

ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO SAN GIORGIO

CATANIA, SICILY
ITALY





SICILY

Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean sea; along with surrounding minor islands, it constitutes an autonomous region of Italy, and it is officially referred to as Regione Siciliana (Sicilian Region).



Sicily's most prominent landmark is Mount Etna which, at 3,350 m (10,990 ft), is the tallest active volcano in Europe and one of the most active in the world.

The island has a typical Mediterranean climate.

Sicily was host to a number of Phoenician and Greek colonies, Roman-Punic wars, it was ruled in turn by the Vandals, Ostrogoths, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans, and subordinated to the crowns of Aragon, Spain,, and the Holy Roman Empire, and then finally unified under the Bourbons with Naples, as the Kingdom of the two Sicilies.



Ruins of the ancient and powerful Phoenician city of Motya:



Sicily has a rich and unique culture, especially with regard to the arts, music, literature, cuisine and architecture. It also holds importance for archeological and ancient sites such as the Necropolis of, the Valley of the Temples and Selinunte.



Valley of the Temples, Agrigento.

Mount Etna rising over suburbs of

Catania



Our Institution is located in the south of Italy, Sicily, in the suburbs of Catania. Catania is the second-largest city in Sicily and the tenth in Italy. The Province of Catania has 1.077.113 inhabitants.

The area of the city where we operate, named San Giorgio, is disadvantaged both socially and economically, and many families face the problem of unemployment. This problem has increased more and more in the last few years, due to recent economic and social changes.

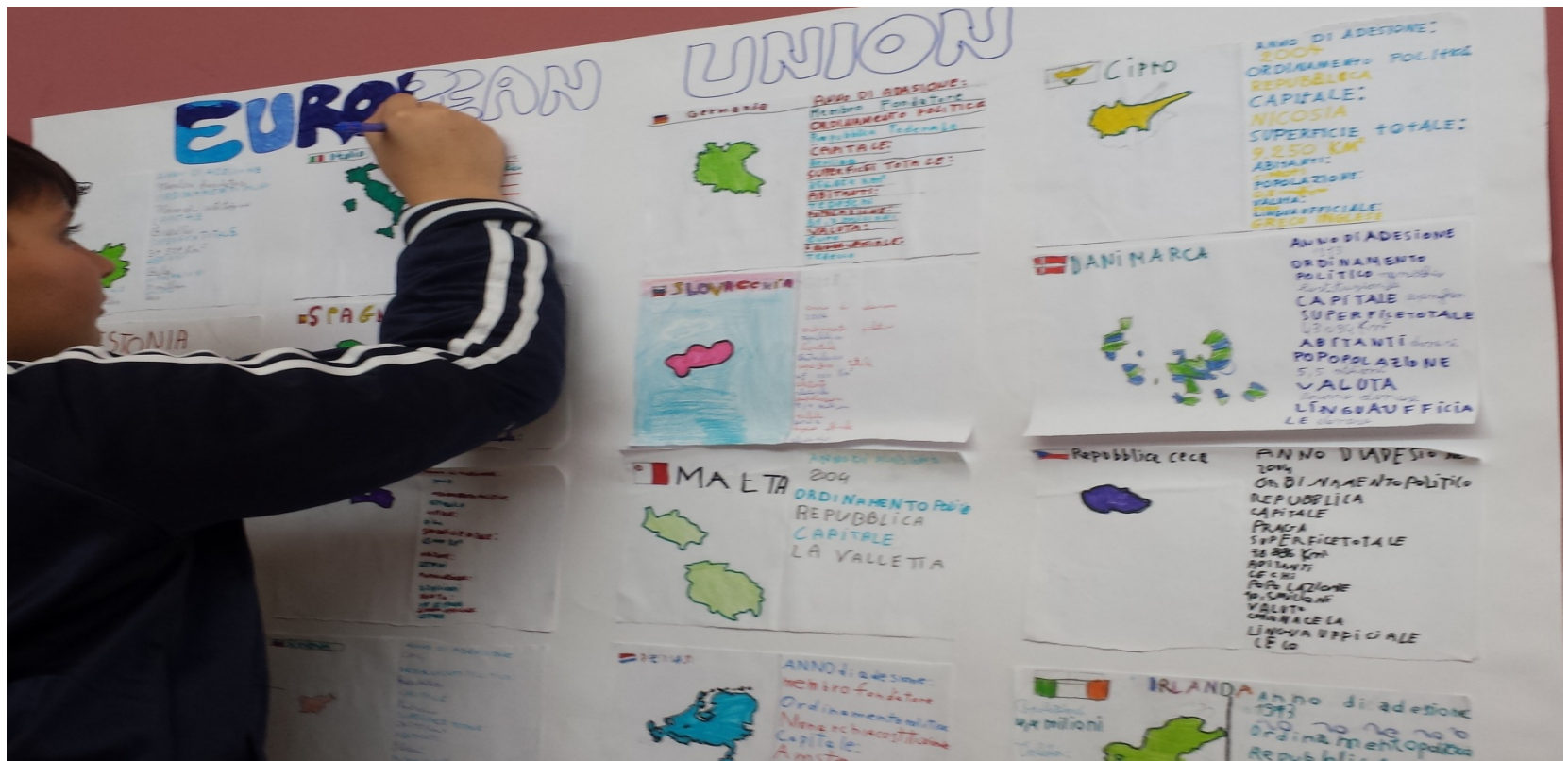
Our school



**Our Institution accomodates children aged from 3 to 14. There are three Departments:
Pre-primary, Primary and Lower Secondary School Departments. They are distributed in two buildings.
There are about 700 pupils, 100 teachers, 10 staff members, one Administrative Affair Secretary and one Principal.**



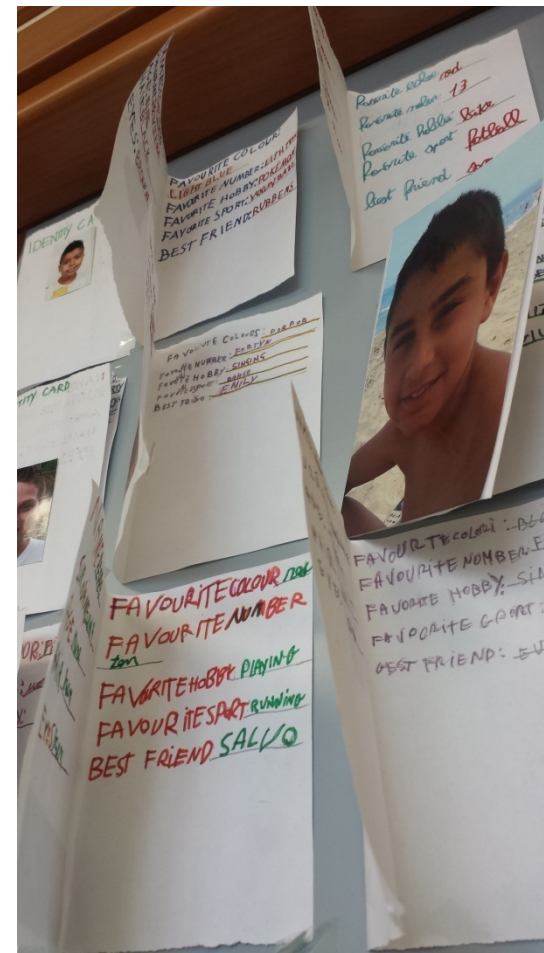
The area does not offer many recreational centres to the youngest population. Most of the parents have just an elementary level of education and even if they do not know any foreign language, they try and encourage their children in learning and participate to every school activity and project aimed to improve skills and knowledge, and develop multicultural communication.

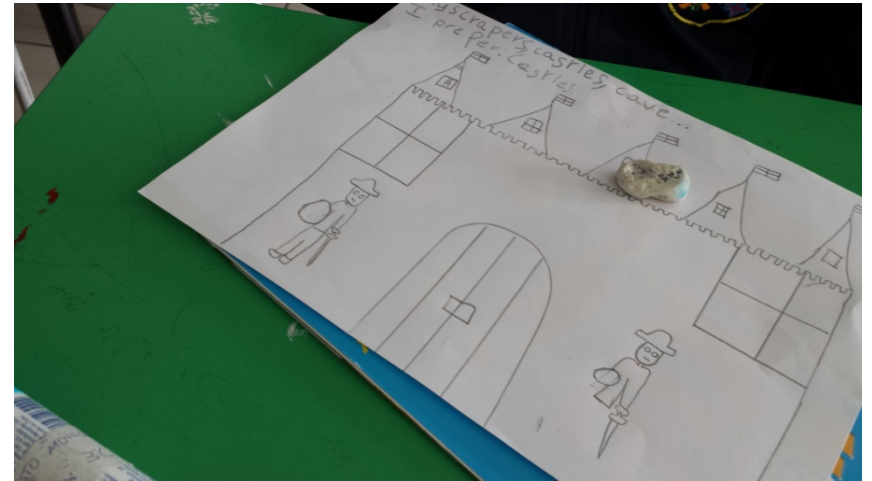


The children are not used to meet children from different countries, so they do not know other cultures and ways of living and thinking. Taking part to European Studies Programme will surely help them to make friendships, operate comparisons among cultures, accepting differences and noticing similarities; it will also improve their competences in the use of ICT instruments and in the communication in a foreign language. Socialization and motivation would be the key-terms to promote our Students' opening to Europe, as well s the awareness of their own cultural identity.

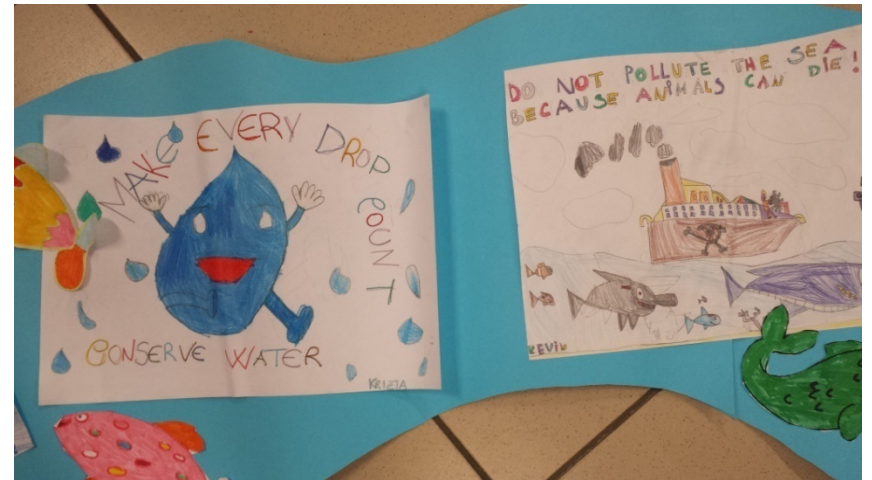


WHAT WE DO









EDUCATION SYSTEM: Education in Italy

Free state education is available to children of all nationalities who are resident in Italy

PRIMARY EDUCATION: Children attending the Italian education system can start with the Scuola dell'Infanzia also known as Scuola Materna (nursery school), which is non-compulsory, from the age of three. Every child is entitled to a place.





Scuola Primaria (Primary School)

At age six, children start their formal, compulsory education with the Scuola Primaria also known as Scuola Elementare (Primary School). In order to comply with a European standard for school leaving age, it is possible to enter the Scuola Primaria at any time after the age of five and a half. At Scuola Primaria children learn to read and write and study a wide range of subjects including maths, geography, Italian, English and science. They also have music lessons, Computer studies and social studies. Religious instruction is optional. Scuola Primaria lasts for five years. Classes are not small with between 20 and 25 pupils. Pupils no longer take a leaving exam at the Scuola Primaria. At the age of eleven they begin their Secondary education.

SECONDARY EDUCATION: Scuola Media (Middle School)

Scuola Secondaria di Primo Grado (First Grade Secondary School)

All children aged between eleven and fourteen must attend the Scuola Secondaria di Primo Grado (First Grade Secondary School). Students must attend at least thirty hours of formal lessons per week, although many schools provide additional activities in the afternoons such as computer studies, music lessons and sports activities. Formal lessons cover a broad range of subjects following a National Curriculum set by the Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione, MPI (Ministry of Public Education). At the end of each term, students receive a school report. At the end of the third year, students sit a written exam in the subjects of Italian, mathematics, science and a foreign language. There is an oral examination of the other subjects. Successful students are awarded the Licenza di Scuola Media (Licenza Media). They then move onto the Scuola Secondaria di Secondo Grado (Second Grade Secondary School)



Scuola Superiore (High School)

Scuola Secondaria di Secondo Grado (Second Grade Secondary School)

There are two types of Scuola Secondaria di Secondo Grado in Italy: the Liceo (like a British grammar school), which is more academic in nature, and an Istituto, which is essentially a vocational school. For the first two years all students use the same state-mandated curriculum of Italian language and literature, science, mathematics, foreign language, religion, geography, history, social studies, p.e.

Specialised courses, called 'Indirizzi' begin in the third year.

