



A LITTLE WORD TO LET PEACE FLY HIGH
A LITTLE WORLD BEYOND ENEMIES AND BORDERS

THIS IS **RONDINE**



SINCE THE YEAR 2000, 105 ARMED CONFLICTS HAVE CAUSED MORE THAN 450,000 CASUALTIES AROUND THE WORLD*.

RONDINE
WORKS TO OVERCOME THESE CONFLICTS
PROMOTING A NEW CULTURE OF PEACE AND DIALOGUE.



* SOURCES: JPR, PRIO, UCDP, UNRIC - MAY 2014



Every single day at Rondine, students work to resolve conflicts.

RONDINE: OUR VISION

We are working for a world where we can believe that our enemies are no longer enemies. We are working to show that a fear of the other is a deception that feeds sick and destructive relationships. We are working so that the world will be able to solve its conflicts through the Rondine project. Every single day we make all this real, turning conflict into opportunity, dispute into creative opportunity and enemies into real friends.



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a pen, poised to write on a document. The document contains handwritten text in cursive, which is blurred in the background. The overall tone is warm and focused.

OUR MISSION

TO PROMOTE THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT
THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO DISCOVER THE PERSON WITHIN THEIR ENEMY.



Rondine Cittadella della Pace, in Tuscany, is a village that overlooks the banks of the River Arno.



A VILLAGE IN TUSCANY, AN INTERNATIONAL HALL OF RESIDENCE WITH A WORLD INSIDE



The Association Rondine is based in Tuscany, Italy, just a few kilometres from the town of Arezzo, in a medieval village that is home to an International Hall of Residence where young people from countries in conflict learn to live together with their enemies and discover dialogue, reaching beyond the concept of enemy. The young Rondine students arrive in Italy from their home countries (the Balkans, Eastern Europe and North Caucasus, the Middle East and Sub Saharan Africa), after a careful selection process based on academic, psychological and attitudinal criteria. They attend undergraduate and postgraduate courses at Italian universities and at the end of the program, they return to their home countries having received top level training and acquired new awareness to work for dialogue and reconciliation and initiate change.

A WORKING ORGANIZATION, 365 DAYS A YEAR

Rondine is, above all, a voluntary organization, made up of a Board of Directors, a body of staff and a group of volunteers. The members of the Board of Directors are established professionals from the worlds of culture, diplomacy and business. The staff, on the other hand, are trainers, international relations and communication experts, project managers, fundraisers and administrative, kitchen and service personnel. For 365 days a year, the staff of the Association contributes to making Rondine a welcoming, possible and tangible experience. Volunteers also provide key support to help Rondine and its students on special occasions, as well as in their small day-to-day needs.



THE SELECTION OF THE STUDENTS



The selection process is carried out every year by publishing the call for applications in the students' home countries. Once all the applications have been received, interviewing staff travel to the different countries to meet the pre-selected candidates. The assessment of the applications and interviews leads to the formation of a group of students that begins the Rondine program every year on 1st July. The call for applications is circulated through Rondine's partners: Italian diplomatic representatives in the different countries, local universities, international and non-governmental organizations active in

the field, youth associations and religious groups. The pre-selection assesses the candidate's academic profile based on the submitted material: curriculum vitae and academic records, references and letters of motivation. The interview aims to analyse the candidate's personal profile, his/her openness to others, his/her motivation for living in the International Hall of Residence and his/her commitment to participating in the different activities on offer at Rondine. Every year, the group is formed so as to maintain the balance of geographical and cultural areas, gender and personal interests.



During the selection interviews, the candidate's personal profile and motivation for participating in the Rondine project are evaluated.





The commission also includes a former Rondine student, who puts his experience to use in the assessment of candidates.



Selections: the story of Ibrahim, Sudan

That day I was very tense. I did not know what to expect. Some of the questions were very difficult, for example: "What would you do if your room-mate was disorganized and untidy?" Smiling, I asked if I was allowed to change rooms, but the answer was no. Then I answered: "If I am not allowed to change my room or my room-mate, I'll learn to respect his life and habits". When they asked me how I would be able to live in a context with so many differences like Rondine, I answered, "For me, Rondine is just like Sudan". Then Mauro (the head of Rondine's International Relations office), eyes wide open, asked for clarifications. "Just like at Rondine, in Sudan there are many different people who do not always get on but who try to respect each other," I explained. At the end of the interview, I realized that I would have liked to have spoken more and talked about many other things. I thought that the interview had been too short. Then I looked at my watch and I realized that more than an hour had passed! At the end, I felt comfortable because I was myself throughout the whole interview. If I were to repeat the experience today, I would say the same things.

The profile of a Rondine candidate

Rondine's call for applications is aimed at young students between the ages of 19 and 26. Firstly, the candidate's study achievements are assessed through diplomas, reference letters from teachers and the professional or voluntary experiences detailed in his/her curriculum. The candidate's motivation to participate in the Rondine program is also evaluated through the submission of a project concept that shows how the candidate intends to put what he/she learns at Rondine to use in his/her home country on completion of the program. The program is designed as a means to acquiring experiences and professional skills for transforming conflicts within students' own societies. A fundamental requirement for admission is an interest in

conflict, in the broadest sense, intending social as well as armed conflict. Likewise, the desire to commit oneself to a deep human experience is also fundamental; the willingness to experiment with international community life alongside students from the opposing sides of one's own conflict area, as well as students from other diverse cultures, and the readiness to promote the culture of coexistence and intercultural dialogue in one's own home country. A further key requirement is the desire to talk in public about one's own story and the experience of living at Rondine and lastly, to become a testimonial of the concrete possibility for change, on return to one's home country.





THE BALKANS

The Western Balkans were torn apart by fratricidal wars during the Nineties, after the break-up of Yugoslavia, which gave new strength to nationalisms in the area after decades of peaceful co-existence, causing identity fractures even within families themselves. At the end of the Nineties, after the bloody events in the heart of Europe, such as the siege of Sarajevo and the genocide in Srebrenica, the resolution of the conflict was reached. Today, identity conflicts between Serbian, Croatian and Muslim nationalisms are still present in Bosnia Herzegovina, while territorial disputes are still alive between Serbia and Kosovo. Although the latter proclaimed its independence in 2008, the international community still has not recognized it as a State. The International Hall of Residence hosts young students from Kosovo, Serbia and from the different cultures in Bosnia Herzegovina. Rondine takes part in inter-cultural meetings in the area and promotes the knowledge of both the current and historical issues surrounding the Balkans by organising cultural initiatives in Italy and on-site cultural missions.



EASTERN EUROPE AND NORTHERN CAUCASUS

Following the work done during the Nineties with young people from Romania and Belarus, Rondine's work focused on the Russian Federation and in particular on the Northern Caucasus territories in Chechnya, Ingushetia, North Ossetia and Dagestan. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, North Caucasus secessionist movements have been involved in bloody clashes with the Russian army, characterised by violations of human rights and terrorist attacks, such as the 2004 events at the school in Beslan. The main conflicts occurred in Chechnya, occupied by the Russian army in 1994 and 1999, causing armed fighting and claiming thousands of casualties. Rondine's work begins in Russia with mediation operations and the hosting of the first students from the area. It then develops with the Ventidipacesucaucasico (winds of peace on Caucasus) project, which was a second level diplomatic action for inspiring European policies in the region.

OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH RONDINE COLLABORATES

Egypt | Jordan | India | Libya | Morocco
Pakistan | Qatar | Tunisia | Turkey | USA

RONDINE ALUMNI CAREERS

ARMEND MORINA
Trainer for the UNDP and UNICEF– Pristina, Kosovo

MARJA MITIC
Security Studies Lecturer- Novi Sad, Serbia

CHERMEN KELEKHSAEV
Civil Servant at the Ministry for Economic Development, North Ossetia

ADAM UZHAKHOV
Director of the 'La Rondine' Training Centre, Moscow, Russia

THE CONFLICT AREAS WHERE RONDINE IS ACTIVE



SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

Following the break-up of the Soviet Union, the southern Caucasus, which has great geo-political importance as a corridor from East to West for the passage of energy resources, has been tormented by many unresolved territorial conflicts in Georgia (Abkhazia, South Ossetia) and in the region between Armenia and Azerbaijan (Nagorno Karabakh). The latest conflict between Georgia and Russia for the control of the self-proclaimed independent regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia dates back to 2008. The conflict has been frozen since then. Low intensity fighting in Nagorno Karabakh is, on the other hand, persistent. Furthermore, Armenia is in dispute with Turkey for the recognition of the 1915 genocide. The Hall of Residence houses the different cultures of the Southern Caucasus, for which it carried out a second level diplomacy action, with the 'Fourteen points for peace in the Caucasus' document, drafted by Caucasian civil society members and delivered to local institutions.

ALEKSANDRE TSULADZE

Head of the Statistics and Analysis department
of the Georgian Supreme Court

KAN TANYIA

Mediator in International negotiations

THE MIDDLE EAST

The Middle-Eastern issue attracts the attention and commitment of the international community in cooperating with and supporting the delicate peace process, due to the complexity of the conflicts that have affected the region for decades. The Arab uprisings, the Syrian civil war and the Lebanese question are closely related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, around which diverse historical and cultural issues converge. Among these, the possession of the Palestinian and Jewish people's homelands, the close connections with Europe and the United States, as well as issues on religion, safety and freedom from violence and terrorism. Rondine's work for peace in the Middle East moves through cultural initiatives, information and awareness raising campaigns and direct dialogue with the main institutions in the area. The International Hall of Residence houses young Palestinian, Israeli and Lebanese students, paying special attention to the religious minorities in each of the three nations.

CHARLIE ZEIDAN

Community Development Officer at World Vision
(Palestinian Territories)

ELAD MORAD

Project manager - Israel Consulate in New York

AFRICA

Sub-Saharan Africa is the area where, over recent decades, armed conflicts have claimed the highest number of victims. The civil wars in Congo, Angola, Somalia and Sierra Leone, the Rwandan genocide and the massacres in Darfur, are only a few of the armed conflicts that have been perpetrated in the continent. The first young Africans selected for the International Hall of Residence were from Sierra Leone. Following the genocide of the Tutsi by the Hutu, students were also selected from Rwanda and most recently from Sudan, which, since the separation of the Southern part of the Country, is still experiencing regional conflicts in its territory. In Darfur in particular the severity of the massacres led to the affirmation of genocide in the region. Rondine develops its work through information campaigns on the struggles of the continent, and for the promotion of human rights.

PATRICK KOROMA

Lecturer at University of Makeni - Sierra Leone

ROBERT PAINE

Project Manager of Political Parties
Registration Commission - Sierra Leone

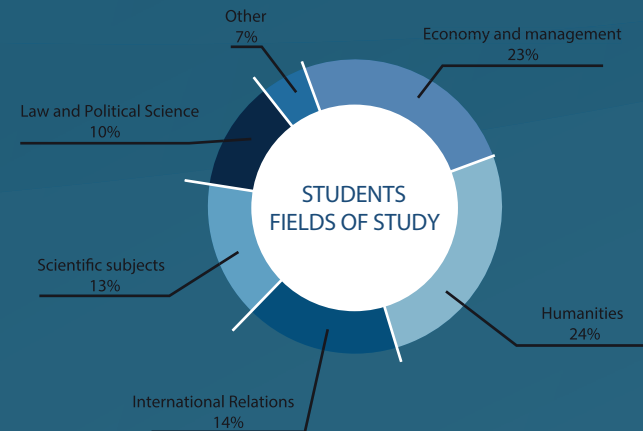


Rondine students come from thirty countries around the world.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Rondine hosts an average of thirty students a year, who are all at the peak of their personal and professional development when they begin the program. Although they have a wide range of diverse professional and personal experiences in the social and humanitarian fields, they are all united by the desire to push through social change in their home countries, bringing with them the values of the possible co-existence between enemy peoples. They develop their skills through both the projects they are involved in at home and those that they set up while at Rondine, as well as within their ongoing professional careers. During the program, they build up contacts that will help them establish themselves professionally and allow them to continue disseminating Rondine's message when they return home. The Rondine alumni network, known as the "Lega delle Rondini d'Oro", is a form of concrete support for the fulfilment of their aspirations.





NAOMI, ISRAELI

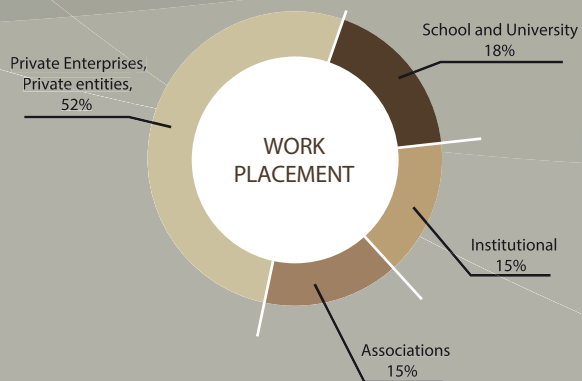
For Naomi, military service was the event that changed her life forever. "Now I am convinced that war is never a solution! I chose to come to Rondine so that I could come face to face with the enemy that everyone was talking about to me. None of us can meet a Palestinian in Israel and understand what he/she thinks or wants. A wall and a history of hatred and resentment separates us. How can you make peace with somebody you do not know? Being able to exchange opinions made me realise how similar we are. Ultimately, we all want to be able to live in peace. Today, I believe that we can live together and build a new future, a new History that belongs to us both".

TONY, FROM SIERRA LEONE

Tony saw his father die, killed by the soldiers of an opposing tribe during the civil war in Sierra Leone, when he was just eight years old. Today, he is able to smile once more because he has managed to overcome hatred and the desire for vengeance. Not only that, Tony has decided to commit himself to ensuring that what happened to him cannot happen to anyone else: "I want to come back to my homeland and work for the resolution of the conflict. I study banking and I believe that by improving the laws that govern the economy, the country can change deeply. That's why I decided to study this subject". Meanwhile, every Saturday, a radio program connects him with his Sierra Leonean friends all over the world, through which they try to spread their message of peace.

AGHARAHIM, FROM AZERBAIJĀN

He lives in Baku and he was born on the same day that Armenian and Russian troops invaded Azerbaijan. "For years State propaganda propagated contempt against the Armenians. I never believed in it and I looked forward to meeting one of them to see if he was different from me. When that meeting took place, it changed me and I realised that I had to do something so that what I saw, other could people see too ". When he was a university student, he became a leader of a social protest movement committed to fighting propaganda and changing the mentality in his country through peaceful demonstrations. Today, he is a famous rapper in Azerbaijan and continues to disseminate his message through music.





DAY-TO-DAY LIFE IN THE INTERNATIONAL HALL OF RESIDENCE

The students of Rondine are the only permanent residents of the village. Day-to-day coexistence in a shared space creates a relationship based on trust, which allows them to grow and develop awareness.



Day to day coexistence creates strong links, mutual understanding, real friendship.



Washing-up after the meals is one of the tasks assigned to the students.

Living in a small community means being well organised and carrying out specific tasks. Students take it in turns to drive each other to and from the station, work in the kitchen, set the dinner tables, serve the tables and wash the dishes, as well as being responsible for the care of common spaces and shared bedrooms. This means they must also respect each other's study needs and engagements. During their everyday routine, they also celebrate their religious, cultural and popular traditions together. Sharing and understanding each other's points of view and listening to new experiences reciprocally enriches them and leads them to create unique and special relationships.



Studying together is essential.





Student drivers share shifts to take the other students to the station, where they catch the train to get to university.

Most projects, education programs and meetings are held in the village: every week, the education team holds training sessions and preparation meetings for school visits and projects. Every year Rondine and its students welcome thousands of guests from schools, universities, political, religious and social fields.



In the Internationa Hall of Residence there is a rich library that students can use for study and relax.

Students take it in turns to lay the table and help the staff during meals.



Day-to-day life, the constant exchange of experiences from different cultures and regular training sessions are just some of the many activities that contribute to making Rondine a place that is always buzzing with activity and ideas.



Sharing a room helps socializing and personal growth.





THE TRAINING METHOD

Rondine is a continuous, yet structured, educational experience.

Community life

The students learn to share spaces and organize their day-to-day life together, taking each other's needs into account in all areas, from meals to cleaning tasks, from study time to personal life.

Internal training

At Rondine, the education and training program is tailor made to students' needs. It helps them build a strong, close-knit group and provides them with tools to understand

and put what they have learnt into practice. The program includes courses on team building, conflict management, intercultural/interreligious dialogue and communication skills. It also provides internships and requires frequent collaboration with Rondine staff.

Outreach

An integral part of the program is student participation in outreach activities aimed at the schoolchildren and groups that want to get to know Rondine. International students become trainers and active testimonials of what they experiment everyday living and studying together at Rondine, transferring the value of their experience to others.



Academic education

The program includes participation in a postgraduate or undergraduate degree course, chosen from the main Universities in Central Italy. First or second level M.A. courses can be attended, equivalent to 60 credits. Academic orientation is based on each student's academic history and experience, his or her qualifications and the future professional profile he/she is interested in pursuing. Academic education allows the students to get to know and understand a new culture and society like the European one.

Discussion on conflict related issues in a "neutral" environment with an "informal" atmosphere leads students to open up to each other, develop their awareness and form a new vision of the other and of conflict. Rondine's unique experience is the result of a combination of academic education, community life, internal training and outreach work, which transforms students into young leaders and multipliers in their home countries.

The school of Italian language

Every year, from July to September, the students selected for the International Hall of Residence, together with a group of young students from the Catholic Committee for the collaboration between Churches, attend an intensive daily Italian language course at Rondine, led by a highly skilled and well-referenced teaching staff. Thanks to daily language training and hard work, in just a few months they manage to reach an excellent level of both written and oral proficiency (B1 level). The Rondine students continue the Italian language course for a further three months to improve their knowledge of the language. Proficiency in Italian allows them to attend Italian universities. It is the only language that helps the whole Residence to communicate, as well as being the basic channel of expression for all Rondine student activities in Italy.



RONDINE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH UNIVERSITIES

Universities are directly involved in Rondine's projects: the students of the International Hall of Residence are selected from their universities of origin and admitted to Masters and Degree Courses at Italian universities. Universities are the means for disseminating information on the Rondine project, both in the countries of origin of selected students, and in Italy and Europe, with the intent of building up a new culture of peace. Rondine's experience in carrying out inter-university projects over the years represents a systematic exchange between Rondine and the university world, establishing solid relationships with different universities from all over the world. Relations with individual teachers in diverse disciplines from foreign universities allow Rondine to remain involved in the cultural debates that take place in Rondine's partner countries regarding conflict transformation processes. Rectors and professors in relevant subjects are constantly involved in the activities of the Cittadella. Individual meetings and special lessons with Rondine students or symposia and international conferences are organized over the year on topics of international political relevance, from peace studies to the management and resolution of conflicts and interreligious dialogue. In the same way, Italian professors and researchers collaborate with Rondine as teachers on the internal training program, participants in the cultural initiatives of the Association, and as researchers that study Rondine as an original experience of intercultural dialogue and conflict transformation.



RONDINE AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD



ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES THAT COLLABORATE WITH RONDINE

University of l'Aquila
University of Catania
University of Florence
University of Milan 'Luigi Bocconi'
Catholic University of Sacro Cuore - Milan
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
University of Naples 'Federico II'
University of Pavia
University of Perugia
Foreingners' University of Perugia
University of Pisa
University of Sant'Anna - Pisa
University of Rome 'LUISS - Guido Carli'
University of Rome 'Roma Tre'
University of Rome 'Tor Vergata'
University of Rome 'La Sapienza'
University of Siena
Foreigners' University of Siena
University of Torino
University of Trento
University of Udine
University of Urbino 'Carlo Bo'
University of Venezia 'Ca' Foscari'

THE MAIN FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES THAT COLLABORATE WITH RONDINE

- University of Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina
- University of Tuzla, Bosnia Herzegovina
- University of Pristine, Kosovo
- American University in Kosovo
- Intern. Business College, Mitrovica, Kosovo
- Union of Faculties of South Eastern Europe,
Novi Sad, Serbia
- University of Belgrade, Serbia
- Cairo University, Egypt
- Al-Azhar University, Egypt
- Tunis University, Tunisia
- The High Institute of Human Sc. of Tunis, Tunisia
- Université Saint Esprit de Kaslik, Beirut, Lebanon
- Notre Dame University, Beirut, Lebanon
- Arab American University, Beirut, Lebanon
- Bethlehem University, Palestine
- Birzeit University, Palestine
- University of Haifa, Israel
- Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Ben Gurion University, Israel
- Université Galatasaray de Istanbul, Turkey
- Un. of Jordan, Faculty of Int. Affairs, Jordan
- Baku State University, Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan Un. of Languages, Baku, Azerbaijan
- Ilia Chavchavadze State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
- Tbilisi State University, Georgia
- Abkhazian State University, Abkhazia, Georgia
- Yerevan State Ling. Univ. after Valery Brusov, Armenia
- Yerevan State University, Armenia
- Ingush State University, Ingusctia, Russian Federation
- Chechen State University, Cecenia, Russian Federation
- Moscow State University, Russian Federation
- North Ossetian State University,
Vladikavkaz, Ossetia, Russian Federation
- Southern Federal Univ., Rostov on Don, Russian Fed.
- University of Dayton, Usa
- Rochester University, Inst. for Non Violence, Usa
- Makeni Univ., Dep. of Peace - Conflict St., Sierra Leone
- University of Khartoum, Sudan
- Zayed University, United Arab Emirates



PROJECTS SECOND LEVEL DIPLOMACY

Every year, Rondine is engaged in second level diplomacy actions aimed at reconciliation processes, alongside official diplomacy, bringing its message of dialogue to the institutions of conflicting entities. It also carries out cultural initiatives on particularly important issues and intervenes in international crises. Rondine sees its diplomatic work as the result of the high-level training provided at the International Hall of Residence. In fact, Rondine intercepts the energy and creativity that come out of young people's collaboration worldwide in order to carry out projects capable of responding to emergency situations, such as in the case of the Arab Uprisings, together with eminent international partners, such as foreign governments and UN agencies.

POPULAR DIPLOMACY PROJECT VENTIDIPACESUCAUCASO

A popular diplomacy action developed after the Russian Georgian conflict in 2008. A proposal for the resolution of the conflict, the "14 points for peace in the Caucasus" document, was negotiated and approved unanimously by the first International Conference of the Peoples of Caucasus, held in May 2009 at La Verna with 150 personalities from the Caucasus and international civil society. The "14 Points" were disseminated through official diplomatic channels to the embassies of the countries involved and international negotiating tables, until the "Journey of Friendship" mission in July 2010 to the Southern Caucasus and Turkey. Local political, academic and religious institutions recognized the importance of the "14 Points" as an effective tool for the resolution of the conflict. The "14 Points" were welcomed by the European institutions with the creation of the RondineEuropa Committee, formed in February 2011 at Rondine by more than 50 European MPs.



Rondine, in its International diplomatic trips, crosses many times military guarded borders.



CONFIDENCE BUILDING BUILDING BRIDGES

A confidence-building program held at Rondine, which featured twenty Abkhazian and twenty Georgian students together with young Italian people from some of the main universities, associations and NGOs in the country. The two groups worked together in a program of workshops on gender, journalistic writing, ecology and sustainable development. It is the first and, to date, the only project in Europe that has brought two groups of Abkhazian and Georgian young people together after the August 2008 conflict. The initiative, implemented in the framework of COBERM (Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism), financed by the European Union and managed by the UNDP (United Nations Development Program), was possible thanks to the collaboration of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



PROJECTS ACADEMY AND HIGH TRAINING

The core of Rondine's action lies in the training of young generations. Right from its beginning, Rondine affirms that a real and lasting change can be achieved by working at the root, on the education of young generations. The International hall of residence prepares an original training method, both theoretical and experience, directed to young persons of different ages, from teenagers to post university specializations, with different backgrounds, technical and humanity, and above of different cultural origin.

USA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Rondine's International Hall of Residence opens its doors to young people coming from the United States of America, integrating them into the training program in dialogue and co-existence at Rondine, together with young people from conflict areas and different cultures.

The presence of students from the United States, one of the main players in the current international scenario, enriches the Hall of Residence with an original and essential perspective. Its leading role in the cultural and academic debate on conflict resolution, its direct involvement in different international crises, and the multicultural issues that its society raises are all reasons for an American presence at Rondine. At the same time, the young American people who are selected for the Rondine program acquire a unique knowledge of the different populations in the world, gaining new perspectives on the different cultural perceptions of identity. In the framework of the training program, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and conflict transformation that are part of the International Hall of Residence experience, American students are engaged in a six-month academic exchange in an Italian University during their post-graduate studies.



One of the many high level training sessions at Rondine with the contribution of visiting professors.



UNI4

The 'Uni4 - Università cantiere di pace' study week, focused on the role of Universities and training in the process of knowledge and dialogue building between cultures. It featured teachers and students from 12 international universities engaged in sharing knowledge and experiences in the field of conflict resolution. Teachers and students from 12 universities worldwide discussed methods and ideas that university institutions can provide to dialogue between populations and conflicting countries. The project included an inter-university seminar, which presented its results during a public conference in Arezzo. Attending universities included, the Universities of Ulster (Ireland), Bethlehem (Palestinian Territories), University of Jordan, Universities of Mar Elias and Haifa (Israel), Rostov (Russian Federation), Tbilisi (Georgia), Rochester (USA), Makeni (Sierra Leone), Siena and Florence (Italy).

MUSIC OF PEACE

Music is a universal language capable of reaching any person in the world, regardless of his origin, culture, language or religion. Rondine offers its experience in the training of young people from different cultures to form an ensemble consisting of young musicians from the different Balkan cultures (areas such as Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo, Prijedor, Tuzla). The completion of the project in Italy, with the dissemination of the resulting artistic production in the main European cities, allows the links between the Balkan countries and the EU to be strengthened, in order to develop the constantly evolving integration in that area. The selected musicians attend a postgraduate course at the School of Music in Fiesole, Florence, while they spend a year at the International Hall of Residence in Rondine, following its training program and taking part in the activities designed for the project.



An Egyptian student during the launch of the project dedicated to the Mediterranean South Side.

A NEW RULING CLASS FOR THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

The "South Side" project comes out of reflection on the events of the so-called 2011 "Arab Spring", during which unprecedented demonstrations showed the willingness of the peoples of the Southern banks of the Mediterranean to open up to a new future and, consequently, to adopt a new ruling class. It is a 6-month training program, parallel and integral to the International Hall of Residence, intended for young people from Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. The program is held at Rondine, where the young people selected for the program live side by side with the Rondine students, attend the School of Italian language and Culture and then go on to Trento, where the Training Centre for International Solidarity provides training on planning and institutional development.

PROJECTS INTERCULTURAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Since 1997, Rondine's Hall of Residence has hosted young people and high-ranking personalities from different cultures and religions around world at the Cittadella. The daily co-existence of these differences has developed, over the years, a special alchemy that has helped to realise meetings and projects that involve participants of different origins. Those arriving at Rondine witness peaceful coexistence between people whose identities are frequently different and sometimes hostile. They are stimulated by this positive example in finding trust and motivation to participate in residential programs for intercultural and interreligious dialogue.



Christian and Muslims together for Peace, Arezzo. The event was set up by Rondine with the attendance of Islamic, Catholic and Orthodox religious authorities.

COLLABORATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ORTHODOX CHURCHES AND INTERRELIGIOUS INITIATIVES

Every year, Rondine offers its training program in dialogue to young theologians coming from Orthodox Churches in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. Thanks to collaboration with the Pontifical Council for the Unity of Christians, the young scholarship holders of the Catholic Committee for Cultural Collaboration with Orthodox Churches take part in the activities of Rondine's International Hall of Residence. They attend the School of Italian language and culture as preparation for their academic research in theological subjects at the Pontifical Universities in Rome. The Hall of Residence is thus enriched by a religious culture ready to compare itself with the different faiths of the young guests of Rondine. Interreligious and ecumenical prayers and initiatives are promoted so as to encourage cultural exchange between the different faiths represented at the Cittadella. During their stay at Rondine, the group of theologians enjoys cultural visits in the Tuscany and benefits from the multicultural and interreligious environment of the Cittadella della Pace with its young students from areas of conflict and diverse cultures. They take part in the activities and initiatives of the Association Rondine that focus on dialogue and peace issues. Furthermore, every year the Association organizes meetings and conferences on interreligious dialogue that are attended by high ranking leaders representing the different religions, scholars and experts in the field.



Some young theologians of the Catholic Committee for Cultural Cooperation with Churches Orthodox, from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia, during an official meeting.



YOUTH EXCHANGES

In the framework of the Youth in Action program financed by the European Commission's DG Education and Culture, each summer since 2010 Rondine has carried out international youth exchanges and two week intercultural summer camps. The camps were intended for around thirty young people between 14 and 18 years old coming from different geographical areas: the Middle East (Israel, Palestine), extra EU (Turkey, Bosnia) and Europe (Italy and France). The exchanges focused on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and intended to promote youth mobility, peaceful dialogue and co-existence and the knowledge of other cultures and religions among the young participants, through training and discussion. Training was alternated with workshops, work groups and seminars, as well as fun-creative time, trips, excursions and sport. The participants then learnt under different formats, in multiple contexts and in different moments the importance of living together and promoting multiculturalism, while having fun, being trained and opening up to new perspectives and ways of thinking. All this was enriched by the presence of the young students of the International Hall of Residence and by a location such as the Cittadella della Pace, surrounded by the green Tuscan hills.



One of the several group activities of the projects carried out in the open air with the coordination of Rondine's training team and the attendance of young people from different countries around the world.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR RONDINE ALUMNI

For Rondine students, the end of the program in the International Hall of Residence marks a new beginning. The start of a leading career in the world of diplomatic relations and of work on the mediation of conflict at an international level. A high-level academic program and day-to-day life with their 'enemies' are experiences that change their lives forever. Well aware of possessing the right tools for being able to initiate change, Rondine's alumni bring their experience to the world, to address the need for appropriate training to face the toughest challenge: overcoming enmity and turning it into concrete actions for achieving stable peace. Rondine's former students in their dialogue and peace missions are supported by the "Lega delle Rondini d'Oro", a transnational network that connects more than 150 former students worldwide.



The testimony of a Rondine student at Salle du Canton, in the Principality of Monaco.





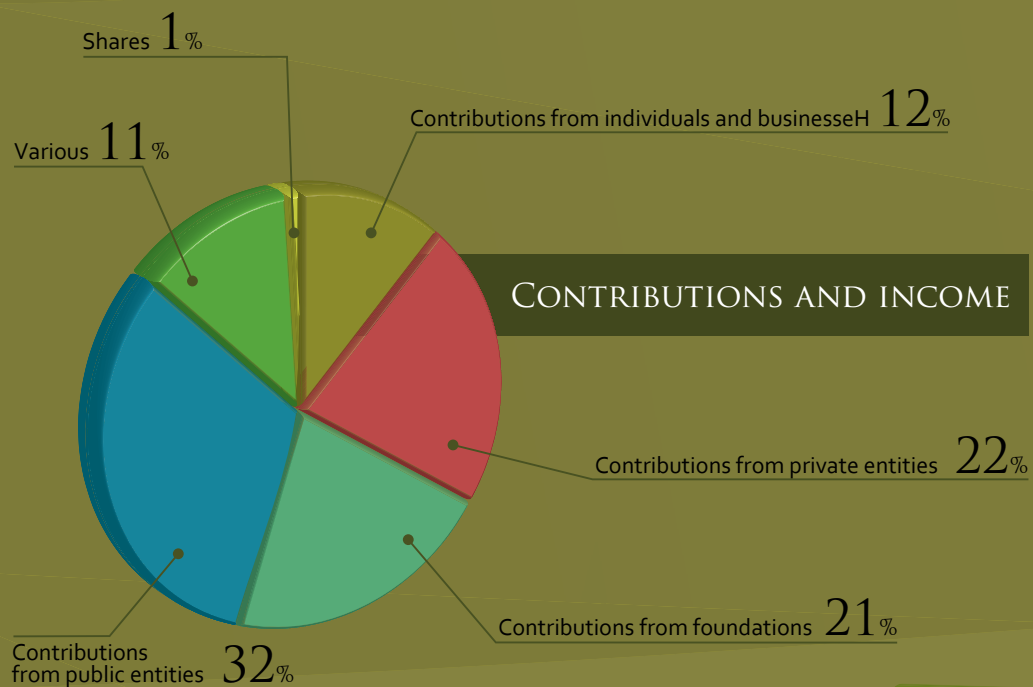
Charlie's dream, from Palestine

I'm from Palestine, a small town near to Bethlehem, Beit Jala. I am a "Rondine D'Oro" alumni student, happy for having been granted the opportunity of spending two years in this delightful place. Thanks to Rondine I attended the Master in Human Development, Peace and Cooperation Culture at Florence University, where I gained my professional skills in the management of development projects, which are so important in a land like Palestine that has been living in an abnormal situation for more than sixty years. At Rondine I lived every day with young Israeli people and we built up a strong friendship talking about all subjects, even the most difficult for us who live divided by a wall. I frequently attended the meetings that we organized in schools for speaking about conflicts and of overcoming the friend/enemy logic. I enjoyed it and today I still like to work with children: they are receptive and open to understanding. At the end of Rondine's program, I returned to Palestine and with my curriculum, it was not hard to find a job. Now, I am working with an International NGO, World Vision, as a Community Development Officer and I am in charge of a development program covering education, health and social participation. We are working for the improvement of children's' living environment and the provision of a safe place where they can play and grow. My objective is, in fact, to work in a project that is a great dream at the moment: opening a centre for teaching theatre to Palestinian children, and educating them in respect and reconciliation. I believe that if you grow up in an open environment that is rich in values, there's no room for hatred and violence.

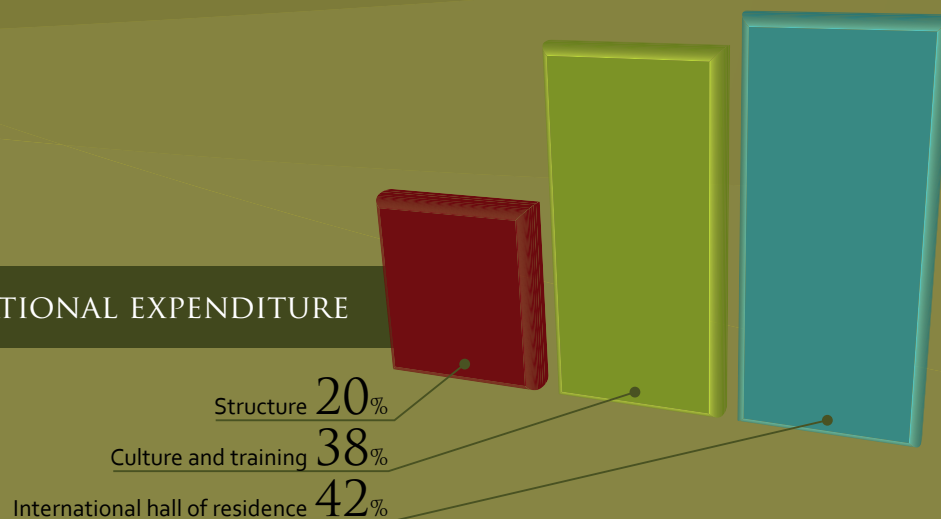


The Rondini d'Oro, Rondine alumni, have high-ranking roles in the international mediation of conflicts.

MANAGEMENT INCOME AND EXPENSES



OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE



A Rondine institutional speech at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome.



PARTNERS WORLDWIDE

Over time, Rondine has managed to build up an international network of several institutional and private partners from all over the world who work to carry out its projects and promote its mission. The knowledge, the exchanges and the relationships established and strengthened with partners are based on collaboration and mutual trust. It is this trust that forms Rondine's intangible asset that allows it to grow day by day. In particular, the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the network of Italian diplomatic representatives in the world, has collaborated and supported Rondine from the very beginning.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Over recent years, the Association has developed projects and initiatives with several international organizations, among which the main ones are:

osce

OSCE
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE



Unione Europea

EUROPEAN UNION
PROGRAMME YOUTH IN ACTION



UNDP
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
COBERM PROGRAM



USAID
UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



ALF
ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION

WITH THE “LEGA DELLE RONDINI D’ORO” THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The “Lega delle Rondini d'Oro” aims to allow former students to remain in contact with one another and with the Association even when they return to their home countries, thus maintaining the sense of belonging established at Rondine. These young people demonstrate the results of the Rondine training program, bringing human and spiritual change to their families, professional and social contexts and continuing to spread the seeds of dialogue and coexistence acquired during their experience in Italy. Active friendship grows between them, created during the years spent at the International Hall of Residence. The purpose of the “Lega delle Rondini d'Oro” is to avoid losing this heritage by promoting relations between and with the young people who complete their training program at Rondine through collaboration in initiatives, events and international cooperation projects aimed to spread Rondine's mission worldwide. The Lega has its Articles of Association, a Board of Directors with a Chairman, elected every three years and is, today, coordinated by the Association Rondine in constant contact with the regional coordinators in Russia, South Caucasus, the Middle East, the Balkans and Africa.



Rondini d'Oro during a meeting in the Parliament Group Room at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome.

Josephine, Sierra Leone: A Honorary Consul standing for children

Thanks to Rondine, I became the youngest woman with diplomatic duties in Sierra Leone's Diplomatic and Consular Corps. The appointment as Honorary Consul at the Italian Embassy in Sierra Leone was a great responsibility; I had to negotiate official functions on behalf of the Italian Government in Sierra Leone. Now I feel that I have been successful, and all this thanks to the study experience in Italy and at Rondine's Hall of Residence. My first three months at Rondine were hard, learning a new language, getting used to a different environment, the climate, the Italian culture, but most of all living with people of different nationalities and religions. Before, I believed I would never be able to stay in Italy for more than a year. Now, back here, I feel the responsibility of helping people in need. I am working with deaf and blind children, in desperate conditions, who come from situations of serious hardship that are a legacy of the world, and I am managing it thanks to the team building experience I had at Rondine. I hope to obtain more important diplomacy assignments in order to be involved in projects that help Sierra Leone's women and children once more. I hope that, with my work, I am able to pay back the trust that Rondine as a whole placed in me by giving me the chance to live that outstanding experience.





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Support Rondine

If you share the values and ideas of the Association Rondine Cittadella della Pace and you would like to contribute to supporting this unique experience you can make a bank transfer to the Unicredit account:

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