

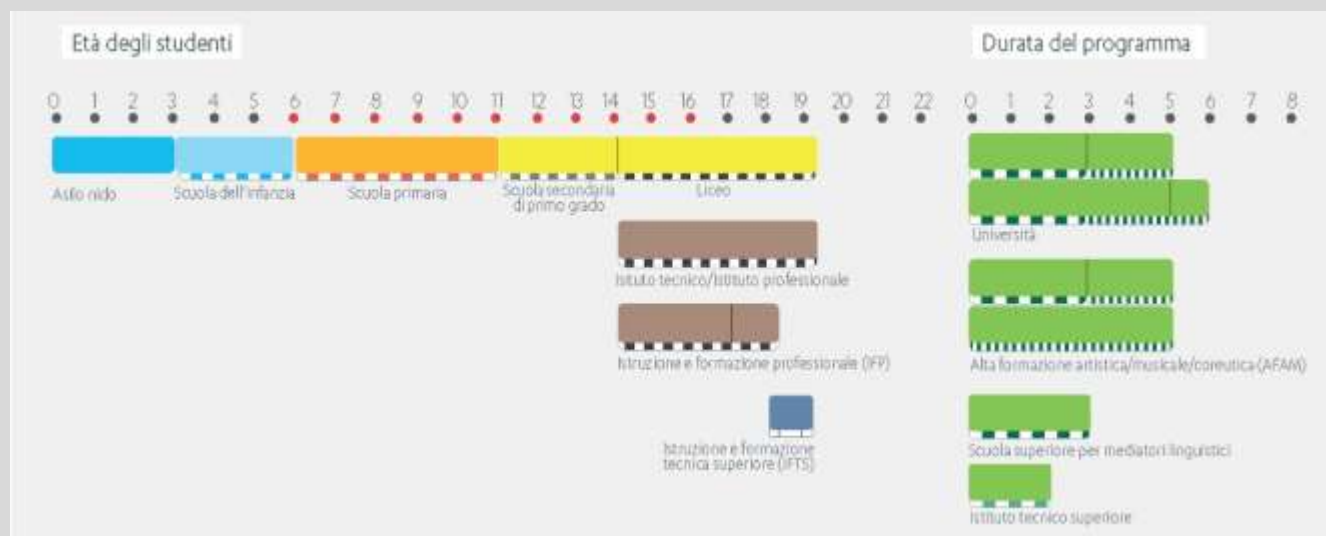
Template 3: Educational System per Partner Country

Organization (full legal name):	Associazione CNOS FAP Regione Umbria
Country:	Italy (IT)

Structure of the Educational System - Scheme of the National Educational System

The education system is organised as follows:

- pre-primary school (scuola dell'infanzia) for children between 3 and 6 years of age;
- first cycle of education lasting 8 years, made up of:
 - primary education (scuola primaria), lasting 5 years, for children between 6 and 11 years of age;
 - lower secondary school (scuola secondaria di I grado), lasting 3 years, for children between 11 and 14 years of age;
- second cycle of education offering two different pathways:
 - State upper secondary school (scuola secondaria di II grado), lasting 5 years for students from 14 to 19 years of age. It is offered by licei, technical institutes and vocational institutes;
 - three and four-year vocational training courses (IFP). It is organised by the Regions;
- higher education offered by universities, polytechnics included, institutes of the Higher Education in Art and Music system (Alta Formazione Artistica e Musicale, AFAM) and Higher Technical Institutes (Istituti Tecnici Superiori, ITS).



Functioning of the National Educational System

Brief description regarding the functioning of the National Educational System.

Some aspects to take into account:

- Compulsory Education;
- Grade Levels / EQF Levels / Duration / Ages;
- Modalities to conclude each Grade Level;
- Legal organizations.

Education is compulsory for ten years between the ages of 6 and 16. This covers the whole of the first cycle of education, which lasts eight years (five years of primary school and three years of lower secondary school), and the first two years of the second cycle. After completion of the first cycle of education, the final two years of compulsory education (from 14 to 16 years of age) can be undertaken at a State upper secondary school (liceo, technical institute or vocational institute), or on a three- or four-year vocational education and training course which is within the jurisdiction of the Regions.

In addition, everyone has a right and a duty (diritto/dovere) to receive education and training for at least 12 years within the education system or until they have obtained a three-year vocational qualification by the age of 18. Finally, 15-year-olds can also spend the last year of compulsory education on an apprenticeship, upon a specific arrangement between the Regions, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education and trade unions.

Compulsory education refers to both enrolment and attendance. It can be undertaken at either a State school or a non-State, publicly subsidised school (scuola paritaria) or even, subject to certain conditions, through home education or private schools. Regional three-year vocational training courses are offered by the relevant training agencies.

Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring that children complete compulsory education, while the local authorities where pupils reside and the managers of the schools they attend have a responsibility for supervising their completion of compulsory education.

Once they have reached school-leaving age, young people who do not continue with their studies receive a certificate of completion of compulsory education and the skills they have acquired. These skills contribute to training credits towards any professional qualification.

Access to tertiary education (university, AFAM and ITS) is solely for students who have passed the State examination at the end of upper secondary school. Nevertheless, the specific conditions for admission are decided by the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) or individual universities and AFAM institutes. The three-year vocational qualification and the four-year vocational diploma, both issued on successful completion of regional vocational training courses, allow entry to regional second-level vocational training. Holders of the upper secondary education leaving certificate are also eligible for second-level vocational courses.

Private Education

Article 33 of the Italian Constitution lays down two basic principles: the State is obliged to provide a State-school system accessible to all young people; organisations and private individuals are entitled to set up schools and colleges of education at no cost to the State. Furthermore, publicly subsidised schools (scuole paritarie) can issue certificates with the same legal value as qualifications from State schools of the same type and level. Such schools are free to choose their own cultural orientation and educational teaching approach. Non-profit-making schools benefit from special tax relief.

Vocational Education and Training

Brief description regarding the national VET system, focused on Youths.

Some aspects to take into account:

- Modalities / Grade Levels / EQF Levels / Duration / Ages;
- Legal organizations.

Organisation of Vocational Upper Secondary Education

Types of Institutions

- **State Upper Secondary Education**
State vocational upper secondary education, which lasts 5 years, is provided by technical institutes and vocational institutes.
Technical institutes offer vocational education in economics and technology sectors. There are 2 economics-based programmes and 9 different technology-based programmes. These courses have 11 different options. Specific guidelines set out the target learning outcomes for each option and each subject and these are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competences.
Vocational institutes offer vocational education in areas of the service sector and the industry and crafts sector. There are 4 service sector programmes and 2 industry and crafts programmes. These courses include 10 different options and specific guidelines for targets as described above for technical institutes.
- **Regional Vocational Education and Training (IFP)**
Three-year and four-year vocational education and training courses are available from vocational training agencies and upper secondary vocational institutes. Training agencies are vocational training institutions that are accredited by the Regions according to specific criteria established in agreement with the State. Upper secondary vocational institutes follow the guidelines issued by their Regions for IFP courses.
The Regions accredit training agencies that meet the following specific criteria:
 - a) they are part of a non-profit institution offering educational services to young people;
 - b) their educational plan involves offering young people the opportunity to acquire certain defined competences and skills;
 - c) they implement the national labour contract for vocational training with all staff;
 - d) their teaching staff is qualified to teach at upper secondary level;
 - e) they create networks and relationships within the territory and with families;
 - f) they take joint decisions on the planning and management of teaching activities and guarantee periodic assessment and the final certification of learning;
 - g) they have suitable facilities and premises.

Training agencies are in the private sector (religious institutions or trade unions) and the public sector (regional, provincial and local institutions).

Vocational upper secondary institutes in the mainstream education system can also offer IFP courses. Vocational upper secondary institutes can provide, on a subsidiary basis and in keeping with the competences of the Regions, two types of IFP course:

- a) integrated subsidiary courses for students attending mainstream 5-year upper secondary vocational courses to obtain an IFP qualification after three years of training;
- b) complementary subsidiary courses organised in special classes at vocational institutes, preparing students for a three/four-year qualification within the IFP system. Vocational institutes can issue IFP certificates.

So far, most Regions have opted for the first of the two types of offer.

Furthermore, guidelines include the possibility for those with a four-year IFP qualification to be admitted to universities, institutes of AFAM (Higher Education in Music and Art) and ITS (Higher Technical Institutes) courses, provided they have attended a one-year integration course offered by the Regions and organised by the vocational institutes and the training agencies themselves.