

Chapter 9

A “Bottega Didattica” for an Inclusive School

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ABSTRACT

For several years, in Naples (Italy), a project-workshop addressed to students and teachers of different educational levels has taken place: it is the Bottega della Comunicazione e della Didattica, where the educational activities refer both to the pedagogical experiences that have contributed to the renewal of school from the end of World War II till the '70s, and to research and studies, which, in recent years, have been developed in the field of psychology and pedagogy and the coming of digital culture in our lives. The main purpose is to contribute to significantly modify the processing mode of knowledge, trying to make the process of teaching / learning more exciting, more engaging, and more responsive to the demands of the knowledge society in Europe.

INTRODUCTION

The project, *Bottega della Comunicazione e della Didattica*¹ in the care of the Ufficio Scolastico Regionale per la Campania², is at first aimed (in the year 1999) against school dropout, and develops in a semi-suburban area of Naples (Italy) with several social problems.

It's addressed to the schools of the area, where teachers implement a mainly explanatory education, focused on the whole class and with a particular attention to taxonomic planning, organized in non-communicating disciplines. That leads to a linear teaching and ignores creativity, motivation, learning style, individual characteristic and the connections between school and what the student already knows.

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Up until 2010, many schools in the region joined this project over a number of years. This included primary and secondary schools, as well as evening courses, and also university courses. Students and teachers in training courses have all joined this project, according to the activities in the different fields of intervention.

The external institutions with which the project has developed relations over the years are:

- The ITI “A. Righi e VIII” of Naples, which has given the *Bottega* hospitality for ten years;
- The ENIS Network (European Network Innovative Schools), coordinated in Italy by the General Directorate of Information Systems of the MIUR, the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research;
- The Institute of Didactic Technologies of the CNR (National Council of Research) ³ of Genoa, which in the beginning supervised the experimentation;
- The Department of Education of the Municipality of Naples and the Department of Education Policies of the Province of Naples, which on several occasions financed some activities.

The project, currently (2012) is being implemented in several Neapolitan schools who share the methodological, educational and technological approach of the *Bottega* that, now is a non-profit Association (ONLUS) (Figure 1).

The project aimed to contribute to significantly to knowledge transformation, trying to make the process of teaching/learning more exciting, more engaging and more responsive to the demands of the knowledge economy in Europe.

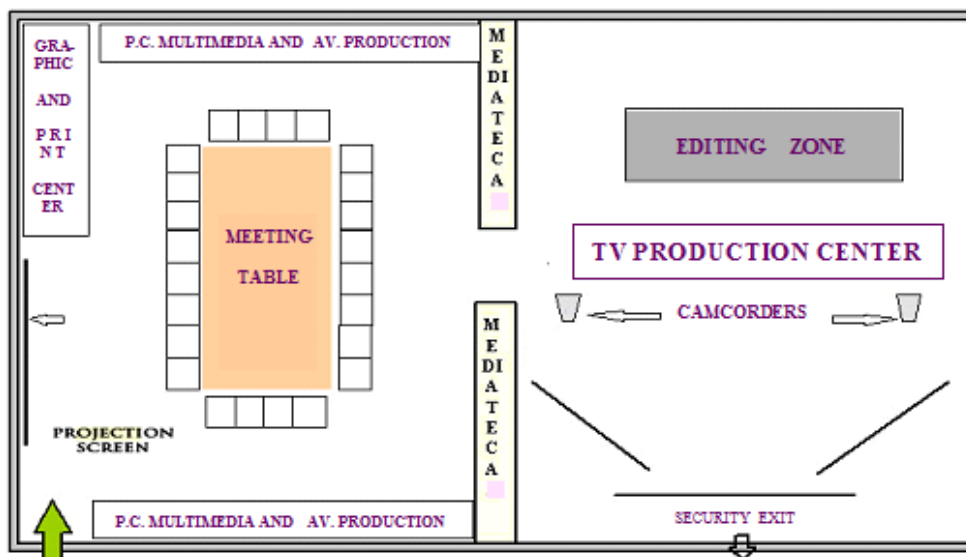
Specific aims are the following:

- Transform the role of the teacher,
- Allow new organizations of the school environment,
- Make it more familiar to children, digital natives, the school, with its content and tools,
- Promote communication,
- Promote learning rather than teaching

Tools that have been used:

- Brainstorming
- Different learning styles and multiple intelligences
- Concept maps

Figure 1. The Bottega map



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