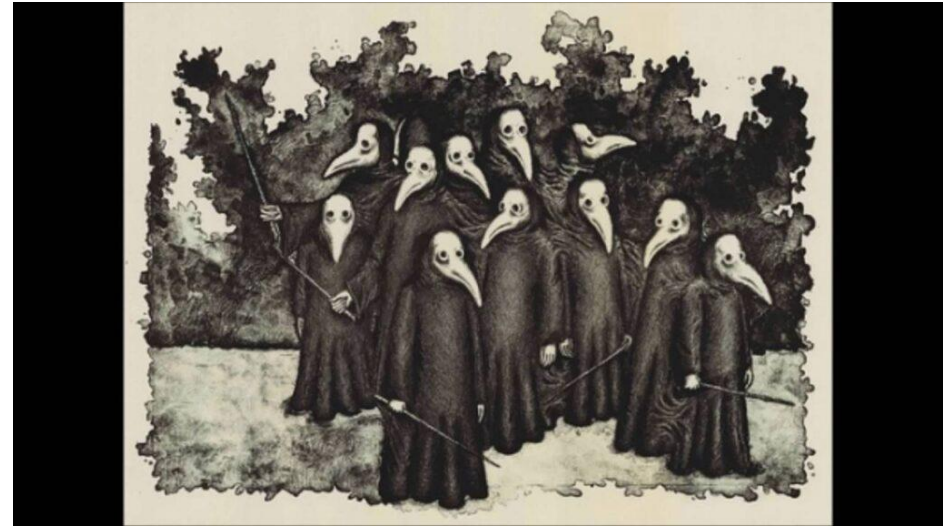


"Coping with emergency and uncertainty in local pre-school and school systems"

## Lack of preparation, despite several pieces of evidence

Globalization promised us a more stable world and a more predictable future (everything seemed to be planned), where poverty and catastrophes could be prevented more and more. We have to recognize that economic crisis in 2008-2014, oncoming climate change and political instability in Europe were giving us a different lesson.



But our institutions were not able to learn this lesson in a profitable way on time and, at least in Italy, our school system was surprised by pandemic; starting from the first lockdown, lots of development's damages have been doing to many children and teenagers, due to this lack of preparation.

I can sum up this structural lack of preparation in this field as below:

# 1. Lack of a shared culture in children's rights protection



In our Country too much importance has been given to adults' rights; the prominent (overriding) interest of minors (art. 3 of the UN New York 1989 Convention) was not strictly considered.

As a consequence, for months we had no Authority (at central and local level) having taken care to defend children's rights even during pandemic period.

This is a relevant and chronic political issue in our country, where we don't have a comprehensive Framework Law on children protection, but only several and partial ordinary laws, something contradicting each other. In other words, we lack a good juridical culture and background in child protection field.

Do you have some ideas to improve a situation like that?

## 2. Many points of weakness in education provision

School organization showed many critics:

- a) lack of teachers' basic ability in using new technologies;
- b) lack of teachers' ability in adopting correct approach towards distance didactic/relations;
- c) the wrong assumption that it is possible to arrange mixed didactic setting (both in the classroom for some students and online for others) at the same time for any kind of students;
- d) the lack of digital skills in many families was underestimated: even now, no consistent policy has been arranged for that.



**For each of these issues we should implement improving strategies, related to children's age**

### 3. Many points of weakness in school organisation

The teachers' employment contract lacks of flexibility, especially in managing yearly and daily school time.

For example:

- recovering in summer what could have been lost in winter (any level of school);
- moving some school activities in the afternoon to reduce crowding in school setting (especially from primary to high school).



**We need teachers Unions showed more social responsibility...**

## 4. Many points of weakness in school spaces

The conditions of school buildings are often very bad in Italy, not only structurally, but also functionally, considering the need of many extra spaces (further than traditional classrooms for the whole group): spaces for workshops, small group activities, extra-curricular activities, spaces for free meetings, better solution for outdoor spaces, using detached classrooms in the environment around the school, and so on



**We are hoping in New Generation UE program to improve it....  
But, maybe, we need a new social awareness in our communities**

#### 4. Many points of weakness in our didactic approach

Last but not least, we don't have a curriculum to teach children to cope with uncertainty and emergency: basically, how making decision under deep uncertainty.

We should make our own what Edgar Morin said in "Seven Complex Lesson in Education for the Future": we have to get rid of traditional didactic and learn to sail in an ocean of uncertainty between islands of certainty.



**Starting from kindergarten on, we should teach the children to cope with uncertainty, to develop critical thinking and the ability to doubt (the base of scientific method), to be able to get agreements with others, and to change own world vision if it can help us to make useful decision**