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ABSTRACT BOOK

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GEOSCIENCES FOR
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



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COVER IMAGE:

Aerial cityscape image of Turin during sunset.

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Geosciences at School

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Geology for Geography Program - From theory to practice: the teaching scientific collaboration between the “Goffredo Mameli” high school (Rome) and the regional Order of Geologists of Latium (Cambridge course IGCSE-0460)

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The “Goffredo Mameli” classical high school offers its pupils a Cambridge course of study. This means that during the 5 years of study the pupils have the chance to study a few subjects in English according to the British standard of education. At the end of the 4th year they can take their GCSE exams just like all pupils in the UK do.

As part of the Geography course, pupils usually carry out an experimental field abroad for a week.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, being unable to travel abroad, the school asked the regional Order of Geologists of Latium (OGL) a scientific didactic collaboration.

Professional orders do not usually have didactic purposes, however, one of their goals is the spreading of technical-scientific culture. The OGL has always collaborated with schools of all types and levels by promoting activities on the prevention of geological risk, in addition to this, it has recently established a special Commission, made up of professionals and university professors, to pursue the aim of disseminating the geological culture, at a time when the environmental policy of the whole world is dealing with global warming.

In our modern scientific context, subjects have split up into so numerous branches that the same specialists are sometimes no longer able to understand each other; the Geography course, due to its interdisciplinary connotation, offers the opportunity to pass specialization and to show the geological “world view”, that interprets the Earth as a complex superorganism (Praturlon, 2011). It is a culture and point of view necessary to understand nature itself and to plan an harmonious future where the human being is in balance with the natural cycles of the Earth.

The course was developed with the collaboration of various professionals, through some lessons in class and three field trips which aimed to understand the interaction between man and the environment in three different contexts.

The first one was at the park of Villa Ada near the school. This park is a kind of urban garden which offered the opportunity to explore the following topics: wilderness, cartography, physical geography, biodiversity, in relation to the usability of the area in the context of sustainable mobility. It was possible to gain experience in the fields of the prevention of geological risks, e.g., the anthropogenic sink-holes caused by underground cavities.

The second one was at the Basilica of San Paolo Fuori le Mura, an ideal place to evaluate the evolution over time between the anthropic and natural environments starting from the Roman era.

The third one was at the Tyrrhenian seaside area, at the Natural Monument of the swamp of Torre Flavia (a protected area managed by the Metropolitan City of Rome Capital). There it was possible to deal with the topic of the pristine coastal environment and with the problems related to the conservation of nature.

Last but not least, the project also aimed to encourage pupils, after the long pandemic period of physical and psychological confinement, to regain confidence, as a group, with natural environment.

Praturlon A. (2011) - Un discorso epistemologico sulla complessità nelle Scienze della Terra. *Geoitalia*, 36, 5-26.