

# Municipality of Ventotene Province of Latina Island of Peace – Gateway to Europe

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# Dossier for the application for the European Diploma for Ventotene

#### 1. Membership of organisations of local authorities

The island of Ventotene is the place where, during the fascist period, the "CONFINO" (Confinement), some Italian intellectuals who did not share the activities of the "regime" were confined. In that constricting condition, Altiero Spinelli, of communist inspiration, together with Ernesto Rossi, of liberal inspiration, and other colleagues of confinement, wrote the Manifesto: "For a free and united Europe". This document is considered the flag of the process of the European unification.

For this reason the island of Ventotene is considered the symbol of the birth of Europe.

Ventotene was awarded the title of City of Culture 2019 of the Lazio Region together with the Island of Ponza and the Municipality of San Felice Circeo.

This island preserves the tomb of Altiero Spinelli who fought throughout his life for the construction of a federalist Europe and it is destination for continuous visits from all over Europe.

Matteo Renzi, Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande, on August 22, 2016, wanted to recognize to this island a significant role for the construction of Europe by going along with honoring his grave at the cemetery of Ventotene.



The Municipality of Ventotene is member of the Institute of Federalist Studies Altiero Spinelli (http://www.istitutospinelli.org/) established in 1987 from the Lazio Region and its mayor is member of the Executive Board of the Institute whose headquarters is located on the island of Ventotene.



The institute had an important promoter like Gabriele Panizzi who was president of the Lazio Region and he continues to follow all the initiatives promoted by the institute constituting the witness of its foundation and tenacious defender of its founding aims.

The president of the Institute is Giorgio Anselmi who is also the president of the European Federalists Movement (MFE).

The Institute organizes, together with the MFE, every year, in September, for 37 years, a week of training. Young Italians selected in the different regions of the country and young people selected in the different countries of the Union participate, but also in other countries. Among the speakers and witnesses who speak are Italian politicians and European parliamentarians, European scholars and leaders of the movement. During the week the population present on the island (residents and tourists) meet with young people and exchange knowledge, experiences and aspirations through a collective debate that involves the whole island.

Ventotene has also signed a protocol of understanding with the European Movement whose president is Virgilio Dastoli who collaborated with Altiero Spinelli.

The aim of the collaboration between the Municipality of Ventotene and the Italian Council of the European Movement is to develop a fruitful collaboration, aimed at "*promoting communication and training activities* **on European policies and institutions**, strengthening cognitive, relational

L'associazione ha per oggetto quanto previsto dall'art. 3 (tre) dell'allegato statuto cui si fa rimando, in senso formale e sostanziale "per relationem", e, in particolare, la conoscenza, la promozione e la diffusione dei principi dell'Europa unita elaborati nel "Manifesto di Ventotene", ma anche lo studio e l'analisi critica dell'Unione Europea, così come realizzata, e delle relative politiche, nonchè la partecipazione all'odierno dibattito sul futuro dell'Europa in un momento cruciale del processo europeo di integrazione.

 on European policies and institutions, strengthening co

 and values skills".

 On July 16, 2016, the Mayor of

 Ventotene signed a protocol for the

 establishment of the "Association for

 the Europe of Ventotene onlus", which

 brings together scholars and academics

interested in European issues with the

aim of implementing training programs,

conferences and initiatives to spread European culture. The president is

Andrea Patroni Griffi of the University of

Naples.

The Municipality of Ventotene also welcomed and supported the birth of the "**New Europe**", an association that aims to involve students of Italian and European schools in programs to spread European culture, but also to reflect on possible improvements. It promotes the programme "La Scuola d'Europa".





The Municipality of Ventotene has also set up an interuniversity cooperation structure for the implementation of the Historical Archive, which preserves important documentation of the birth of Europe, starting from the first studies and elaborations carried out on the island during the period of Fascism, but also after the end of the Second World War.

The "Centre for Research and Documentation on Political Confinement and Detention of the Islands of Ventotene and Santo Stefano" was established by D.C.C. no. 28 of 07.11.2017 with the aim of enhancing the promotion of cultural activities related to research, study and education of the territory and its surroundings, through the awareness of citizens towards cultural initiatives aimed at the recovery, preservation and enhancement of the Historical Archives, highlighting the importance of the island as a place symbol

for European integration with its Manifesto. It is a permanent non-profit Municipal Institution and, as an instrumental body of the Municipality, it has management autonomy for the activities carried out in it, according to general guidelines issued by the Municipal Administration.. It is activated within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2015 with: the University of Milan, the Interuniversity *Research Centre Altro Diritto* (ALDIR), the Municipality of Saluzzo, the Campania Region, the *Department of Prison Administration* (DAP) of the Ministry of Justice in order to establish collaborative relationships in the field of historical and socio - legal research and their teaching, with particular reference to contemporary history, legal sociology, sociology and the history of imprisonment and internment with particular attention to their use in the repression of dissent, the Italian Constitution and its values.

The Archive is located at the premises of the *Historical Archive* at the *Umberto Elia Terracini Polyvalent Centre*.

Ventotene also owns a public library that has a sector specifically dedicated to books and documents concerning the Confinement and Europe.

The municipal library was established during the Confino period and was managed by Mario Maovaz. Twenty years ago it was reconstituted and has a vast sector of books expressly dedicated to

the themes of the Confinement and Europe. Every year the library organizes conferences on Europe and invites to reading the tourists who frequent the island and the young people who study on the island during the training week on Europe.

It also has a library (l'Ultima Spiaggia) that also carries out the activity of publishing house and publishes books on Europe and on the experience of the Confinement





Centro di ricerca e documentazione sul confino politico e la detenzione

ARCHIVIO STORICO

Centro di ricerca e documentazione sul confino politico e la detenzione

Isole di Ventotene e Santo Stefano

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In order to ensure that the entire population of the island shares the role that the island expects to play in Europe, the current administration developed in the autumn of 2016 a process of "participatory planning" with the entire population of the island, which led to outline a strategy that is enclosed in the motto that was coined: "Ventotene, island of peace, gateway to Europe".



In order to coordinate all the initiatives aimed at developing European culture, in August 2018 the Administration set up a round table with the aim of planning and managing in a cooperative way the most significant initiatives concerning Europe and European education in which the island can play a significant role.



It then set up a staff structure for the mayor to coordinate European initiatives, calling it "Project Europe". Below is the image of the above-mentioned coordination meeting.

# 2. Twinning, with whom and what activities

The strategy pursued by the Ventotene Administration is to be the place where all the countries of Europe can discuss the issues that concern Europe, but also of other countries in the world that want to know how Europe was born and how it is organized.

The strategy pursued so far by the municipal administration has to be willing to be a meeting place for all municipalities in all countries of Europe. This was also agreed following the decision of the Italian government to establish a School of Europe in Ventotene recovering the Bourbon prison on the island of Santo Stefano in front of it and which is part of the same municipality and structuring new spaces within the same Ventotene.

The work of Altiero Spinelli and Ernesto Rossi has been translated into all the languages of the European countries and homage will be paid to each President. In France, the gift was given to President Emmanuel Macron after a visit to Paris specifically organized for the purpose, during 2018.

Ventotene will continue this process with all the other countries

Moreover, through the Coordination Committee that has been established and the ramifications that both the MFE (European Federalist Movement) and the ME (European Movement) have, Ventotene is present in every country of Europe and constantly launches an invitation to welcome on the island all those who want to study how and where Europe was born.



The twinning in place is instead with CHIVASSO (TO) from December 19, 2014.

This twinning aimed to strengthen the symbolic relationship between two cities closely linked by the federalist themes and the construction of Europe. In fact, in Ventotene the fundamental document of the struggle for supranational federalism was drawn up (Ventotene Manifesto, August 1941) and Chivasso is the symbol of Italian federalism (Chivasso Charter, 19 December 1943, the same year as the founding of the European Federalist Movement).

In 2016, Ventotene also joined the initiative promoted by the <u>Cultural Association "Republica Nomade"</u> called "II sogno dell'Europa - Cammino 2016 Trieste - Sarajevo", aimed at relaunching Europe and the prophetic vision contained in the Ventotene Manifesto, recalling, as a warning to future generations, two symbolic places of world wars and other devastating wars in the Balkans.

Also for the year 2017 the town of Ventotene has joined the initiative of the <u>Cultural Association "Nomadic</u> <u>Republic"</u> called "<u>United States of Europe - Walk 2017 Paris / Berlin</u>". On 25 March 1957 the Treaty of Rome was signed, considered as the birth certificate of the great European family and the Association chose two cities symbolizing European history (Paris and Berlin) starting symbolically from the island of Ventotene.

#### 3. Exchanges involving citizens (which categories and on what basis)

Ventotene involves thousands of people every year on the themes of Europe. Many people and many young people come specially to the island to study how and where Europe was born. Many organizations carry out conventions on the island in honor of Europe. Even tourists who come in summer on the island are involved in the study initiatives on Europe. The citizens organize for scholars and tourists the ideal conditions for a continuous comparison on the themes of Europe in the town squares and in the large multi-purpose center headed by Umberto Terracini, the president of the constituent assembly of the Italian Constitution.



During the XXXVII edition of the federalist week in Ventotene, which had as its title: "Federalism in Europe and in the world, from monetary union to the United States of Europe", mayor Santomauro invited both citizens and tourists still present on the island to the evenings in the square, where they discussed about Europe, with these words in the posters posted on the notice boards and distributed in all public establishments:

The events "in the square" will be open to all those who wish to participate and make a contribution to the debate taking place in our country, also in view of the upcoming elections to the European Parliament in May next year. Ventotene: "Island of Peace-Port of Europe" wants, also in this way, to be the place where ideas and positions, even different, are confronted, but with the intent not to return to share what the atrocities of past wars have suggested to unite.







Dinner in the square with tables arranged in the shape of E like Europe The newspaper that published the news

Ventotene can demonstrate both how innovative ideas have been put forward that have favoured the birth of Europe, but also what damage has been caused by the sovereign ideas that generated the confinement and therefore the lack of freedom and then the war itself.

#### Another important project activated by Ventotene is "Europe alert / Burning flags".

The project was sponsored by the municipality of Ventotene in collaboration with the University of Roma 3: it will last three years, starting from spring 2019, activating on the Pontine island events and cultural activities with artists and personalities. "Europe alert / Burning flags" is the name chosen for the installation of the "burning flags" for the "red alert" for Europe.



#### 4. European events (youth meetings, cultural meetings, economic conferences, etc.)

Thirty-seven years of history of meetings with young people and conferences on the theme of Europe are a peculiarity only of Ventotene in the world. Only for this reason does Ventotene deserve an award. For thirty-seven years, every September, this appointment is renewed. For a whole week, two groups of young people, one all-Italian and one composed of young people from other European countries other countries, meet in Ventotene to talk about Europe, to study its evolution, to study in depth its critical aspects and to discuss the solutions for improvement to be pursued.

The whole debate that is taking place is reported to all the federalists present in all the countries of Europe and becomes the subject of discussion and reflection that involves the same context in which the federalists live. So it is as if every year Ventotene is transformed into a sort of European megaphone to discuss the history of Europe and the steps taken and underway to improve it.

It is shown below, for example, the page of the local newspaper "Latina Oggi" of 4 September 2018 on the occasion of the opening of the XXXVII federalist week, in which an E-shaped table (like Europe) was composed in Piazza Castello, around which young people from all over Europe sat with the citizens of Ventotene and tourists invited to participate.

In addition to this magnificent and exciting anniversary, there is the action of the other players who make up the coordination table of European initiatives on the island.

In fact, the New Europe with the initiative of the "School of Europe", brings every year crowds of Italian students and the rest of Europe to talk about Europe on the island. In the didactic activities that it activates, it also leads to discuss the Europe that young people want, by composing proposals that are brought to the attention of European organizations.

To this is added the action "of the Association of Ventotene for Europe", whose founders are for the most part lecturers of Italian universities, which every year organizes in Ventotene a "Summer School" on the hottest issues of European life concerning its structure, economy, Community legislation, immigration, etc..

In 2018 the island also hosted the event of 'ANIMUS LOCI' organized together with the European Commission - Representation of Rome, which led the citizens of Ventotene to debate in Piazza Castello the hottest issues concerning staying in Europe.



As testimony we report below the article of the online newspaper "Tempo Reale".

#### Ventotene hosts the event "Animus Loci" promoted by the European Commission Written by Saverio Forte / News, Events / 26 September 2018, 8:00 am

VENTOTENE - It is really true that Ventotene can be considered with reason the "Gateway to Europe, Island of Peace", according to the slogan coined by the community after a participatory program that led to redefine the strategic perspective of development of the island. This is demonstrated by the commitment made by the municipal administration to the development of initiatives that bring to the second Pontine island opportunities for discussion on how to adapt the structure of Europe in a federalist way. The echo of the annual federalist week had not yet died out, that Ventotene was already ready to host the event "Animus Loci" that the Italian delegation of the European Commission promotes in some Italian cities significant from the point of view of the construction of Europe.

The event, organised last Saturday in Piazza Castello, was aimed at engaging in a dialogue with the local community on the characteristics of the European Union in order to increase information on what exactly Europe is and to highlight the criticalities that citizens feel and would like to see overcome. The next day the mayor Gerardo Santomauro invited all the organizations involved in the Europeanist theme and that work to improve the structure and functioning of the Union, to try to define a more effective and integrated planning of the initiatives they plan to organize on the island from now until December 2019.

"This also serves to adapt the municipal structure and culture of the community to the development of initiatives that alternate on the island - said Santomauro - Our capacity to welcome grows, our infrastructure (library, museums, historical archive) are being enriched and structured, but it is essential to establish synergies and share common goals and significant deadlines. The vote at the European Council next May suggests an acceleration of some training programs to increase citizens' awareness of the voting decisions to be taken".

The island is now the subject of attention from various associations (cultural, scientific, business and trade union) that choose the island for the symbol it constitutes in Europe and come to treat the issues that affect them as European citizens in Ventotene.

The same thing happens for the schools that more and more choose the island to talk about Europe.

During 2018, the students of the *Istituto comprensivo Dante Alighieri* of Formia-Ventotene, thanks to funding from the Lazio Region, have created a program of *training-intervent (formazione-intervento®*) designing and producing a brochure aimed at all schools in Italy to encourage them to make an educational trip to Ventotene.

As an example of the many events that the Municipality of Ventotene promotes and welcomes, the following are the most important events of 2018, as well as can be found on the website of the Municipality and on facebook page

#### **EVENTS LIST OF YEAR 2018**

"*For a European citizenship. Young people meet Europe*" by the Municipality of Fondi and the ITT Pacinotti di Fondi in collaboration with the Institute of Federalist Studies "Altiero Spinelli" - European Federalist Movement, **9/10 April** 

*"Final stage of the project Europe of Ventotene*", by the Municipality of Paliano and the Istituto Comprensivo of Paliano, **13 April** 

"*European School in Ventotene*" - 2nd week, **10/15 April** 

"Festival of Solidarity Europe and the Mediterranean", organised by ACMOS, 27/29 April

"Final conference of the course Cantieri d'Europa" - organised by the LUISS Guido Carli University 5 May

"Ventotene Europa Festival 2018" - by the Association La Nuova Europa, 8/13 May

"<u>Ventotene: Isola di confino, Isola d'Europa</u>" - by the Altiero Spinelli Institute, **25 May** 

"Swimming in the seas of the globe - 14th stage" Ventotene-Ponza

Summer School "Europe and Rights", organised by the Association for Europe of Ventotene, 25/29 June

"*Dancing with the Sirens*" dance workshop V edition, by the ASD "Tersicore Ballet School", from July 27 to August 4

XXXVII Federalist Training Seminar, XXXV International Seminar on Federalism, 2/8 September;

<u>Conference entitled "Public contracts between civil, administrative and criminal law"</u>, 8 September, 94:30 p.m.

"*Ventoclassic ed. 2018*" concert by the harpist Francesca Cardone, by the Accademia Mediterraneo Arte & Musica, at the Church of Santa Candida, **16 September, 10:00 p.m.** 

"*Animus Loci*" dialogue with citizens on European issues promoted by the Italian Representation of the European Commission, Piazza Castello, **22 September, 06:00 p.m.** (PROGRAMME) Mbarka Ben Taleb & Marzouk Mejri Concert

Initiative "<u>Project Alternating School and Work and Sports Activities: experiences in comparison between</u> <u>schools in Lazio and the world of sport</u>" by the Network of Enterprises Ventotene Europe, **21/23 September** 

Workshop - training course "Citizens of Europe, workers of the world", by the CISL of Latina, 27/30 September

#### "Puliamo il mondo edizione 2018", by Legambiente, Circolo Sud Pontino, 28 September

"Lenticchiata" by the Associazione Pro Loco Isola di Ventotene, Piazza Castello, 29 September 09:30 p.m.

"VENTOTENE - ISLAND OF CONFINO AND EUROPE" Day of awareness of the places of the political "Confino" of Ventotene and of the Manifesto "For a free and united Europe", educational visit to the Liceo "A. Manzoni" in Latina, **20 October** 

#### Within the XXXVII Federalist Training Seminar was organized:

<u>MENSA E</u>, community dinner, as part of the XXXVII European Federalist Formation Seminar, September 2, Piazza Castello, 9:00 p.m.

<u>Blue Flow 2018 edition</u>, festival of street art and contemporary art, organized by the Cultural Association Fluo Events, from 3 to 9 September; juggling show for children September 4 at Porto Nuovo 06:00 p.m. and September 5 in Piazza Castello, 07:00 p.m.

"<u>Europa in Musica</u>" musical journey through Europe, curated by the trio Martina Paciotti (soprano), Stefano Marra (tenor) Andrea Bosso (piano), as part of the XXXVII European Federalist Training Seminar **September 3** Piazza Castello, **10:00 p.m.** 

"<u>Education and training of Italian school students on the theme of Europe</u>", meeting/debate within the framework of the XXXVII European Federalist Training Seminar, **4 September**, Piazza Castello, **10:00 p.m**.

LUCIANO BOLIS 1918-2018 HERO OF RESISTANCE AND EUROPEAN PATRIOTA, as part of the XXXVII European Federalist Training Seminar, **September 5** at the Bookstore "Ultima Spiaggia", **6:00 p.m.** 

"<u>Bar Europa</u>" meeting / debate curated by Michele Gerace and Mario Leone, as part of the XXXVII European Federalist Training Seminar **September 5** at the "Ultima Spiaggia" bookshop, **10:00 p.m**.

Presentation of the book "<u>Eurostorie di ordinario successo in tempo di Brexit</u>" by Monica Didò and Francesco Tufarelli, as part of the XXXVII European Federalist Training Seminar, **6 September** at the "Ultima Spiaggia" bookshop, **9:30 p.m.** 

Jazz festival "Noises on the Island" by the Cultural Association Noises on the island, from 6 to 8 September, Piazza Chiesa, 10:00 p.m.

"<u>Le berte di Ventotene: studiate, protette e soprattutto ammirate</u>" event by the scientific director of the Ornithological Museum Dr. Sara Riello in collaboration with <u>Blue Flow</u> and <u>Project PonDerat</u> Regione Lazio, **7 September**, Piazza Castello, **7.00 p.m.** 

Presentation of the book, <u>"Biografia di una prigione. L'ergastolo di Santo Stefano in Ventotene</u>" by Anthony Santilli, organized by the Association for Santo Stefano in Ventotene onlus, **September 8** at the "Ultima Spiaggia" bookshop, Piazza Castello, **6:00 p.m.** 

<u>Theatrical performance "Bresci chi"</u>, with the theatre company "Teatro degli Zingari" of Genoa, by the Association for Santo Stefano in Ventotene onlus and Centre for research and documentation on political confinement and detention, **September 8**, Piazza Chiesa, **10.00 pm** 

#### 5. Europe Day is celebrated on 5 May

The 5th of May is certainly a ritual that is repeated every year and that involves the entire community of Ventotene, but it also attracts people who come specifically to the island to assist and share the initiative to celebrate the city of Europe. In 2018 a conference and a festival was held in Ventotene. So it was planned by the New Europe for 2019.

In addition to May 5, every occasion is used to highlight the opportunity to support the values that Europe expects to carry forward. The living nativity scene, for example, which is organized in Ventotene every year, inside the natural caves that characterize the coast aims to demonstrate the value of welcoming the different and the community.

# 6. The European idea is promoted in schools and schools are encouraged to participate in the European Day of Schools.

Ventotene has few inhabitants and even fewer young students. Precisely because they are few, they complain that they do not have the same recreational and sporting opportunities as their overseas colleagues During 2018 the Municipality made the choice to involve all of them, helping them to play the role of accompanists for their fellow students of mainland facilities. By promoting the exchange between students from the island and those on land, the young people of the island have felt protagonists of the initiatives undertaken and have worked on themselves to be able to demonstrate that the history of the island is important, that the testimonies still present are to be valued, that they can be proud to be citizens

of the island, but also to be representatives of the history of Europe.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning the project "Porta d'Europa", which, as has already been said, was funded by the Lazio Region and involved thirty students from the third grade of the Institute in designing and then producing the brochure that shows why you have to come to Ventotene to learn how Europe was born. It will be sent to all the schools of Italy and then, once translated, it will be sent to all the schools of Europe to invite the Schools to come to Ventotene to study the birth of Europe. It is attached to the additional materials.

It is also worth mentioning the project "The memorable year", which was

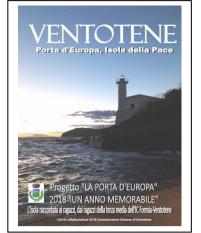
prepared in 2018 and will be developed during 2019. It is a project that will give young students of the island the opportunity to have the same opportunities to develop sports, cultural, musical, etc.. of their colleagues on land. The project was funded by the Lazio Region as an experiment in processes that promote the reception of immigrants from other countries that find favorable conditions on the island to raise their children. It is therefore considered experimental at European level to orient and not reject immigration.

Another interesting project, started in 2017, is to teach Europe to young people of the island through the "puppets" of Ernesto Rossi who, together with Altiero Spineli, wrote the "Manifesto di Ventotene"

#### 7. European Solidarity . offer of subsidies or assistance to municipalities victims of natural disasters

Ventotene is as big as a symbol of Europe as the number of residents is small. This has prompted the Administration to pursue a pilot, planned and organised immigration policy. We are looking for young people from other European countries and beyond, to be hosted on the island to increase the number of permanent inhabitants present, so as to feed the School (kindergarten, primary and secondary) of new children. Already a first group of people is being moved to the island and the Administration is making every effort to promote the island as a place of reception and retraining aimed at employing people from places where disasters of all kinds have occurred: environmental, social, political, economic.





# 8. Award ceremony: If the City Council were to be awarded, would it organise a public ceremony with the active participation of young people?

Ventotene would certainly be happy to organise the Public Presentation Ceremony of the award ceremony. The multipurpose room, named after the Hon. Elia Umberto Terracini, has the capacity to host the Ceremony and to give ample news through its media:

- website (<u>www.comune.ventotene.fr.it</u> and
- FaceBook page of Ventotene. <u>https://www.facebook.com/comunicazioneventotene/</u> ). On the same Facebook page you can find the videos on the island. Here you can also download the brochure produced by the students of the third grade of the Dante Alighieri Institute Formia-Ventotene.

Its hotels are also used to hosting quality tourism and, together with the municipal structure, guarantee perfect hospitality for those who come to the island to "breathe" the history of Europe, starting with a visit to the tomb of Altiero Spinelli and then the visit to the Historical Archives and Library and the places of the Confinement. The island also has many other elements of historical and environmental attraction that make it extremely interesting to stay on site. *The Marine Reserve, the Historical, Archaeological and Ornithological Museum* are a "territorial heritage" of great value, but at the same time they represent a further opportunity to reflect on the life of living beings and on the need to preserve and protect it, understand migration and respect the diversity that makes up our earthly life and that suggests tolerance, cooperation and solidarity.

Also the commitment in the realization of the *Living Crib* organized on the island is aimed at emphasizing the importance of hospitality and the value of giving hospitality to the *different* that brings love and wisdom to local communities overcoming the typical culture attributed to those who reside on the islands that paints them as closed and repelling towards strangers.

Ventotene 12.01.2019