

PROGETTO CO-FINANZIATO DALL'UNIONE EUROPEA



REGIONE DEL VENETO



MINISTERO del LAVORO
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HOW DOES THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING WORKS IN VENETO



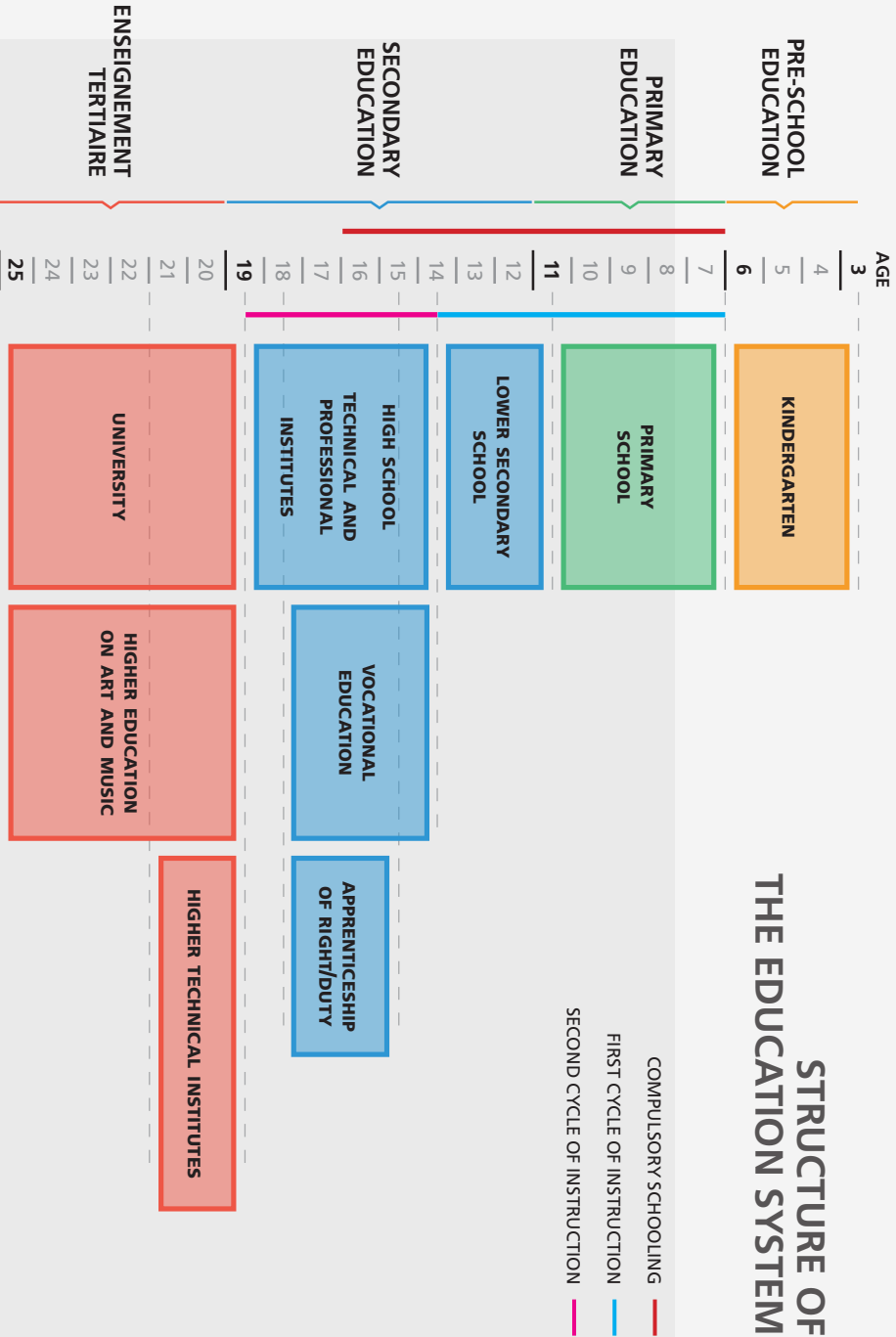
VENETO LAVORO

HOW DOES THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING WORKS IN VENETO

■ STRUCTURE OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Italian education system is organised in the following cycles of study: Pre-Primary School, for children between 3 and 6 years of age; Primary School, referred to also as Elementary School, with a duration of 5 years; and the Lower Secondary School, with a duration of 3 years. At the end of these cycles of education, it is possible to enrol to the Upper Secondary School, which has a duration of 5 years and is divided into high school and technical and professional institutes. In alternative to the Upper Secondary School, it is possible to choose a course of study of a duration of 3 to 4 years in vocational training or in apprenticeship of right and duty.

Those students who pass the final State exam at the conclusion of the Upper Secondary School have the possibility to access the Higher or Tertiary education. This is a binary system, divided into two large sectors or compartments, institutionally and functionally different: the University sector and the Higher Education for Fine Arts, Music and Dance sector, known succinctly as the AFAM sector. Within the tertiary education are included two main vocational paths after having obtained a secondary degree: those courses called " (IFTS; "Higher technical training and education, and the Higher technical institutes (Istituti Tecnici Superiori- ITS).



I COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Education is compulsory in Italy for a period of at least ten years between the ages of 6 and 16. These 10 years comprehend the 8 years of first cycle of education (five years of Primary School and three years of Lower Secondary School), and the first two years of the second cycle¹. The final two years of compulsory education (from 14 to 16 years of age) can be attended at the state Upper Secondary School (high school, technical institute or professional institute), or at the professional education courses of regional jurisdiction.

The compulsory period regards foreign students, regular or irregular, with or without residency.

The right/duty of education for a period of at least 12 years, or the obtaining of a professional qualification after 3 years of studies before turning 18 years of age² is added to the compulsory period.

Students of 15 years of age, as an alternative to the school system and the vocational education, can also fulfil the last compulsory year of education in the work place on an “apprenticeship contract of right/duty”.

Compulsory education can be carried out in state schools or private schools (according to Law No. 62 of 2000) which constitute the Public System of Education, or even, subject to certain conditions, through non-subsidised private schools (according to Law No.27 of 2006) or home education.

At the end of the compulsory education period (after the second year of Upper Secondary School), a certificate of fulfilment of the compulsory period and the competencies acquired is given to those students who will not continue with the school path.

To guarantee the same education in all paths, the knowledge and “key competences of citizenship” that all students have to have acquired at the end of the compulsory education period, have been defined and organized taking into consideration four cultural axes: linguistic, mathematical, scientific-technological, social-historic.

Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring that children complete compulsory education, while the local authorities where pupils reside and the managers of the schools they attend have a responsibility for supervising their completion of compulsory education. Once they have reached school-leaving age, young people who do not continue with their studies receive a certificate of completion of compulsory education and the skills they have acquired. These skills contribute to training credits towards any professional qualification.

1. The Constitution, art. 34, establishes that education is compulsory “for at least eight years”, therefore, until 14 years of age. The extension of the compulsory period until 16 years of age was introduced by the Law 296 of December 27th, 2006, Legge Finanziaria 2007.

2. As stated by Law No. 53 of March 28th, 2003, Legge Moratti, which has deeply transformed the overall view on this matter.

The **Ministry of education, university and research (Ministero dell'istruzione, dell'università e della ricerca - MIUR)**, based in Rome, is responsible for the system administration at a central level. It operates on a local level through the **Regional school offices (Uffici scolastici regionali - USR)** that are also articulated at a provincial level. Those offices must ensure compliance with the rules on education and the essential levels of performance, the execution of school regulations, the efficiency of the training and the observance of the standards established.

■ PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

This stage of education takes place in kindergartens, for the children between **0 and 3 years of age**, and it is not part of the education system (competence of MIUR). The service is managed directly by each district, observing the general directions established at a regional level. The region of Veneto, recognising its social importance, finances the pre-primary schools (according to the regional Law No.32 of 1990).

For children of **3 to 6 years of ages**, education takes place in **nursery schools**, which have a three-year duration and are included in the educational and training system, even if it is not compulsory. In the region of Veneto, kindergartens are financed in accordance to the regional Law No. 23 of 1980.

Kindergartens have a schedule of **40 hours per week**, for a total of 35 weeks; this time can be extended up to **50 hours per week**. However, families have the possibility to request a reduction of time limited to the morning band, for a total of **25 hours per week**.

■ FIRST CYCLE OF EDUCATION

The **first cycle of education**, which has an overall duration of 8 years, is compulsory and is divided in two segments:

- **Primary school** (between 6 and 11 years of age), with a duration of five years;
- **Junior high school** (between 11 and 14 years of age), with a duration of three.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary education is compulsory, has a duration of 5 years (between 6 and 11 years of age) and it takes place at public and private schools legally recognised.

The children, who turn 6 years of age within the 31st December of the school year of reference, can enrol (and in advance the ones who turn 6 years of age within the 30th April of the following year).

The enrolment can be done at the school of the area of residence or even at another school. The schedule, on a weekly basis, contemplate the following options:

- schedule of **24 weekly hours**;
- schedule of **27 weekly hours**;
- schedule up to **30 weekly hours**, which comprehend additional optional activities in comparison to the schedule of 27 weekly hours (up to three hours in addition per week);
- schedule of **40 weekly hours**, including lunchtime, which corresponds to the “full-time model”.

The lessons are distributed on, at least, five days per week, from Monday to Friday, but Saturday can also be included.

The **subjects** taught in those five years are Italian, English, history, geography, mathematics, science, technology and IT, music, art and drawing, physical education and technology. It is also established the teaching of “Citizenship and Constitution” and of catholic religion, being the latter not compulsory.

The **teachers** of primary school can teach all subject, eventually supported by other teachers for the teaching of English language and catholic religion. In the classes with a schedule of 24, 27 and 30 hours, there is usually just one teacher; two teachers are present for the classes with 40 weekly hours, although not together at the same time.

The **evaluation** of students learning and behaviour occurs both over the course of the year and at the end of it with the awarding of a **grade in decimals (from 0 to 10)**, being 6/10 the lower passing grade.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The junior high school has an **overall duration of three years** (from 11 to 14 years of age).

The lessons are scheduled for at least five days per week, from Monday to Friday, but often the timetable includes also Saturday. The minimum hours scheduled per year are 990, which correspond to 30 hours per week. The following schedules are possible:

- “Ordinary time” consisting of **30 weekly hours** (29 plus 1 in average per week of an activity for a detailed study of literary subjects), corresponding to 990 annual hours.
- “Prolonged time”, consisting in **average of 36 weekly hours or, exceptionally, of 40 hours**, including the time devoted to lunchtime.

The **subjects** taught are Italian, English and another language of the EU, history, geography, mathematics, science, music, art and drawing, physical education and technology. It is also established the teaching of “Citizenship and Constitution” and of catholic religion, being the latter not compulsory.

In junior secondary school, the students can enrol for the next school year if they achieve a grade of at least 6/10 in every subject and in behaviour.

At the end of the first cycle of education (therefore the third year of junior secondary school), the students take a **State exam** after which, if passed with a degree of at least 6/10, they are awarded with the corresponding diploma, which constitutes also the title to access to high school.

If the **foreign students** who are 16 years of age:

- have the Italian diploma of junior high school or an equivalent qualification, they can enrol directly in high school;
- do not have the diploma but they have attended a school for at least 8 years in their country of origin or in another country, they can enrol at school with the documents translated in Italian;
- do not have the diploma and they have not attended a school for at least 8 years in their country of origin or in another country, they can enrol in the **Provincial centres of education for adults** (CPIA- for its initials in Italian) and then after the diploma enrol in high school.

II SECOND CYCLE OF EDUCATION

After completing the first cycle of education and after passing the corresponding State exam, the students access the **second cycle of the education system of instruction and training**. In fact, the compulsory education is extended until 16 years of age, including also the first two years of the second cycle, which is divided as follows:

- **Upper secondary schools (secondary education)**, in which are included:
 - High school,
 - Technical Institute,
 - Professional Institute;
- **Occupational training system (IEFP-for its initials in Italian)**, in which are included:
 - Three/four-year training path, of regional competence,
 - Apprenticeship of right/duty.

HIGH SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES

Upper Secondary School education, both in the field of **high school** and among **technical** and **professional institutes**, has an **overall duration of five years** and usually it is directed to students of **14 to 19 years of age**.

High schools are divided in **6 types of institute**: artistic, classical, linguistic, musical and choreutic scientific and human sciences. After a two-year study in common, the art school offers different study courses: *figurative art, architecture and environment, audio-visual and multimedia, design, graphics and stage design*. The scientific high school, besides the ordinary path, offers also a path in applied sciences, while the human sciences high school offers the option of following the social economic study course.

Technical institutes offer study paths in the *economic* and *technological field*, and are organized, as well in 2 and 9 study courses, as it follows:

TECHNICAL INSTITUTES		
ECONOMIC		
Business management, Finance and Marketing	Tourisme	
TECHNOLOGICAL		
Mechanics, Mechatronics and Energy	Transport e logistics	Electronics and Electrical engineering
Computer Sciences and Telecommunications	Graphics and Advertising	Chemistry, Materials and Biotechnologies
System Moda	Agriculture, Agricultural/ Food and Agro Industry	Construction, Environment and Territory

Professional institutes, on the other hand, provide study paths in the *services* field and in the *industry* and small enterprises, organized, as well, in 4 and 2 study courses:

PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES	
SERVICES	
Services for agriculture and rural development	Social-health services
Enogastronomy and hospitality	Commercial services
INDUSTRIAL AND SMALL ENTERPRISE SECTOR	
Industrial and small enterprises production	Technical maintenance and assistance

To pass to the following year, throughout the high school cycle, it is necessary an evaluation with grades of at least 6/10 in every subject and in behaviour.

If students have one or more subjects with a grade lower than 6/10 and the fail is not serious, the student must to make those subjects up within the beginning of the following school year. If the evaluations on the level of learning, carried out before the start of the new school year, are passed, the student is admitted to the next year; otherwise, he will have to attend again the previous year.

At the end of upper secondary school – high school, technical or professional – students undergo a **State examination**, which involves three written tests and an oral one. The grade assigned to the overall exam is **expressed in hundreds** and the minimum mark to pass it is 60/100. The ones who pass the final exam are awarded a diploma that allows them to enrol in higher education (University, Afam and ITS).

REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (IEFP)

Students who wish to attend a shorter course of study that gives them the possibility to learn a profession directly can choose among the professional courses authorized by the region of Veneto³.

These are courses of three, four or five years of education and professional training (leFP) that are carried out by **agencies** of professional training accredited by the region of Veneto or by the **upper secondary school education state institutes**. To be able to access those courses you need to complete the junior high school and, generally, to be under 15 years of age. These courses conclude, in case of the three-year ones, and after a final exam, with a **qualification (Operator)**, whereas for the ones of four years, with the award of a **diploma (Technical)**. The courses available now concern **22 professions** for the **three-year courses** and **21 professions** for the **four-year courses**.

The purpose of the leFP paths of three or four years is to qualify students between 14 and 17 years of age that express the desire to enter directly in the labour world, after an education path of a shorter duration than high schools.

The students who hold a professional diploma of *Technician* can also access the University after attending a further specific annual course. Furthermore, the three-year qualification and the four-year diploma allow students to access professional education courses, the so-called “second level” or post-qualification/post-diploma.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING THROUGH APPRENTICESHIP OF RIGHT/DUTY

Through the **contract form of “apprenticeship of right/duty”**, it is possible to obtain a professional three-year qualification or a professional diploma: this means that the students can fulfil their education directly on the work place, as an alternative to the education system and to the professional training.

The apprenticeship of right/duty is directed, particularly, to the students who are already 15 years of age, mostly to the ones that are **between 15 and 18 years of age**. In 2012, the region of Veneto has undersigned an agreement with the unions in which the training profiles and the overall hours (440 hours per year) for the education in-company and outside company was established. According to the regional agreement, the training activities are oriented towards all the subjects who are **between 15 and 25**; the term of the contract is of three years (plus, eventually, a further year for the diploma) and it concerns all private sectors.

3. The professional regional training has been among the main topics of the recent reform of the education system in Veneto region, governed by the regional law no. 8 of 2017.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education system in Italy is organized as follows:

- education offered by **Universities**;
- education offered in the field of **Higher education on art and music (Afam)** - for its initials in Italian);
- education and higher technical training offered by **Higher technical institute (ITS)** - for its initials in Italian);

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

The overall university system in Italy is made of **97 Universities**:

- **67 public**,
- **19 private** legally recognised,
- **11 telematics private** legally recognised.

Furthermore, two more types of institutes exist that grant qualifications equivalent to the ones granted by universities: **Higher schools for linguistic mediators (Ssml)** - for its initials in Italian), which offer three-year courses and grant equivalent qualifications to the university degree in science of linguistic mediation (first cycle qualification) and the **specialized institutes in psychotherapy**, which grants certificates of specialization in psychotherapy, which are equivalent to diplomas of specialization in psychology and in related disciplinary fields.

The courses are organized in the following study areas: health, scientific, social and humanistic. According to the *National framework of qualification for higher education*, the university programs can be:

- **of first cycle**, with a three-year duration, which grants a first cycle university degree (**laurea - L**);
- **of second cycle**, a two-year duration or single cycle, which grants a second cycle university degree (**laurea magistrale - LM**). The studies in medicine and surgery, pharmacy, veterinary, dentistry, law, science of primary education and - just for some courses – construction engineering- architecture, are not offered as a three-year courses because they are articulated in a **single cycles (of five or six years)** and they grant directly a second cycle university degree (**laurea magistrale a ciclo unico**), without obtaining the first cycle university degree.

HIGHER EDUCATION ON ART AND MUSIC (AFAM)

The institutions that are included in the Higher education on art and music (Afam) are:

- **Academies of the fine arts** aiming at preparing students to the exercise of art. There painting, sculpting, decoration and scenography courses take place.
- **Higher institutes of artistic industries (Isia)** - for its initials in Italian) that offer a specific training in the field of design (drawing and graphic design).

- **National academy of drama Silvio D'Amico**, located in Rome, offers training courses for actors and director of drama, to students between 18 and 25 years of age.
- **Conservatories** that have the purpose of teaching musical education.
- **National dance academy**, located in Rome, with the objective of shaping dancers, soloists, and dance composers.

According to the *National framework of qualification for higher education*, the programmes in *Afam* field can be:

- **first cycle three-year courses** after which a student is awarded a **first level academic diploma**;
- **second cycle two-year courses** after which a student is awarded a **second level academic diploma**.

About both university education and *Afam*, the grades are expressed in **on a scale of thirty points for every exam** (in a scale from 0 to 30, with 18 as the minimum grade), and **on a scale of a hundred and ten for the final exam** (in a scale from 0 to 110, with 66 as the minimum grade). To obtain a qualification at a university or an *Afam* institute, at the end of both the first and at the second cycle, the student must undertake the **individual final exam** before an exam commission.

HIGHER TECHNICAL INSTITUTES (ITS)

The courses at the **higher technical institutes (ITS)** offer training in the following technological areas: *energetic efficiency, sustainable mobility, new life technologies, new technologies for the 'made in Italy', innovative technologies for cultural heritage and activities, tourism and information and communication technologies*.

The *ITS* courses have, in average, a **duration of 4 semesters** (for a total of 1800/2000 hours); theoretical lessons, laboratory activities and internships are provided (even overseas), the latter constitute at least the 30% of the overall schedule. The courses end with final exams on the acquired competences carried out by exam commissions in which there are representatives of the school, the university, the professional training and experts on the labour world.

ITS courses end with the awarding of a higher technical diploma, which constitutes the qualification to access to the labour world.

INTERVENTION OF THE REGION VENETO TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

To support education costs families have to undergo, the region of Veneto has taken a series of measures in the following areas⁴ :

- **“Transport vouchers”**, as a partial coverage of the expenses incurred to reach educational and training institutions.
- **“School vouchers”**, these are contributions for the partial coverage of the expenses for enrolment and attendance, as well as the ones for the supporting pedagogic activities for disabled students;
- **“Book vouchers”**, as a total or partial coverage for the expense of purchasing school books and alternative didactic instruments;
- **“Books on loan”**, these are direct contributions to public, private and non-subsidised private school institutions, and to lower and upper secondary schools, and Training Institutes, for the partial coverage of the expenses to purchase school books and alternative didactic instruments, to loan for free to the less well-off;
- **“Scholarships”**, for amounts from € 200,00 to € 500,00, granted for the expenses to buy schoolbooks and for transport, as well as for the access to cultural services.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONTACT
THE *UNITÀ ORGANIZZATIVA ISTRUZIONE E UNIVERSITÀ*
OF THE VENETO REGION.**

4. For more information, see the page “Scuola - aiuti agli studenti”, on Portale Regione Veneto, <http://www.regione.veneto.it/web/rete-degli-urp-del-veneto/scuola-aiuti-agli-studenti>

ADULTS EDUCATION

The educational and training courses for adults are addressed, on one hand, to adults without a qualification and, on the other, to the ones that, even if they own a qualification or a diploma, they want, however, to enrol again in an education paths to obtain a more profitable qualification in labour world.

The education courses for adults take place in Provincial centres for adults' education (CPIA- for its initials in Italian) that in the last years have been incorporated to and substituted the Territorial permanent centres and the evening courses. In the region of Veneto, the CPIA have been established in every Province and they constitute a type of independent school institution, divided on a territorial basis and organized with the same independency granted to schools.

The educational courses for adults at the CPIA are organized in:

- **first level courses**, to obtain a qualification of the first cycle of education and a certificate of acquired basic competences connected to compulsory education;
- **second level courses**, to obtain a diploma of technical, professional or artistic education;
- **literacy and learning of Italian language courses**, addressed to foreign adults, and concluded with the obtaining of a certificate of achievement of a level of Italian language higher than an A2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL), passed by the European Council.

Everybody who is already 16 years of age can enrol at the courses offered by CPIA (in extraordinary cases 15 years of age is enough to be able to enrol).

Furthermore, in Veneto, people over 18 years of age who did not follow a course of study of at least 12 years of education and training of right/duty, have access to training courses with a duration of one year, for a total of 800 hours, in which an internship period of 120 hours is established. These courses are promoted and financed by the region of Veneto and allow students to obtain a professional qualification.

HOW TO ENROL

To enrol you must fill in a form and submit the requested documents directly to the school's office. In case of children and young students recently arrived in Italy, they can enrol at school even if the lessons have already started. If you are less than 18 years of age, you can enrol even without the residency.



REGIONE DEL VENETO