

# Syllabus for entrepreneurial learning

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 ITALY

## Timeline

2017 Implementation	2018 Implementation	2019 Implementation
2020 Implementation	2021 Implementation	2022 Implementation
2023 Implementation	2024 Implementation	2025 Implementation

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## Background

The school-work exchange was introduced in the Italian school system as a not compulsory teaching approach for secondary schools by the so-called Moratti law (Law 53/2003) and became compulsory with the 2015 reform.

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This change in the national priorities has helped to increase awareness about the importance of entrepreneurship competence and education as acquisition and mastery of a spirit of initiative and the ability to transform ideas into action. The education ministry started launching calls for proposals for the development of entrepreneurial skills after the 2015 reform.

## Objectives

The purpose of introducing entrepreneurship education in Italy is to develop learners' attitudes, knowledge and skills, useful not only for their eventual development in the entrepreneurial field, but in every work environment.

Strengthening entrepreneurship skills also means fostering transversal skills, to underpin a proactive mind-set and active citizenship through creativity, innovation, evaluation and risk-taking, so promoting the ability to plan and manage projects.

## Description

A non-compulsory entrepreneurship education syllabus for upper secondary school, based on the EntreComp framework, has been developed with the involvement of about 40 stakeholders (including national representatives, foundations, business and other civil society actors). The syllabus contains suggestions for topics to support curricular initiatives. Education providers, according to the topic they intend to strengthen (digital innovation,

social innovation or any particular local need) can plan their own curricula by choosing from the content described in the document.

The education ministry supports this strategic document and the toolkit developed by EntreComp Europe and Matera Hub (Erasmus+ programme) together with the EntreComp Italian community, as well as skills competitions, which are great opportunities to demonstrate potentials and to enhance attractiveness and quality.

### **2017 Implementation**

The 2017 call for proposals envisaged actions aimed at providing learners with entrepreneurship and self-employment skills, with particular reference to the knowledge of the opportunities and methods of 'doing business', with attention to all its forms (classic, social, cooperative and their forms). The projects in the more developed regions were funded with resources from the Complementary operational programme (COP) For schools, competences and environments for learning 2014-20.

### **2018 Implementation**

In March 2018 the education ministry developed a syllabus based on the EntreComp Framework and actively promoted it through entrepreneurship education pathways.

### **2019 Implementation**

In 2019, several projects were launched that used EUR 30 444 263.50 (out of the EUR 50 million allocated by the education ministry in 2018). Most of them were from the south of Italy (the part of Italy where business accelerators / incubators are less widespread). 89% of projects envisioned the involvement of external stakeholders and institutions.

The project applications were as follows:

- (a) 14.6% most developed regions;
- (b) 17.4% transition regions;
- (c) 40.4% least developed regions.

### **2020 Implementation**

The education ministry, as the managing authority of the National operational programme (OP) For schools, competences and environments for learning 2014-20, approved the schools' projects for the improvement of learners' key competences with particular attention to projects aimed at the development of an entrepreneurship culture.

### **2021 Implementation**

In 2021, the National operational programme for the enhancement of entrepreneurship education (AOODGEFID/0002775/2017) received applications from 23.6% of schools. Also, during the reporting period (March 2021-February 2022) the memorandum Actions to support educational institutions in the implementation of distance learning activities following the health emergency from COVID -19 between the education ministry and Junior Achievement-Young Enterprise Italy (ETS) was renewed.

### **2022 Implementation**

On 21 April 2022, a survey regarding opinions on innovation and entrepreneurship skills was published including the input from a large number of school teachers.

### **2023 Implementation**

In 2023 (Protocol Circular No 5238 of 16 February 2023), the education ministry in

collaboration with Junior Achievement-Young Enterprise Italy (ETS) organised for the first-time National entrepreneurship championships. This event was included in the annual programme for the enhancement of excellence and was 'reserved' for learners of the last three years of secondary education (VET schools included). The aim was to promote, encourage and support individual 'talent' and 'capacity' in entrepreneurial skills. Eligible for participation in the championships were those learners who had attended a training programme for the development of entrepreneurial skills, according to the pathways to transversal competence and guidance pathways (PCTO) during the school year 2022/23.

In the online conference of 28 September 2023, organised by Cedefop on the topic 'Embedding entrepreneurship competence in VET', European stakeholders met to discuss together what are the factors that make it possible integrating entrepreneurial competence into VET in Europe, and to share best practices to broaden the learning ecosystem of this competence. The results of the Italian report 'Entrepreneurship competence in vocational education and training Case study: Italy' on entrepreneurship education in technical and professional training by Cedefop contributed to this discussion.

### **2024 Implementation**

In 2024, (Protocol no. 6208 of 12 February 2024) the education ministry organised in collaboration with Junior Achievement - Young Enterprise Italy (ETS), for the school year 2023/2024, the second edition of the National Entrepreneurship Championships, a competition included in the annual program for the enhancement of excellence. The National Entrepreneurship Championships are 'reserved' for learners of the last three years of secondary education (VET schools included) in order to promote and support the teaching and training potential linked to entrepreneurial skills. Eligible for participation in the championships were those learners who had attended a training programme for the development of entrepreneurial skills, according to the Guidelines - Paths for Transversal Skills and Orientation (DM 774/2019) (PCTO) during the school year 2023/24.

The new guidelines for the teaching of civic education, adopted with Ministerial Decree n. 183 of 7 September 2024, set out skills development goals and learning objectives for both the first and second education cycles. The Italian education system is divided into two cycles: the first cycle includes primary school (5 years) and lower secondary school (3 years), while the second cycle includes upper secondary school (5 years) and vocational education and training programs (3 or 4 years). They also emphasise raising awareness of responsible citizenship starting from nursery schools. These guidelines fully replace those adopted with Ministerial Decree n. 35 of 22 June 2020.

Three conceptual cores were cited in article 3 of Law August 2019 n. 92, for the teaching of civic education, encompassing the study of the Italian Constitution and European Union institutions, environmental education and economic growth, digital literacy and responsible technology use. The conceptual cores were the constitutional principles, the digital citizenship and the sustainable development, which highlights the importance of educating young people on development and growth, valuing work and private economic initiative as a fundamental part of citizenship education. The conceptual core for sustainable development, also promotes a business culture that helps students strengthen their attitudes and knowledge related to the world of work and entrepreneurship.

### **2025 Implementation**

In 2025, the Ministry of Education and Merit continued to consolidate the national actions to strengthen entrepreneurship education by supporting the third edition of the National Entrepreneurship Championships for the school year 2024/2025. The initiative, organised in collaboration with Junior Achievement - Young Enterprise Italy ETS, was launched through a dedicated ministerial circular and accompanied by regulation and operational documents made available to schools and regional offices, which specified participation modalities and deadlines for school applications. The Championships remained included in the ministry's programme for the enhancement

of excellence and continued to target learners in the last three years of upper secondary education, including VET, promoting the integration of entrepreneurial skills within curricular and PCTO pathways.  
At the same time, the Guidelines for civic education (Decree n. 183 of 7 September 2024) continued to underline the role of business culture and awareness of private initiative as part of citizenship education.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Merit
- Ministry of Education (until 2022)
- Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (until 2019)

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

### Education professionals

Teachers  
School leaders

### Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

## Thematic categories

### Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

## Subsystem

IVET

## Further reading

[Entrepreneurship competence syllabus](#)

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[EntreComp Italian Community](#)

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[Protocol Circular No 5238 of the Ministry of Education and Merit, of 16 February 2023](#)

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[Research paper - Entrepreneurship competence in vocational education and training Case study: Italy\)](#)

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[National Entrepreneurship Championships](#)

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[Linee guida per l'insegnamento dell'Educazione civica](#)

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[Circolare del Ministero dell'istruzione e del merito n. 6208 del 12/02/2024](#)

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“ … ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Syllabus for entrepreneurial learning: Italy. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28321>