

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



EUROPEAN UNION

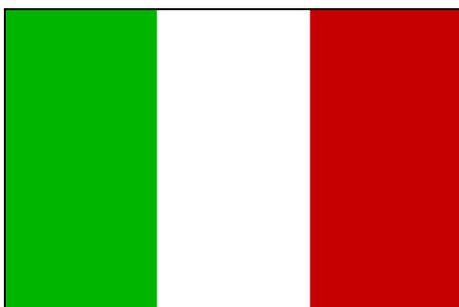


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Information sheet

YOUTH AND THE WORLD

Italy



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1. Implementation of a new field of action: “Youth and the World”

How is the field of action “Youth and the World” of the current EU youth strategy transposed in your country?

The goal of this field of action is promoted through the global education, especially concerning the sustainable development, and the environment, both in formal and non formal education.

Regarding the formal learning school curricula and the organization of the educational activities are based on the “Guidelines for the education on the environment and the sustainable development” issued by the Minister of Education, University and Research and the Minister of Environment and Land and Sea Safeguard in 2009. These guidelines aim at promoting a culture of sustainability in children and young people in order to mould citizens responsible and active in civil society towards global issues.

Education for Sustainable Development can be an important tool to promote the youth participation to global issues. In fact, “it allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. It includes key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption”.

Moreover, non formal learning opportunities are offered to young people through initiatives promoted by different actors, as for instance:

- the National agency of the Youth in Action Programme (YiA), in 2010 “global issue” was one of the annual priority of the YiA Programme; 23% of the granted projects were focused on this issue;
- Non formal and informal learning opportunities offered to young people by youth organizations, volunteering and non –governmental organizations. For instance, the National Youth Forum (Forum Nazionale dei giovani – FNG) in November 2011 organized the Seminar “Act for our Planet!” within the framework on the Global Education Week promoted by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and hosted by the Italian Representative of EU Parliament and Commission in “Spazio Europa”;
- the participation of youth representatives to activities and events promoted by international organizations and institutions in the field of global issues.

2. Awareness raising on Global issues

2.1. Promotion of Global Education

Is there any national/regional policy document which lays the legal basis for the promotion of Global Education? If yes

National level

A national legislation concerning the complete field of Global Education doesn't yet exist, but there are some laws that expressly call up the important role that school must have for an adequate education of young generations, in order to promote their personally engagement for their well being of the civil society.

In this direction the national law decree, 1 September 2008, no. 137, turned into law 30 October 2008, no. 169 reforms in the school curricula substituting the former subject “Civic Education” with “Citizenship and Constitution” and plans specific training programmes for teachers on this topic.

An important executive document of this law is the “Direction paper for the didactic experimentation of the topic “Citizenship and Constitution” signed in March 2009 by the Minister of Education,

University and Research. This document defines the knowledge and competences that children and young people are expected to learn through the teaching of “Citizenship and Constitution” in each school degree.

Moreover, in coherence with the international goals defined from the time of Rio Declaration, the national legislation lays the legal basis for the promotion of education on environment and sustainable development, in particular it focuses on the topic of treatment and waste disposal (art. 13, law 14 July 2008, no. 123) and highlights the importance to include training initiatives in a curricular path dedicated to environmental education in the programmes of compulsory school (art. 7-bis, law 30 December 2008, 210) and the implementation of projects and activities aiming at stimulating eco-compatible behaviours in the secondary school and at the university (art. 7-quinquies, law 30 December 2008, 208). The executive act of these laws are the “Guidelines for the education on the environment and the sustainable development”, issued by the Minister of Education, University and Research and the Minister of Environment and Land and Sea Safeguard in 2009

(http://www.minambiente.it/export/sites/default/archivio/notizie/Linee_guida_ScuolaxAmbiente_e_Legalitx_aggiornato.pdf).

Regarding non formal education the FNG refers to the “Policy Paper on Global Education: a global vision on education - an education for global citizenship” , adopted at the Council of Members/Extraordinary General Assembly of the European Youth Forum (Castelldefels, Catalonia – Spain, 2-3 May, 2008).

Regional level

In March 2007 the “Unified State, Regions and Autonomous Provinces Conference” approved the policy paper “Guidance and goals of the new framework for the Education on environment and sustainable development” (Orientamenti e obiettivi per il nuovo quadro programmatico per l’educazione all’ambiente e allo sviluppo sostenibile). It engages the different actors to develop a joint action for the promotion of a culture of sustainability and the coordination of the different activities of education (formal, non formal), of training and of awareness raising. On the bases of this political paper during the “Unified State, Regions and Autonomous Provinces Conference” in August 2007 an agreement for the implementation of a “New programmatic framework between State and Regions/Autonomous Provinces for the education on environment and sustainable development 2007-2009” (Nuovo quadro programmatico Stato-Regioni e Province Autonome di Trento e Bolzano per l’educazione all’ambiente e alla sostenibilità 2007-2009) was signed in order to promote through the existing In.F.E.A. programme, initiatives of education on environment and sustainability funded with a dedicated national fund (*see next point*).

In the following years many regions adopted their own programme for the promotion and coordination of the interventions to be implemented in the regional territory by the local authorities, the local In.F.E.A. centers, schools and NGOs.

How is Global Education promoted?

Global education is promoted in formal and non formal learning, information and awareness raising campaigns and events (*see the following point*) and the participation of young people to global events. Since 2005 many of these activities have been coordinated at national and regional level by the “National Committee for the Education on sustainable development” (<http://www.unescodes.it/dess>), with the involvement of the main actors of sustainability such as: Ministers, Regions and Agencies for the environment, NGOs, Associations, Research Institutes, Training centers, Schools (<http://www.unescodes.it/dess/partners>).

The activities promoted by this national committee are training sessions for teachers, meetings between students and key actors, an annual event (day/week) on a specific issue concerning sustainability, information events to disseminate good practices and products.

Moreover, since the beginning of the nineties the Ministry of environment and land and sea safeguard have launched the

IN.F.E.A. programme aiming at disseminating interventions of Information, Training and Environmental Education, in order to promote the participation of all young people and citizens to a society where respect of human rights and protection of the environment are assured. An important result of this programme is the creation of a National System IN.F.E.A., in its turn structured in different regional systems.

(http://www.minambiente.it/menu/menu_attivita/Il_sistema_nazionale_I_N_F_E_A_.html).

At school, global education is promoted mainly through didactic laboratories that valorise the working group, with the aim to get learning results and a real “good” useful for the single and for the class group, both at school and in the extra-school environment. It generally plans participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development. Education for Sustainable Development consequently promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way.

More information on school projects can be found in the database GOLD where are collected the most innovative teaching practices of Italian schools of every type and level of education (<http://gold.indire.it/nuovo/gen/cerca-s.php>).

Many NGOs and organizations are also active in the Global Education field, mainly through the organization of campaigns, events, seminars and festivals. Also the FNG and its member organisations promote it through non-formal education activities organized in the youth field by creating bridges among the needs and the stakes at local level and at global level.

The Italian Government supported the participation of youth delegates to international and global events such as for instance the UN High Level Meeting on Youth (New York, 25-26 July 2011), the Interministerial Conferences of Youth Ministers organized by the Council of Europe.

Please describe the most relevant projects/initiatives and who is organizer. How these initiatives are funded?

A part of the initiatives above mentioned the following ones deserve a mention:

- The Presidents and Rectors of a number of prestigious universities from all around the world gathered for the G8 University Summit (Turin, 17-19 May 2009). In order to allow the students' voice to be heard, the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI), together with Italy's UNESCO Commission (CNI) organized a preliminary G8 University Students' Summit in Palermo on 8th and 9th of May 2009. Here university students took part actively in elaborating worldwide development strategies. Their debate revolved around the possibility of harmonious and sustainable growth all over the world, and the key role played by culture, lawfulness and dignity. Students adopted a final Declaration on Education for Sustainable environment, Culture of lawfulness and Heritage of peace (http://www.g8universitystudent.com/pagine/G8_Students_Final_Declaration,News_detail001,EN,4,Home-news.aspx).
- The Civil Society Forum, together with the Ministry of Environment organized a seminar at the University of Rome on the 10 January 2012 with the aim to define a common reference framework at short term to prepare the Rio+20 Conference and at medium and long term to draft the Italian programme for the sustainable development (http://www.minambiente.it/export/sites/default/archivio/allegati/rio_20/forum_rio20_agenda_lavori.pdf).
- Since 2006 the National Committee for the Education on sustainable development organises every year a week dedicated to one of the different aspects of the sustainable development (Week for the sustainable development in 2011; Week for water in 2010; Week for mobility, 2009; Week for citizenship, 2008; Week for waste treatment, reduction and recycling, 2007; Week for the climate changes 2006).

The “Youth Camps” project, currently in its fifth year, carried out by the Department of Youth and National Civic Service in association with the Home Office (Fire Service), Ministry of Defence (Navy, Coastguard) and Italian Red Cross.

Youth Camps is a civic education project which functions as life experience, introducing young people to socially beneficial activities, supported by the Institutions.

The project allows young people from 14 to 22 years old to take part in summer camps free of charge for at least one week from June to September. The objective is to help young people become more responsible regarding the protection of the environment, helping the population, learning useful skills, discovering aptitudes and vocations and fulfilling their own aspirations for civil duty.

Many of these activities have been funded through National funds, such as the Fund for the sustainable development whose aim is, inter alia, to promote educational and information projects on environment and the Fund for the youth policies, aiming at support interventions for young people.

Other activities have been funded through the Youth in Action Programme and the National Fund for the youth policies, such as for instance:

The activities organized by FNG with a Global Education approach, in partnership with the Italian National Agency for the Youth in Action Programme, during 2011-2012 are the following ones:

- Proposal 2011(Proposta 2011): structured dialogue national meeting among youth organizations and public institutions to share ideas and present concrete proposals for the development of youth policies in Italy; The outcomes of the meeting have been presented to national institutions and used as the Italian perspective in the international events.

- Euro-Arab and Mediterranean Youth Leaders Meeting: building partnerships: 7-12 May 2012, Rome, 28 youth leaders identified priorities and proposals related to the topic of capacity building, volunteering and youth rights, in order to create an Action Plan proposal for the development of the Euro-Arab regional youth cooperation process 2012-2015. The action plan has been presented to all the stakeholders involved in the process during a parallel meeting that took place in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 10th of May. During the Symposium on Euro-Arab Youth cooperation that took place in Tunis 27-29 August, the Action Plan has been ratified by all the national governments and the international institutions for implementation.

- International Meeting of Southern European National Youth Councils: 1-5 August, Alghero, Sardinia. The meeting was attended by the presidents and the board members of the National Youth Councils of Italy, Spain, Catalonia, Portugal, France, Slovenia, Croatia, Belgium, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, plus Finland and Russia. The topic tackled were capacity building, youth employment, volunteering, youth rights.

Crossing Euro-African with Global Youth Work, 3.2 action Youth in the World

CNJ - Conselho Nacional de Juventude, Portuguese National Youth Council and co-funded by all the partners..

The project was structured in 5 phases:

- 1. Networking and Partnership Development Event: Crossing Euro-African and Global Youth Work: building a common agenda, National Youth Councils of Portugal, Spain, Catalonia, Italy, Slovenia, Cyprus, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Angola, Mozambique and the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe (Lisbon, March 2011 – youth leaders);
- 2. National activities raise awareness on the cooperation process;
- 3. Training for Trainers in Global Education (Cape Verde, Ilha de Sal, May 2011 - trainers);
- 4. National training for youth leaders on global youth work (Palermo, June 2011), Council of Europe Global Education Week – Seminar “Act for our Planet!” in the Italian Representative of EU Parliament and Commission (Rome, November 2011); http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq7X65a_6L8&feature=youtu.be
- 5. Evaluation seminar (University on Youth and Development, Mollina, September 2011)

trainers and youth leaders).

- 2009 project: National Youth Councils Training Cooperation - strengthening partnerships for youth participation through training strategies development: Africa – Europe - 3.2 Youth in the World -awarded as the best project of the year. Applied by CNJ - Portuguese National Youth Council
- In 2011 the main activities organized in the framework of Global Education approach were: “Mapping Youth Organisations Representing The African Diaspora In Italy”, in partnership with the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe - ADYNE, October 2011, University of Florence. This meeting was funded by FNG thanks to the annual grant of the Department of Youth and National Civic Service.

What are the most tackled aspects of Global Education?

In the Italian context the main issues tackled through global education are sustainable development and ecology, human rights related to migration, cultural diversity and legality, but also, peace and conflict for what it concerns the Mediterranean area. MDGs are transversally tackled when focusing on all the above mentioned topics.

What are the main stakeholders in the field of Global Education?

The main actors may be clustered in three main groups:

- Ministries, public research institutes and agencies: Ministry of Education, University and Research; Ministry of Environment and Land and Sea Safeguard; Department of Youth and National Civic Service; National Institute for documentation, innovation and research - Indire (<http://www.indire.it/index.php>); Agency for environment (APA); National Agency of Youth in Action Programme (<http://www.agenziagiovani.it/presentazione.htm>).
- Regional and local bodies: Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces, 21 regional/local environment agencies (ARPA, APPA), school regional offices,
- NGOs and organizations representing the civil society such as:
 - National Youth Council of Italy
The Forum Nazionale dei giovani (FNG), instituted with the Law n. 311 of 30 December 2004, is the unique national network of youth Italian organisations and represents 4 million youths. The Forum Nazionale dei Giovani - FNG is a candidate-member of European Youth Forum (YFJ).
 - Legambiente (League for the Environment) is “the most widespread environmental organization in Italy, with 20 Regional branches and more than 115,000 members. It is acknowledged as “association of environmental interest” by the Ministry of the Environment; it represents the UNEP National Committee for Italy, it is one of the leading member of EEB (“European Environmental Bureau”) the Federation of European environmental organization, and of IUCN - the World Conservation Union”. (<http://www.legambiente.it/legambiente/about-legambiente>).
 - WWF is an international independent conservation organization, which addresses issues from the survival of species and habitats to climate change, sustainable business and environmental education.

WWF Italy addresses global threats to people and nature such as climate change, the peril to endangered species and habitats and the unsustainable consumptions of the world's natural resources (<https://www.wwf.it/client/render.aspx?content=0&root=6272>).

- The Center Information and development education (Centro informazione e Educazione allo sviluppo) - CIES (http://www.cies.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1) is a 'non-governmental organization (NGO) that aims to promote the values of social solidarity and cooperation, both in its activities in national and international ones. In particular, it promotes In Italy, the value of interculturalism to favour the positive integration of migrants.

An important role is carried out also by national and regional coordination bodies and institutional networks such as:

- the “National Committee for the Education on sustainable development” (<http://www.unescodess.it/dess>);
- the national and regional In.F.E.A centers;
- the Coordination Italian Local Agendas 21 Coordinamento Agende 21 (<http://www.a21italy.it/IT/associazione.xhtml>);
- The National coordination of schools associated to UNESCO (Coordinamento nazionale Scuole Associate all'UNESCO);
- ENIS (European Network of Innovative Schools).

Is there any report/survey available on Global education and young people in your country? If yes what is its focus of research and what are the main outcomes?

Not available

2.2 Young people and sustainable development

What are the most relevant initiatives/projects at regional/national level encouraging green patterns of consumption and production with young people?

In addition to those above reported, the following ones are aimed at encouraging green patterns of consumption and production:

- “Make the difference” (Failadifferenza), a national communication campaigns promoted in 2012 by the Presidency of Council of Ministers and the Ministry of environment and land and sea safeguard to raise public opinion awareness on the differentiated refuse collection.
- The National Tree Day (Giornata Nazionale dell'Albero) to raise public opinion awareness on the importance of the arboreal and wood heritage for the safeguard of the biodiversity, the fight against the climate changes and the prevention of the hydrogeological ruin.
- The European Week for the sustainable mobility “Moving in town without my car” carried out from the 16th to 22nd of September 2012
- The second edition of the national day of bicycle (8/05/2012) to promote its use as an alternative and eco-compatible mobility.
- The project “School, Web, Environment” (Scuola, Web, Ambiente) with the support of the Ministry of environment and land and sea safeguard, in cooperation with Legambiente. Beneficiaries of project are students of both primary and secondary school with the aim to contribute to the creation of a sense of civic and environment through the Information

Technologies

(http://www.minambiente.it/home_it/menu.html?mp=/menu/menu_comunicazioni/&m=Campagne_ed_Iniziative.html&lang=it).

More information on school projects can be found in the webpage (http://www.unescodess.it/riconoscimenti_dess/iniziative_scolastiche) of the “National Committee for the Education on sustainable development” where are reported all the school project that got the logo DESS. This logo certifies those initiatives and projects that give a high contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the “UN Decade of Education on sustainable development”

Is there any report/survey investigating the awareness of environmental issues among young people in your country? If so what are the main outcomes?

Not available

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to environment issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

Not available

2.3 Young people and human rights

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to global human rights issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

See previous point.

3. Cooperation with third countries in the field of youth

3.1 Agreements and areas of cooperation

Are there any bilateral or supranational agreements with countries / regions outside Europe in the field of youth?

There are some bilateral agreements/memorandum of understanding with extra-UE countries (Israeli, Tunisia, Gabon) in the field of youth, mainly aiming at developing relations between students and between young people of both countries, in particular by organizing meetings, cultural and educational exchanges, seminars and projects of various kinds.

Moreover, Italy is one of the members of the North South Center of the Council of Europe..

Cooperation in the field of youth policy and /or youth research

One example of cooperation in the youth field is the memorandum of understanding between the Department of youth and the School of Theater - Film and Television University of California (UCLA) - Los Angeles. With this Memorandum the Parties propose to collaborate and contribute to

the actualization of significant projects in the art and business of cinema, performing arts and new media, giving young Italians and Americans the opportunity to develop their professional abilities and to gain international experience. The Parties aim to facilitate the introduction of young talents to the professional world and the experience of artistic production in these areas. On that basis, after the signature of a specific convention, 25 Italian students are carrying out a project at the UCLA University to allow the development of a cinema application on mobile phone.

Moreover, there are many cooperation activities between the FNG and the youth organisations of extra- UE countries, especially the Mediterranean ones.

Innovitalia.net (<http://www.innovitalia.net/>) is the portal launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Education, University and Research to promote exchanges and contacts, research cooperation among Italian researchers in Italy and abroad, and support the relations between researchers and entrepreneurs, in order to create partnerships for the launch of innovative start up.

Support to the development of youth work on other continents

The Italian Development Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) attaches great importance to the youth policies, as outlined in their Strategic Guidelines (available in their website: www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it). In particular, within the context of the Millennium Development Goals, the Italian Cooperation has focused its attention to three main sectors which, according to the OECD/DAC wording, are as follows: employment policy and administrative management, vocational training and basic life skills for youth. Since 2010, the Italian Development Cooperation has contributed to the achievement of development programs and projects in many geographical areas, such as: Balkans (Albania), Mediterranean and Middle East countries (Morocco, Lebanon and Palestinian Territories), Sub-Saharan Africa (Burundi, Somalia, RDC, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia and Sierra Leone), Central and South America (Guatemala, Bolivia and Peru) and Asia (Pakistan, Vietnam). Only in the last two years, the Italian Development Cooperation has provided resources for a total amount of less than 10 million Euros.

3.2 Support measures for young people

What are the opportunities offered to young people to explore and enhance global understanding by going abroad such as volunteering and youth exchange programmes)?

National Civic Service

Within the National Civic Service, it is possible to perform voluntary activities also in international organizations. The projects are carried out in collaboration with the European Union jointly with other international institution whose aim is cooperation and development among developing countries.

In 2011, 415 volunteers have been involved in voluntary activities in different regions in and outside Europe.

<http://www.serviziocivile.gov.it>

Youth in action programme – European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) is one of the actions financed by the European Programme Youth in Action that provides young Europeans with the chance to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU

Promotion of youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities with regions/countries outside of Europe

An important point of reference for all people willing to start an enterprise abroad are the Chambers of Commerce (Camere di Commercio, (<http://www.camcom.gov.it>) that are present in all the provinces and through *ad hoc* regional centers (Centri estero regionali) offer a specific services called "Genesi", including information on economic studies, on funding opportunities, on administrative procedures targeted to the development of an entrepreneurial project, on legislation and on trends of the labour market. Young people intending to extend their entrepreneurial activity abroad get the support of *ad hoc* regional centers (centri estero regionale) that offer them training opportunities, information and promotion services.

ICE (<http://www.ice.gov.it>), the national public agency for the promotion of the Italian enterprises abroad and their internationalization, has the task to support, develop and promote the economic and trade relationships of the Italian entrepreneurs in the international markets and works for the internationalization of the Italian enterprises and the commercialization of their goods and services.

More in general category association (Confindustria, confartiginato, etc) offers information and support to young entrepreneurs.

Finally, in 2011 the Department for Youth (now Department for Youth and National Civic Service) launched the portal Youth enterprise (Giovane Impresa, <http://www.giovanimpresa.it/>) aiming at promoting the enterprise culture among young people and offering them information useful for the start of an enterprise.

4. Participation of young people and youth organisations in policy making on global issues

Have young people and youth organisations been given political and financial support to be individually or collectively involved in the policy regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues? How?

In this field the Department of Youth and the National Civil Service collaborates – by annual conventions – in some of the activities of the FNG.

Respectively in:

- 2009 the FNG Convention granted € 495.000 and, in this range were funded the following projects: - "I Care About Global Warming & Deforestation campaign, volunteering project" - Youth in action 2007-2013; "National youth councils training cooperation - strengthening partnerships for youth participation through training project, strategies development: Africa-Europe"
- 2010 the FNG Convention granted € 483.000,00: some of the projects carried out were: "Youth and mobility", "Culture for all", "Youth consumer actors- education at the consumption, to inform citizens", "Trash for Cash", "One Tree per Child – OTPC", "European Atlantic learning course on European Voluntary year" with the cooperation of European Youth Forum, " Project, Connect, Respect"

- 2011 the FNG Convention granted € 483.000,00: some of the projects carried out were “ A moment enough”, “European - Mediterranean Process”, “ Energy Federalism”.
- 2012 the FNG Convention granted € 450.000,00. The FNG organized an international meeting of Youth Councils in the Euro Mediterranean area and a training of trainers in human rights “Education Nazionale”.

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in campaigns regarding global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

Not available

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in non-governmental organisations active in the domains of global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

Some data regarding the youth participation to organisations involved in environment, human rights and peace may be taken from Istat surveys on the living conditions of the Italian families. A focus on these data is contained in the “Rapporto Giovani, volontariato e altre attività della partecipazione sociale” (Report Young people, volunteering and other activities of social participation) drew by the Department of Youth and National Civic Service in 2011.