

# Con i Bambini



## Italy

Con i Bambini is a nonprofit organisation created in June 2016 to carry out Italy's Fund Against Educational Poverty in Children and Youth. Since then, it has supported 809 projects nationwide, enabling 649,000 children and young people to overcome educational barriers and grow within inclusive, supportive learning communities. Its initiatives have also reached more than 204,800 parents and 93,400 teachers and educators, strengthening the networks that nurture children's learning and development across Italy.

### Our work within the framework Global Career Readiness Initiative

"Crescere è un lavoro" is a three years national initiative launched in 2023 to support disadvantaged youth (14–19) in transitioning from school to work or higher education. It funds eight projects focused on improving orientation methods, self-knowledge, life and labor market skills with various approaches (orientation desks, project work and real-context learning experiences). In its first year, it directly benefited over 6,000 students and involved 200 educators in training and awareness sessions. The initiative includes a scientific committee, a community of practice to promote knowledge sharing and impact assessment. The baseline data collection included 1,537 student questionnaires, 134 teacher/professional questionnaires, and 10 focus groups with 78 educational community members, 107 students, and 111 professionals. The process was marked by strong collaboration and high engagement from the community.

### Organizational priorities

Enhancing career readiness and facilitating the transition to work or higher education, especially for minors living in vulnerable socio-economic contexts.

### Evidence of Impact

Crescere è un lavoro has demonstrated strong early reach across children, families, and educators, alongside initial signals of progress in supporting disadvantaged learners during its first two years of implementation. Over this period, the programme has engaged 12,199 minors, as well as 385 parents and 331 teachers and educators, reflecting a broad, ecosystem-oriented approach to addressing educational poverty. Within this, 1,099 children participated in basic skills activities, including 649 disadvantaged beneficiaries receiving targeted support. Of these, 530 showed improvements in basic skills, based on programme-level assessments. At the same time, 10,575 children participated in life skills activities, with 3,705 disadvantaged beneficiaries demonstrating improvements in life skills. While the available data is primarily output-focused, these early results point to promising progress in reaching and supporting disadvantaged learners, particularly in foundational and life skills development at scale.

### Partnerships & Alliances

- Ministry of Justice, Department for policies for people with disabilities (Presidency of the Council of Ministers), Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Lazio Region, Naples Municipality, Milan Municipality, schools, social services.
- Non-profit organizations, banking and non-banking foundations (Andrea Bocelli Foundation, Bolton Hope Foundation, Fondazione Charlemagne, Fondazione Santo Versace, JPMorgan Chase Foundation), private companies.



# Italy Landscape

Con i Bambini



Data - Transition From School To Work (Italy)  
Indicators for youth between 15 - 24 years old

| Labor Force Participation Rate<br>(ILO, 2025) | Share Of Youth Not In Education,<br>Employment Or Training ("NEET")<br>(ILO, 2024) |                 | Unemployment Youth<br>(ILO, 2025) |                 |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 23%<br>total                                  | 12.3%<br>male  | 11.6%<br>female | 19.5%<br>male                     | 22.2%<br>female |

## Current State of Career Readiness

- Historically, the Ministry of Education was focused mainly on vocational education. 2024 national framework for career readiness introduced key initiatives including: integration of career guidance into curricular modules, student E-Portfolios, appointment of tutor teachers for personalised support, enhanced teacher training and the Unified Digital Orientation Platform.

## Challenges and Gaps

- Career education has historically been a low priority with marginal areas particularly affected by socio-economic poverty, limited educational access, and few training opportunities for minors.
- Teachers lack specialised career readiness training; families are often under-informed and not sufficiently involved in guiding students' choices.
- While the 2024 reforms were an important step forward, the full impact of the reforms remains to be seen.

## Emerging Trends

- E-Portfolio**, a digital record of 30 hours of annual guidance activities, is a national initiative supporting students, teachers, and families to review progress and action plan together supporting personalised planning.
- Unified Digital Orientation Platform**, a central online resource and national platform offering information on education pathways and labour market trends, is guiding students to make informed choices.

## Recommendations for Leaders Shaping Career Education Policy and Practice

- Equip educators with strong training; actively engage all stakeholders across the educational community, including families, schools, employers, and higher education institutions.
- Share successful practices from third-sector initiatives and multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Empower students in their choices using accessible and holistic methods that combine individual and group activities.