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CENTRO DI STUDI INTERDISCIPLINARI SULLA MEDIAZIONE E LA TRADUZIONE A OPERA DI E PER RAGAZZE/I

Gender Identity: Child Readers and Library Collections (G-BOOK)

June 2017 – December 2018

Forlì, Paris, Dublin, Vigo, Sarajevo, Veliko Tarnovo

Project leader: **Centro MeTRa (Department of Interpretation and Translation, University of Bologna)**

The project **Gender Identity: Child Readers and Library Collections** aims to promote gender positive children's literature in terms of roles and models, a literature that is open-minded, plural, varied, free from stereotypes, that encourages respect and diversity.

G-Book is one of the 66 winning projects selected among 430 proposals presented for the call Creative Europe. It involves 6 European partners: the project leader is **Centro MeTRa** (– Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Mediation and Translation by and for Children and Young Adults), Department of Interpretation and Translation of the **University of Bologna** (Italy); the **University Library “Livres au Trésor”** and the **Research Centre “Pléiade”** of the **University of Paris 13** (France); the Research Centre **Anilij** (National Association for Research in Children and Youth Literature) of the **University of Vigo** (Spain); the **Centre for Children's Literature and Culture Studies (Dublin City University)**; the **Regional Public Library “Petko Rachev Slaveikov”** (Bulgaria); and **Biblioteka Sarajeva** (Bosnia Herzegovina).

The project originated from the awareness of the crucial role that children's literature plays in the acquisition and evolution of children's gender identity. Studies have demonstrated how young generations tend to acquire gender models and roles presented in the books they

read. However, in many cases such models and roles tend to reinforce gender stereotypes (for example: girls are sweet, submissive, and passive, while boys are brave and rebellious; mothers take care of the family, while fathers go to work, etc.). Although there has been a growing development of a literary production that is aware of gender issues and seeks to challenge them, such production is distributed unevenly among European countries. Moreover, it is often relegated to a sort of 'niche' and does not reach the majority of children.

In this context, the project aims to achieve **several objectives**:

- **the creation of the first European bibliography of books for 3-to-10-year-old children that is gender positive in terms of roles and models;**
- the creation of **two multilingual and travelling collections of books** that will circulate among the partner countries and that will focus on the following themes through a gender-sensitive approach: diversity and inclusion, body and emotions.
- the implementation of the **first multilingual website** (available in the languages of the partner countries), that will host the bibliography along with a series of educational and pedagogical materials on gender issues;
- the creation of a concrete **space for the books of this bibliography in 6 public libraries** of the partner countries. These countries will buy the books thanks to the funds of the project, increasing thereby their collection of gender-positive books;
- the creation of multiple **activities for audience development** addressed to children, teachers, and parents, linked to the bibliography, to be held in the above-mentioned libraries;
- the involvement in each partner country of publishing houses which are gender-sensitive, and which will be given a selection of books taken from the international bibliography that deserve to be translated.

For more information:

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<http://www.dit.unibo.it/it/ricerca/progetti-europei/g-book-gender-identity-child-readers-and-library-collections>

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