



sotto l'Alto Patronato del Presidente della Repubblica
e con il patrocinio del Ministero dell'Istruzione,
dell'Università e della Ricerca

Global Junior Challenge: Final Event in Rome, Italy

7-8 October 2009, Itis Galileo Galilei

Exhibition and International Conference

October 9, 2009 – Awards Ceremony at the Rome *Campidoglio*



PRESS RELEASE

GJC 2009 – School, a Protagonist Among the Finalists

The final phase begins for the 5th edition of the international competition that rewards the innovative use of new technology in the fields of training, education, solidarity and international cooperation. 109 finalist projects have been selected from 456 entries from 32 countries. The final event (October 7-9, 2009) will include the first international conference on social innovation, an exhibition and the awards ceremony.

109 finalist projects have been selected by the International Jury chaired by **Alfonso Molina**, Professor of Technology Strategy at the University of Edinburgh (UK) and Scientific Director of the **Fondazione Mondo Digitale**, the non-profit organisation that holds the **Global Junior Challenge** Competition every two years under the **High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic**. Competing projects are subdivided into 4 categories based on the age of the beneficiaries (up to 10, 15, 18 and 29 years old) and in 2 special categories (“Work Placement” and “Creativity and Social Innovation”). Two more awards complete the **12 awards** that will be presented at the Rome City Hall, the **Campidoglio**, on **October 9**: the **Special Prize of the President of the Italian Republic** for the most innovative projects presented by Italian schools and the **Small Fund Award** to help finance projects in the poorer areas of the world. The 109 finalist projects represent 32 countries, without even counting the many partnerships. There are both rich and extremely poor countries where children live in slums and do not attend school. However, even in Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zambia, countries that human development indicators place at the bottom of the list, young people rallied their communities and exploited the strategic resources made available by technology to fight poverty and inequality. Schools of all levels and types are responsible for more than 80% of the projects that are often developed in cooperation with other students and teachers from around the world. 40 **Italian schools** have reached the finals. The full list of all finalist projects and an archive with all submitted projects may be consulted at: www.gjc.it

Inclusive School – a didactic software application tested by a kindergarten in Genoa with the local health department is dedicated to children with linguistic difficulties. In Lavagno (Verona), the *Università Popolare* teaches the elderly to use computers with the help of young children. In Terni, a middle school collaborates with Enea and Ifad to provide a rural African school with electricity. In Piancavallo, a small town in the Friuli Dolomites, hospitalised students host a radio programme to tell listeners about the mountains. And podcasts, blogs, webquests, media education ... the GJC competition reveals an **inclusive Italian school** that employs new technologies and didactic innovation to forge alliances and reach a variety of subjects in order to bring instruction and knowledge everywhere and to everybody.

Social Innovation to Counter the Crisis and Promote Development – is a special competition category, the key word of the fifth edition of the GJC and, above all, a global challenge that the Fondazione Mondo Digitale launches once again with the 1st International Conference [*Social Innovation for a Better World in Our Time*](#) (Rome, Itis Galilei, 7-8 October 2009). Professor emeritus **Tullio De Mauro** will introduce social innovation as a means to counter the international crisis, to promote global development and as a strategic accelerator to reach the Millennium Objectives. From Canada to India, from the United States to the European Union, for the first time, scholars, opinion leaders and important figures in the field of social innovation will gather in Rome to reflect, from different points of view, on the successes and failures of current initiatives and to identify new routes for development. Practical experiences of social innovation, implemented in Italy and other countries, will be presented at the conference. A book will also be published to collect all the contributions presented during the course of the conference.

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