

– WE CAN BE **HEROES** –

Exploring Europe for a better world

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2018



HERO #10

URBAN REGENERATION WITH RACHELE

THE PROJECT 1/2

CAN YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF ?

I'm Rachele Furfaro, president of [Foqus Fondazione Quartieri Spagnoli ONLUS](#). I'm 60, 30 years ago I founded the school [Dalla Parte Dei Bambini](#), which I have directed ever since. As of today my school counts 4 different locations across Naples and over 800 students every year. One of our schools is now located at Foqus.

WHAT IS FOQUS ?

Foqus is a project of urban regeneration created in 2014. It's an environment in which citizens, educators and entrepreneurs cooperate to develop sustainable projects.

WHAT'S THE HISTORY OF THIS PLACE ?

This place was originally the Istituto Montecalvario, a monastery 10 000 m² founded in 1560. A group of nuns gave lessons to the kids of the neighbourhood. But they didn't have enough money to restore this place and continue their activities. It was completely abandoned. So they contacted me.

We are located in the [Quartieri Spagnoli \["Spanish Quarters"\]](#), a quarter of Naples with some problems : people living in poor conditions, high crime rate, highest unemployment rate in the city, low education, no green space, etc.

In agreement with the nuns, we created a new urban project based on culture and education to support them and help people living in this quarter.

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THE PROJECT 2/2

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WHAT ARE YOUR ACTIVITIES ?

First of all, education. We implanted one of our school here and we created the first nursery of the neighbourhood. It's a big deal to help people – specifically women – find a job.

Then, culture. We support creative people with cultural and artistic projects by renting them some spaces with very low rents. Here you can find for example a photography studio, a graphic designer, [Naples Academy of Fine Arts](#), etc. Everybody who come here has to be part of the project. They don't just pay a rent, they belong to a community.

We also use our outside spaces with the creation of a community garden with vegetables and the exhibition of artistic projects.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOUR ECONOMIC MODEL ?

As a foundation, we have different kind of sponsorships. Our main partner is [Ferrarelle](#) [Italian mineral water firm]. They finance some of our activities. The rest is financed by spaces we rent. We aren't sponsored by public institutions. This urban regeneration project is a total private initiative.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE CHALLENGES AND HOW TO RISE IT ?

Foqus is facing an exponential growth, we are more and more engaged with the neighbourhood and its residents. Our main challenge is to keep envisioning creative and sustainable ways to foster development and relate to local stakeholders. Working with the neighbourhood is our main priority.

APPROACH OF LIFE

WHAT WAS THE "TRIGGERING FACTOR" FOR YOU TO CREATE FOQUS ?

We are in an area that was lacking services - in terms of education and skill development - needed by the population. We had the opportunity to come in and share a vision with others. We just couldn't miss it. We are convinced that to prevent social exclusion you must start from education and culture.

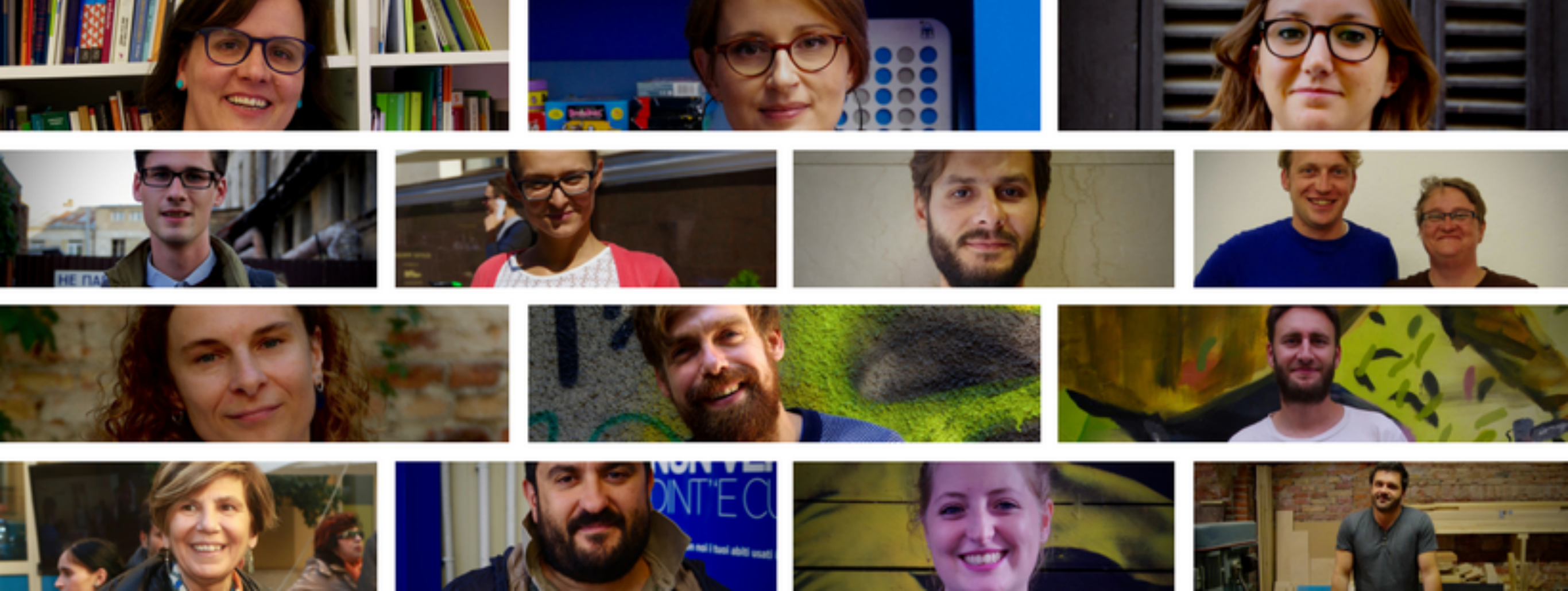
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WHAT MOTIVATES YOU IN LIFE ?

Education has been my field since the beginning of my professional life, I've always identified with the desire to envision new ways to accompany children in their growth.



credit : FOQUS



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