Research into the opinions of young people in the 10-17 year old age group about their perception of the application of their rights as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

La parola ai ragazzi (The voice of the children)

- REPORT 2011 -
Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them.

(Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)

The opinions of the children themselves must always be taken seriously when exploring what is happening in their lives. We must approach children as expert subjects.

(Children’s rights newspaper of Children’s Rights International, 2007)
INTRODUCTION

"Listen to the opinions of children and adolescents..."

Over the years it has gradually been acknowledged how important it is to listen to the opinions of children and adolescents. Giving children and adolescents the opportunity to express themselves does not just mean listening to them, it also means discovering the uniqueness of their vision of the world. Exploring their point of view makes it possible to gather a vast documentation about their everyday lives in various social and cultural contexts. The same can be said of social research that concerns them even more closely: children and adolescents must be participants in research about them, so that the research is no longer merely about children (the object of research by adults), but with children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1989, recognises children and adolescents as active participants so much so that one of the four fundamental principles at its base is that of listening to the opinions of children and adolescents. This fundamental principle has been transposed into the Convention in article 12 which recognises not only the right of children and adolescents to express their opinions about all the matters concerning them, but also that these opinions are giving due weight and consideration.

This is not always guaranteed. In many cases the opinions of children and adolescents are not reported correctly (accurate records of what they actually say are often missing) and, in most cases, it is adults who choose which of the children’s sentences and words to report, thereby filtering their opinions. In some cases the need to listen to the views of the children and adolescents is only supported at an academic level and in everyday life their opinions are not given due weight and consideration.

The following report, "L’Italia che viviamo, l’Italia che vogliamo" (The Italy we live in, the Italy we want) is the result of a PIDIDA (Per i Diritti dell’Infanzia e dell’Adolescenza/for the rights of children and adolescents) Coordination project and especially of the Working Group on Participation. The project started in 2008 when the PIDIDA Coordination, together with all the adhering Associations and Organisations, developed it with the intention of making it a space for listening to and creating a dialogue between the children, the adolescents and the Institutions so that their views can be taken seriously every time that a decision is made that concerns them directly. In addition it provides them with the possibility to present

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1 James, A., Giving voice to children’s voices: practices and problems, pitfalls and potentials, 2007.
2 Article 12 of the CRC states that: 1. “States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. 2. “For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law”.

their opinions about the state of actuation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

This research reflects the opinions of young people about how the rights of children, pre-adolescents, and adolescents, are respected, with special attention being paid to ensure that the young people’s views are listened to, allowing them therefore to express opinions and ideas about what most characterises their lives, and to then relate these views as accurately as possible in the final report.

With this report the PIDIDA Coordination aims to promote respect in Italy for the spirit and the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Adolescent, to support the concrete participation of children and adolescents and that they are listened to, actually and not only symbolically.

The Secretariat of the PIDIDA Coordination

Rome, March 30th, 2011

THE PIDIDA COORDINATION
FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND THE ADOLESCENT.

PREMISE

The PIDIDA – Per I Diritti dell’Infanzia e Dell’Adolescenza – (for the rights of the child and the adolescent) is an open round table and coordination open to all the Associations, NGOs, and in general members of the Third Sector who work to promote the protection of the rights of the child and the adolescent in Italy and the world3.

The PIDIDA adventure started in 2000: the Italian Committee for UNICEF invited the Associations and Organisations working for and with children and adolescents to participate in the Children’s Forum, organising the 2001 National children’s forum, thanks to the support of the Ministry of Employment and Social Policies. Subsequently, in 2002, the PIDIDA Coordination invited the Associations to work together to agree on documents and to participate in the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations dedicated to children4. Not only did this make it possible to reach this event in a coordinated way, but also made it possible to use it as an opportunity to promote shared working methods, favouring occasions

3 From the “Documento Programmatico” (Programme) of the PIDIDA Coordination.
4 The Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, from 8th to 10th May 2002, saw the participation of the heads of state of over 60 nations, more than 500 children from 158 nations, and many well-known members of the business, art, cultural, and religious worlds etc. It was the first time that the UN had dedicated a meeting of the General Assembly entirely to children with the active participation of children and adolescents, who were able to express their views and opinions, and collaborate actively with the adults.
for sharing amongst the associations, and making it possible to present a united front at meetings with Institutions.

The document adopted by the Special Session, "A world fit for children", composed of a Declaration and a Plan of Action is the result of the Special Session. The four main areas for action it analyses are:

- to promote the improvement of health and living conditions,
- to guarantee quality education,
- to protect from abuse, exploitation, and violence,
- to contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Subsequently the PIDIDA Coordination used this document as a work instrument and encouraged all the Associations and NGOs to use it in the same way. This, together with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, was the basis for the collaboration with the Children's Group of the Permanent Forum on the Third Sector for the drafting of the National Children's Plan and for the subsequent examination by the Children’s Parliamentary Commission.

In 2003 the PIDIDA Coordination was made permanent and provided with a Programme, and in 2011, with Rules and Regulations which the associations who wish to join are invited to subscribe to.

The activities of the PIDIDA Coordination are structured through Working groups:

- Working group on the Special Session ("UNGASS Group"): works to verify that what is set out in the document "A world fit for children" is respected in the light of the principles sanctioned by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- Working group on Participation: promotes reflection and training of the operatives in the various member associations on how to promote the participation of children and adolescents, to enable children and adolescents living in Italy to evaluate the state of the application of the Convention in this country, facilitating their dialogue with the Institutions.

- Working group on the development of the Convention: promotes the organisation of seminars to further explore the themes specific to the Convention on on the Rights of the Child, and the adoption of shared documents concerning the themes related to the rights of children and adolescents.

As has been mentioned, the present research was organised by the Working Group on Participation of the PIDIDA Coordination, which is committed to facilitating the participation of children and adolescents at the heart of the decision making process and to guaranteeing that their opinions are heard and taken seriously.
THANKS

The National PIDIDA Coordination, Working Group on Participation, would like to thank all the children and adolescents who participated in this Research Project. It would also like to thank all the Directors of the Scholastic Institutes that welcomed the project, and the teachers and instructors who also helped.

Not forgetting all the operatives of the PIDIDA and the Regional Working Groups who worked with the children and adolescents in the classrooms, in the associations, and in extra-scholastic contexts.

It is not possible to thank each Scholastic Institute, teacher, instructor or operator who participated individually due to the incomplete data provided by the Secretariat of the PIDIDA. The most sincere THANKS to everyone for the time and enthusiasm they dedicated to the realisation of this project.

The 392 questionnaires contain the views of the children and adolescents who were willing to answer the questions that as the Working Group on Participation, we wanted to ask them. We have reported their words exactly as they were expressed, to make it possible not just to 'read' them but to 'listen' to them.
NOTE TO READERS

This publication is aimed at a mixed public comprising the people who decide the intervention policies (the policy makers) and all the operatives of the services that, in various ways, are involved in planning programmes and services for young people.

For this reason the document as been written as far as possible using clear, simple language, to make it suitable for people who are not specially trained, and in order that it can be read and understood by the children and adolescents who participated in the research project.

Comments on the data gathered have been written in a descriptive style, with the aid of tables and graphs.

Various styles of print (bold, italics, colours) have been used to highlight the results of the research and to facilitate reading.

THE RESEARCH

Elements of theory and methodology
"L’ITALIA CHE VIVIAMO, L’ITALIA CHE VOGLIAMO"
(The Italy we live in, the Italy we want)
"La parola ai ragazzi" (The voice of the children) - Report 2011

PROJECT PRESENTATION

In everyday life, the views of children and adolescents, are not listened to, and even when children and adolescents have the opportunity to make their views about how they live heard, all too frequently they are not taken seriously.

The **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly** in 1989, which is today the most ratified human rights treaty, sanctions the **right of every child and adolescent to have their views taken into consideration when decisions are made directly concerning them**.

The **PIDIDA Coordination** is convinced that the world could be a better place if the views of children and adolescents were systematically heard and taken seriously, and if their role as citizens were promoted and supported in every context of life.

The following project, developed by the Working Group on Participation of the National PIDIDA Coordination in **partnership** with the Associations and NGOs of the PIDIDA, started in 2008 as the result of a pilot survey from the previous year called "**A world fit for children**". After the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Children in 2002, the Governments were invited to verify what progress had been made since 2002 to reach the objectives set out in the "**A world fit for children**" document. In order to verify how much had been achieved in Italy, and keeping in mind the imminent first report by children and adolescents to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the PIDIDA Coordination decided to devise a questionnaire and realise a pilot project with over two thousand children and adolescents from five of Italy’s regions (Campania, Lazio, Lombardy, Puglia, Veneto)⁵.

At the end of the same year (December 2007), a delegation of children and adolescents of the PIDIDA Associations took the first results to the Children’s Forum in New York, and in the subsequent months, and following ideas thrown up by this project, a new project began to take shape: "**L’Italia che viviamo, l’Italia che vogliamo**" (The Italy we live in, the Italy we want). All the suggestions and the developments about a number of themes that the children and adolescents considered priorities in their everyday lives, with special reference to the rights that they feel are refused or violated in everyday situations, were taken into consideration. The Working Group on Participation, therefore modified the research tools, taking every suggestion into serious consideration and welcoming each suggestion for modification.

Two questionnaires were prepared, one for the **10-13 year old age group** and one for the **14-17 year old age group** differing only in the language used, and maintaining the same themes for both groups (except for some specific questions concerning things such as drugs, alcohol, bullying, and sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS). In addition, to help the children and adolescents answer the questionnaire,

the Working Group on Participation prepared a Guide in age appropriate language and made available copies of the most important articles of the CRC.

THE RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

The important objective of this research was that of listening to the opinions and ideas of children and adolescents as active subjects of their present and future, and also as an encouragement to listen to their contemporaries, to share and compare with their peers and adults too, in matters relating to their rights, and the respect for and actuation of these in everyday life. To be specific, the main objectives set out by the PIDIDA Coordination were:

- to promote the participation of children and adolescents, making it possible for a large number of them to express their views about individual groups of rights;
- to identify the priority problems and arguments;
- to support the participating children and adolescents in order that they may work on possible suggestions for improvement at local, regional, and national levels, proposing authentic forms of participation for children and adolescents;
- to help the Government, NGOs, Associations, teachers, and every adult who works with and for children and adolescents, and the young people themselves, to understand the perception that children and adolescents have of their rights;
- to update existing quantitative and qualitative research with data and information to help the Institutions and the Organisations assigned to protecting children and adolescents to define more effective policies and programmes;
- to create a space for the active comparison, sharing, and participation of children and adolescents in the paths taken by the Institutions regarding the protection and promotion of their rights, at regional and national levels, encouraging our country's legislation to follow the indications set out by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- to promote the direct and indirect involvement of children and adolescents in the activities of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- to complete existing quantitative and qualitative research with the views of children and adolescents, to give the PIDIDA Coordination, and the Authorities and Institutions responsible for these areas, the possibility to develop analyses, and policies and programmes for children and adolescents that really are made to measure for children;
- to spread and explore with NGOs, Associations, and teachers, children and adolescents’ understanding of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- to identify the areas that require specific and priority intervention;
- to monitor the document “A world fit for children” and contribute to the worldwide monitoring process.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT
This project is unique at a national level, not only for the content, but also for the process and terms that have contributed to defining its characteristics:

1. **The participation of children and adolescents**, the fact that their views are listened to considering them as active subjects of their present and future;
2. **The involvement of children and adolescents** who are encouraged to listen to their contemporaries, to compare ideas with their peers and with adults;
3. **The participation of the Associations and the NGOs of the Working Group on Participation** committed to improving the quality of life of children and adolescents in Italy;
4. The desire of every association to share its **competence in matters concerning children and adolescents** in order to reach a **common objective**;
5. The development of a **research method** realised in partnership with the Associations and NGOs of the PIDIDA, but above all with the children and adolescents who were called upon to evaluate the operative systems and to suggest improvements;
6. The development, at a regional level, of a projection of the conditions experienced by children and adolescents, of their needs and the rights denied them.
7. Funding. **The project was entirely self-funded by the Associations and the NGOs of the Working Group on Participation of the PIDIDA.**

The **PIDIDA Coordination** will use the research results to guide **advocacy action** and the **programmes for children and adolescents** over the years to come and to develop, at a national and regional level, **more effective policies**. **Working for and with children and adolescents** living in Italy represents the heart of the work and commitment of the **PIDIDA Coordination**.

### METHODOLOGY

The Project was initiated in **June 2008** with the definition of the content of the questionnaires and the Guides (in versions for 10-13 and 14-17 age groups) organised by the **Working Group on Participation of the PIDIDA**. A long but important collaborative project, involving the sharing of the specific expertise of each Organisation.

Before being used on the research sample group, the questionnaire was tested on a small group of children and adolescents from the same age groups as the research sample, in order to verify the appropriateness of the language and the **items**.¹

The test was performed between **October 2008 and January 2009**. The research work was carried out by **operatives from the Associations and NGOs of the Working Group on Participation of the PIDIDA**.

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¹ **ITEM** = a certain number of affirmations that express a positive or negative attitude towards a specific object. The sum of such opinions will tend to delineate in a reasonably precise way the attitude of the subject towards the object. For every **item** there is a scale of agreement/disagreement, generally to 5 or 7.
The research was carried out in the same way in every Region, excluding the islands\(^7\), in order to ensure coherence when comparing the data obtained.

**THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Working Group chose to use a semi-structured type of questionnaire which with open questions has the advantage of not limiting the possibilities of the interviewee's replies, and is conducive to enabling a qualitative observation on reality. Structured in this way the questionnaire turned out to be an extremely valuable instrument for explaining the results of a quantitative investigation in qualitative terms. Furthermore, two questionnaires were devised, using different language depending on the age group at which the questionnaire was aimed, in order that the children and adolescents could properly understand the questions being asked and express their views on these matters.

Both questionnaires (for 10-13 and 14-17 year olds) with age appropriate language for each age group dealt with the same topics. The questions can be further subdivided according to their characteristics, into different categories.

1. **Direct questions**: which ask directly about the child or adolescent being interviewed;
2. **Indirect questions**: which given the sensitive nature of some of the themes, were used to attempt to reach the child/adolescent by asking a question that the interviewee could treat in generic terms rather than as a personal question;
3. **Open questions**: which invite the child/adolescent to answer naturally;
4. **Closed questions**: for which the PIDIDA Coordination provided more formalised forms of answering. The closed questions can be further divided into:
   a. **Single answer questions**: to which the child/adolescent could give only one reply;
   b. **Multiple choice questions**: to which the child/adolescent could give more than one reply. The multiple choice questions provide a greater wealth of ideas even though these posed **greater difficulties in the stage of analysing the results**. When analysing the data obtained from this type of question, the number of responses given was considered, rather than the number of interviewees giving the responses. For this reason the number of answers received is larger than the number of people who actually answered.
5. **Semi-closed questions**: which were provided with a formalised answer method and an open method, for specifying (“Other”).

The children/adolescents interviewed were guided through the questionnaire by the researcher (and therefore the Working Group on Participation Team) who provided instructions for each question in order to avoid subsequent discordant behaviour from the interviewees, and the researchers themselves when it came to analysing the data obtained.

\(^7\) Given the amount of work that the project generated, it has not been possible to conduct the questionnaire in all the Regions, since many of the associations adhering to the PIDIDA present in these areas rely on voluntary staff and their availability for the realisation of projects.
Example of a semi-closed multiple choice question from the questionnaire for the 14-17 year old age group:

If YES, who told you about the Convention? (You can choose more than one answer)
- Your parents/Other people who look after you
- Other members of your family
- Your teachers
- The instructors of an Association
- The instructors from your Association
- Your friends
- Another girl/boy
- The official/Guarantor for the Rights of Children and Adolescents
- Television
- Internet
- Newspapers
- Other (Please specify, for example police officers, firemen at school, etc.)

The questionnaire also contained a special closed question comprising a scale of "graded answers" which was used to ask the child/adolescent to state their position along a sequence of possible replies, graded according to precise criteria. This type of scale has the advantage of being immediately understood by any interviewee.

An example of a scale of “graded answers” from the 14-17 year old age group questionnaire:

6. The right to be protected from ill treatment, abuse or exploitation by anyone. Not even parents have the right to hurt their children. (Art. 19 Convention).

Do you feel safe (Choose the answer)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Most of the time</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>at home ?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in public places ?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at school ?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the analysis stage, the open questions, required an extra phase: the analysis of the content of the replies and subsequent classification, before the data was added to the database.

The answers were then divided into same answer groups (classification). On the one hand this process required a large amount of time, on the other, the open
questions turned out to be especially useful for analysing themes more deeply, to obtain a greater wealth of ideas and details, but above all for listening to the views of the children and adolescents.

Example of the qualitative analysis of the quantitative analysis 10-12 year old age group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you answer is YES, write at least three of your rights.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ________________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tab. 8: “Write the first three rights you know”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The right to an Education</th>
<th>Percentage Values %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The right to Play</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The right to Good Food</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The children and adolescents were consulted following the international standards for the Participation of Children and Adolescents adopted by the PIDIDA Coordination⁸.

The research involved children from elementary schools (grade 4)⁹, first level secondary schools (grade 1, 2, and 3) and adolescents from second level secondary schools (grade 1, 2, 3, and 4).

The questionnaire was anonymous. The participation of all the children and adolescents involved was voluntary. The children and adolescents could refuse to answer the questionnaire or specific questions if and whenever they wanted to.

392 questionnaires were completed, of which:

- 234 were answered by the 10-13 year old age group;
- 158 were answered by the 14-17 year old age group.

The questionnaire for the 10-13 year old age group was structured as follows:

I. About you
II. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
III. You and your rights
IV. The Italy I would like...
V. If you were...
VI. Your commitment
VII. Your opinion about this questionnaire and the guide

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⁸ Cf. this document can be consulted on the PIDIDA website www.infanziediritti.it (February 2009), “The participation of children and adolescents: Principles and Minimum Standards for working with the Institution”.

⁹ An Association of the PIDIDA could rely on the availability of a year 4 elementary school teacher so the class could participate in the project. The Coordination therefore felt it appropriate, in order to include as many children as possible, to take into account the questionnaires of this class too.
The structure of the questionnaire for the 14-17 year old age group however was as follows:

I. About you
II. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
III. You and your rights
IV. Know and spread the knowledge of your rights
V. The Italy I would like...
VI. Your recommendations and your commitment
VII. Your opinion about this questionnaire and the guide

The first section was designed to find out the demographic indicators (age, sex), social context (education, family structure, socio-economic status) and other individual factors. This part makes it possible to learn about who the children and adolescents participating in the research are.

The second section was designed to find out how well the children and adolescents knew the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The third section is devoted to the living conditions of the children and adolescents and made it possible to find out if the children and adolescents answering this questionnaire felt that the rights sanctioned in the UN Convention on the Right of the Child are respected.

The children and adolescents were invited to think about their everyday lives, hopes and wishes, when answering each question. In this way the opinions reported by the questionnaire become important indicators of the style of life lived by the young people.

The fourth section of the questionnaire for the 14-17 year old age group is devoted to the importance of knowing and spreading the knowledge of the Convention amongst children and adolescents, and adults too. In the same section, on the other hand, for the 10-13 year old age group devoted to the participation of children and adolescents (this coincides with the fifth section for the 14-17 year old age group) the interviewees were asked to describe the Italy they would like to live in. This section made it possible to further understand in what measure young people's views are actually listened to and taken seriously in every circle of life.

The fifth section asks the child being interviewed (10-13 year old age group) to imagine they were the Mayor or the Guarantor for the Rights of the Child and the Adolescent for their region. In the questionnaire for adolescents (14-17 year old age group) they are asked to describe the Italy they would like.

The sixth section has an educational value, it invites the interviewees to reflect and indicate what they would do or what they would like to do to improve their living conditions and those of their peers, and in addition, in the 14-17 year old age group questionnaire the interviewees were asked to make recommendations to the authorities of their town and their country.

The seventh and last section asks the children and adolescents to evaluate the instruments used in the research project: questionnaire and guide.

PROCEDURE TIME SCALE

All the children and adolescents interviewed were guided through the questionnaire by the instructions provided by the researcher (and therefore the Working Group on Participation Team) who for each question provided instructions to make the questionnaire as simple as possible to complete. The project was first presented to the Head teachers, the teachers, the instructors, and the parents:
through informational/training meetings with the teachers in the schools involved, and the instructors of the associative groups and extra-scholastic groups, in order to make the objectives and research procedures clear.

The operatives of the Associations of the Working Group on Participation of the PIDIDA then met with the children and adolescents twice.

**First meeting:** using participative methods the operatives presented the research project, introduced the themes under discussion, and the objectives of the project. The children and adolescents were given a Guide, in language suitable for their age group (10-13 or 14-17) to help them answer the questionnaire, and a copy of the most important articles of the CRC.

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**FACSIMILE – INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE 10 – 13 YEAR OLD AGE GROUP**

**The questionnaire is divided into seven sections:**

I. About you
II. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
III. You and your rights
IV. The Italy I would like...
V. If you were...
VI. Your commitment
VII. Your opinion about this questionnaire and the guide

- Please answer this questionnaire on your own. For us it is very important to understand your own personal opinions.

- The questionnaire is anonymous, this means that you are not asked to write your name and surname. What you write will be read by the people who will analyse the results of the questionnaire, but will not be shown to anybody else.

- There are no right or wrong answers. Your opinions and experiences are very important to the PIDIDA, answer honestly and without worrying. Every answer is important.

- Please follow the instructions in brackets (for example, “No more than one answer”) and put a cross X next to the answer you prefer.

- “Other ______” is one of the possible answers. We would like you to express your opinion by completing the sentence.

- Where you are asked to write a few lines to express your opinion, please write in CAPITAL LETTERS.

- Remember you can stop at any time if you want to, or only answer some of the questions.
Second meeting: the operatives of the PIDIDA gave a copy of the questionnaire (the appropriate copy depending on the age group) to each child or adolescent, after having read together and discussed the instructions for completing the questionnaire. At the end of the session the children and adolescents were asked to make an initial anonymous evaluation to verify the experience and to express their suggestions on how to improve the subsequent sessions.

Together with the questionnaire and the guide (10-13 and 14-17 age groups) the participants were given a list of numbers for calling when in need or in an emergency “Numbers to call if you should need help”. The aim of all this was, as has been said, to gather data, but also to inform children and adolescents (about their rights).

INSTRUMENTS

The project created and used the following instruments:

10-13 year olds
1. Presentation of the project 10-13 year olds
2. Instructions for completing the questionnaire
3. Questionnaire for 10-13 year olds
5. Emergency numbers

14-17 year olds
1. Presentation of the project 14-17 year olds
2. Instructions for completing the questionnaire
3. Questionnaire 14-17 year olds
5. Emergency numbers

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

The questionnaire was used on children from elementary school (year 5), first level secondary school (years 1, 2, and 3) and second level secondary schools (years 1, 2, 3, and 4).

Special features of the project: all the sentences reported in the Report represent the exact words written by the children and adolescents. Their words have been faithfully recorded. The Working Group on Participation holds that “the code of communication” is in itself an indicator to observe and study. The research has taken into consideration what the children and adolescents said, and how they said it.

1. We are quite aware that the present Report does not give a complete image of the themes treated in the Resolution “A world fit for children”. The research, with reference to the situation in Italy and as the first project regarding this organised by the Working Group on Participation of the PIDIDA, concentrated on a number of priorities;
2. The participation of the children and adolescents must be supported by adults. The project was an important point of collaboration between the Associations and the NGOs of the Working Group on Participation of the PIDIDA;
3. The project set itself the objective of promoting the understanding of the reality experienced by children and adolescents through the Convention, to identify priorities and areas of intervention. For this reason, together with the guide, other documents and information were provided on direct request by the children and adolescents participating in the study (in many cases the 14-17 year olds asked for informative materials about HIV/AIDS);
4. The complete report generated by the research and the instruments it used is available from the PIDIDA Coordination website: www.infanziaediritti.it.
THE PROTAGONISTS OF THE PROJECT

Children and adolescents between 10 and 17 years old living in Italy, participated in the project, representing cities, towns and villages. The research was conducted within a scholastic context, as well as in the context of extra-scholastic groups and associations. The project also involved the teachers, instructors, head teachers, and the operatives of the Associations and NGOs of the Working Group on Participation of the PIDIDA. To ensure the best possible results, single reports were developed in every Region in "Child friendly" language suitable for each age group (10-13 and 14-17 year olds).