



14th international Working Conference
Learning From Action - LFA 2024
DECISION MAKING, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LIVING
TOGETHER

11-13 October 2024

Casa Raggio di Sole, Pasturo (LC)



There are limited number of places available

In this edition will be activated the Training Group (TG)

with the Sponsorship of Mito & Realta' Scientific Association

Learning From Action

"...in the beginning it was the action..." (S.Freud, Totem e Tabu)

This is a training model which offers participants an opportunity for direct learning, through a brief period of living together.

Learning from action is at the core of this training. This involves exploring other languages as well as verbal language. The focus of this Working Conference is on making actions meaningful by considering them part of a **different language**.

The idea of these Working Conferences originates in the early 2000s from the joint thinking and cooperation between **Robert D. Hinshelwood and Enrico Pedriali and then carried forward by Luca Mingarelli** . This type of conference is now an item in the Standard Quality Manual of Community of Communities and the project "Visiting" promoted by Mito & Realtà Association.

The attribution of meaning to action becomes an essential working tool, not only owing to the dynamics present in all groups, but above all because of the difficulties encountered by most members of therapeutic communities in expressing emotion in words.

Indeed, Lfa is aimed at **developing fundamental competences for all those who work in residential or semi residential institutions, and more generally in mental health institutions**. Such competences are highly valuable for a wide range of professionals such as educators, nurses, assistants, administrators, managers, consultants, psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists, neuropsychologists, neuropsychiatrists, social workers, carers, etc. However, as has already been successfully experienced in the past editions, **professionals working in other areas, like the section of profit and corporate worlds, are also most welcome to join the conference**.

The "Learning from action" Working Conference integrates the Group Relations model (www.ilnodo.group.en) **and the TC model** .

The primary task is to learn from the experience of exploring how unconscious and nonverbal communication and group dynamics shape Decision-Making processes and influences accountability and other aspects of living and working together.

Members of the conference and staff together will constitute this temporary **learning community**.

Within this special training context, the main learning objective of the conference is to enhance the participants' understanding of conscious and unconscious dynamics affecting Decision-Making processes both at an individual and at a group level, along with their organizational and institutional implications.

Individual members will have a chance to explore their own role and the way they operate within and on behalf of the whole system (the temporary learning organization), reflecting on nonverbal and unconscious communication. Consequently they will be encouraged to take responsibility for their contribution whilst taking part in the daily life and relationships within the community.

A further learning objective of this event is **to explore the various dimensions and connections between action, thinking and learning**, so that the acquired insight can then be transferred and applied effectively to different workplaces and practices.

This working conference will create an opportunity for a direct experience of the different elements that come into play when making decisions, and will stimulate reflection on what might constitute a **democratic practice** and an **environmentally sustainable use of available resources** in a healthy institution.

The basic needs of community life will be dealt with by forming groups aimed at the following tasks:

- cooking and catering;
- shopping
- cleaning and tidying communal areas;
- organizing leisure activities;
- the management of money
- organizing other activities agreed upon during the course of the conference.

As in any other community or institution, participants will witness the emergence of interpersonal dynamics related to living together, such as taking and delegating responsibility, working for others, making decisions, relating to authority, leadership and followership, managing relationships between individuals and within groups, managing conflicts, using or wasting resources and much more.

In order to achieve these learning objectives, the conference will employ the “Learning from Action” methodology and it will be organized around a program with a number of daily events, such as: Opening and Closing Plenary, Decision-Making Event and Decision-Making Groups, Activity Groups, Morning and Evening Community Meetings, Review and Application Groups and possible Emergency Meetings.

We will focus and try to learn the unconscious language and the not verbal language. The main language in LFA 2024 are Italian and English

The LFA Working Conference is the only experience drawn on the “ Group relation conference” model in which participants can have an experience in money management.

Other Information

- No lectures will be held.
- A continued residence on site is expected for the whole duration of LFA 2024.
- it is very useful, indeed recommended, to repeat the LFA experience
- It's recommend to carefully read repeatedly this leaflet
- It is possible to bring children with someone that will take care of them

There are two kinds of possibilities to participate:

- A **Group**: for person who participate for the first or the second time to LFA
- **T Group** : Training group with limited participants (max 5) reserved to participants who want to learn the method, or are interested on work in therapeutic community and have participated 2 Lfa's at least(or one LFA and one other GRCs) and have experience in TCs.

LFA 2024 will start on Friday 11th october 2024 at 13:00 (registration and snack 11:45– 12:45)

The T Group's program will start on Thursday 10th october 2024 at 19:30 (registration at 19:00)

The Participants will stay in double rooms (to improve learning) but if someone requests, is possible to stay in single room.

Everyone has to take care of their own space.

Children are welcome if there will be accompanying persons who take care of them during the activities

Participation to the Conference is not recommended for individuals who are going through a period of high psycho-emotional stress.

SCHEDULE

Friday 11th October

- 11,45-12,45 Registrazione dei partecipanti e spuntino / registration and snack
- 13,00-14,00 Riunione Plenaria di apertura / Opening plenary
- 14,00-14,30 Pausa / Break
- 14,30-16,00 Riunione decisionale plenaria / Decision-making plenary
- 16,00-16,30 Pausa / Break
- 16,30-17,15 Gruppi decisionali 1 / Decision-making groups 1
- 17,15-18,45 Attività 1 / Activities 1
- 18,45-19,00 Pausa / Break
- 19,00-20,00 Riunione di comunità della sera 1 / Evening community meeting 1
- 20,00-20,15 Pausa / Break
- 20,15-21,45 Cena / Dinner
- 21,45-22,15 Tempo libero comunitario 1 / Community free time 1

Saturday 12th October

- 08,00-09,00 Colazione / Breakfast
- 09,00-10,00 Riunione di comunità del mattino 1 / Morning community meeting 1
- 10,00-10,30 Pausa / Break
- 10,30-11,00 Gruppi decisionali 2 / Decision-making groups 2
- 11,00-12,30 Attività 2 / Activities 2
- 12,30-14,00 Pranzo / Lunch
- 14,00-14,30 Tempo libero comunitario 2 / Community free time 2
- 14,30-14,45 Pausa / Break
- 14,45-15,15 Gruppi decisionali 3 / Decision-making groups 3
- 15,15-15,30 Pausa / Break
- 15,30-16,45 Gruppi di revisione / Review groups
- 16,45-17,15 Pausa / Break
- 17,15-18,45 Attività 3 / Activities 3
- 18,45-19,00 Pausa / Break
- 19,00-20,00 Riunione di comunità della sera 2 / Evening community meeting 2
- 20,00-20,15 Pausa / Break
- 20,15-21,45 Cena / Dinner
- 21,45-22,15 Tempo libero comunitario 3 / Community free time 3

Sunday 13th October

07,00-08,00 Colazione / Breakfast

08,00-09,00 Riunione di comunità del mattino 2 / Morning community meeting 2

09,00-09,15 Pausa / Break

09,15-09,45 Gruppi decisionali / Decision-making groups 4

09,45-11,30 Gruppi di Applicazione / Application groups

11,35-12,45 Attività 4 / Activities 4

12,45-13,45 Pranzo / Lunch

13,45-14,15 Lavaggio piatti & pulizie conclusive / Washing up & cleaning

14,15-15,15 Riunione plenaria conclusiva / Closing plenary

15,15-15,30 Commiato / Leave taking (tempo libero comunitario 4 / Community free time 4)

Any changes to this programme will be decided according to Staff needs and shared with participants before and during the Event

STAFF

Director – Luca Mingarelli

Psychologist, social entrepreneur, founder director and creator of Therapeutic Communities for Adolescents, President of Charity Rosa dei Venti onlus, Past President of Il Nodo Group, Board member Mito&Realtà Scientific Association, Director of The National Network Therapeutic Community for Adolescent, Board member of International Network Democratic Therapeutic Communities (INDTC), Board Member of The Consortium for Therapeutic Communities (TCTC). Director and Co-Director of LFA since 2011, LFA in Japan (2017 and 2019), of other GRCs in Italy (ALI, ECW) and abroad. Author of many volumes: Difficult Adolescents, an autobiography of a TC for adolescents; Roles in Therapeutic Community – life and care organization- (2018); Learning from Action: Working with the Non-Verbal with R.D. Hinshelwood (Phoenix 2022). Ambassador of Michelangelo Pistoletto's Third Paradise.

Associate Director – Lili Valkó

A clinical psychologist, group analyst psychotherapist from Budapest, Hungary. She has been a colleague of the therapeutic community of Thalassa Ház since 2007 in various forms from a university student volunteer through taking up leading roles to being a conductor of a TC training. She is an editor of the Hungarian psychotherapist journal "Pszichoterápia" and an active member of CSAKIT (the Hungarian group analysis association). She has been in the staff of LFA in 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022 and 2023, in the staff of PCCA in 2018 and in the staff of ALI 2022.

Administrator – Stefano Rambelli

Psychologist, Founding Partner and Concessionary Director of Generazioni s.c.s ONLUS. As a member of Generazioni, since many years, he planned and organized therapeutic community for insane people even crime authority Supervisor and trainer for working group. Trainer and consultant for organizations and institutions Profit and No-Profit. Member of the Board and Treasurer of Nodo Group

Administrator in training - Federica Belosi

Pedagogue specialized in planning and management of educational intervention in social hardship. She worked as an educator in facilities for intellectual disabilities and later as a coordinator in a community for minors. Since 2018 she has been coordinator of residential facilities for the La Pieve cooperative, (Ra), dealing to date with both intellectual disability and mental health, including in patients with dual diagnoses and/or criminal offenders. Since 2022, contact person in the psychiatric area for the Sol.co Ravenna consortium. She participated in two editions of LFA in 2022 and 2023

Consultants:

Davide Catullo

Organizational psychologist and psychotherapist. He works in a community for young adults with dual diagnosis (CeAS Milano) and is the manager of a psychotherapy center for developmental age. He has also been a consultant for several organizations in the field of training and development (in healthcare and corporate contexts).

He was a member and professor of psychotherapy at the Institute of Group Psychoanalysis and at the Psychoanalytic Research Center on Groups. He is a member of the CS of the Mito e Realtà association for the study of therapeutic communities and a member of the Nodo Group (referee of the Milanese group of intervention on organizational cases).

Mazal Menahem

Rehabilitation psychologist – supervisor, Ph.D. in clinical neuropsychology, EMDR Diploma and supervisor. Working in the community mental health center of Hevel Eilat in South Israel, previously as a manager. From 2006 to 2020, national director of trauma therapy and resilience development in the Israeli Ministry of education. Since 2006 co-director for national psychotherapy programs for children at risk. Teaching educational psychologists a psychoanalytical systems approach for intervention in school. Kibbutz Samar member.

Scientific Supervisor (not present at the event): R.D. Hinshelwood

Psychiatrist, Psychoanalyst, former Director of the Cassel Hospital in London. Member of the British Psychoanalytic Society, Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Professor at the Center for Psychoanalytic Studies, University of Essex, UK

TIMETABLE

LFA 2024 will start on October 11th at 13:00 and will end on October 13th at 15.30

The Group T program begins at 19:30 on Thursday 10 October 2024

We recommend that participants to arrive on time on Friday for **registration and allocation of rooms between 11.45 and 12.15**. Lunch on Friday is not included. A snack will be available using food shared by participants.

FEES

The A group' s fee for the conference is €658,80 € (Vat included) in double room and € 732,00 (vat included) in single room

The T group' s fee for the conference is € 793,00 € (Vat included) in double room and €866,20 (vat included)

Fees include participation to the whole Working Conference and overnight stay, meals included.

Request for any additional nights must be submitted to the Administrator

3 Special Fees are available to participants, the deadline is 15th September : Special Fees must be requested by mail using this email : lfa@ilnodogroup.it

There will be: a 10% discount for persons from abroad, for the organizations in partnership and for 2 participants from the same association or company, a 20% discount for 3 and more participants from the same organization (it's possible to use only one kind of discount).

To enroll LFA 2024 fill in the form

PRE-REGISTRATION WITHOUT THE NEED TO PAY A DEPOSIT (FREE) BY 1 September AND CONFIRMATION of participation and payment BY 10 September.

The main languages of LFA 2024 are Italian and English; the resources present in the system will be used; we will focus and try to learn the unconscious and non-verbal language.

For information and registration

Administrator: Stefano Rambelli

Administrator in training: Federica Belosi

e-mail: lfa@ilnodogroup.it

phone +393471323483

Application form: www.ilnodogroup.it

Place

In the Valsassina basin, on the eastern slopes of the Northern Grigna, lies Pasturo, over the centuries a land of castles, whose name itself seems to indicate the fertility of the plain and mountain pastures, which are still among the largest in the province of Lecco.

Pasturo is mentioned in "The Betrothed" because Agnese's family lived in the village.

Napoleon also passed through Pasturo. On the Pigazzi house it is possible to observe a sundial with the writing "W. 1859 W.V.E. And L.N." which means "Long live the year 1859. Long live Vittorio Emanuele and Louis Napoleon".

Structure

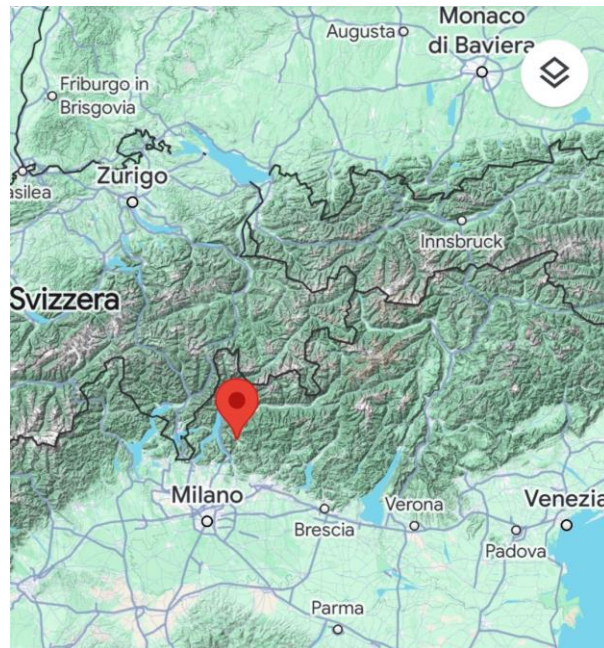
Casa Raggio di Sole is organized to welcome groups or families who wish to spend time surrounded by nature and in a welcoming atmosphere in the open air and close to all the places for out-of-town experiences in an environment far from the noise of modernity

The house has rooms accessible to people with disabilities. It is not equipped to welcome animals.

The house has a playroom intended for the little ones to spend a few hours playing and having fun.

Casa Raggio di Sole:

Via Provinciale, 17, 23818 Pasturo LC





Main Sponsor

Il NODO Group is a scientific cultural not-for-profit Association which historically originated from a professional team formed in Turin in the nineties. It has developed study, training and consultancy activities in cooperation with the Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust in London and other national and international scientific institutions. The Members of Il Nodo Group are professionals with interdisciplinary and cross-sector competences in the health and social care fields, in the business world, in education, in social cooperation and in the public administration.

The Primary Task of Il Nodo Group is to promote the exploration and understanding of conscious and unconscious relational processes in individuals, groups, organizations and the society, as instruments of change management, support to the development and wellbeing. Following an initial sponsorship with also CESMA and TAVISTOCK, the Association Il NODO Group has become the main sponsor of the residential Group Relations Conference “Authority, Leadership and Innovation” (ALI) that has been organized yearly since 1998. Il NODO Group is also sponsors other GRC informed innovative events such as “Energy, Creative Cooperation and Well-being in organizations” and “Learning from action”. Today ALI is a firmly established member of the “Group Relations” international network and has become “the Italian formula of the Tavistock Method”.

Co-sponsor

Mito & Realtà was founded during the preparation of the international convention “La comunità terapeutica tra mito e realtà” (Therapeutic Community between Myth and Reality”, held in Milan in 1996. It includes members of the traditional “historic” community movement (from England, France and Italy) and several operators from the Italian community. Its promoters are psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists and psychodynamic operators, who joined spontaneously to form this association. Its aim is to promote study, research and data collection on the functioning of Therapeutic Communities and professional training for those working within communities that deal with severe psychic distress. At present it includes a network of CTs for both adults and children, carrying out a peer-to-peer assessment called “Visiting”, aimed at constant quality improvement and at a democratic transmission of best practices. Now it’s a Scientific Association.

Partnership

AIRSAM - www.airsam.it

Cooperativa Sociale UTOPIA - Comunità Acquaviva www.cooputopia.it

FENASCOP- www.fenascop.it

Fondazione ROSA DEI VENTI onlus - www.rosadeiventi.org

GENERAZIONI società cooperativa sociale ONLUS www.generazioni.eu

INDTC - www.indtc.org

MULBERRY BUSH SCHOOL - <https://mulberrybush.org.uk>

OPUS – www.opus.org.uk

OFEK - <http://www.ofek-groups.org>

SIRPLo - <https://riabilitazionepsicosociale.it> (voce : Sezioni regionali)

TCTC - www.therapeuticcommunities.org

Thalassa Haz T.C. - www.thalassahaz.hu

Cooperativa Sociale LE VELE Onlus - www.levelmilano.it

The Network of Therapeutic Communities in Japan - www.reflective-tc.jimdofree.com

Metanoia Instituutti - <https://www.metanoiainstituutti.fi>

International Network of Democratic Therapeutic Communities - www.indtc.org

China American Society of Studying Group and Organization (Cassgo) - [中美团体与组织研究学会 \(cassgo.cn\)](http://www.cassgo.cn)

Center for the Study of Groups and Social Systems - www.csgss.org

C.O.I.R.A.G. www.coirag.org

Lituanian group relation society

Group relation international

AKRIce <https://www.akriceinstitute.org/>

Società psicoanalitica italiana

C.N.C.A. Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità Di Accoglienza <https://www.cnca.it/>

CHT Community Housing and Therapy's <https://cht.org.uk/>

INTERSTICIA <https://intersticia.org/>

La Pieve Cooperativa Sociale onlus - www.lapieve.it

Il Porto onlus <http://www.ilporto.org/>

Laura Cooperativa Sociale onlus – www.cooperativaura.it

Consorzio Sol.co Ravenna Cooperativa Sociale- www.solcoravenna.it

Italian Society of Epidemiological Psychiatry (SIEP) <https://siep.it/>

Bob Hinshelwood, Giada Boldetti e Luca Mingarelli interview on LFA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH-zumcebZyk&feature=youtu.be>

the new book: Learning from Action: Working with the Non-verbal

Authors: **R. D. Hinshelwood and Luca Mingarelli**

<https://firingthemind.com/product/9781912691210/>

PARTICIPANTS OF LFA HAVE SAID

“I really fell in love with LFA. It was like seeing many of my most significant experiences merge and integrate; I suddenly saw the disclosure of a wholly new and revitalizing perspective from which I could watch several areas of my professional and personal life. As a consequence, my mind keeps coming up with new contributions I might give to such areas”

(D. Catullo, Psychotherapist/CT Coordinator)

This experience represents a very effective method to learn about unconscious behaviour in groups and about one's own role in the group's behaviour.

(G. Bratko, a participant from the US)



The key-word of the LFA Working Conference is then «real»: that is, a temporary organization which is, indeed, provisional, but not abstract/fictitious: it is, instead, immediate and concrete: precisely, real.

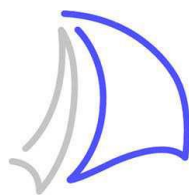
(G. Foresti, 2015 Staff Member)

**ILNODO
GROUP**

Mito&Realtà
Associazione per le Comunità
Terapeutiche e residenziali



Fondazione
Rosa dei Venti Onlus



Le Vele società cooperativa sociale onlus



SpiWeb
SOCIETÀ PSICOANALITICA ITALIANA

INTERSTICIA



Cooperativa Utopia



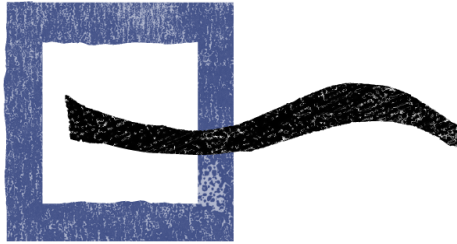
AIRSAM

Associazione Italiana
Residenze/Risorse
per la **SA**lute **M**entale





An Organisation for Promoting
Understanding of Society



THALASSA
HÂZ



The Network of Therapeutic Communities in Japan



COIRAG

CONFEDERAZIONE DI ORGANIZZAZIONI ITALIANE
PER LA RICERCA ANALITICA SUI GRUPPI



75th Anniversary of the Italian Republic

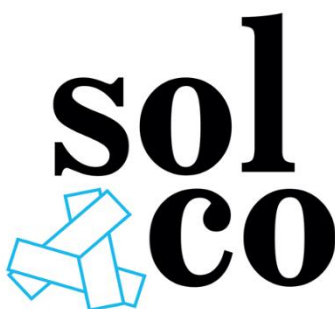




**COORDINAMENTO NAZIONALE
COMUNITÀ DI ACCOGLIENZA**



The Center for the Study of Group and Social Systems





SOCIETÀ
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Supported by the A.K. Rice Institute as an Incubator Initiative in the development, exploration, or application of Group Relations.

