Four different lines of investigation:
1. Identification of case studies at European level;
2. Analysis of educational policies that foster innovative learning spaces;
3. In depth study of technical guidelines in different countries in the school building sector;
4. Review of literature in this field.

The research methodology includes: desk research, comparative analysis of the international technical specifications, observation visits to innovative European and Italian schools, semi-structured interviews.

1+4 LEARNING SPACES FOR A NEW GENERATION OF SCHOOLS IN ITALY

"What is the most effective learning environment for the students of the new millennium?"

The findings of INDIRE’s research on that topic can be expressed with the formula 1+4 learning spaces for schools of the new millennium.

1 stands for the former classroom, now a modern learning environment that is open to the rest of the school and to the world. 

4 stands for the four school’s main types of spaces: Agorà, Individual area, Informal area, Exploration Lab.

The learning space model is based on multiple theoretical levels which are focused on different nested strands of the learning context (Brofenbrenner, 1989). The school is not regarded as the sum of classrooms (Airoldi, 1978) but as a place that includes the teaching dimension, the social context and the social relationships (Leemans e von Ahlefeld, 2013, Lefebvre, 1991).

1+4 LEARNING SPACES FOR A NEW GENERATION OF SCHOOLS IN ITALY

INDIVIDUAL AREA
- Individual insight area to concentrate, read, reflect.
- Pods, caves, reserved zones with reading/writing tools.

EXPLORATION LAB
- Exploration and discovery zone.
- Dedicated tools and resources to observe, experience, explore, observe, experiment.

GROUP LEARNING SPACE
- Place where students build and maintain their identity.
- Group area that enables multiple flexible settings and solutions to meet the needs of different types of learning activities.

AGORÀ
- Space for the whole school community.
- Seats and facilities to participate in plenary events.

INFORMAL AREA
- Area for relax and informal meeting.
- Soft seats and comfort zones for breaks.