

The Italian Vocational Education and Training System (VET)

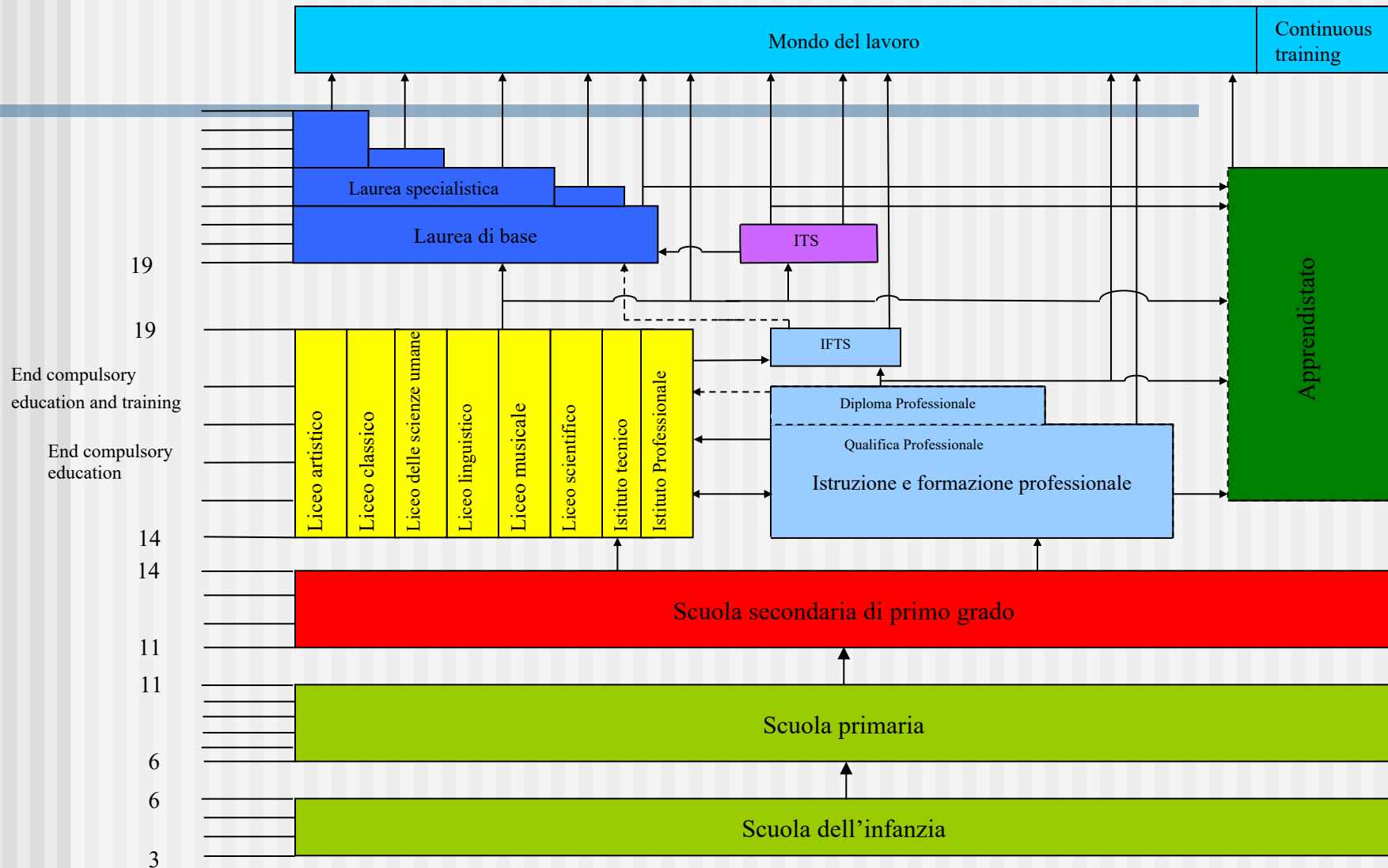
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Three opportunities for attending VET after lower secondary school

- Vocational and technical schools for initial vocational education (14-18 years) under the government of the Ministry of education
- Vocational centres for initial and continuing education and training (under the government of regional authorities)
- Apprenticeship (three typologies)

Italian educational and training system



Technical Institutes

- *820.000 pupils, 28% of the upper secondary education system*
- *Managed by Ministry of Education-Five years long (from 14 to 19 years)*
- *They release a upper secondary diploma (Maturità) after a 5 years course (EQF level 4).*
- *Eleven addresses:*
 - *SETTORE ECONOMICO*
 1. Amministrazione, Finanza e Marketing
 2. Turismo
 - *SETTORE TECNOLOGICO*
 1. Meccanica, Meccatronica ed Energia
 2. Trasporti e Logistica
 3. Elettronica ed Elettrotecnica
 4. Informatica e Telecomunicazioni
 5. Grafica e Comunicazione
 6. Chimica, Materiali e Biotecnologie
 7. Sistema Moda
 8. Agraria, Agroalimentare e Agroindustria
 9. Costruzioni, Ambiente e Territorio

Professional Institutes

- 512.000 pupils, 17% of the upper secondary education system
- Managed by Ministry of Education-Five years long (from 14 to 19 years)
- They release a upper secondary diploma (Maturità) after a 5 years course (EQF level 4); they may release also a qualification after a 3 years course (EQF level 3), upon agreement with the regional government.
- *Eleven addresses:*
 - a) *Agricoltura, sviluppo rurale;*
 - b) *Pesca commerciale e produzioni ittiche;*
 - c) *Industria e artigianato per il Made in Italy;*
 - d) *Manutenzione e assistenza tecnica;*
 - e) *Gestione delle acque e risanamento ambientale;*
 - f) *Servizi commerciali;*
 - g) *Enogastronomia e ospitalità alberghiera;*
 - h) *Servizi culturali e dello spettacolo;*
 - i) *Servizi per la sanità e l'assistenza sociale;*
 - l) *Arti ausiliarie delle professioni sanitarie: odontotecnico-ottico.*

Initial Vocational education and training (IeFP) courses

- 322000 pupils, 11% of the upper secondary education system
- Ruled and funded by Regional governments-3 or 4 years long
- Operated by social partners, religious associations, private associations
- They release a vocational qualifications after three years (Operatore professionale-EQF level 3) and a vocational diploma after a 4 years course (EQF level 4)

22 different typologies of qualifications, covering all different working areas (industry, agriculture, commerce, personal care).

Istituti tecnici superiori (ITS): a new way to higher technical education (not academic)

- 13.300 pupils, attending after secondary diploma, as an alternative to University.
- Ruled by Ministry of Education and managed by public foundations, strong links with industry
- 2-3 years long, they release a “Diploma Tecnico Superiore” certificate (EQF level 5); possibility to receive credits to access University.

They cover six strategic technological areas: energy, mobility, life technologies, made in Italy, information technologies, cultural heritage, tourism.

Three typologies of Apprenticeship

- 1) Apprenticeship to get a vocational qualification or a diploma or a higher technical certification (EQF levels 3-5) (dual system)- **NEW: 13000 apprentices**
- 2) Professional Apprenticeship (to improve the mastery- most time is spent inside the company)- **391000 apprentices**
- 3) Apprenticeship to get University degrees (EQF levels 6-8) –**NEW:1200 apprentices.**

Continuous training

- Workers continuous training is funded by the 0,30% of workers salaries
- This money is given:
 - To “Fondi interprofessionali” (organizations activated in partnership by employers and employees unions)
 - Or directly to companies which want organize the training themselves

Some open questions

- Early school leaving (18% without any qualification)
- High number of NEETs (19% against EU 11%)
- High rate of young people (15-24) unemployment (30,2% against EU 16%)
- Low rate of University graduates (25% against EU 35%)
- Low participation to Adult Education (7,3% against EU 10,7%-EU benchmark 15%)
- Low level of competences by adult population

Policies to fight early school leaving and young people unemployment

- Compulsory hours to be spent inside companies in upper secondary education (90 hours for licei, 150 for technical institutes, 210 for professional Institutes)
- Strengthening of Vocational education and training (regional channel)
- Strengthening of Istituti tecnici superiori
- New professional University degrees (2 years University, 1 year internship)
- Strengthening of Apprenticeship (dual typology)
- Strengthening of Employment centres
- Minimum wage for unemployed people, delivered together with an individual support to the search of employment.

Quality assurance of Vocational and technical schools

- Former centralized system: quality was traditionally assured by input factors (teachers, curricula) and by formal inspections.
- The growing process of school autonomy (more freedom to define planning) needs new ways of QA
- Every year the national Institute for evaluation (Invalsi) checks learning achievements in Italian and Math testing all pupils at some levels
- Every school must prepare every three years a self assessment report, which should be assessed by external inspectors
- Some schools are certificated following Iso, Efqm or Caf model

Quality assurance of vocational centres

- Flexible contracts with regional governments
- Market system (every year competitions to get the resources)
- Very flexible supply changing every year according with the changing demand, **BUT** difficulty in assuring the quality of the provision
- Accreditation (compulsory to receive funding by regional systems)
- Certification, using ISO 9000 or EFQM standards (voluntary but most training centers adopt it)
- Self assessment and Peer review (voluntary)

Accreditation

- Accreditation is managed by the Regions
- Accreditation is focused on the institution and gives the authorization to receive regional funding for certain areas
- For any criteria some thresholds (*minimum quality criteria*) are set to receive public funding:
 1. Management of the institutions
 2. Financial situation
 3. Quality of teaching and administrative staff
 4. Efficiency and effectiveness of previous activities
 5. Partnership at local level

National quality assurance plan for Vet

Following the request of the European Eqavet Recommendation, Italy has developed a national plan for QA.

It states the main actions to carry out to develop the QA system in line with the European Quality Cycle, descriptors and indicators.

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