



## **Joint declaration to support the educational and research sectors and increase the quality and equity, the effectiveness and efficiency of schools, universities and research sector signed by Italian trade unions and government**

At the end of June, the Italian government and the representative trade unions of school, university and research workers signed a joint declaration that sets out common public actions in order to support the educational and research sectors and increase the quality and equity, the effectiveness and efficiency of schools, universities and research.

According to the Italian trade unions, the signature of the above joint declaration is a significant result obliging the Italian government to adopt concrete financial and legislative measures in the education sector. The agreement was signed before the presentation of the financial act, which will define the amount of financial funding in the education sector. Besides, the agreement has been signed by all the concerned ministers (Minister of Finance too!) and it is a great victory, given the high level of quarrelsomeness inside the Italian government coalition!

Finally, the joint declaration refers to the following important issues: the primary role of the State in supporting education and research as a common good and the role of Lisbon strategy and Europe, seen as a stimulus for the social and economical growth of Italy.

Regarding the school sector, the main points are:

- raising competences and knowledge levels of the Italian population;
- reducing drop outs rate in education by raising compulsory school until the age of sixteen and promoting the right/duty to education and training until the age of 18;
- developing adult education and lifelong learning;
- defining a new system of teachers' initial training, based on the cooperation between schools and universities;
- developing teachers and staff in service training system;

- favouring the research autonomy of teachers and schools;
- defining a system of promotion and valorisation of teachers and staff careers;
- establishing a national system of evaluation, in order to measure students results and the quality and efficiency of didactical and educational schools' activity.

Regarding the university and research sector:

- investing on the personnel, making the research sector more attractive to the young researchers and reducing the high level of temporary works;
- promoting adequate actions in order to develop the research sectors with high level of quality and innovation;
- guaranteeing a closer coordination in the research sector , especially with the labour market and the productive system;
- establishing a closer coordination between school and university;
- promoting actions in order to guarantee students' right to education and students mobility;
- promoting professors and researchers professionalism and autonomy;
- promoting European and international mobility;
- increasing financial funding to the university and research sectors.

Finally, the joint declaration provides for establishing bilateral working groups monitoring the implementation of the agreement.

*July 2007*