

IDENTITY CARD

The Salesian School and Vocational Training

*in Europe,
the Middle East
and North Africa*



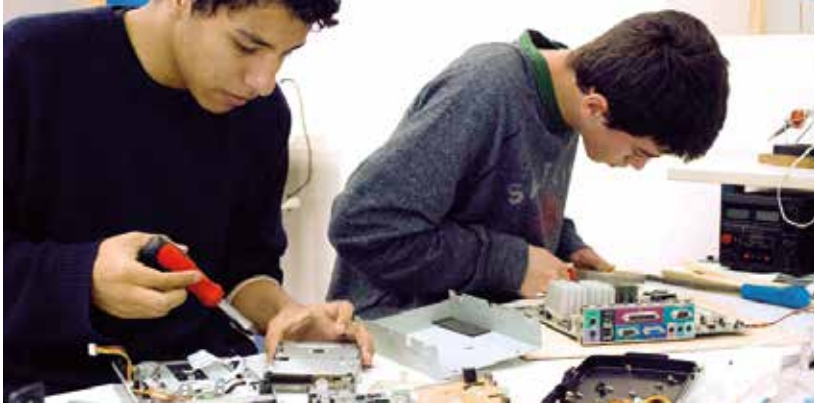
SSE SALESIAN
SCHOOL
EUROPE



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco



YOUTH MINISTRY DEPARTMENT
Salesiane di Don Bosco - Rome



The European context, together with the region of the Middle East and North Africa, is vast, complex, multicultural and multi-faith, marked by rapid change.

Within this continental context, this Identity Card is intended as a common reference point for the educative communities who, in their animation and management, refer to the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Its aim is to make the educational mission and action of the school and vocational training in Europe explicit for the development of educational and pastoral plans at provincial and local level.

This document contains the **indispensable elements** that characterize the Salesian school and vocational training centres in Europe today. It aims at identifying the style and mission required to become a recognisable educational and formative institution in Europe; **a learning community** that offers young people competence, knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will help them to develop and face the many challenges they will meet in life, living as **active and responsible citizens**.

»» MISSION

Salesian educative communities educate children, adolescents and young adults in schools and vocational training centres in **40 countries** of Europe, Middle East and North Africa. They offer society **an integral and high-quality educational program** which, with creative fidelity, inspired by the gospel and the **educational experience** of Don Bosco and Maria Domenica Mazzarello, is consolidated in time and recognised in the world as one that **generates human and social transformation**.

While taking into account the specific nature and fields of learning proper to each, the schools and vocational training centres aim to develop a curriculum and formative program which takes account of the present day way of looking at **knowledge, culture, science and technology**.

To this end, school and vocational training propose to support students in acquiring the capacity for meaningful learning giving meaning to knowledge, allowing for the integration of new information with what they already know and using it in different contexts and situations.

It aims to increase students' ability for problem solving, critical thinking, meta-reflection and for **transforming knowledge into skills**.

A school/vocational training therefore, that broadens the personal horizons of knowledge, meaning and action, through

learning processes that are organised flexibly within a new **educational culture of lifelong education**. These prepare the students effectively and in a high quality way, to insert themselves into the world of work today and in the future.

This identity card points towards building of "an educational village", where educators, parents, young people can share in a co-responsible manner, in the commitment to live, in everyday life, **the values of the preventive system and of the Salesian educational heritage**, expressed according to the needs of the times and of church and civil contexts.

VISION ««

The schools and vocational training centres want to be recognised as centres of **excellent, integral formation and high-quality education, where students together with educators and parents, religious and lay persons** build an educating community, an environment in which **a serene and trusting educational style** is shared and all are active participants in an educational/pastoral project that, in its identity as a Catholic school, aims intentionally **to educate by evangelising and evangelise by educating**.

» WHO ARE WE?

Educative communities that are responsible for education and the style of animation

EDUCATIVE COMMUNITIES, where

- **the young person is at the centre** of the educational activity and is accompanied in a harmonious and balanced growth process
- **children, adolescents, and young adults are protagonists** in this formative process, learn and develop ability, values and skills for life and for the world of work, according to their age and stage of development.
- constant **attention is given to the needs of young people**, taking care, above all, of those who are most needy and disadvantaged (new forms of poverty, exclusion and discrimination, immigration, etc.)
- the educational and spiritual experience of the **“first houses” of Don Bosco and Maria Dominica Mazzarello** is re-lived and made relevant for today
- the **joy of the gospel** is made manifest in an atmosphere of creativity, optimism and authenticity
- Salesian spirituality is shared in a harmonious and integral synthesis of **faith, culture, and life**
- **care is given to the “playground”**, as a typically Salesian educational setting and expression of joy and encounter



- relationships are family-like and they favour confidence between different generations and bring about an atmosphere of trust, understanding and **acceptance that encourages** growth
- the **family is recognised** as the first and indispensable educator and is supported in its irreplaceable educational role, especially where it is damaged or broken
- educators and young people live and experience of a formative alliance, in the certainty that **education is only possible together**
- personalised attention is given to **accompaniment**, discernment and ongoing formation
- **trust** is communicated to children and adolescents and young adults, identifying their potential and resources and helping to value them
- the educational program has a pastoral dimension, open to the values present in the cultural context in which it operates. It promotes the discovery of the **religious faith experience**, values and provokes openness to reflection on the gospel message, it allows itself to be challenged by the questions present in each culture
- young people commit themselves to education and to **service of other young people** in the educational community and in the local area
- a **passion for education** is encouraged along with the formation of educators who stay among young people, **willingly and with empathy**; cultivate the capacity for human balance, upright personal motivation, professionalism, affective, spiritual, ascetical, and psychological consistency
- it is open to, and interacts with other organisations and institutions in the area, thus building ‘the educating village’ **for the good and the happiness of all.**



»» WHAT DO WE PROPOSE?

The identity of Salesian schools and centres for professional training

An EDUCATIONAL PROJECT of

- **quality integral education**, in dialogue with the needs of growing young people, for their full development as people who are resilient, proactive and capable of change
- **developing a critical culture**, that is mature and shared in relation to the Christian religion, making life and history more humane, strengthened by multilingual approach and in-depth reflection on European culture
- **research, experience and the development of a professional approach** and skills which are transferable, for a life plan at the service of the social community
- **relationships and affective development**, permeated by loving kindness, mutuality and respect, where, within the dynamics of relationships in the complexity of present-day culture, people are educated to love and accompanied with attentive and respectful care, preventing any type of bullying, abuse, discrimination and violence
- **transformation** of persons and society in order to care for our common home within an integral ecological vision
- **interdisciplinary approach**, an integrated approach to the different subject areas (scientific, humanistic, technological and artistic) for the harmonious development of young workers and professionals, believing and credible citizens
- **educational innovation and methodological experimentation** aimed at personalising learning by using multiple cognitive perspectives
- **developing creativity and valuing art and sport** which strengthen the educational richness of extra-curricular activities
- **an intercultural approach** to promote the formation of a mind that is open and capable of solidarity, in constructive dialogue between the values inspired by the gospel and today's secularised, multicultural, and multi-faith sociocultural context
- **inclusiveness and fairness**, so that every person may feel supported and loved, a culture of encounter and universal fraternity lived in the joy of welcoming all, not leaving out any young person
- **understanding the challenges and the opportunities offered by the digital culture** that is being constantly developed in order to strengthen competence and skills of the whole educative community
- **hope** since it offers a future to young people.

»» TOWARDS WHAT GOAL?

Educational commitment

In schools and professional training centres WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO EDUCATE PEOPLE WHO ARE

- **Responsible and complete, kind and caring, generous** in solidarity and passionate for life in co-responsibility
- **committed** to realising their identity, to growing in autonomy and developing skills that favour active involvement in the area in which they live
- **capable of collaborating with everyone** in order to know and interpret reality
- who assume **a disciplined and moderate style** of life at the service of others and of society
- who **ask deep questions** and search for meaning, discovering their vocation and their own place in society and in the world as “good Christians and honest citizens”
- who know how to practice **solidarity and fraternity, capable of serving** others through personal, cultural and professional choices for the common good and social friendship, justice, peace and socio-political commitment
- capable of grasping the challenges of the present and future through an **attentive, wise and contextualised educative action**
- **capable of actively integrating** into the world of work, caring for creation, working towards sustainable development for all people and a form of governance that is open and attentive to all.



In this **IDENTITY CARD**, prepared together, we have presented in synthesis **THE JOURNEY, THE OUTLOOK AND THE COMMITMENT** of the Salesian educative communities in schools and centres of professional training in order to respond to the call that we as educators, both religious and lay receive today in the world and in the Church, following the inspiration of **DON BOSCO AND MARIA DOMENICA MAZZARELLO**

MARIA DOMENICA MAZZARELLO HEARD A VOICE THAT MARKED HER SOUL AND LIFE.

“I entrust them to you” is the assignment that became an educational mission among poor and abandoned girls.

DON BOSCO, CURED FROM A SERIOUS ILLNESS, SAID TO HIS BOYS:

“I owe my life to you. I have promised God that until my last breath everything will be for my dear boys”.



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