

cEuropean Commission – DG REFORM
Italian Government - Department of Youth Policies and Universal Civil Service
OECD Trento Centre for Local Development, OECD Public Governance

Embracing Universal Civil Service: a dialogue on Italy's youth employment opportunities

6 February 2024 | Trento, Italy

AGENDA



■ The Project

■ Background

The Universal Civil Service (UCS) holds immense potential for the Italian economy and society. The 'voluntary' approach for young people transforms the conventional idea of a "mandatory service", in Italy in force from 1960s to 2005, into a mutually beneficial platform for personal growth and community progress. At its core, it is an inclusive approach that encourages all eligible citizens to actively contribute to the country's development.

In terms of youth, there is evidence that young people's involvement in various sectors such as health, education, infrastructure and environmental initiatives not only strengthens their communities but also provides valuable skills and experience. It has also been proved that this exposure, coupled with training and development opportunities, enhances their employability upon completion of their service. Furthermore, by filling critical gaps in public services, universal civil service promotes economic stability and growth in the country.

The event is organised within the framework of the TSI project entitled 'Supporting design and implementation of the universal civil service RRP project, to unlock youth employment opportunities.

The project aims to expand the UCS's vision by pursuing both volunteering and employability objectives. The reports developed by the OECD examine the existing legislation and identify procedures, processes, and administrative barriers for all stakeholders, proposing reforms and solutions to make the UCS more effective and efficient.

The project is funded by the European Union via European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility "NextGenerationEU", and implemented by the OECD, in cooperation with the Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support of the European Commission.

■ The event

The event is aimed at discussing the key aspects of the Italian UCS and trying to answer the following questions:

- What skills and experience are acquired during the UCS, and how are they certified?
- Does the UCS improve the employability of young people in the private and public sectors?
- What are the shortcomings of the Italian national law and practice on the UCS?
- What can we learn from the European civil service?

- How UCS is implemented in Italy and what are different practices?
- How do young people perceive the UCS and what are their personal experience?
- What is the possible and desirable future for the UCS in Italy?

■ Logistics and participation

The conference will be hybrid. The conference will take place in hybrid form. To participate in person or online, you must register [here](#) by **4 February 2024 at 23.59 CET**.

The organisers reserve the right to limit the participation according to the capacity of the conference room. Registrations will be processed in the order of their receipt and will close when the limit is reached, even if that is before the official closing date.

■ Working languages

The conference will be held in Italian only.

■ Contact

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■ Partners

The OECD Trento Centre for Local Development is an integral part of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE). The Trento Centre uses a holistic “from data to practice” approach to policies for sustainable development to offer local policy analysis, advice and capacity building activities for improved policy implementation for people, firms and places. www.trento.oecd.org

The OECD Public Governance Directorate is a key division within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), focused on promoting effective, transparent, and accountable governance in member and partner countries. It works to enhance public sector performance and efficiency, emphasizing principles of integrity, innovation, and inclusiveness. The Directorate conducts research, offers policy advice, and facilitates knowledge-sharing among governments, aiming to improve governance frameworks, policy-making processes, and public service delivery for the benefit of citizens and economies worldwide. <https://www.oecd.org/gov/>

The Italian Government Department of Youth Policies and Universal Civil Service (Dipartimento per le Politiche Giovanili e il Servizio Civile Universale) is a governmental body dedicated to the development and implementation of policies aimed at empowering and supporting the youth within Italy. It focuses on various aspects, including education, employment, social inclusion, and cultural engagement, to ensure a holistic approach to youth development. Additionally, the department oversees the Universal Civil Service program, providing opportunities for young individuals to engage in community service, fostering a sense of civic responsibility and contributing to societal well-being. Through these initiatives, the department strives to enhance the participation and well-being of the youth in Italian society. <https://www.politichegiovanili.gov.it/>

The Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) coordinates and provides tailor-made technical support to EU Member States, in cooperation with the relevant Commission services. The support is primarily provided through the Technical Support Instrument (TSI). The goal is to support Member States' efforts to design and implement resilience-enhancing reforms, thereby contributing to the EU's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, improving the quality of public services and getting back on the path of sustainable and inclusive growth. <https://reform-support.ec.europa.eu>



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Venue: *Fondazione Caritro, Via Calepina 1, Trento*

08.30-09.00 ○ Registration

09.00-09.45 ○ **Opening and welcome remarks**

[Raluca Painter](#), Head of Unit, Labour Market, Education, Health & Social Services , DG REFORM, European Commission

[Alessandra Proto](#), Head, OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

[Francesca Gerosa](#), Counsellor for Education, Culture and Sport, Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities Policies, acting as Vice-President, Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy

[Lorenzo Maiorino](#), Head of the Volunteer Worker Management and Training Service, Department for Youth Policies and Universal Civil Service, Italian Government

[Alberto Pedrotti](#), Councillor with responsibility for community welfare, Municipality of Trento, Italy

09.45-10.15 ○ **Universal Civil Service in Italy - IST Project: Supporting the design and implementation of the PNRR project on Universal Civil Service to unlock youth employment opportunities**

[Giuseppa Ottimofiore](#), Head of the Regulatory Delivery Programme, OECD Public Governance

10.15-10.45 ○ Coffee break

10.45-11.30 ○ **Universal Civil Service in practice**

Moderator: [Katerina Ciampi Stancova](#), Policy Analyst, OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

[Serena Susigan](#), Director, ENDO-FAP, Universal Civil Service Don Orione, Liguria Region, Italy

[Cristina Paschetta](#), Head of Planning, call and volunteer management, accreditation of new offices, Consorzio Monviso solidale, Piedmont Region, Italy

[Giampiero Girardi](#), Director of the Civil Service Office, Agency for Social Cohesion, Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy

11.30-11.45 ○ **Universal Civil Service, skills and employment**

[Federica De Luca](#), Researcher at the National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP), Project Coordinator "Monitoring and Evaluation of the Universal Civil Service

11.45-12.00

Participatory dialogue

Moderator: [Margarita Escobar](#), Project Manager, OECD

Discussion and peer exchange on UCS challenges (with Mentimeter)

12.00-13.20

○ Round table and discussion

Moderators: [Katerina Ciampi Stancova](#), Policy Analyst, OECD Trento Centre for Local Development and [Blerta Guzina](#), Regulatory Delivery Expert – OECD Consultant

[Lorenzo Maiorino](#), Head of the Volunteer Worker Management and Training Service, Department for Youth Policies and Universal Civil Service, Italian Government

[Daniele Rosa](#), Officer, Volunteer Worker Management and Training Service, Department for Youth Policies and Universal Civil Service, Italian Government

[Licio Palazzini](#), Universal Civil Service Implementation Manager, Asc aps, Italy

[Sebastiano Megale](#), Trainer, selector and planner, ANCI Lombardia, Italy

[Esmeralda Fanti](#), Youth Volunteer Representative, Italy

[Giordano Tamanini](#), CEO, Aldebra Ltd. & Representative of Confindustria Trento, Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy

[Tiziano Silvio Cola](#), Youth Representative, Italy

13.20-13.30

○ Conclusions

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INFORMATION

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This event is part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities activities and supports the OECD Local Employment and Economic Development (LEED) Programme of work.

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies. www.oecd.org/cfe.

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