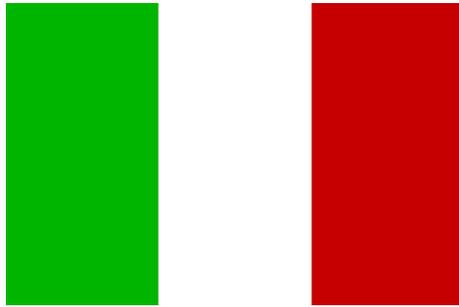


Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET *ON YOUTH POLICY* *IN ITALY*



Last updated: December 2015

By: Stefania Rota

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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1 Context of national youth policy

Over the years, a commitment of the State to safeguard young people has constantly characterized the political and legislative choices that accompanied interventions by the administration in office at the time.

With this aim, a real evolution in Italian political choices has been exhibited, although, the protection of youth initially used measures that targeted the phenomena expressing the malaise of youth such as drug use, alcoholism and dropping out of school. Over the last few years interventions benefiting the younger generations have been agreed on, focusing on the prevention of this unease and on the development and expression of young people's 'potential'.

The first initiatives for youth were developed by local, municipal and regional levels, and began at the end of the 1970s. Over the years, a transversal approach to tackle the problems of the younger generation was adopted.

On a centralized level, development of youth policy has been a more recent occurrence. In fact, only in 1996 the responsibility for youth policy matters was assumed by an appropriate entity at the Office of the President of the Council of Ministers: the Department of Social Affairs. It was then transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, following the 2001 political elections.

Subsequently, in 2006, responsibility for matters of youth and sport were assigned to an *ad hoc* entity: the Department for Youth Policy and Sporting Activities (Dipartimento per le politiche giovanili e le attività sportive). In 2008, the new government made the express decision to create a new department which no longer dealt with youth and sports, but which was aimed exclusively at implementing measures and interventions for youth.

To this end, the Department of Youth (Dipartimento della gioventù) was established by a Decree by the President of the Council of Ministers on 8th May 2008.

In November 2011, after Mr. Berlusconi's resignation, a new Government lead by Mario Monti was established.

With the new Government the Department of Youth has been entrusted to the Minister for international cooperation and national integration Mr. Andrea Riccardi. In July 2012, the Department of Youth has been unified with the Office for the National Civic Service, becoming the Department of Youth and National Civic Service.

Following the resignation of the President of the Council of Ministers Mr. Mario Monti, who resigned 21th December 2012, the task of forming a "government of large agreement" has been entrusted to Mr. Enrico Letta.

The following Government Letta has conferred the mandate for youth policies to the Minister for Integration Ms. Cécile Kyenge Kashetu.

At the end of February 2014, a change of Government with the same majority occurred, with the President of the Council of Ministers Mr. Matteo Renzi. On the 8th April 2014 the mandate of youth policies was attributed to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Mr. Giuliano Poletti, meanwhile the Department of Youth and National Civic Service is still the administrative body in charge of youth policies, supported by Undersecretary of State Mr. Luigi Bobba.

2. Statistics on young people

Total number of young people, resident in Italy on the 1st of January 2015, from the ages of 15 to 29: 9.228.985,00 (Source: ISTAT, 25/06/15)

AGE	No. men	No. women	No. men and women
15	293.550,00	276.887,00	570.437,00
16	295.050,00	276.597,00	571.647,00
17	294.871,00	276.088,00	570.959,00
18	297.208,00	277.181,00	574.389,00
19	299.079,00	277.427,00	576.506,00
20	302.573,00	283.343,00	585.916,00
21	308.854,00	291.898,00	600.752,00
22	321.276,00	305.266,00	626.542,00
23	321.732,00	306.839,00	628.571,00
24	327.003,00	313.850,00	640.853,00
25	326.285,00	316.413,00	642.698,00
26	334.577,00	325.254,00	659.831,00
27	328.084,00	321.104,00	649.188,00
28	330.177,00	324.206,00	654.383,00
29	339.922,00	336.391,00	676.313,00
TOTAL	4.720.241,00	4.508.744,00	9.228.985,00

Percentage of young people from the ages of 15 and 29: 15,18% of the total population.

Percentage of young women: 14,41% of the total women population; Percentage of young men: 15,99% of the total men population (Source: ISTAT, 25/06/15).

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth

- The Ministry

On the 8th April 2014 the mandate of youth policies was attributed to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs led by Mr. Giuliano Poletti

Web site: <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/Ministero/ilMinistro/Pages/default.aspx>

- Duration of mandate

The official number of months on the legislation period is 60.

Department of Youth and National Civic Service

Main tasks of the Department of Youth and National Civic Service:

The Department provides the legal and administrative procedures, the study and the investigation of acts relating to the performance of the duties delegated to the Department of youth, and in particular:

- the affirmation of youth rights; the expression, even as associations, of their instances and their interests; their right to participate in public life
- the promotion of young people's right to housing, to knowledge and technological innovation, the promotion and support of youth entrepreneurship and employment
- promotion and support of creative activities, cultural entertainment, leisure, cultural trips and youth study
- promotion and support of the access of young people to projects, programmes and international community funding
- management of the Youth Fund
- administration of the National Fund for youth communities (art. 1, para. 556, of law No. 266/2005 as amended and associated Observatory for youthful discomfort related to dependencies)
- management of funds under article. 1, par. 72, 73 and 74 of the Act, December 24, 2007 No. 247
- the management of European funds for the implementation of projects assigned to the Department;

- organization and implementation of the national civic service as foreseen by the laws No. 230/1998; 64/2001 and by the Legislative Decree 77/2002.
- representation of the Government in international and community bodies set up on youth policy.

The Ministerial Decree of 31-07-2012 foresees a Head of Department and three General Directors responsible, respectively, for Youth Policies, for Civil Service and for Organization and Communication.

Number of people who work in the Department

The number of people currently working in this Department is 126 (including the three General Directors and the Head of Department)

The Head of Department is Couns. Calogero Mauceri

Tel. +39.06.67796880 - Fax +39.06.67796527

segreteriadgscn@governo.it

Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry

Couns. Cinzia Zaccaria

Tel. +39.06.67794750 - Fax +39.06.67796527

c.zaccaria@governo.it

Contact person in the Department of Youth competent for European youth policy

Ms. Emanuela Rampelli

Tel. +39.06.67796873 - Fax +39.06.67796679

e.rampelli@governo.it

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

Other Ministries

Various other ministries have responsibilities in the youth field: Ministry for Labour and Social policies, Ministry of Education, University and Research, Department for Regional Affairs, Autonomies and Sports, Ministry of Health, Department for Family Policies, Department for equal opportunities, Department for EU Policies.

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

- Chamber of Deputies (http://www.camera.it/leg17/99?shadow_organo_parlamentare=2086): Social affairs Commission. The Commission is chaired by Mr Mario Marazziti.
- Chamber of Deputies (www.camera.it): Culture, science and education Commission. The Commission is chaired by Ms Flavia Piccoli Nardelli.

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Under Art. 117 of the Italian Constitution, Regions have legislative and executive powers in all subject matters that are not expressly covered by State legislation, such as youth policies (see also point 4).

The following is a list of administrative youth departments/directions of every region in Italy:

- Region Abruzzo: Department of Economic Development, Policies of Labour, of Education, of Research, and of University (person in charge: Tommaso Di Rino, Viale Bovio, 425, Pescara, phone +39 085 7672087 e-mail: dpg@regione.abruzzo.it; direpalfi@pec.regione.abruzzo.it Web site: <http://www.regione.abruzzo.it>
- Region Basilicata: Department of Policies for Development, Job, Training and Research - Office of Policies for Sport and Implementation of Youth Policies (person in charge: Maria Rosaria Sabia - Via Vincenzo Verrastro 8, 85100 Potenza, phone: +39 0971 666105, Fax: +39 0971 668088, E-mail: maria.sabia@regione.basilicata.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.basilicata.it>
- Region Calabria: Department n. 10- Office for Sport, Show, Cinema, Youth Policies (person in charge: Giovanni Pandullo, Via S. Nicola, 8 - 88100 Catanzaro, phone: +39 0961-856812, Fax +39 0961-856815 Fax: +39 0961.856815) e-mail: g.pandullo@regcal.it PEC: settore3.turismo@pec.regione.calabria.it Web site: <http://www.regione.calabria.it>- Region Campania: Directorate General for education, training, work and youth policies (person in charge: Antonio Oddati, Centro Direzionale, Isola A6 – 80143 Napoli, phone: +39 081/7966225-6450; Fax 081/7966421: a.oddati@regione.campania.it - Pec: dg.11@pec.regione.campania.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.campania.it>- Region Emilia-Romagna: Department for Health and Social Policies for Integration, (person in charge: Petropula Kyriakoula, Viale Aldo Moro 21 - 40127 Bologna, phone: +39 051-5277161, Fax +39 051-5277056, E-mail: DgSan@regione.emilia-romagna.it, Pec: DgSan@postacert.regione.emilia-romagna.it. Web site: <http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it>- Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Central Direction of Employment, Training, Education,

Equal opportunities, Youth policies, Research and University (person in charge: Nicola Manfredi, Trieste, Via San Francesco 37 - phone: +39 040 3775287, fax +39 040 3775250, e-mail lavoro@regione.fvg.it, PEC: lavoro@certregione.fvg.it Web site: <http://www.regione.fvg.it>

- Region Lazio: Direction Culture and Youth Policies (person in charge: Miriam Cipriani, Roma - Via Rosa Raimondi Garibaldi, 7 - 00145 - Tel +39 : 0651683404 - 4049, E-mail: m.cipriani@regione.lazio.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.lazio.it>- Region Liguria: Department of

health and social services, Service International cooperation, youth policies and civic service (person in charge: Marcello Carli, Genova, via Fieschi 15, phone: 010.548.5862, Fax: 010.548.4377, e-mail: maria.locantore@regione.liguria.it. Web site: <http://www.regione.liguria.it>

- Region Lombardy: Direction for Sport and Youth Policies (person in charge: Director General Cristina Colombo, Piazza Città di Lombardia, 1 - 20124 Milano, email:cristina_colombo@regione.lombardia.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.lombardia.it> phone: +3906 02 6765 5714

- Region Marche: Service for Social Policies and Sport, (person in charge: Paolo Mannucci, Via Gentile da Fabriano, 3 60125 Ancona AN, phone: +39 0718064305, Fax: +39 071.8064041, Tel email:paolo.mannucci@regione.marche.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.marche.it>

- Region Molise: Service for Social Policies – (person in charge: Colavita Michele, Via Toscana, 51 - 86100 Campobasso, phone: +39 0874/ 424310, Fax +39 0874/ 424376 e-mail: colavita.michele@mailregione.molise.it). Web site: <http://www3.regione.molise.it>

- Region Piemonte: Direction Social Cohesion (person in charge: Gianfranco Bordone, Via Via Magenta, 12 - Torino, phone: +39 011.4321456, fax +39 011.4324878, email: coesionesociale@regione.piemonte.it; PEC: coesionesociale@cert.regione.piemonte.it

Web site: <http://www.regione.piemonte.it>- Region Puglia: Area for the Economic Development, Jobe and Innovation ” (person in charge: Annibale d’Elia, Viale Caduti di tutte le guerre, 15 - 70126 Bari, phone: + 080 540 6949 - 6208, Fax 080 540 9200). E-mail: area.economia@regione.puglia.it; PEC: areaeconomia@pec.rupar.puglia.it

Web site: <http://www.regione.puglia.it/>

- Region Sardinia: General Direction for Public Education, Service University and Youth Policies (person in charge: Giuseppina Littera, Viale Trieste, 186 - 09123 Cagliari, phone: 070/6064595 fax 070/6064539, e-mail: pi.formazioneuperiore@regione.sardegna.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.sardegna.it>- Region Sicily: Department of Family and Social policies, Service

for the policies for families, youth and the protection of minors (person in charge: Alberto Pulizzi,

Via Trinacria, 34-36 90144 Palermo; phone:+39 091-7074277; e-mail: alberto.pulizzi@regione.sicilia.it; PEC: dipartimento.famiglia@certmail.regione.sicilia.it. Web site: <http://pti.regione.sicilia.it>

- Region Toscana: Direction General Citizenship Rights and Social Cohesion – (person in charge: Monica Piovi, Via Taddeo Alderotti, 26 50127 Firenze, phone: +39 0554383275 E-mail: monica.piovi@regione.toscana.it. Web site: <http://www.regione.toscana.it> Region Trentino Alto Adige:Autonomous Province of Trento, Department of Health and Social Solidarity (person in charge: Silvio Fedrigotti, Via Gilli, 4, 38100 – Trento, phone: +39 0461.494171 fax: +39 0461.494159, E-mail: dip.salute@provincia.tn.it). PEC dip.salute@pec.provincia.tn.it Web site: <http://www.provincia.tn.it/>.

Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Office for Women, Family and Youth (person in charge: Petra Frey, Palazzo 12, via Canonico Michael Gamper 39100 Bolzano, +39 047141 82 30, fax 0471 41 82 49). Web site: <http://www.provincia.bz.it>

- Region Umbria: Direction of Health and Social Cohesion, (person in charge: Maria Speranza Favaroni, Via M. Angeloni, 61 - 06124 Perugia, phone: +39 0755045312, Fax: +39 0755045569 e-mail: msfavaroni@regione.umbria.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.umbria.it>

- Region Valle D'Aosta: Department of Health and Social Policies, Direction of Social and Youth Policies (person responsible: Gianni Nuti, Grande Charrière, 40 - 11020 Saint Christophe, phone: +39 0165 52.7000, e-mail g.nuti@regione.vda.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.vda.it>- Region

Veneto: Department for Social and Health Services – Service for Family, Minors and Young people (Director vacant; Chairman of the Social Services – Manuela Lanzarin Palazzo Balbi

- Dorsoduro 3901, 30123 Venice, phone: +39 041 2792881 - +39 041 2792882, fax: +39 041 2792883, e-mail: assessore.lanzarin@regione.veneto.it; ufficiostampa@regione.veneto.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.veneto.it>.

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

At a local level, each Municipality (8.047) has an office that provides, inter alia, services for young people.

3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people:

Youth Information Centres (Informagiovani <http://www.informagiovani-italia.com/>). The Informagiovani centres are public (mainly municipal) services for young people that provide information of all kinds, on subjects of interest to young people. The service is free and the information is reliable and varied.

In Italy, since 1981, over 1.200 Informagiovani Centres have opened in all the large cities and in many smaller ones and towns as well.

3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

3.3.1 Youth Councils

In 2002 the Minister for Education created the National Forum of the Students' Associations. It aims at favoring the dialogue between the Ministry and the students' associations, representing needs and formulating proposals, providing advice about initiatives taken by the Minister.

The National Council of University Students is an advisory body, representing the students who attend. It offers advice and proposals to the Minister of Education, University and Research and elects eight students' representatives in the National University Council.

Youth Councils exist in many Italian Municipalities and in some Regions with the aim to promote the dialogue among young people and represent their needs, proposals and opinions to the administrative and political authorities.

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

FORUM NAZIONALE GIOVANI (<http://www.forumnazionalegiovani.it/>)

INFORMAGIOVANI (<http://www.informagiovani-italia.com>)

Specifically, the Department collaborates – by virtue of the appropriate conventions – in activities of the National Youth Forum -NYF (Forum nazionale dei giovani), recognised by Title 30 law of December 30th 2004, no. 311 which is the national and international representative platform for 75 organisations which reflect the heterogeneous nature of youth civil commitment. Some of its activities are financed yearly by the Department.

In 2014 the National Youth Forum have been funded by the Department (€ 800,000.00), to carry out activities for the implementation of the structured dialogue process (see EU Council Resolution on the renewed framework for the European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018) during the Italian Presidency of the Council of the UE, such as the organization the above mentioned EU Youth Conference of Rome.

In 2015 the National Youth Forum has been funded by the Department (€ 400,000.00), to carry out activities in the following four programme lines:

Objective 1 “Labour and social policies” aims at promoting different initiatives for the revision of the labour market.

Objective 2 “Recognition, strengthening and sustainability of youth organisations” refers to projects aimed at promoting the formal recognition of the youth associations, the dialogue with the actors of policies related to youth, especially the employment one and the recognition of the competences acquired through non formal and informal learning.

Objective 3 “Culture, education and training” refers to projects focusing on the promotion of the improvement of the national systems of education and training in order to equip young people with the competences and abilities needed to fully achieve their personal potentialities and improve their employability.

Objective 4 “Integration, cooperation and international mobility” deals with projects that aim at continuing the engagement of the NYF in the international cooperation at regional level (EU and CoE), interregional (CoE and Euro-Arab-Mediterranean Youth Councils) and global (UN) level.

Moreover, other initiatives regard the promotion of youth mobility at international level and the recognition of the competences acquired by young people during such experiences.

Finally, and in line with the implementation of the EU structured dialogue, there is a push to promote the implementation of dialogue with all young representatives on the local level (Regional, Provincial and Municipal).

3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?

A permanent network with these stakeholders doesn't yet exist, but there are many informal contacts with official institutions that collect statistical data on youth, research groups or individual researchers who do youth research and youth organizations.

Interdepartmental working groups were promoted by the Department to fulfill specific tasks such as the drafting of National Reports.

Now, in order to contribute to the Youth Wiki tool the Department is putting in place an *ad hoc* committee including ministers involved in youth policies, regions, public research institutes, actors involved in the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme (Agenzia Nazionale dei giovani e Eurodesk Italy) and the Italian Youth Council (Forum Nazionale dei Giovani).

4. Legislation

At the national level there isn't any general law on youth, while there are many specific laws affecting young people in different fields, such as education, employment, apprenticeships and internships.

Currently a draft law on the reform of the third sector, the social enterprise and the discipline of the universal civil service is before Parliament.

Youth is constitutionally protected, see article 31 of the Italian Constitution – “The Republic [...] protects maternity, childhood and youth [...]” and therefore, over the years, a State's commitment to safeguard young people has always characterized the political and legislative decisions that have accompanied the interventions by government authorities.

With the constitutional law n. 3/2001 Regions have acquired legislative and executive powers in all matters not expressly reserved to the State legislation, including youth policy.

The Title V - Art. 117 of the Italian Constitution, as modified by the Constitutional Law n. 3/2001, gives to the Regions legislative and executive powers in all subject matters that are not expressly covered by State legislation, such as youth policies and more in general social policies. In matter of social policies the State has exclusive legislative powers only for the determination of the basic level of benefits relating to civil and social entitlements to be guaranteed throughout the national territory. The Italian Constitutional Court (www.cortecostituzionale.it) established that the strong

link existing between the determination of the basic level of benefits and the concrete implementation of the actions always needs a previous agreement between the State and the Regions.

For this reason there are many regional laws regarding youth issues and many agreements between the government and local authorities (regions, provinces and municipalities) for the actions to be implemented in the territory.

Each Region has approved over the years one or more regional laws aimed at young people, some of them with specific objectives for the young people such as the implementation of the rights of citizenship, the promotion of personality development, the social participation, youth associations and prevention of youth problems. Other regional laws are aimed at financing services, initiatives, projects for young people through plans and programmes, as well as at promoting the territorial coordination of youth policy.

For further information please see point 5.

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

The National Youth Policy aims in particular at reaffirming the central position of young people in Italian national growth policies. The achievement of these objectives is very closely linked to the specific local situations of the areas concerned in terms of social services, infrastructures, economic and occupational development. To guarantee the same opportunities to young people in the whole country it is necessary to exploit the value of the youth resources present in the less developed areas. Here there is a more serious gap on employment opportunities for young people, so public intervention must narrow it improving both the services for young people and the systems for the labour demand/supply match.

“Diritto al futuro” Right to the future (<http://www.diamoglifuturo.it/>) is a package of measures, adopted in 2010 by the Italian government to tackle the precarious condition young people are facing in their daily lives, being implemented by the Department of Youth and National Civic Service together with the other ministries and public authorities. Many actions, still going on, have been carried out to support youth employment, via the implementation of instruments for information and youth guidance and the optimization of services for local enterprises so as to stimulate job applications; stimulate housing autonomy; enhance and develop youth mobility, through the implementation of international exchanges, the optimization of receptive structures, information on international opportunities for young people and the creation of a employers' network, even on an international scale. In particular, the measures are the following ones:

- Fund for access to credit to purchase the first home by young couples or single-parent families with minor children (Fondo per la casa): € 50 million (<http://www.gioventu.gov.it/diritto-al-futuro/diritto-al-futuro-accesso-al-mutuo-per-le-giovani-coppie-con-contratti-atipici.aspx>).

With D.M. December 17, 2010, n. 256, published in the Official Gazette. 27 of February 3, 2011, was established the "Fund for the access to finance for the purchase of their first house," with a budget of € 50 million, aimed at the granting of mortgage loans for the purchase of 'principal residence, the amount of not more than 200 thousand euro. This is a special guarantee fund, a fund for easier access to credit for the purchase of a first home whose beneficiaries are young couples and single-parent families with minor children whose total income does not exceed 35 thousand euro and resulting for more than half, from atypical employment contracts. This fund was incremented with € 10 million for each

of the years 2014 and 2015 by the decree on urgent measures in the field of IMU, housing and income assistance (approved by the Council of Ministers on August 28 2013. This fund ceased its operations in September 2014. The remaining funds were included in the new Guarantee Fund for the first house at the Ministry of Economy and Finance that became implementing entity of that Fund.

- Fund for studying (Fondo per lo studio): approximately € 19 million (<http://www.gioventu.gov.it/diritto-al-futuro/diritto-al-futuro-un-prestito-garantito-per-gli-studenti-meritevoli.aspx>)

With D.M. November 19, 2010, published in the G.U. n. 25 of 1 February 2011, a fund was established with a budget of 19 million euro granting guaranteed loans for students with positive outcomes, to finance further education after high school by enrolling at the university, attending specialized post- degree or deepening knowledge of a language. Disbursements, on an annual basis, can vary between 3 thousand and 5 thousand euro, for a maximum total of 25 thousand euro. The repayment of loans begins 30 months after the final payment of the loan and will be carried out over a period of between three and fifteen years. The aim is to set in motion the so-called “social elevator” and enable young people without a wealthy family behind to invest in their own education. The opportunity to access a bank credit is very important for young people because it allows them to independently meet their training needs, and then enter the labour market.

- Fund for precarious parents ((Fondo “genitori precari”): € 51 million (<http://www.gioventu.gov.it/diritto-al-futuro/diritto-al-futuro-un-lavoro-stabile-per-i-giovani-genitori-precari.aspx>).

With D.M. November 19, 2010, published in the G.U. n. 301 of 27 December 2010, was established a fund of € 51 million, aimed at giving a grant of 5 thousand euro to private companies and cooperatives that take unemployed young persons or with a contract of "precarious" employment towards the employment contract of indefinite duration, including part-time, for each assumption to the limit of five assumptions for each company or cooperative society. The measure is aimed at the stabilization potential of 10 thousand jobs by providing for a young precarious or unemployed under 35 years and, if they have children, they get a bonus of 5 thousand euro of the company that takes on a temporary

basis.

On May 30, 2011 the Department and the National Institute of Social Security (INPS) signed a collaboration agreement for the implementation of the measures provided for in the aforementioned decree. The Department has provided the INPS 51 million of the Fund. On September 5, 2011, with INPS Circular n. 115, was set up at INPS the "Database for the employment of young parents", where young parents with minor children can enroll in search of stable employment, designed to enable the delivery of incentive € 5,000 in favor of private and cooperative societies that cater to assume persons registered in the database itself.

- Fund patrons (Fondo Mecenati): actually 5,5 million ((<http://www.gioventu.gov.it/>)
By Decree of the Minister of Youth November 12, 2010, recorded by the Court of Auditors to reg. 1 Fog. 202 on January 17, 2011, published in Official Gazette no. 25, 1 February 2011, was established at the former Department of Youth the "Fund Patrons" with an initial budget of € 40 million, aimed to co-finance projects to promote, support and develop youth entrepreneurship and to promote and support the talent, innovation and creativity of young people under the age of 35 years. Public co-financing, representing 40% of the initiative by private entities (corporations and foundations), aims to support and promote projects that "invest" in the skills and talents of young people under 35. The intention is to establish an alliance between institutions and new patrons with the common goal of freeing up new youthful energy in every field of "Made in Italy", promoting the launch of new businesses, particularly in the fields of eco-innovation and of technological innovation, the recovery of traditional arts and crafts through corporate social responsibility and supporting the development of talent in the fields of culture, music, film, theater, art, fashion and design through the granting of awards or scholarships. The young people who will benefit from the Fund are those that have got a talent, but lack the financial means. The intervention started in 2011 with the selection procedure for the approval of the submitted projects. The approved projects are now in an ending phase.

Campus Mentis: about 11 ml/€ (<http://www.campusmentis.it/>)

The project intends to promote the job insertion of talented young people strengthening the link between education and labour market and helping the meeting of labour demand. In the period

2011- 2013 more than 20.000 students participated in a unique training and orientation experience, having the opportunity to come face-to-face with some of the most important Italian and foreign companies and about 75% of them got a job placement. In the three years more than 70 campus and/or touring events had been organized.

Following the experience of the structured dialogue with young people consulted during the First European Conference on health and well-being of young people (Rome, 16/18 June 2010) the Department funded the project “Chiediloqui” (Ask it here).

The project involves the activation of a multi-channel service articulated in:

1. a web portal (<http://www.chiediloqui.it/il-progetto>)
2. applications for smartphones and tablets
3. mobile version of the web portal.

The service takes care of three macro-areas: affectivity and sexuality -sexually transmitted diseases and fertility preservation and body and food-, eating disorders and Integration of young migrants.

Besides the interventions carried out in the framework of the package “Diritto la futuro” the Department is promoting actions to support the 4 Regions that benefit of cohesion funds for convergence (Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicily).

In particular, through the following projects:

the project "Youth, legality, citizenship and participation"

(<http://www.ministerogioventu.it/ponsicurezza/pon.aspx>) funded with a budget of 3 ml/€ is part of the National Operational Programme “Security for development” - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – Priority 2 – Objective 2.6 (Contain the effects of the manifestations of deviance). The Ministry of Interior is the managing authority.

The main aim is the connection, the design and implementation of activities aimed at the prevention and reduction of the phenomenon of violence, delinquency and bullying, common among the new generations in the territories involved and falling in the 4 Regions objective convergence (Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicily), through the creation of permanent action in the field, including promotion, information, education and awareness to the issues of culture of legality. The project funded the construction of eight youth centres in 8 municipalities located in the

four convergence regions and the organisation in these restored properties of recreational activities for young people aged between 18 and 25 years, living in disadvantaged areas and at risk of involvement in organized crime circuits. The project ended on 30 September 2014, with all actions having been implemented.

The Project Operational Technical Assistance (POAT) "For Youth" which is part of the NOP Governance and Technical Assistance - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) - Priority II (Actions for strengthening public administration), Objective 4 (Improve and strengthen the capacity of the public administration in the field of regional policy). The POAT "For Youth" aims to assist the Convergence Objective Regions in increasing their programming skills, through the identification of innovative and effective projects designed to "improve" the condition of youth, and to promote integration of youth policy in the context of co-financed programs. The project started on the 25th of February 2013 and thanks to an extension will end on the 30th of June 2016 with a budget of € 2,604,590.47. The Ministry of Economic Development is the managing authority.

In addition, there are two invitations to tender with national funds under the Action and Territorial Cohesion Plan (CAP), for the funding of projects submitted by young people and/or private social organizations and targeted to young beneficiaries aged between 14 and 35 years of age.

- 1) The call "Youth for the enhancement of public goods" € 12,763,000.00 - 700 projects submitted and 251 projects approved) aimed at promoting and supporting initiatives to enhance public property owned by a public administration in order to facilitate the promotion of social entrepreneurship and youth employment in the Convergence Objective regions (Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicily) and at the same time facilitate the access and use by the community.
- 2) The call "Youth Outreach" (€23.709.000,00 - 900 projects submitted and 325 projects approved) aimed at promoting and supporting actions for the strengthening of economic and social cohesion of the territories of the Convergence Objective regions (Calabria, Campania , Puglia and Sicily). It aims to strengthen interventions for the social inclusion of young people, dissemination of the culture of legality through civic engagement and active participation in civil society, the development of the cultures and traditions of Intercultural and inter-religious Dialogue, and the diffusion of new technologies in the areas of employment and enhancement of the human capital of excellence in scientific and creative field.

The total amount of the funding for these two calls has been increased by the Financial Law for 2014 from € 36,472,000.00 (initial funding) to 117,600,000.00.

Promotion of active citizenship, volunteering and youth mobility are among the main aims of the project "Youth Camp" and of the National Civic Service (NCS).

The "Youth camp" interventions, now in its seventh edition, are carried out in collaboration with the Navy, the Harbour and the Italian Red Cross. These are projects of civic education targeting young people between 14 and 22 aimed at their empowerment on issues such as environmental protection, aid to populations in need, the acquisition of new skills and attitudes, satisfying in this way, the desire of young people to be active through civil society. These initiatives allow young people to spend a week in a leading role and help to serve the country, reviving the desire for active citizenship and resulting in encouragement towards volunteering. In 2015 "Youth Camp" will be funded by the Department of Youth and the National Civic Service for a total amount of approximately € 820,000.00.

The NCS has been instituted since 2001 and implemented by the National Civic Service Office, now entrusted to the Department for youth and national civic service.

It's an opportunity offered to young people aged 18 to 28 years to dedicate a year of their lives in favour of a commitment of solidarity and social cohesion. The voluntary service provides young people with a strong educational and training experience, important for their personal growth and participation to civil society, contributing to the social, cultural and economic development of the country.

Those who choose to engage for twelve months in the civil service volunteering, choose to add a positive light to their knowledge, expendable in the course of working life; it becomes even job opportunities at the same time ensures some economic autonomy. The areas of intervention in which young people can engage are the following ones: assistance, civil protection, environment, artistic and cultural heritage, education and promotion of culture and civil service abroad.

Periodicals calls are published. Young people, aged between 18 and 28 years can participate by submitting, within the deadline of the notice, the application form. Number of young people who participated in the various annuity: 2010-20,701 young people; 2011-20,157 young people; 2012-19,705 young people; 2013-16,673 young people; 2014-15,114 young people. In 2015, the opportunity to participate will be extended to about 46,000 young people.

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

Amounts allocated to youth policies or to actions in the youth field on national level.

Law No 248 of 4 August 2006 enacting "Urgent measures for economic recovery" instituted the National Fund for Youth Policies to promote culture, vocational training and social integration and support the access to credit. The initial capital endowment of this Fund integrated for the three-year period 2007-2009 under the law n. 296 of 27 December 2006 (Financial Law) has been established:

for 2010 by the Financial Law for 2010 as follows: 81,087,000.00 € (the 46,15% of this sum finances regional and local projects according to an agreement among the Government, Regions and Autonomous Provinces approved on the 7th October 2010 during the State-Region Conference session).

for 2011 by the Financial Law for 2011 as follows: 32,909,777.00 €. Currently this sum is reduced at 20,123,671.02 because of the reduction of the national public expenditure (the 46,15% of this sum will finance regional and local projects according to an agreement among the Government, Regions and Autonomous Provinces approved on the 7th October 2010 during the State-Region Conference session).

In 2012, in compliance with the Allocation Decree (signed by the Minister for international cooperation and national integration on the 7th of November 2012) the National fund for Youth Policies is financing interventions at local (€ 3.908.414,94) and national level (€ 3.503.402,30).

In 2013, in compliance with the Allocation Decree (signed by the Minister for integration on the 19th of November 2013) the National fund for Youth Policies financed interventions implemented by municipalities (€ 659,795.00), provinces (€ 264,445.84), regions (€ 3.298.447,16) and at national level (€ 1.055.672,00).

In 2014, the National fund for Youth Policies, in compliance with the Allocation Decree (signed by the Minister of Labour and Social Policies on the 30th of September 2014) financed interventions implemented by local bodies (€ 1,093,257.00), Regions (€ 7,106,171.00) and at national level (€ 2.733.143,00).

In 2015, the National fund for Youth Policies, in compliance with the Allocation Decree (signed by the Minister of Labour and Social Policies on the 31st of July 2015), is financing interventions implemented by local bodies (€ 1,220,677.92), regions (€ 1,525,847.40) and at national level (€ 2,339,632,68).

See also funds reported in the previous point 5.

7. European Dimension of youth policy

As a Member State of the European Union and of the Council of Europe, Italy represented by the Department of Youth and National Civic Service, participates in the international debate on youth policy at different levels.

Within the European Union, political involvement takes place via participation in the Council of the European Union – sitting on committees for education, culture and youth – as well as through preparatory tasks by the Youth Working Party at the heart of the Council.

Moreover, Italy takes part in several events for the exchange of opinions which are all promoted by the European Commission and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, such as conferences, meetings with the director generals of the youth sector and think tanks.

In the second semester of 2014 Italy ran the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (see point 7.2).

In 2014 Italy started the implementation of the new Erasmus+ programme and the Department of Youth and National Civic Service contributed to it both at European level as a member of the Programme Committee and at national level as the internal supervisory authority of the ad hoc National Agency (see point 7.2.1)).

7.1 Council of Europe

The Department of Youth and National Civic Service disseminates information on the Council of Europe programmes, seminars, study sessions and other training opportunities to the Forum nazionale dei giovani and to other relevant youth ONGs that can present their candidature. Italian Youth ONGs also submit projects to the European Youth Foundation call for proposals (<http://www.coe.int/web/european-youth-foundation/home>).

Moreover, Italy participated in the No Hate Speech Campaign launched by the Council of Europe in early 2013. The Department of Youth set up and coordinated the Italian National Committee

composed of the following government and non government institutions: Department for Information and Publishing; National Office against Racial Discriminations, Department for the Family; Ministry of Interior, Police Department, Fraud Communication Section; Ministry for Education; National Youth Agency; National Youth Forum; National Association of Italian Municipalities; Conference of Regions and Autonomous Provinces.

Activities:

The following web site was set up to disseminate news about the campaign: <http://www.nohatespeech.it/>

The National Youth Agency created a FB profile “No Hate Speech Italia” dedicated to the campaign. The Department for Information and Publishing produced short advertisements for the opening of the campaign for: web, social networks (FB, Twitter), radio, TV, and youtube. The Ministry for Education launched a national contest (high schools) for the best video that became the campaign slogan. The National Youth Forum launched a national contest open to all young people under 35 for the production of a video against hate speech and then published it on youtube.

7.2 European Union

Italy was the first Presidency of the Council involved in the implementation of the EU Youth Work Plan 2014-2015. The Italian Presidency promoted the drafting of the "Council conclusions on promoting youth rights in order to foster their autonomy and participation in civil society" approved in the Council of 12 December 2014, in line with the EU Work Plan priority “Empowerment, with a special focus on access to rights, autonomy, participation and active citizenship within and outside the EU”. A special emphasis in these conclusions has been put on the discriminatory practices faced by many young people – for example in the areas of employment, housing, access to credit, health care, service provision and education.

In this regard, the conclusions propose for all Member States to promote measures aimed at removing existing barriers, increasing young people's awareness of their rights, creating new opportunities and providing active support to help young people realise their fullest potential and become responsible and active participants in the economy and in society.

As regards to the priority on cross-sectoral cooperation of the EU Work Plan, the Italian Presidency organized during the Council meeting the interministerial debate "The cross-sectoral approach of youth policy as a tool to better address the socio-economic challenges and have more targeted policies for young people", whose results were taken into account by the following Presidency.

Prior to the above-mentioned Council session Italy chaired a meeting of the "Informal Forum" that is part of the structured dialogue process. It allowed young people to give their perspectives on the important issue of voluntary activities and civilian service.

Outside the Council, the main events organised by the Italian Presidency in the second semester of 2014 were the following ones:

- The EU Youth Conference (Rome, 13-15 October 2014). This initiative was implemented as part of the Italian Presidency of the Council for the implementation of the first phase of the IV cycle of the structured dialogue. The Conference approved the following two documents:
 - The Joint conclusions to promote young people's access to rights;
 - The guidelines for the consultation of young people on the political participation of young people. The consultation was launched on October 15, 2014, during the closing plenary of the conference.

- The Meeting of Directors General for Youth (Rome, 15-16 October 2014). This initiative was implemented as part of the Italian Presidency of the Council in order to promote the exchange of views and sharing of good practice with Member States and the European Commission on the policies adopted in favour of young people in terms of health and well-being and voluntary civic service. The meeting with the almost complete participation of the Directors General and of the European Commission has allowed:
 - the discussion on the possible promotion, in the light of the changing socio-economic factors, of new actions effective in prevention, promotion and dissemination of behaviors and healthy lifestyles.
 - a better understanding of the measures of the civic service in place in the various EU countries and the outline of possible developments at EU level of a voluntary civic service. Good practices of four states (Health and wellness - Cyprus and France; Civic service - Germany and Italy) were also presented in detail.
 - The Conference "Rigenerare la partecipazione. Giovani e Servizio Civile nella prospettiva europea" ("Regenerate participation. Youth and Civil Service in the European

perspective") - Milan, 30-31 October 2014. This initiative is in line with the objectives of the Resolution on the mobility of young volunteers. The objective of the conference was to provide a space to promote the participation of young people and share a common idea of civic engagement between the institutions, organizations and experts to promote the development of a civic service at European level. During the Conference the following topics were discussed: Participation and Education; Participation and Volunteering; Participation and Network; Participation and civic service; Presentation of the experiences of voluntary civic service in Italy and other EU countries; Potential for developing a European Voluntary Service.

7.2.1 Implementation of the Erasmus+ programme

The Department of Youth and National Civic Service is the National Authority currently in charge of Erasmus+ programme, while the National Agency (Agenzia Nazionale dei Giovani) is the implementation body.

Under a special provision adopted in December 2006, this National Agency was instituted, as an autonomous body, to implement the Decision 1719/2006/CE of the European Parliament and the Council of EU Ministers. Since 2007 the Agency has been playing a vital role in supporting the beneficiaries of the EU Programmes for Youth (Youth in action until 2013 and Erasmus+ since 2014) during the preparation, implementation, evaluation and management of the projects. Information and counseling activities on Erasmus+ are carried out by the Agency together with the National EURODESK office. EURODESK is the European network responsible for the dissemination of European Union information and for the provision of telephone enquiry services to young people and other actors in the youth field. Policy-making and oversight over the Agency are performed by the Department.

In 2015 the National Agency, together with EURODESK, is carrying out many activities such as seminars and info days at national and local level aiming at disseminating information on the EU Programme "Erasmus+", providing training and technical assistance to enhance the number and the quality of projects.

National Agency for the Erasmus+ Programme

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7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level

The EU Youth Strategy encompassing a variety of fields of intervention involves different policies affecting young people's life and, so, following it up requires a mainstreaming activity and strategic linking with other policies (i.e. school, university, work, welfare, health, housing, environment and social services).

Therefore, the follow up of the Strategy requires an effective application of a transversal approach towards youth policies, possible through a continual exchange of ideas both with policymakers and those responsible for local bodies.

This is currently carried out by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, supported by the Department of Youth and National Civic Service, that has the function and duties of directing and co-ordinating all initiatives (even laws) that concern youth policy, in relation to other Ministries and local bodies (the Regions, Provinces and Municipalities).

This cross-sectoral approach is implemented by both joint implementation of projects and the formation of appropriate task forces of technical co-ordination experts, or 'steering committees'.

Dialogue between the Ministry and local authorities takes place through programme framework agreements and conventions and via the Permanent Conference for State, Region and Autonomous Province Relations (also known as the State-Region Conference).

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Italy

Websites:

www.governo.it

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

<http://www.istruzione.it>

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

<http://www.agenziagiovani.it>

<http://www.eurodesk.it>

<http://www.istat.it>

<http://www.isfol.it>

www.forumnazionalegiovani.it

<http://www.informagiovani.anci.it/>

www.portaledeligiovani.it

<http://www.quotidianogiovani.it>

Every Region and Municipality has its own portal providing information on policies, programmes and initiatives promoted in the youth field, especially concerning specific topics such as training, education, employment, mobility and European opportunities.

You can find information on the different regional and local websites on this webpage of the Italian government: http://www.governo.it/link/istituzioni_nazionali/index.html