



SIX PAGES TO KNOW OUR ASSOCIATION



- SOLIDARITY AND INTERVENTION AGAINST SOCIAL EXCLUSION-

“IL PORTICO” is an association composed by volunteers, that has been providing its services in the territories of Riviera del Brenta since 1985. Not only does it try to offer immediate and cooperative help to needing people, but it also aims to remove the causes of discomfort and social exclusion.

The association was founded by an autonomous group of young people committed to social projects. Throughout the years the association had organised its activities, until it reached its present configuration, which is structured as follows:

- (a) ENTERTAINMENT OF FREE TIME FOR MARGINALIZED AND DIFFERENTLY-ABLE PEOPLE
- (b) WELCOMING AND TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION FOR NEEDING PEOPLE
- (c) INTERVENTION AND PROJECTS AIMED TO CREATE AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT FOR THE GROWTH OF A CULTURE BASED UPON INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
- (d) SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES OF RIVIERA DEL BRENTA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOODS

FIELDS OF INTERVENTION

A) ENTERTAINMENT OF FREE TIME FOR MARGINALIZED AND DIFFERENTLY-ABLE PEOPLE

“IL PORTICO” plays a special social role, an important connection between family and job. Actually, it aims to entertain free time which, to people facing difficulties, often represents the most oppressive and joyless moment of the day. Above all, the association intervenes when and where other services cannot operate, offering occasions of meeting people, in addition to simple but meaningful opportunities of making new experiences.

Differently-able and/or lonely people, who spend their time at the association, present weaknesses of various kind, above all linked to mental or psychological disease, which often depend on different situations of social exclusion. For this reason, the moment of welcoming these people is always characterised by special importance and delicacy. Whoever comes to “Il Portico” is encouraged to feel at ease from his or her first approach to the group: everybody keeps up a constant effort in order to maintain the meeting place as an “open space”: a free landing place where beginning new human relationships so to leave behind any discomfort.

The entertainment of free time is undoubtedly the most consistent commitment, because of the detailed organization It requires: the active participation of numerous volunteers, to entertain the midweek meetings and to accompany people during the usual Sunday trips and holidays journeys. Sunday trips are so important, longed-for and attended, that the association had to buy two vans and one car in order to have participating even people who do not own any means of transport or cannot drive a car.

Sharing relaxing moments or celebrations, together with the efforts of organizing and managing them, make them much more than normal “trips”, strengthen relationships and highlight people’s hidden abilities. People who overcame some difficult personal situations now work as volunteers. It’s not uncommon to find that one’s disabilities help emerging others’ qualities: the one who can see and walk leads the way for the one who cannot see and walk freely. This very dimension of reciprocal solidarity often makes difficult the distinction between the ones assisting others and the assisted ones, between “able” and “disabled” members of the association.

Entertainment is organized by volunteers, who are divided in five groups. Four of them organize the Sunday going-out, while the fifth prepares the entertainment activities enjoyable at the association’s premises, such as films or games. There is a *Committee for the Association’s Activities*, which aims to plan all these events and which is presided by the Responsible for the Association’s Activities.

The number of people regularly participating to the meetings may vary between 30 and 40 unities, depending on the day and the appreciation of the proposed activities.

The enrolled members are about 330, among which there are 200 volunteers (whose participation may be more or less frequent) committed to the association. The enlarged group of friends, relatives, co-workers and amateurs is composed by about 700 people, who usually gather together for the annual celebration that is held every year on the second Sunday of September.

In the field of interpersonal relationships, the association’s efforts are focused on the following points:

- Constant communication and dialogue among the association’s members; discussions about educational and current subjects; constant updating through external courses and self-development of volunteers and social workers (at the association);
- Midweek meetings every Wednesday evening, that represent opportunities to meet people, to enjoy cultural or recreational activities, or simply to spend time with friends;
- Sunday meetings and trips, aimed to socialize, fraternize, and to the progressive involvement of new friends;

- Organization of holidays, which are considered as important moments of socialization, feedback and discussion; these activities also represent an indirect way of providing relaxing moments to families, who are often oppressed by the daily stress of living the hard experience of facing and helping their close relatives, sons or daughters, who suffer because of psychophysical problems.

- Annual celebration: On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, during the second week of September, the association's members organize many activities aimed to gather both old and new friends, groups, associations, cooperatives, etc. The celebration also focuses on creating a moment of confrontation with differently-able or needing people; on the promotion of volunteering; on discussions about current social topics; on collecting individual availabilities;

- Creation of a theatre company composed by differently-able people, aimed at the realization of shows about topics of "differentabilities".

- Realization of courses and specific seminars based on the availability and skills belonging to volunteers and other friends.

B) WELCOMING AND TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION FOR NEEDING PEOPLE: "ENNIO'S HOME"

The association obtained the usufruct of the building located in Dolo, via Brentabassa 49, by Padua's CARITAS. Needing people have been hosted here for years.

While the owner of the house, Ennio Baldan (who suffered from multiple sclerosis), was alive, the people hosted here used to help the volunteers in their activities of assistance. Later on, thanks to the increasing availability of space, the activity of welcoming new people started, and it still carries on.

At present, in the house there are about ten people with different individual problems, hosted also on the basis of agreements with local municipalities. Furthermore, there are immigrants and refugees coming from various countries and other occasional presences embodied by homeless people. The *Committee for the guests of "Ennio's Home"*, presided by the Responsible of "Ennio's Home" and composed by social workers and professionally trained volunteers, organises the hospitality. Its main purpose is making guests much more responsible and sensible, through individually-designed projects of assistance and social integration.

In order to guarantee a constant help also during the night hours, about 30 volunteers organised night shifts in order to sleep one day per month at the association.

C) INTERVENTION AND PROJECTS AIMED TO CREATE AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT FOR THE GROWTH OF A CULTURE BASED UPON INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The purposes upon which the association is based, presented in its Statute, may be summarized by the will of an authentic al sharing the problems suffered or experienced by people. Which means, firstly, becoming aware of the causes that determine social exclusion and the will of removing them, with an intervention on a social and individual level.

It is hard to establish a clear boundary between "individual" and "social", because we know very well that building a better society means encouraging friendship and beating indifference. On the other hand, intervening on the political horizon against unequal laws, unsatisfactory institutions and various forms of violence, means working in favour of every individual personality.

Beyond the tasks carried on by the association concretely (which are not so many in comparison to the detected needs!), our statements represent a declaration of intents. Each member should feel it as something belonging to him or her, as it were a specific kind of commitment in order to try not only to solve individual and personal problems, but also and above all to improve the entire society.

"IL PORTICO" has been working on specific projects for many years. Generally, the projects are planned on the basis of activities that started autonomously and that require to be structured, organised, re-thought and funded. They concern various fields of intervention: entertaining, welcoming, hospitality, promotion, education; they involve various institutional referents (European Union, Ministries, Regions, ULSS -centres of health assistance-, Municipalities, Associations, Cooperatives, etc.). Some projects have been concluded while other ones are being still defined through activities characterising the daily and long-term commitment of the association

The projects' names summarize the purposes of each intervention:

The one named "**Bruzzico**" (the light before sunrise) was designed in favour of some young ex-imprisoned people who, in the critical moment of obtaining their freedom, find themselves without any home, any constructive relationship and any job.

"**Passo Lungo**" ("Long Step", the distance and the gap leading towards freedom) is a project concerning the reception of minor offenders, considered an alternative to prison. Thanks to this project a group of lawyers was gathered, in order to offer unpaid legal assistance and counselling about legal problems of people involved in the projects, either for penal or civil charges.

The project "**Akim**" (common welcoming to the immigrants) was designed because of the need of hosting immigrants, in order to promote a real integration in the thorny moment of their first approach to the Italian culture.

"**Il Sabato del Villaggio Solidale**" ("Saturday in the Village of Solidarity") is a cultural and recreational event of solidarity that takes place at the association almost every weekend. The project aims to increase the lively presence of the "town" inside the association, gathering adults, young people and families for some afternoons or evenings of fun and social meetings. During these moments, at the association (located, as already stated, in Via Brentabassa 49) many different activities take place, such as concerts, parties, conferences, competitions, games, net-surfing, etc. Furthermore, the premises are also available to other people, groups or associations.

The projects "**Musichall**" (**harmony of solidarity**) and "**INCiDi**" ("**Record!**"), consist in activities of promotion of voluntarism among young people in the territory of Riviera del Brenta. They involve the spaces of the music hall, the space for the CDd mixing and recording and the multimedia room, which are situated in the premises of the association.

The project "**Origami**" (the origins of friendship through the "game") aims to create relationships of friendship among differently-able people, in recreational contexts.

The three-year project "**Nuovi Con-t@tti**" (**idee educative e di accoglienza per le nuove sostanze**) ("New Cont@cts" – educational and welcoming ideas about new substances) consists in creating three centres for the youth entertainment; their target are adolescents who are running the risk of using drugs (see the following paragraph for further details).

With the project "**A spasso per l'Europa**" ("Walking around in Europe"-strictly connected to the Eurodesk office) we provide some opportunities of approaching the many possibilities offered by the EU to young people, to their associations and to other protagonists of the world of youth. A particular attention is paid to socially-excluded or disadvantaged people.

All the described projects may be downloaded on our website www.il-portico.it.

In order to check and improve the projects, we are creating a group of study evaluating legal aspects and exploring new opportunities of development. Therefore, projects represent a moment of reflection and re-organization; they are a sort of “answer” that the association gives to situations of emergency, in order to confer continuity and professionalism to the interventions that have been already put into effects.

La **sala prove musicali** (room for musical rehearsals) and the **saletta per la registrazione** (small room for mixing and recording CDs) for musical bands are structured and organized in order to provide informal musical bands composed by young people the possibility of meeting and playing together

Also the **sala multimediale polifunzionale** (multimedia multitasking room), beyond offering proper means for the access to services, was born with the purpose of creating new relationships among different people having in common the interest of informatics and other socializing opportunities. Usually, the room is used for different activities (movies, courses, political and educational seminars) and by different groups (“CAI”- mountain lovers, “Acquisto Solidale” - solidarity shops, “Auto-mutuo aiuto” – “self-help and collective help”, and various groups of young people).

Finally, the association offers its premises for meetings, lectures, seminars, parties and celebrations of other associations, groups and people who want to book them, and who have adopted a lifestyle characterised by our awareness and purposes of social integration. For the use of the premises during night-time, 15 volunteers have organized shifts in order to open, manage and close the rooms (multimedia and musical rooms). Rooms are open everyday from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m.

Thanks to the influx of young people that followed the starting of these activities, in December 2005 the Association of social and cultural Volunteering ONLUS “CATARSI” (website: www.myspace.com/associazione_catarsi; e-mail: catarsi@il-portico.it) moved its first steps in the premises of IL PORTICO. As explained in its Statute’s purposes, CATARSI focuses upon social integration of excluded people through the organization of cultural activities, paying special attention to young people’s proposals. It aims to highlight human and artistic expressions in their different forms, and to realize social and cultural exchanges with young people coming from the countries of the EU.

The project’s developing aimed at creating this association for the youth was the object of analyses and studies carried on by the Veneto Region’s Institutions – “Regional Observatory about the youth’s condition”, located in the city of Feltre (BL). The Region published a specific written account about our projects, which represent an example of ideation and application of “Buone Prassi” (“Good Practices”)

D) SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES OF RIVIERA DEL BRENTA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOODS

During the last years the association has put many efforts into the creation of networks and contacts with public and private institutions, giving the possibility of starting brand new activities.

Following their chronological order, here is a specific list:

Since 2004 the association managed to “enter” into high schools, realizing **meetings with students** (in particular, with students enrolled in the last two years of secondary schools). These encounters aim to make young people more aware of the opportunities offered by our projects (above all Civil Service and SVE). The adopted methods consist in sharing out the classes into smaller groups to present the various educational opportunities. Presentations are made through multimedia technologies, speeches of our members who have experienced the projects and distribution of promotional and informative material.

Our association actively contributed to the creation of the association “**A.P.G. (Associazione Politiche Giovanili-Politics in favour of young people) Riviera del Brenta**” that was planned and organized by the Municipality of Camponogara (VE). The APG Riviera del Brenta (web: www.apgrivierabrenta.it; e-mail: info@apgrivierabrenta.it) is characterised by the purpose of creating a coordinative group for the activities concerning politics in favour of young people, that should be developed in the territories of Riviera del Brenta. Furthermore, it tries to unify the municipalities of these territories, their schools, their youth associations and their informal groups.

In October 2006 **the experimental project “Nuovi Con-t@tti”** (“New Con-t@cts”) started. It implied the creation of three places for the aggregation of young people, ruled by 4 professionally trained social workers. In these spaces, we would like to offer enjoyable educational and recreational programmes, above all in favour of young people who occasionally make use of alcohol or light drugs (who are sent us by municipalities’ specialized services). Apart from entertainment, the project involves the presence of a psychotherapist (belonging to the cooperative Olivotti, situated in the town of Mira) for interviews and therapeutic orientation. The possibility of using the available services and labs is completely free. There is another centre in the territory of Riviera del Brenta – at the “circolo sociale ENARS ACLI” situated in Cazzago di Pianiga (VE), open every Tuesday from 8.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. and every Thursday from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Two more centres will be opened soon in the surroundings of the town of Mirano. The project is financially supported by Veneto Region and allows our association to work together with Cooperative Olivotti, situated in Mira, ULSS 13 and the 17 Municipalities situated in the territory of ULSS 13. To contact the social workers involved in the project there are a specific e-mail address (nuovicontatti@il-portico.it) and telephone number (3314675527).

In April 2007 our association entered in the national network Eurodesk. Eurodesk is a structure belonging to the European programme “Youth in action”, which involves information and orientation about the various exchange programmes for young people, promoted by the European Union and the European Council. Eurodesk provides information and orientation (through its website, a specific phone number and, above all, through the Italian national network of the Local Points) about the European programmes for the youth concerning culture, education, mobility, human rights and volunteering. One of the main focuses of Eurodesk is making easier and easier the possibility of knowing and availing of the opportunities represented by the programmes. Since June 2007 our association has been one of the **local points of the Eurodesk network** (code of identification: IT 115) and has been providing young people with information about European mobility for studying, working, volunteering and entertainment. Thanks to innumerable EU programmes, the **Eurodesk office** is managed by a professionally trained operator and is open every Wednesday afternoon (from 2.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.) and Saturday Morning (from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.). In order to promote this service, we created a monthly newsletter for receiving information about the available opportunities. Whoever wants to receive the newsletter can send a request to the following address: eurodesk@il-portico.it.

In order to promote and guarantee continuity to the described activities, the association has synthesized its intervention in a specific organization chart, in which we state the employment of 10 professionally trained social workers: 3 full-time workers and 7 part-time ones. These people carry out specific functions, which are determined by their role (see the association’s organization’s chart on the last page). Furthermore, thanks to the ideation and realization of specific projects, the association can avail itself of the help of 4 Volunteers of the Civil Service and 2 European Volunteers; each of them working 30 hours per week.

STITUTIONAL RELATIONS AND COLLABORATIONS IN THE PRIVATE SOCIAL FIELD

The association obtained the acknowledgement of its professional ability and the working licence released by ULSS 13 Dolo-Mirano, which qualifies the offered services. Furthermore, the association partakes to the territorial planning of social services through the presence to the periodical discussions called "**Piani di Zona servizi alla persona**" of ULSS 13 Mirano -Dolo, proposing its projects and activities.

The intervention of our association in the social field develops through the following social and institutional relations:

- Contacts with social assistants and special services regarding the problems of some people (presentation of their cases to social assistants and obtaining services by the association or vice versa, in order to define the respective specific interventions).
- Relations with Local Associations or Municipalities in the territories of Riviera del Brenta and Miranese (above all with local authorities managing cultural and social services).
- Relations with the departments of ULSS 13-Dolo-Mirano and, particularly, with the Centre for mental health, Ser.T, S.I.L., S.E.P.S. and the Department of prevention and legal medicine located in Dolo.
- Relations with the Council for Voluntarism ("Consulta per il Volontariato," sector: disability) and coordination of the voluntary associations dealing with handicapped people on the territory of the ULSS 13.
- Relations with ENAIP (Ente Nazionale ACLI Istruzione Professionale) of Dolo and Mirano for: training courses, internships for professional figures of O.S.S. (Health Social Workers), reciprocal support for the realization of various activities.
- Relations with FIO.psd (Italian Federation of the Organizations working in favour of people without permanent residence) and participation in the regional group of discussion about the article 28 of the law 328/00.
- Relations with the Regional Conference for Voluntarism and Social Justice.
- Relations with social cooperatives and other non-profit associations, with banking foundations, with associations operating on our territory, with other groups of volunteers -to exchange our experience, participation to lectures and seminars, etc.-, with parishes, and religious, sporty and cultural groups. We guarantee also our participation to regional and provincial forums about young people.
- Relations with "MOVI" (Movimento Volontariato Italiano – "Italian Movement of Voluntarism"), with "FIVOL" (Fondazione Italiana per il Volontariato – "Italian Foundation for Voluntarism") and with "Forum Permanente per il Terzo Settore" ("Permanent Forum for the third sector")
- Relations with Veneto Region:
 - a) The association is enrolled in the Regional Register of Social Promotion Associations;
 - b) The association has contacts with the Councilorship for the Migration Flows and Public Security since it is signed in the Register of the Associations, Corporations and Bodies that work continuously in favour of the immigrants;
 - c) It is registered in the Regional Archives of Peace and Human Rights within the University of Padua, Interdepartmental Centre of Service and Research about the rights of the person and of the peoples.
- Direct relations with the Ministry of Social Solidarity:
 - a) The association is signed in the first section of the National Register of the associations and bodies that carry on activities in favour of immigrants, at the General Direction for Immigration;
 - b) Relations with the National Coordinative Body for Associations;
 - c) Relations with the National Observatory for Voluntarism.
- Direct relations with the National Office for the Civil Service: since 2004 the association has been a 4th Category Body for the National Civil Service and organizes an annual project for Civil Volunteers for four young people, in order to involve them in our typical activities.
- Direct relations with the Youth National Agency for the projects concerning the European programme "Youth in Action 2007/2013" and the organization of the service called "Eurodesk front-office". Since 2005 the association has been a welcoming body of the Eurodesk Agency for the European Volunteering Service of young people coming from the European Union's Countries.
- Direct relations with the Ministry for the Youth for the organization of projects in favour of young people.
- Relations with the Ministry of Justice (Office for Juvenile Justice) – situated in Venice: voluntarism for young people found guilty of minor offences; relations with U.E.P.E (Ufficio Esecuzione Penale Esterna – External Penal Execution Office) for the ideation of alternative measures (instead of jail).
- Relations with M.I.U.R regional office (Ministry of Education, University and Research) for informal educational projects and the promotion of voluntarism in the schools.
- Relations with the University of Venice, Padua and Trieste for academic internships concerning activities of the Third Sector.
- The association signed some agreements with secondary institutions of Venice, of the territories of Riviera and Miranese for the promotion of educational and orientational internships in favour of high school students.

The association partakes to the "Values of Voluntary Work Card" (Carta dei valori del volontariato)

Whoever would like to get a copy, can obtain one at the association's office. There are also some initiatives to promote this document.

"IL PORTICO" is involved in activities that constitute the "**planetary**" openings of our social commitment:

- 1) Activities in favour of developing countries:
 - a) Support and participation in the international projects of cooperation (supported by structured groups, associations and NGO);
 - b) Contributions to the project "**JARDIN DE LOS NIÑOS**" for building houses, schools, laboratories, meeting centres, social and cultural services in the so-called "villas miserias" in the city of Posadas (province of Misiones). Our Argentinian friend Emilio Marchi started this project at IL PORTICO, and now manages it in **Argentina**. The project's legal address is our association's, but it has been supported by an autonomous association since 1988, and its operative office is located in Padua (website: www.jardin.it).
 - c) Promotion and support of project concerning the "alternative" development of **Mercato equo e solidale** (Fairness and Solidarity Market) in collaboration with the cooperative "Arino Solidale", with "Bandera Florida" from Mirano, and with "El Fontego" from Mestre, through the promotion of products imported directly from the countries of the south of the World, without any intermediaries.
- 2) The association, together with other associations and volunteers, took part in the foundation of "**Il Villaggio Globale**" ("**The Global Village**"), an A-type social cooperative that works on providing a rental accommodation for socially disadvantaged people (such as immigrants, ex-imprisoned people, excluded people etc.)
- 3) Action of **defending human rights**: support to the initiatives of "**Amnesty International**" and "**Emergency**".
- 4) Initiatives regarding ecological values and civil rights (nutrition, bike-tourism, customers' associations, antimilitary activities, reflection about the problems about peace, conscience objection, environment, etc.).
- 5) Ethical finance: the association is a member of **Banca Etica (Ethical Bank)** and it directly collaborates with the **Mag-Venezia** for the ethical-finance promotion in the territories of Riviera del Brenta.

RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The association does not possess any property, but benefits from the usufruct of the building "Ennio's Home". The Regione of Veneto, with the decret n° 34, dating 28 April 2004, has included "IL PORTICO" into the Regional Register of Legal Persons., defining the tenancy as a patrimonial welfare that the association has at its disposal. The income of the association comes from various sources, such as public and private donations, offers and membership fees. The membership fee consists in an amount of money freely established by the donor on a monthly, six-monthly or yearly basis, so to represent a guaranteed income for the association.

A certain monthly amount is offered by the hosted people with a job, as a contribution for the expenses of running the house. Other incomes come from projects presented to various institutional bodies (e.g. European Union, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Region, municipalities and foundations) or from the groups', societies' and associations' and private enterprises' donations. Furthermore, some other initiatives, such as the organisation of parties and excursions, bring incomes which by now have been used for the housekeeping, running the house, for mini-vans and other services. Some people are hosted on the basis of agreements with the Region's municipalities, which give their contribution for a fixed period. Another incoming source is the devolution of IRPEF's 5/1000 of the income taxes, which private citizens can subscribe in favour of our association.

The last source of financial help is economizing on discounts and free-of-charge goods, as well as on extensions of payment for services or articles that we buy from professionals, tradesmen and craftsmen.

During the members' annual assembly the budget account is presented, and a photocopy of the synthetic report is available at our offices to whoever asks for it.

Money donations in favour of our association, coming both from individuals as well as from societies subjected to specific income taxes, **are deductible from aggregate income within the limits of 10% of the stated income** (with the maximum amount of € 70.000.00 a year), according to the article 13 of the DL 460/97 and the article 14 of the Law 35/2005. For this deduction it is necessary to keep the receipts of payments made by means of post office or banking current account. For the donations made by means of banker's transfer, the statement of account has the value of a receipt. The receipts issued by our association have only an internal value: they are used for book-keeping and as a guaranty of transparency. Moreover, it is possible to make free transfers of goods, for the enterprises, as said in DPR 633/72, article 10.

QUALITY OF SOCIAL COMMITMENT

The variety of actions developed by the association, even limited in human resources and means, shows a particular style in its social commitment. Sometimes the interventions start in case of emergency and do not have time enough to be well organized: therefore, they are inevitably diffuse at first. Then, they are carried out with determination and sensitive awareness, that is at the very heart of our undertaking. It is an ecological social commitment as well, since it tries to respond to people's problems about all the aspects and needs of the individuals: their psychological, social, political and environmental dimensions.

This undertaking can be defined as "wide spectrum". It embraces different but meaningful activities that deal with problems of disability as well as with the ones of ecology. On the other hand, numerous activities deal with human rights but also with the search for employment. Beside these, there is a great number of activities that include holiday recreation and creating twinning of fraternities between people with disabilities and social excluded people, as well as providing a multimedia support for promoting the culture of social responsibility.

Almost all the volunteers of "IL PORTICO" are members of other groups, not just limited to "friendship" but also involving employment groups as well. Some of them follow the activities of political parties, cultural organisations, church groups and various movements.

All the members of "IL PORTICO" dedicate their time to give life to this association. The association wants to maintain its appearance of being a group of friends, who show solidarity with each other and pay a great deal of attention to others, who, for various reasons, are considered "different". Actually, these are people who are often left alone or simply forgotten by who just think about themselves.

However, this consideration for others must overcome the idea of being just "good intentions": it becomes a reality that traces its roots into the territory of Riviera del Brenta, through public awareness campaigns: otherwise, ten thousands of citizens will continue to live indifferent to, or unaware of, the dramatic situations unfolding behind their neighbours' doors.

These territorial "limits" actually create a "point of entrance", and constitute our commitment's dimension, as well as the very reason for the existence of "Il Portico" group. Its main objective is to create public awareness through the means of shared experience. In fact, this is the very thing that creates the unique character of "Il Portico"; it shows strength and patience, it is able to persist in fighting against injustice and against the slowness of the institutions', laws' and structures' bureaucracy. A fight that is almost always hard and unrewarding. This commitment of "wider spectrum" should not be seen as a pretence to manage to do everything; rather, it is a socially productive method of dealing with the complexity of tasks it confronts. It values the inclinations and willingness to help of everybody involved in trying to fulfil the infinite human demands. It is choice of an harmonious and "craftwork" commitment, counterpoised to the specialized industrial one. It has to do with enriching the lives of the people who find themselves in our way with inputs and opportunities, and also with understanding that **the world would be better if there were not only a few who do a lot, but rather a lot who do a little.**

(Last Updating: August 2008)

"IL PORTICO"

Associazione di Promozione Sociale ONLUS

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Website of the association "IL PORTICO": www.il-portico.it

PLEA: Whoever would like to receive our newsletter or participate to our activities, offering his or her contribution in terms of time, even if occasional or limited to some fields of intervention, can come or ask for information to our front-office.

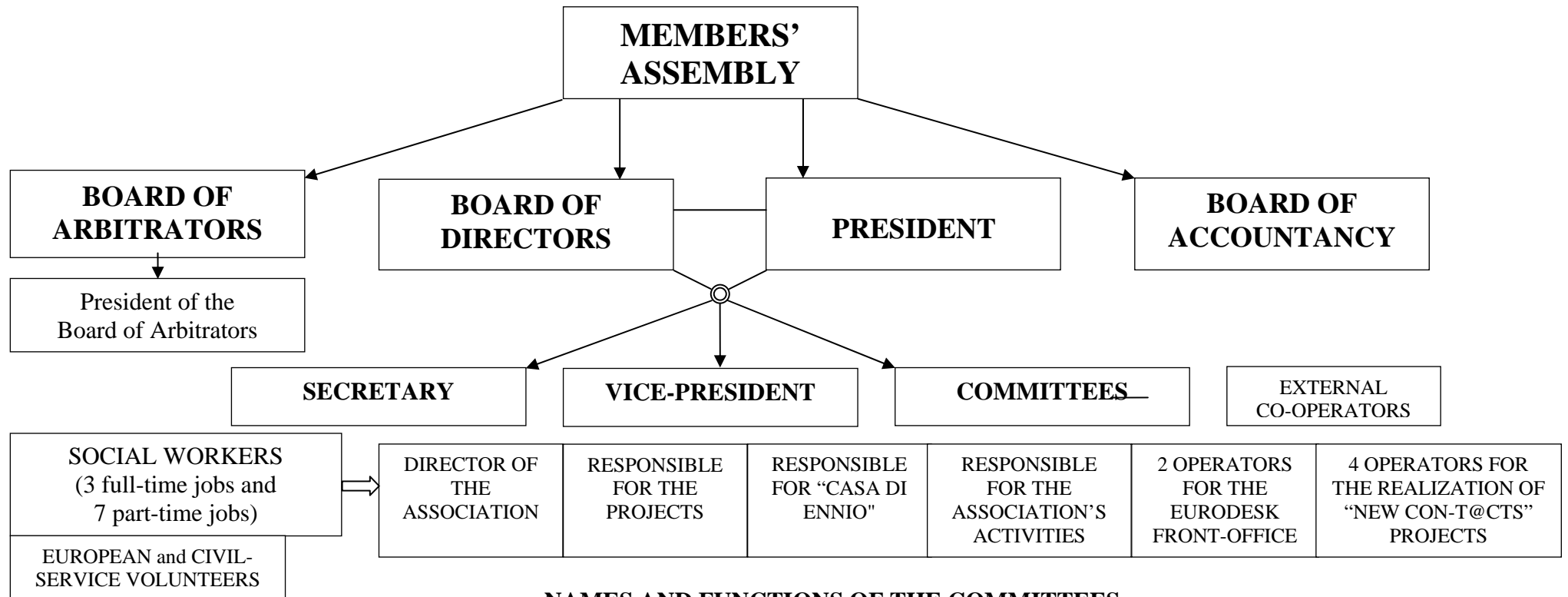
ASSOCIATION'S ORGANIZATION CHART, FOR THE SOCIAL PROMOTION OF "IL PORTICO" ONLUS

All the regularly enrolled members form the Members' Assembly.

The Members' Assembly nominates Board of Directors, the President, the Board of Accountancy and the Board of Arbitrators (among which the President is elected).

The Board of Directors and the President nominate the vice-President (who must be a member of the Board of Directors), the Secretary (who may be an unelected member) and the Committees. They have the function of putting into practice the guidelines determined by the Board of Directors.

The Committees are composed by: members of the Board of Directors, ordinary members, social workers, external co-operators and volunteers of the Civil Service (if they are working at Portico). The co-operators are members who put at the association's disposal their availability, skills and competences for free. The European and Civil-Service volunteers help the Board of Directors and the professional social workers in the management of the association's activities.



NAMES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES	COMMITTEE FOR THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION	COMMITTEE GUESTS OF "CASA DI ENNIO"	CLIC <small>(Committee for the intelligent working of the Board)</small>	OPERATORS' TEAM	COMMITTEES AD HOC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizes the recreational activities of the free time; - Organizes the training of Sunday groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizes, coordinates and manages the September annual celebration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Checks and supports the individual projects of "Ennio's Home"'s guests; - Decides upon their admission or expulsion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyzes the interventions; - Organizes the points of discussion for the Board of Director's Meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two-week meeting allowing the social workers and operators to check their activities and short-term programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committees (only for a specific task) nominated by the Board of Directors only for the development of specific interventions.