

## The Institute

INDIRE - Istituto Nazionale di Documentazione, Innovazione e Ricerca Educativa (National Institute for Documentation, Innovation and Educational Research) is the oldest research institute of the Italian Ministry of Education. It was founded in 1925 as a National Educational Exhibition with the aim of collecting and exploiting school activities of that period. Over the years, it has always accompanied the evolution of the Italian school system.

Today, the Institute is the reference point for educational research. INDIRE promotes school innovation processes: developing new teaching models, testing the use of ICT in education and training, redefining the relationship between space and time in learning and teaching. The Institute has a long experience in in-service training for teachers, non-teaching staff and school heads. Moreover, it led some of the most important e-learning experiences in Europe. INDIRE, together with INVALSI, the National Institute for the Evaluation of the Education and Training System) and the inspection body of the Ministry of Education, is involved in the National Evaluation System for Education and Training. In this context, it supports the improvement of teaching methods, and professional behaviour of school staff, in order to enhance learning achievements and the good functioning of the school context.

By means of qualitative and quantitative monitoring, database and research reports, INDIRE analyses and documents phenomena relating to changes in the curriculum of technical and vocational education, and the link between school and the labour market.



INDIRE is in charge of the management of Erasmus+, the new European Union's programme for education, training, youth and sport, for the 2021-2027 period. It is also part of the consortium European Schoolnet – EUN, made up of 30 Ministries of Education of European countries, which promotes innovation in educational processes in a European dimension. Due to its historical roots, the institute owns a rich documentary heritage from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, one of the few in Italy which are specialised in the collection and enhancement of documentary material of historical-pedagogical interest.

## History

The Institute was established in 1925 as a National Educational Exhibition of the outputs made by the “new” schools, those institutes that put into practice the theory of Giuseppe Lombardo Radice on teaching methods as “active” experiences.

In 1929, the National Teaching Museum was established, in order to give a permanent seat to the Exhibition. In 1954 it was transformed into the Centre for Teaching Studies and Documentation and in 1974 it became the Library for Pedagogical Documentation (BDP).

During the 80’s the BDP used the ICT as a pioneer, profoundly transforming the very idea of teaching documentation. The use of ICT became an innovative engine for the dissemination of knowledge. 1995 is the year the internet broke out. The BDP started support actions for schools for a more coherent and aware use of the network.

In 1999, it designed and launched the first teacher training course completely online, which received more than 90.000 registrations.

In 2001, the BDP became Istituto Nazionale di Documentazione per l’Innovazione e la Ricerca Educativa (INDIRE) - National Institute for Documentation, Innovation and Educational Research.

Between 2001 and 2011, INDIRE was engaged in major online initiatives for the training of Italian teachers; and in actions to promote technological and teaching innovation at school. In 2007, INDIRE became Agenzia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo dell’Autonomia Scolastica (National Agency for the Development of School Autonomy). In September 2012, INDIRE was re-established by Law no. 111 of 15th July 2011 as the National Institute for Documentation, Innovation and Educational Research.

Today INDIRE continues its mission to promote teaching innovation at school and to support learning processes. Since 2013, as established by Presidential Decree no. 80 of 28 March 2013, it has been part of the National Evaluation System and is committed to the evaluation and improvement processes of the national education system.

## Political and administrative bodies



The president of INDIRE's Board of Directors is **Francesco Manfredi**, the legal representative of the Institute, who has the power to delegate and is in charge of institutional relations. Among other functions, the president promotes the development of the institute's activities and oversees the relationships with public and private administrations, and with national and international bodies and institutions. For the purpose of implementation of the activities, the president makes use of an executive office whose duties and functions are defined in the regulation for organization and functioning.



The Director General is **Flaminio Galli**, who is in charge of management: implementing the Board of Directors' resolutions and the President's measures. The DG directs, coordinates and controls the organizational structure and the ordinary administration.

## Seats and Contacts

From 1925, the Institute's location has been the same: Palazzo Gerini, located in Florence's city centre (Santa Croce district).

INDIRE has three branch offices for interregional Units in Turin, Rome and Naples. The Italian National Agency Erasmus+ INDIRE (sectors: School education, Higher education and Adult learning) is also part of the Institute, and is based in Florence with a branch office in Rome.

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