

## Rome Workshop (Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>) Report

### Holding Hands

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#### List of Participants

Participant	Organization	Country	Emails
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Students	From several primary and high schools	Italy	-
Media	Paula Lupi from Radio RAI	Italy	<a href="mailto:maria.mannino@tin.it">maria.mannino@tin.it</a>

#### Outline of Workshop

The workshop started with a brief introduction to each other and to the objective of the Holding Hands “Journalino”, and that is:

*To create an online journal that will help stimulate dialogue, sharing of knowledge and experience, collaborative working and mutual understanding between children from schools in Rome, Israel and Palestine. The vision is to try to plant a seed of dialogue and understanding, that may humbly contribute to the flourishing of peace in a region in conflict.*

Each participant was given the chance to tell the others what they think should be the goals and future steps of the Journalino as well as what obstacles they see. The participants from the Israeli schools were full of energy, and had prepared a very touching presentation for the workshop. They saw this workshop as the beginning of something that goes along very well

with their past initiatives. The Palestinians, too, were happy to have been present and their voices heard. They expressed the willingness to co-operate as well as the need for this project in their communities. TAPUAH expressed great support for the Journalino and willingness to provide all their organization's resources in the future.

Some of the obstacles:

- Given the context of the project, participants felt that the conflict would be inherent in the children's writings and postings.
- For this project to take place in Palestinian schools, a permit would be needed from the country's Ministry/Board of Education, which would require some time to do.
- There is a great distinction between private and public schools in Palestine. Ideally, we aim to get the public schools involved, since most other projects target the private schools. However, at the beginning, perhaps it is easier to use 2 private Palestinian schools.

The workshop took place on the morning of 16 November 2004, in the Citta Educativa. The afternoon was reserved for a meeting with the Mayor of Rome as well as a live radio show with Radio RAI. The radio show featured students from an Italian primary school as well as myself, representing the Digital Youth Consortium.

### **Follow up / Results**

- The Journalino is going to feature a theme (every 3 months) – very general. Some of the themes suggested: Friendship, Family, Culture, etc.
- Within that theme, students are going to have the flexibility to interpret it they way they view/see the theme. For instance, a student writing for the theme on Friendship may decide to focus on “A Day at My School” or “A Day in the Life of...”
- Students are not limited to writing articles on the theme, but can also submit website links, photos, and other content, depending on their interests and the sub-links within the Journalino.
- Themes are going to be decided on among the participants of the workshop in advance.
- Every 3 months, the participants are going to evaluate the Journalino and see what needs improvement.
- It has been suggested that Eman Ebed will be the link between all the participants of the workshop; however, this has not been set at this point, and will need to be further discussed.