

## Chapter 38

# Legality, Citizenship, and the Constitution in the Earthquake Area

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Libera (associations, numbers, and names against criminal organizations) and Liberainformazione, following the earthquake of 6 April 2009 that devastated the city of L'Aquila, have created a local chapter of "Libera L'Aquila," and journalists and local volunteers are engaged in investigations of criminal infiltration in the management of the emergency and reconstruction and also in the training courses for legal education and active citizenship in secondary schools located in the earthquake area. The project is divided into three sessions for each group, and the topics relate mainly to the analysis of democratic values and constitutional principles, social antimafia and mafia roots, the value of memory and the meaning of the common good, the role of information and the active participation of citizens functional to the redevelopment of the whole area. The experience, unique of its kind in this area, is ongoing and continuously evolving.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Libera (associations, numbers and names against criminal organizations) and Liberainformazione, following the earthquake of 6 April 2009 that devastated the city of L'Aquila, have created a

local chapter of "Libera L'Aquila" and journalists and local volunteers are engaged in investigations of criminal infiltration in the management of the emergency and reconstruction. They devote themselves to the achievement also in the training courses for legal education and active citizenship in

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secondary schools located in the earthquake area, in favor of justice, legality and the rebirth of the area. During the first months after the earthquake a group of volunteers of local chapter of “Liberia L’Aquila” have and after distributed food, blankets and clothing to the earthquake evacuees; they have organized meetings with the local communities in order to inform and discuss with local people about the emergency management as well as the reconstruction; besides they have collected and disseminated information on mafia penetration in the earthquake territory. Therefore, an editorial staff has been created. A newspaper report produced entirely at the local chapter own expense has been issued as well as newspapers for kids written by kids. The fact that local people did not have any clues about the presence of mafia in the area before the earthquake and that it had worsened after the earthquake, has pushed the local chapter of “Liberia” to build a children’s library (functioning also as a meeting place as well as the venue of the local chapter of “Liberia”) and a specific project to be implemented in the schools located in the area hit by the quake and named “*cratere sismico*”. Initially activities in the schools were focused on individual meetings with each group of students, mostly coming from high schools and only starting from the 2010-2011 school year the project was expanded, with an increased number of meetings with groups of students, involving also middle schools and reaching a total number of 40 classes involved, all from L’Aquila district. This project is part of a bigger one, being implemented among National schools since many years back by “Liberia” and “Liberainformazione”. The project, on one hand aims to show that the commitment of everyone can lead to real territorial transformation processes, on the other hand it provides students with courses and training tools as means to lay the foundations for a real commitment to justice, law and equitable development of territories, facilitating the growth of “social subjects” who respect the rules of the community and help to create a

more just society. However the peculiarity of the post-quake area, has led to project adjustments towards more practical themes linked to the territory: management of the emergency, social disaggregation, public tenders and related risk of criminal infiltration in the reconstruction process. Therefore the aim of the project is not limited to theoretical activities only, but also refers to practical, social and cultural actions.

## **BACKGROUND**

The size of educational innovation in question is that of “The report school territory: educating for active citizenship” (through an integrated training system as well as a democratic participation in school life and finally through a training including development efforts and planning, empowerment as an educational strategy...).

The project was based on the Liberia titled “Regoliamoci” (<http://www.libera.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/3645>) even if a key part is based on experience gained directly on the field during the post-earthquake emergency (<http://www.site.it/>; [http://www.site.it/le\\_testate/index.php?dir=site.it+SOLLEVATIABRUZZO%2F](http://www.site.it/le_testate/index.php?dir=site.it+SOLLEVATIABRUZZO%2F)).

## **LIBERIA COMES IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE EARTHQUAKE AREA**

Initially activities in the schools were focused on individual meetings with each group of students, mostly coming from high schools, in order to deal with main topics linked to the initial management of the emergency and to the perspectives on the post-quake reconstruction. Only starting from the 2010-2011 school year the project was expanded, with an increased number of meetings with groups of students, involving also middle schools and reaching a total number of 40 classes involved,

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