



**SOCIAL HEALTH EDUCATION RESEARCH**

<b>Research project title</b>	MAppEs [Metodologie di Apprendimento Esperienziale per l'Educazione Professionale] Experiential Learning Methodologies for Social Health Education
<b>Scientific director of the project</b>	Dario Fortin Professor of Methods and Techniques of Educational Interventions and Coordinator of Traineeships and Experiential Learning Laboratories for the Degree course in Social Health Education at the University of Trento and Ferrara. Researcher in the field of Social Health Education Methodology at the University of Trento for the Department of Psychology and Cognitive Sciences. Coordinator of <i>GRESS</i> , a Research Group for Social Health Education.
<b>Context</b>	<p>The Italian academic research in the field of social health education is still in its infancy. Indeed, the basic education of Social Health Educators in Italy passed from regional schools to Universities only thirteen years ago. The new bachelor's degree has allowed Italian educators to participate actively in the process of "globalization" of education, research and of the professions. This acknowledgment, however, involves the risk of transmitting an excessively theoretical knowledge, as a natural consequence of the traditional education offered by Italian Universities. We have seen in our own region (Trentino), that in social health education, besides the theoretical scientific-technical part, it is necessary to develop self-knowledge and awareness of personal characteristics, resources and limits. It is essential, indeed, to be able to achieve an important competence which is particularly required by the job market, i.e. the <i>relational competence</i>.</p> <p>The opportunity of carrying out research and awareness-raising projects concerning relational competencies is particularly interesting for the University of Trento, which has recently set up, being one of the first in Italy, a specific research unit in methodology and organization of the social health profession. Also the extensive experiences in the field of social and health education in our area should be better valued by the academic world, with the development of innovative research methods constantly related to the national and international situation.</p> <p>Our local area and first of all the Autonomous Province of Trento require, indeed, professionals who are flexible and able to connect two sectors that have historically operated in a separate way (social-health) and who are able to faithfully interpret a continuously changing environment, also considered the global economic crisis which is severely affecting the social and work situation and the health of citizens.</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The aim of the project is to start an <b>action-research</b> process for Social Health Education in support of experiential and phenomenological intervention methodologies which are open and flexible to the needs of the territory.</p> <p>The research project wants to integrate, also by comparing contents and methodologies used by social health educators, teachers, researchers and experts, the acquisition of knowledge concerning the results of application of the fundamental levels of competencies which refer to the following classes of learning objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Intellectual objectives</b> (area of "<i>knowledge</i>" –theoretical level): identifying the main information concerning the object of study (literature, subject, group, territory) and the corresponding research strategies;</li> <li><b>Emotional objectives</b> (area of the "<i>to know how to be</i>" –experiential level of personal growth): enhancement, improvement and phenomenological application of personal, relational and communicative educational competencies;</li> </ol>



**Department of Psychology  
and Cognitive Sciences**

	<p>3. <b>Operational objectives</b> (area of the “<i>to know how to do</i>” –practical-experiential level): testing of specific professional competencies within structured working realities, aiming at knowing “how to make somebody do something”.</p> <p>Moreover, thanks to its innovative processes and products, the project also aims at achieving:</p> <p>4. <b>Communicative objectives</b> (area of the “<i>to know how to talk</i>” –cultural level): offering examples of awareness-raising initiatives that can be reproduced and transferred to other contexts also thanks to scientific and cultural dissemination.</p>
<p><b>Description of the activities</b></p>	<p><b>ACTION 1: Evaluation System:</b> Developing and testing an innovative evaluation system for Experiential Learning, able to offer an efficient orientation program for work integration and to meet the needs of the job market and of the area;</p> <p><b>ACTION 2: Symposia:</b> Increasing the contamination of knowledge and comparing methodologies and contents of <i>Experiential Learning</i> with specific theoretical subjects;</p> <p><b>ACTION 3: Continuing Training:</b> Increasing the attention on “human capital” with a particular focus on the creation and update of educational contents and methods within public social and health services and the private social sector in Trentino. Special attention will be placed on the local authorities which have an agreement with the Degree Course in Social Health Education;</p> <p><b>ACTION 4: Communication:</b> Enhancing the knowledge of social health education and of the efficiency of <i>Experiential Learning</i> methods both within academic and research communities (publications and conventions on a local, national and international level) and in specific sectors (social and health), as well as in closely related sectors (education, youth, culture) and among citizens, including the world of volunteers.</p>
<p><b>Scientific Committee of MAppES</b></p>	<p>Dario Fortin (University of Trento, Scientific Director)          Marco Dallari (University of Trento, Director of the Communication and Narrative Laboratory)          Giuseppina Gottardi (IACP, Person Centered Approach Institute)          Roberto Gris (University of Trento, Coordinator of MAppES project)</p>
<p><b>Partnerships</b></p>	<p>MAppES project will collaborate with organizations that are among the most qualified local, national and international partners in the field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-AIEJI International Association of Social Educators –Copenhagen- DK</li> <li>-ANEP National Association of Professional Educators –Bologna– IT</li> <li>-BOAT Bridge Over Atlantic –Verona– IT</li> <li>-University of Ferrara, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery –Ferrara– IT</li> <li>-University of Trento, Laboratory of Narrative and efficient Communication -Rovereto- IT</li> <li>-University of Trento, Department of Engineer and Information Sciences –Trento– IT</li> <li>-Department of Health, Wellbeing and the Family, Canterbury Christ Church University – Canterbury– UK</li> <li>-Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York –York– UK</li> <li>-Person Centred Approach Institute, IACP –Rome– IT</li> <li>-St. Ignatius Foundation –Trento– IT</li> <li>-Jesuit Social Network, JSN-Italy –Rome– IT</li> <li>-National Coordination of <i>Welcoming Communities</i>, CNCA –Rome– IT</li> </ul>

Rovereto, May 2013