



EMEDUS
Europe Media Education

WP3. Formal Media Education

ITALY



1. Education System

In Italy the responsible body for education is the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (*Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca - MIUR*). The organization of the Italian education system establishes shared responsibility between the state, regional governments and educational institutions.

Academic freedom is a principle that is established by the constitution and educators can choose different methodologies that must meet the standard of the POF (*Piano dell'Offerta Formativa*). This document includes the design of the curriculum, extra-curricular, educational and organizational projects that each school adapts to its specific needs.



Compulsory education in Italy lasts ten years, from the ages of six to sixteen, which consists of five years of primary school, three years of junior secondary and the first two years of senior secondary school.

2. Policies in Media Literacy

In Italy there have been several attempts to legally emphasize the importance of media education and the use of ICT in education. The following are the initiatives that have been launched:

- Article 1 of Law no. 53, 2003 cited the need to incorporate media literacy in the classroom to encourage student creativity. In 2004 it introduced the subjects of Computer Science and IT within the curriculum.
- In the guidelines for the curriculum developed in 2007 the importance of ICT was highlighted for the development of the media skills young people need within the information society.
- In the latest version of the curriculum in 2012 (*Indicazioni Nazionali per il Curricolo*) reference is made to the type of digital competencies Italian students require in kindergarten and primary school.
- In secondary school, after the organizational reform of 2010, media literacy remained absent as an autonomous subject from the curriculum. However, the subject of IT was introduced as a compulsory subject within the subject of Mathematics in the first two years of high school.
- The pilot project (*Il Giornale in Classe - The Newspaper in the Classroom*), launched in the academic year of 1996-1997, has been progressively used and strengthened in the Italian secondary curriculum.

3. Media Literacy and National Curricula

Media education is seen as an interdisciplinary, cross-curricular subject within the official curriculum of the Italian education system.

Experiences associated with this subject are linked to personal initiatives of educators themselves who decide to work it into their classes thanks to the autonomy schools have to design their own curricula. These initiatives are supported by associations such as MED (*Associazione Italiana per l'ai Media e Alla Educazione Comunicazione*) which coordinate and propose media education projects, helping schools which connect to the Internet.

A case in point is the subject Information Technologies and Communication (*Tecnologie dell'informazione e della comunicazione*) which can be found within various specializations of professional institutes.

There is an exceptional case to be found in the *Liceo delle Scienze Umane* (the Lyceum of Human Sciences), which is the only secondary institution to include a clear reference to media education as one of its objectives in the development of media literacy.

4. Tools to measure the Level of Competencies

According to a ministerial decree of 2007 educators from the national education system in Italy, at the end of compulsory education, have to produce a document which certifies that students have knowledge, skills and abilities which can be classified into three levels: basic, good, excellent. Such competencies include topics related to ICT and media education, contained mainly in the area of language, as a condition to facilitate access to knowledge and consolidate the capacity of individual expression.

5. Teacher Media Training

Initial teacher training does not only focus on competencies in the official subjects but also in interdisciplinary, cross-curricular subjects such as the use of ICT in education.

Media education is not specifically included in the curriculum of teacher training but can be identified as an interdisciplinary, cross-curricular subject in the National Training Programs in the following four areas: Languages, Maths, Science and Technology, History and Social Science. Most teacher training in media education is done outside the formal system in the way of courses, seminars and training programs through associations such as MED.

Media education is not specifically included in the curriculum of teacher training in Italy

The INDIRE (*Istituto Nazionale di Documentazione, Innovazione e Ricerca Educativa*) has taken on the commitment to create a platform for e-learning for teacher training at the behest of the

Ministry of Education. It also manages the websites *ForDocenti*, *ForDirigenti* and *ForAta* (not yet active), the *DiGiScuola* projects (in the design phase) and those related to intervention in basic education (plan M@t.abel, the “Poseidon Plan” and “ISS Plan” - Teaching of Experimental Sciences).

The *DiGiScuola* project aims to test and promote advanced teaching models through the introduction of digital technologies in the classroom and the development of new learning environments (PON: the National Operation Program 2007-2013).

6. ICT in Schools

The key to the inclusion of ICT in schools in Italy focuses on the Digital School Plan (*Piano Scuola Digitale*), which is a national strategy for the renewal of teaching and learning environments adapted to the new knowledge society.

The Plan includes the following actions:

- LIM: The *Scuola Digitale* Action provides a wide range of interactive smartboards in classrooms to promote the adoption of ICT in education. The program’s implementation is still irregular in schools.
- Cl@ssi 2.0: The project/action Cl@ssi 2.0 was created with the intention of changing learning environments through the constant use of technology to experience new advanced teaching methodologies.
- *Editoria Digitale Scolastica*: Is associated with the activities of the European Digital Agenda 2010 and aims to promote the creation of innovative publishing products and contribute to the creation of new learning environments.

Annex. Country Key Features

(a)	Languages	Italian (official), German (parts of Trentino-Alto Adige region are predominantly German speaking), French (small French-speaking minority in Valle d'Aosta region), Slovene (Slovene-speaking minority in the Trieste-Gorizia area)
	Population	61,482,297 (July 2013 est.)
	Major cities	ROME (capital) 3.357 million; Milan 2.962 million; Naples 2.27 million; Turin 1.662 million; Palermo 872,000 (2009)
	Government type	Republic

	GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)	\$1.834 trillion (2012 est.)
	GDP real growth rate	-2.3% (2012 est.)
	GDP per capita (PPP)	\$30,100 (2012 est.)
	GDP composition by sector	Agriculture: 2% Industry: 23.9% Services: 74.1% (2012 est.)
(b)	GDP per head (PPS)	101.0 (year 2011) (Index, EU27=100)
(c)	Year of EU entry	Founding member (1952)
	Currency	Member of the eurozone since 1999 (€)
	Schengen area	Member of the Schengen area since 1990
(d)	Pupils and students (ISCED levels 1-6) (1 000)	9.540,5 (year 2010)
	Pupils at ISCED level 1 (1 000)	2.858,8 (year 2010)
	Pupils at ISCED level 2 (1 000)	1.813,9 (year 2010)
	Pupils and students at ISCED level 3 (1 000)	2.848,6 (year 2010)
	Students at ISCED level 4 (1 000)	38,9 (year 2010)

Source: Original authorship, using data from:

- (a) Central Intelligence Agency (2013). *The World Factbook 2013-14*. Washington, DC [Retrieved from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>]
- (b) European Commission (2012). *Country Fact Sheet: Italy*. Directorate-General Regional Policy. Analysis Unit C3. European Commission [Retrieved from: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index_en.cfm]
- (c) European Union (2013). Member states of the EU. European Union [Retrieved from: http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm]
- (d) Eurostat (2013). Education and training. Pupils and students (tps00051). File: educ_ilev.xls [Retrieved from: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/education/data/main_tables]

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http://archivio.pubblica.istruzione.it/normativa/2007/dm139_07.shtml

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