

Interview with Maria Paola Azzario

1) How did you first get involved with UNESCO? What attracted you to UNESCO specifically?

I was personally contacted by the Division of UNESCO dedicated to Education because I was testing out an intercultural method on parents, teachers and students in a peripheral area of Turin and I was invited in Paris in order to present the results. My method was called "ECA Self-Managed Creative Education" and, since then, it has been called ECA-UNESCO and I became Consultant for the Training of Trainers.

2) Why is UNESCO so important to the attainment of Peace in the world?

Because UNESCO was founded in 1945 as an organization that, through education, science and culture, aimed at bringing back Peace in the hearts and minds of women and men. This is its principal objective since its foundation.

Moreover, it is the unique international organization that has allowed the birth and development of UNESCO Clubs that, since 1948, educate to the knowledge and respect of Human Rights. This important involvement of the civil society allows the mobilization of institutions and the education of communities.

3) What would you say is your most meaningful experience or largest achievement in the realm of UNESCO?

Every UNESCO experience is unique and worthy of being remembered. In more than 30 years of voluntary work (1980/2014) I founded the UNESCO Centre in Turin that, nowadays, counts more than 800 members. We have 7.000 UNESCO volumes in our library, open to the public. We have given, and we continue to give every year, scholarships to young people who realize projects for the international cooperation. We have created the IPAZIA Programme for the Training of women in science and carried out hundreds of Training Courses for teaching the UNESCO ideals and realizing consequent activities.

The enriching experience is that every day the UNESCO Centre in Turin is open to children, young people and adults, always in order to look for concrete programmes aimed at building Peace in the UNESCO fields: Education, Science, Culture and Communication.