

The Farmafactoring Foundation will present the traveling exhibition “The New Pilgrims” in Rome

Rome, November 19th, 2015 – The Farmafactoring Foundation will present the photographic exhibition “The New Pilgrims. Historical and social impact of contemporary immigration on healthcare” inside the magnificent *Galleria del Cembalo* art gallery.

Visitors will travel throughout Italy with photographers Alessandro Scotti, Edoardo Delille and Umberto Fratini, with the direction of Costantino Ruspoli. Pictures and emotions unveil the reality of immigrants in their interaction with Italian healthcare in a journey into places of treatment and disease, to tell stories of people who deal not only with disease, distance, and differences, but also with acceptance, solidarity, and brotherhood. The reality captured by the photographs is very different from prejudice and stereotypes and mainly reflects people’s greatness as well as humility.

This project has been strongly supported by the Farmafactoring Foundation. It is based on a survey by Censis (the Italian institute for social research), which, after examining this phenomenon through socio-economic analysis, showed a positive model of coexistence supported by healthcare facilities as places in which social behaviors develop and consolidate.

As Giuseppe De Rita, President of the Censis Foundation, points out, “For immigrants, our healthcare service is an opportunity not only to be treated and to access high level technologies and professionals, but also to become familiar with Italian behaviors and choices. This is a significant opportunity for a good civil, social, cultural and human integration”.

“Old” Italian and “new” Italian citizens can coexist within communities thanks to this remarkable comprehensive healthcare service, which is worth describing with a modern language such as photography.

As Marco Rabuffi, President of the Farmafactoring Foundation, explains, “We have decided to support Censis’ survey with a photographic exhibition to tell the story of everyday life in small-size and large-size healthcare facilities in Italy. The senior photographers have taken real-life snapshots throughout Italy with the help of three junior photographers. It is interesting to point out that the quality of the healthcare service turns out to be very different –better- from how it is often described. Treatments are often top quality, facilities are usually in good conditions, there’s almost always an acceptance that overcomes the obvious inconvenience of social and cultural differences. Human interactions can often help patients, who are already suffering from their disease, be relieved of the burden caused by their being immigrants”.

The photographers' mission was to give exposure to faces, people and situations as well as places in which assistance is provided; special attention was given to any signs of change attributable to immigrants.

Approximately 20 healthcare facilities have been involved throughout Italy, in Bergamo, Milan, Guastalla, Bologna, Florence, Ancona, Rome, Aversa, Palermo, Ragusa, Vittoria, Modica and Pozzallo.

The General Management and the Healthcare Management as well as all the hospital staff welcomed this project and supported the photographers in their work.

The three junior photographers have interesting views as well: the snapshots of Giulia Piermartiri, Irene Carmassi and Marcella Magalotti add up to the journey into modern migration inside healthcare facilities. These three young photographers, who are very passionate about their job, supported the three senior photographers in the search for a modern and immediate language to express the personal and social impact of this aspect of "the new pilgrims". Their pictures tell a tale of a thousand differences yet are united in a shared vision of humanity.

The Farmafactoring Foundation wants to support and engage young people to carry out relevant activities and projects. Their vision is very important and meaningful to the Foundation, which has long encouraged young researchers (under 35) who do not belong to academic institutions or research entities with annual awards and tenders.

The exhibition, which is sponsored by the Ministry of Healthcare, will be open to the public for free from 11/20 to 11/28; in 2016 it will be transferred to Milan and Palermo.

***The Farmafactoring Foundation** has been carrying out socio-economic research for ten years. The scientific nature and quality of its research has made it an authority in its specific field.*

***Censis**, Center for Studies of Social Investments, is a socio-economic research institute which has been active for fifty years. It constantly and comprehensively carries out socio-economic research, consultation and technical assistance. This activity has developed over the years through studies on social communities, economy and territorial development as well as intervention programs and cultural initiatives in key social sectors.*