

A3- Welcome, Accompaniment, Autonomy

Presentation of the welcome project for girls 18-21 years

For some time now as FMA of Piedmont, we have been studying the reality of young women in the 18-21 age group, especially those who experience a kind of vulnerability and fragility. We do not want to leave without listening to the cry of so many young women who need to be welcomed and accompanied towards autonomy. We have therefore chosen to start a welcome project at the Youth House of Turin Consolata.

1. What is Project A3?

Project **A3** is a service of **Welcome and Accompaniment** in the processes of **Autonomy** for girls (18-21 incoming), through the experience of Solidarity and Educational Cohabitation.

2. How was Project A3 born?

The project was born from the comparison between several educational realities that share and recognize themselves in Salesian Spirituality and Pedagogy.

The comparison revealed the need to experiment with this new form of hospitality towards an age group that appears to have, also on the basis of statistics, fewer opportunities than others. The project leaders are the FMA of the Piedmont Valle d'Aosta Province, assisted by the associations of CIOFS-FP, Vides Main, Vides Laurita, ADMA, and 2PR. The project is in *co-planning* with the Municipality of Turin.

3. Where is the welcome project based?

The solidarity cohabitation will be **based** in Turin in via Carlo Ignazio Giulio n. 8, on the premises of the *FMA Youth House*, (formerly a university residence and formation house for girls in vocational search). The premises recall the family environment and are structured to safeguard privacy but also to encourage group life.

The girls will have single rooms with internal services, a large terrace, living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room.

It is located in the city center, therefore convenient to the services that girls may need, adequately served by public transport.

4. Who is the project aimed at? Recipients

The FMA Youth House has prepared the first floor of the building for the reception of **6 girls** who, at the beginning of the experience, belong to the 18-21 age group and who:

- are in the so-called "Gray Zone" due to family fragility and/or educational poverty, poor economic conditions, low schooling;
- have the need to live in an environment other than the family one, or at the end of their residential journey in community and/or in foster care, and must find a vital place to gradually emerge from protection.

Given the type of project, it will not be possible to accommodate girls who need medical or recovery assistance.

5. How long can they be hosted in the Youth House?

An IEP (Individualized Educational Pact) will be drawn up for each girl in which personal goals will be defined with respect to the autonomy to be achieved for discharge. However, a maximum stay of no more than 3/4 years is considered.

6. How is the time managed for the girls?

Each girl will follow her own personal project, but will be involved in the daily cohabitation for which she will have a share of responsibility.

In practice, spaces and times will be guaranteed to be managed independently and others to be shared, formed by internal regulations

7. Which figures accompany the girls in the processes of autonomy?

The project will be carried out by a **broad educational team** that will have as its pivot a **coordinator** who, assisted by an **educator**, will be a referent for the group of girls living together, through a close but non-invasive presence.

The educator will be supported by a **set of professional figures**, (primarily a **psychologist**) made available by the lead subject and by the partner realities, who will come into operation according to the needs that have emerged and the need to guide the journeys.

The **FMA community**, which lives in a different wing of the building that will house the cohabitation, will act as a support for the various activities and will guarantee the family spirit typical of Salesian environments.