

Impossible – Possible in Mediterranean Area

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As many people as there are in our world, there are as many dreams...and that's why no dream can surprise me except one..."I want to build a special construction to protect the Mediterranean Area" – a few years ago it was the dream of one Italian man whose name is Michele Capasso.

Michele was born in 1954 in Torre del Greco (Naples, Italy) and he worked in many different professions throughout his life: as a photographer (1967 - 1972), a gallery owner (1972 - 1978), a painter (1972), and an engineer/architect (1978-1994). Throughout these professions he implemented more than 500 projects in the world.

After a very striking visit to ex-Yugoslavia, he gave up his usual activities and decided to dedicate himself fully to the ex-Yugoslav population. Aiming to build a dialogue and peace in the Euro-Mediterranean area, he created with Caterina Arcidiacono, Claudio Azzolini, Predrag Matvejevic', Nullo Minissi and other personalities of culture and science the Fondazione Mediterraneo (FM) in 1991. This is a network for dialogue among societies and cultures. During the last twenty years the Fondazione acted as an organization that is free from bureaucracy and in which every resource is invested directly in the field. Through this organization, a great number of partnership accords have been signed, in addition to the formation of partnerships with civil society and institutions active in various projects. Together they have implemented more than 3000 events in more than 41 countries.



One of the main activities of the FM is the Mediterranean Museum of the Arts, Music and Traditions (MATM). This is an active space allowing the arts, music and traditions of the Mediterranean to have a dialogue inside our contemporary society. Michele and his team bring a lot of interesting and traditional exhibits for the Mediterranean area that present every country from this region. There are a variety of pictures, photos, sculptures, books, records, ceramic objects and more. Each item has a special space in this museum, with room for each country.

Currently, the System and Generation Association (S&G) is one of the partner organizations of FM. This partnership began after one incidental meeting of Michele

Capasso, the president of FM, and Gürkan Akçaer, the head of S&G. Traveling next to each other on a common flight, as two smart and intelligent people they found a topic for conversation at every time and everywhere. The result of this conversation was an idea for new project and input of S&G in museum developing. Last week, while I was in Italy for a training course and I luckily had a chance to see the MATM and bring some exhibits from Turkey: traditional carpets, traditional dolls, vases, coffee dish sets, pictures, statues and more.



Usually I don't like to visit museums and galleries, but this museum was a different and unusual: the rooms had not only a topic and style, but also had a scent and soul. You can touch the exhibits pass room-by-room and yet not feel the time pass. And the most incredible fact about this museum is that you can go inside through the Pizzeria and you don't need pay for an entrance in to the museum.

The idea of a future project in connection with the Mediterranean Area, which is the priority for FM and with the Youth Caravan is a part of S&G main activities. In the close future we expect that the Youth Caravan (which will change its name to EuroMed Dialogue Caravan) will make a trip around the Mediterranean Area with a special mission: to promote peace and friendship. The details of the project will be planned during the preparation meeting in January. I think that the life energy of these two men, Michele and Gürkan, will make this project very successful. And as Michele likes say: "the impossible is possible!"

After one day communication with Michele I understood that there is nothing impossible in our world, and your dreams can be a reality just as much as his dreams, because now his dream to protect the Mediterranean Area has become a reality. Of course this protection is figuratively-speaking; his project is a symbol of protection. He was able to protect the Mediterranean area in the Museum MATM, where his architecture friend built the construction distinctively from 12 girders. And this construction can protect the entire legacy which Michele collected from different Mediterranean countries. And we can always be sure that the rule of this place will be one of peace.