclusion from the Fondazione Mondo Digitale, which was presented at the Sala Protomoteca at the Campidoglio in Rome.

Source: www.mundokriol.net