



UNIVERSITÀ
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History of youth work in Italy

Pluralism to prevent radicalism in a context of fragmentation

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Seminar «CONNECTIONS, DISCONNECTIONS AND RECONNECTIONS – THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF YOUTH WORK, IN HISTORY AND TODAY», Malta, 21-23 September 2016

Youth Partnership between European Commission and Council of Europe in the field of youth

Early XX Century: trials of pluralism



REI, Naple, 1911



ASCI, Pontedera, 1922



CNGEI, Ancona, 1919

Early XX Century: trials of pluralism



Grassina, (Firenze), 1895



Fascism: totalitarian youth education

1922-1943

Youth control



Modena, 1920s

Fascism: totalitarian youth education

1922-1943



Youth seduction



"GIOVINEZZA!,"
INNO TRIONFALE DEL PARTITO NAZIONALE FASCISTA

VERSI DI SALVATOR GOTTA

MUSICA DI GIUSEPPE BLANC

Proprietà riservata per tutto il mondo.

Vendita esclusiva per tutti i paesi

Fianco/lotto e Conto L. 6,00

"CARISCH", S. A. Editori

MILANO

AUMENTO 245

Fascism: totalitarian youth education

1922-1943

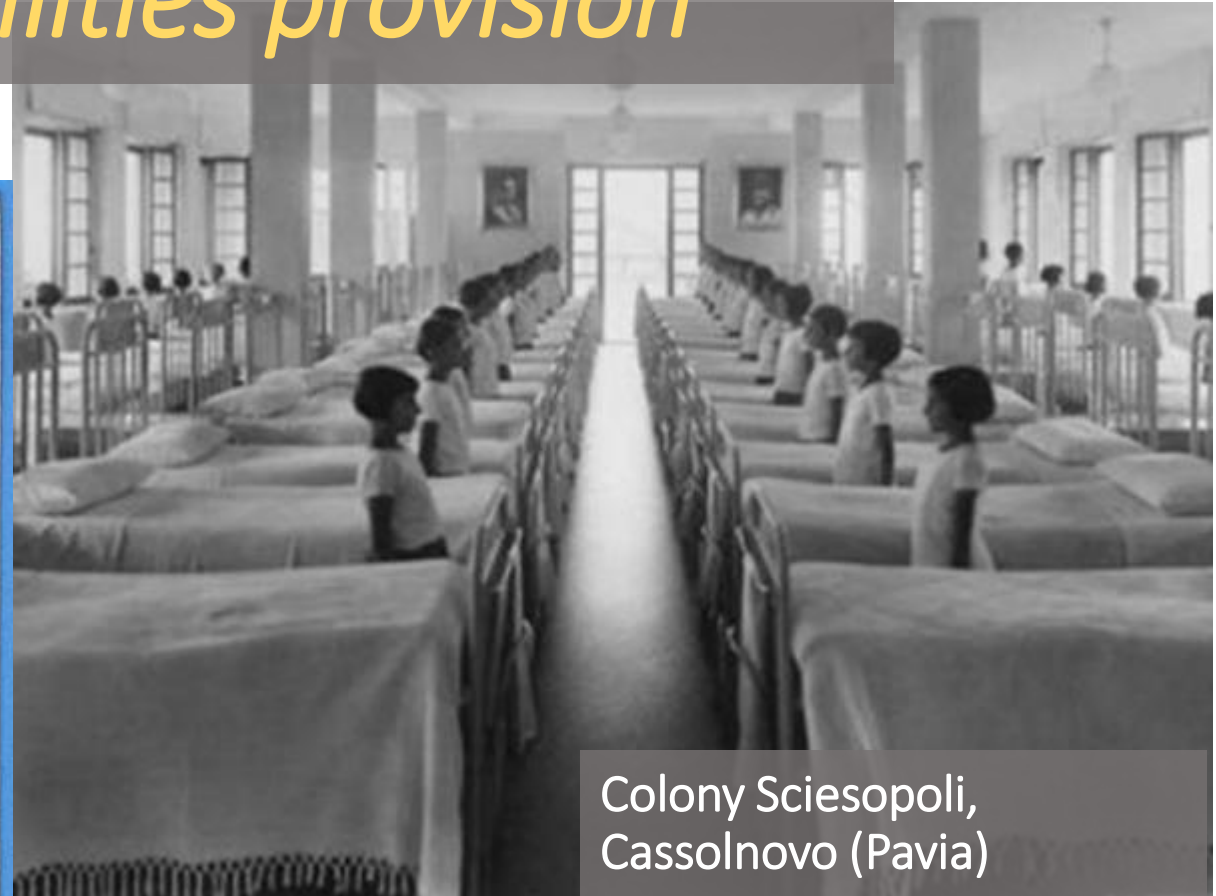
Monopoly of a mass youth education



Fascism: totalitarian youth education

1922-1943

Youth facilities provision



Colony Sciesopoli,
Cassolnovo (Pavia)

Liberation from Fascism and Nazism

1943-1945

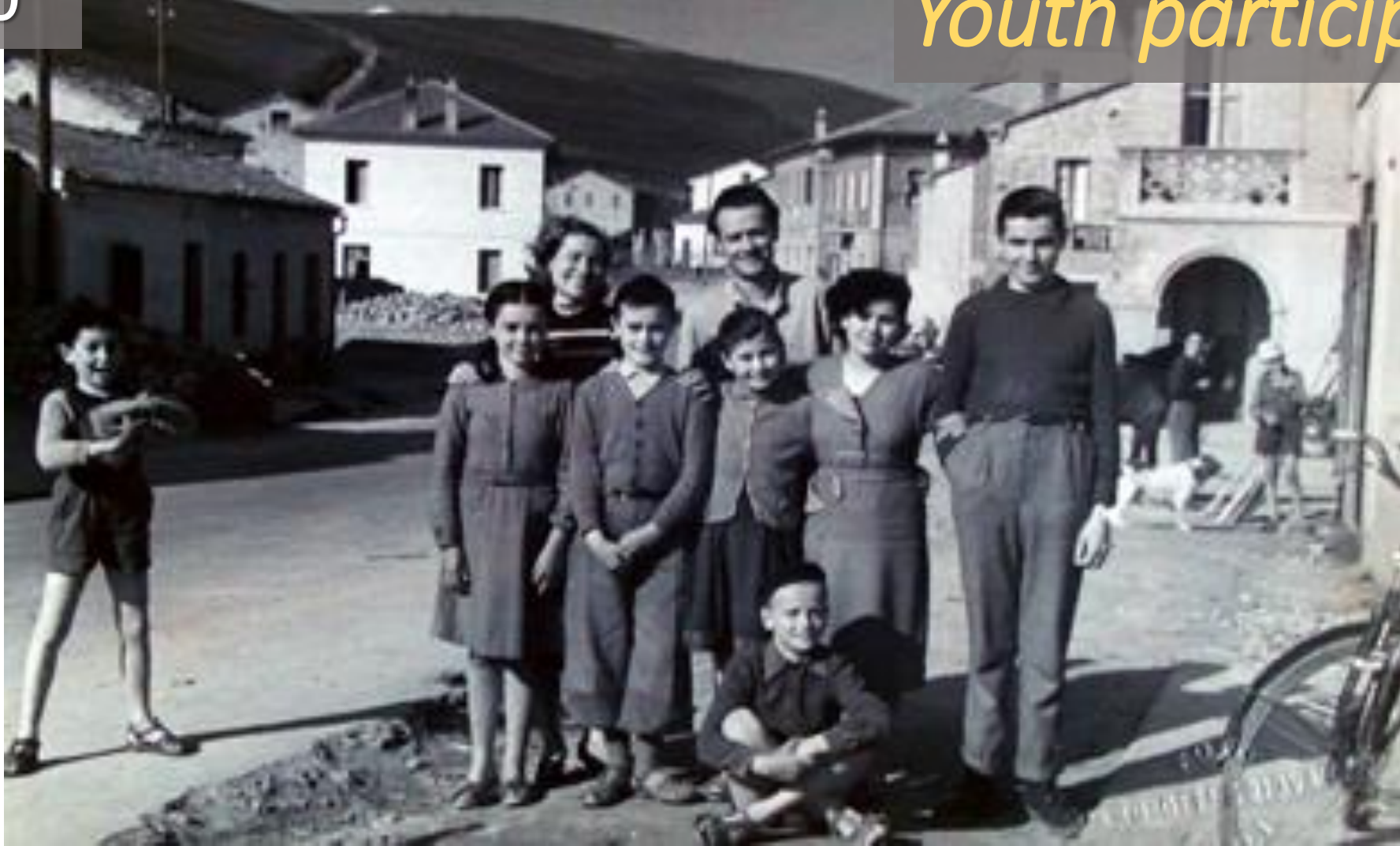
Resistance as a youthful choice



Post-war Reconstruction

1945-1950

Youth participation



The students protest

1950s-1970s



«Young without youth»

The students protest

1950s-1970s



Youth radicalism against authoritarian education

Pluralism as antidote to radicalism

1980s-1990s



Youth volunteering

Pluralism as antidote to radicalism

1980s-1990s

Public youth work

Youth projects

Centres for Youth Aggregation

Job information centres

Care and education centres for young people at risk



Youth policy transferred to Regions

2006-

Ministry of Youth (2006-2011)

National Fund for Youth Policy

Framework Programme Agreements (State, Regions, Local Councils, Third Sector)

Missioni
URBANE



BOLLENTI SPIRITI
GIOVANI IDEE ACCENDONO IL FUTURO

Youth work today: pluralism and...

Public (statutory) youth work

- Care and education centres for at risk young people (13-25)
- Job information services (13-35)
- Civil services (volunteering) (18-29)



INFORMAGIOVANI



Regional Youth Policies

- Funded by National Funds and EU programmes
- Regional Youth Policy Laws (13 out of 20)
- Youth spaces as hub of youth projects (first steps from school to work)

Youth work today: pluralism

Faith-based (Catholic)

- Parish oratories (n. 6500 out of 8000 municipalities); Catholic Action
- Scout (AGESCI, 180.000 members)
- Associanimazione (network, social animation tradition)
- 40% of social care and education public facilities



Oriented by political traditions

- ARCI clubs (n. 4987, 20% youth clubs)
- Arciragazzi (n. 80 clubs)
- Social centres (radical youth work)



No specific ideology

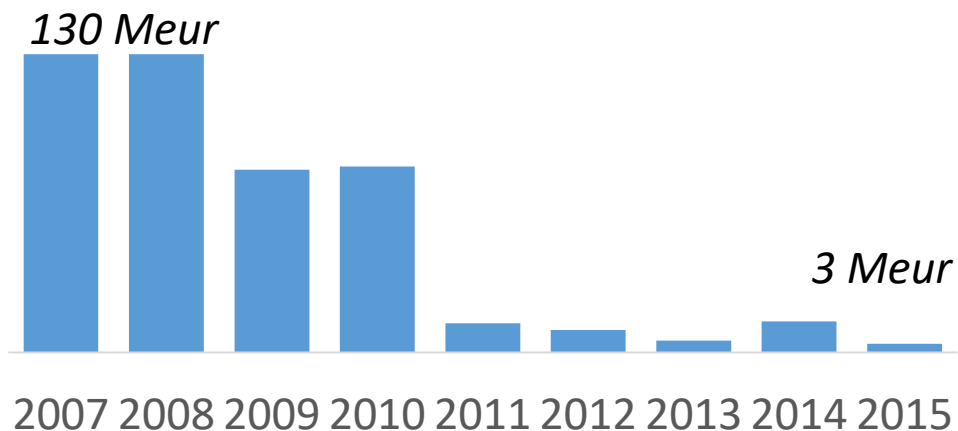
- Scout: CNGEI (12.000 members)
- No profit associations working in the youth sectors, funded by national and EU programmes



Youth work today: pluralism and fragmentation

Weak public support

- No national law about youth policy and youth work
- No recognition/validation system of professional youth work
- Youth work not perceived as a policy priority

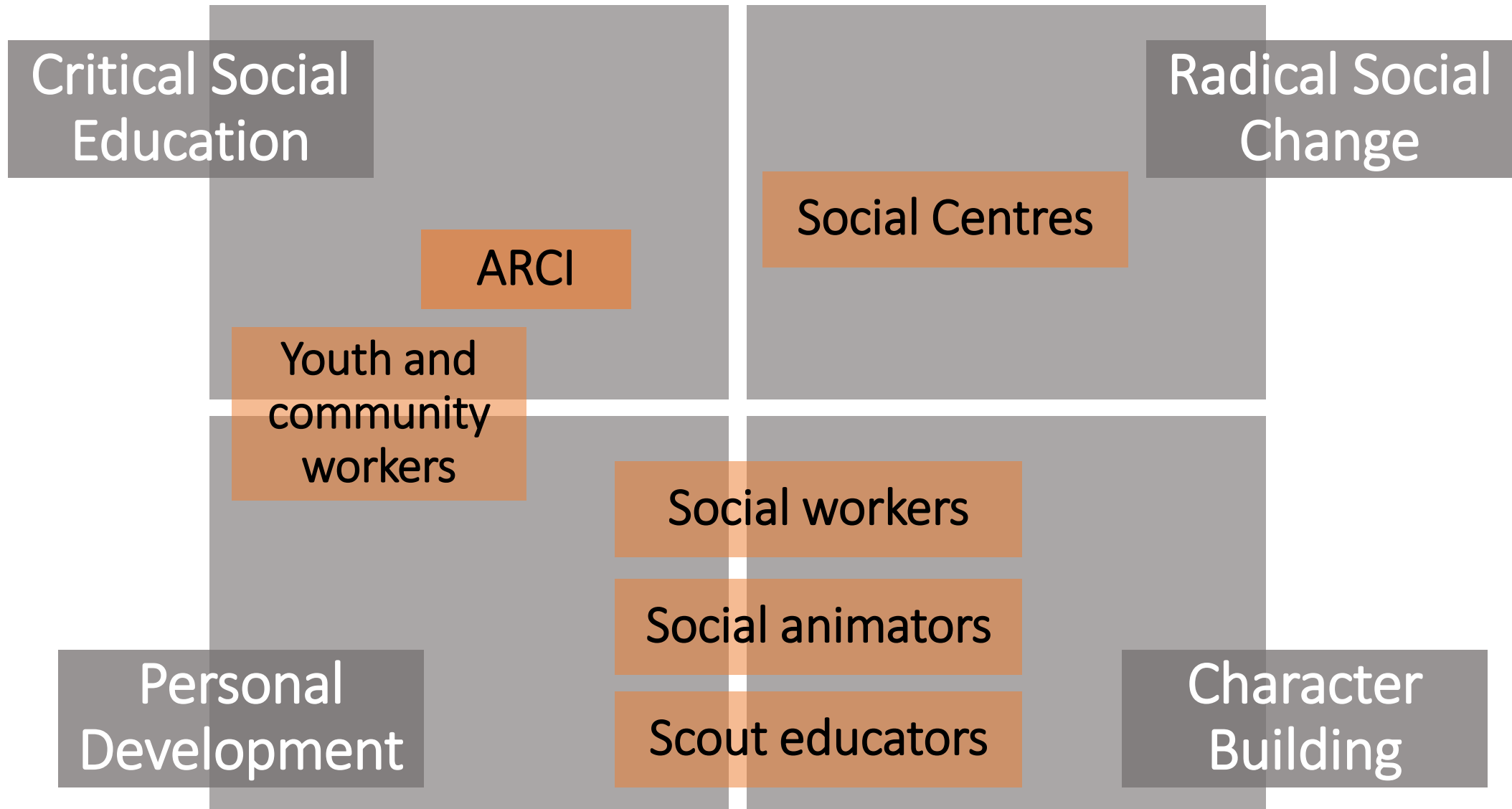


Individual strategies for self-sustainability

- Mixed-funding (market, donors, public, crowdfunding...)
- Social mission at risk?

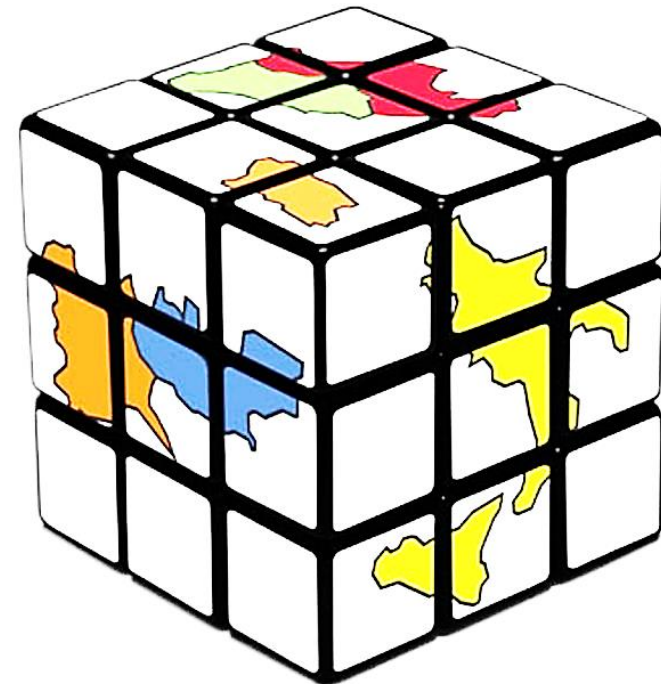
Lack of cooperation between different youth work «worlds»

- Social workers (*problem-focused*)
- Social animators; scout educators (*faith-based*)
- Youth and community workers (*hub for youth projects*)
- Radical youth work (*social change*)



Conclusion: from a pluralism of fragmentation to a pluralism of connections

Fragmentation in Italian youth work seems the (unintended) effect of an (underground) fear of radicalism: *Fascime youth education, Youth Protest, Terrorism, the overwhelming influence of Catholic Church...are radical events still burning in collective memory and not yet transformed from drivers of cultural/political divisions into dialogical constructive relations*



A pluralism of connections: **current challenges**

- **Dialogue:** a national public platform to facilitate dialogue between the different «worlds» of youth work practice (values, aims, methods etc.)
- **Essentials skills and basic values:** a participative process to build a common *etics* and a framework of basic competences
- **Accountability/transparency:** how youth work operates towards which outcomes
- **Freedom of choice:** unbiased information on youth work opportunities
- **Transitional spaces:** «active mediation» between *youth life world* and institutions (i.e. *hubs of youth projects*)