



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

AND

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

“On Reception, Integration and International Solidarity to Refugees”

The Ministry of Education of the Italian Republic (hereinafter “the Ministry of Education”) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (hereinafter “UNHCR”), hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”,

GIVEN

- The “Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations” approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 February 1946, to which the Italian Republic is a Party;
- The Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic, the United Nations and UNHCR done at Rome on 2 April 1952;
- The Decree of the President of the Italian Republic of 24 June 1998, no. 249, as amended and completed by the Presidential Decree of Italy of 21 November 2007, no. 235 concerning the Female and Male Students’ Chart;
- The Regulation on the autonomy and self-governance of schools issued with the Decree of the President of the Italian Republic of 8 March 1999, no. 275;
- The Recommendation adopted by the Council of the European Union on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning of 22 May 2018, with particular regard to the part concerning the key competences of citizenship;
- The Law 20 August 2019, n. 92, that introduced the subject of civic education and the Ministerial Decree n. 35 of 22 June 2020 that adopted the Guidelines for Schools of each level of the national system providing information to schools at all levels within the national territory;
- The Decree of the President of the Italian Republic of 20 March 2009, no. 89 governing the review of the educational, organizational, didactical system of pre and primary schools in accordance with the article no. 64, paragraph 4, of the Law Decree of 25 June 2008, no. 112 turned with amendments into Law on 6 August 2008, no. 133;
- The Decree of the President of the Italian Republic of 15 March 2010, no. 89 governing a review of the educational, organizational and didactical system of secondary schools pursuant to the Article no. 64, paragraph 4, of the Law Decree dated 25 June 2008, no. 112 turned into Law on 6 August 2008 with the Act no. 133;
- Decrees of the President of the Italian Republic of 15 March 2010, no. 87 and no. 88 introducing provisions concerning the reorganization of vocational and technical schools respectively, pursuant to the article 64, paragraph 4, of the Law Decree of 25 June 2008, no. 122 turned into Law on 6 August 2008 with the Act no.133;
- Law of 13 July 2015, no. 107 named "Reform of the National Education and Training

System made under delegate powers to the reorganization of existing legislation";

- The Memorandum of Understanding previously concluded between Ministry of Education, University and Research and UNHCR, signed in Rome, on 16 May 2016 which is replaced and superseded by the present Memorandum of Understanding;
- The decree of the Ministry of Education, University and Research of 4 December 2019 established the National Observatory for the Integration of Foreign students and for intercultural exchanges which UNHCR is member;
- The Ministry of Education Official Guidelines of 4 January 2021, no. 2 regarding the goals to achieve by 2021;

WHEREAS

- In full compliance with its institutional duties, Ministry of Education means to carry out the implementation of initiatives aimed at encouraging a culture of international solidarity and reception in close cooperation with UNHCR, whose mandate is to protect and provide material assistance to refugees and other people of concern worldwide;
- The mandate of UNHCR is to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect and provide material assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and statelessness people and to seek durable solutions to their plight;
- UNHCR, in accordance with the rules and regulations governing its operations, is willing to identify and develop areas of cooperation with Ministry of Education;
- Towards an accurate identification of all the initiatives aimed to put into effect this cooperation, it's considered appropriate to proceed to renew this joint Memorandum of Understanding postponing to subsequent arrangements the identification of those activities not specified in the present Memorandum of Understanding;
- It is necessary, for a greater operational effectiveness in achieving the proposed goals, to avail ourselves of the expertise of professionals from different fields, who are able to combine specific technical skills with the sensibility and pedagogical knowledge needed for this area of intervention;
- Since long time the Ministry of Education has been committed to promoting a model of school as a centre for the promotion of legality, which exerts its educational role also offering inspiring positive models of behaviour and where the didactic activities are aiming at helping students to improve their interpersonal, intercultural, civic and social skills in order to participate in a responsible way to the working and social life in an increasingly complex society-;

have entered into the following Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

Article 1

(Purpose and scope)

The Participants will cooperate to jointly promote the culture of reception, integration and international solidarity in the schools also in the context of the inter-cultural dialogue and sustainable development education giving to the students more opportunities to express their creativity, each one according to its own competences, applicable legal framework and institutional mandate, and respecting the principles and the autonomous choices of each educational institution.

The Participants will carry out the above mentioned activities through the implementation of specific projects where the following aspects will have to be specified in detail:

- Goals and activities to be implemented;
- Time-frame and implementing modalities;
- The competences of each Participant, also with reference to division of tasks in the implementation of each decided activities.

More specifically, UNHCR will provide additional information and materials that Ministry of Education, with its Regional Education Offices, may consider useful to raise awareness among students on refugees' integration and international solidarity, also in the context of the inter-cultural dialogue and in relation to sustainable development education.

Article 2

(Terms of cooperation)

The Participants, within the limit of their respective competencies and available means, will make available the structural, human and organizational resources mutually decided, to support the implementation of the jointly promoted initiatives. Each Participant will autonomously manage its own resources devoted to the implementation of the joint activities unless foreseen by other signed specific understandings for the implementation of additional projects. No transfer of financial resources is therefore foreseen between the-Participants under this MOU.

Article 3

(Scientific Technical Committee)

In view of the purposes defined in Article 1, the Participants set up a joint Scientific Technical Committee, [composed of one representative for each Participant] and coordinated by a Ministry of Education representative. Such Committee carries out the planning, coordination and monitoring of the initiatives undertaken under the present MOU. The members of the Scientific Technical Committee will not be entitled to any remuneration or allowance.

Article 4

(Management and organization)

For the purpose of the present MOU, the General Directorate for Students, Inclusion and school orientation of the Ministry of Education will set up the Committee referred

to in Article 3 as well as the organizational and management lines including the coordination, evaluation and assessment of the initiatives undertaken.

Article 5

(General provisions)

All activities foreseen in this MOU will be implemented in compliance with applicable international law and, as for the Ministry of Education, the Italian legislation and the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union, as for UNHCR, its internal rules and policies.

The knowledge jointly achieved and the results obtained through the aforementioned activities will be jointly owned by Participants. All projects and initiatives, including the use of Participants respective names, emblems and logos, to be initiated under this MOU will be previously submitted, for formal approval, to the respective competent department of the Participants.

The activities set forth in this MOU will be implemented by the Participant according to their ordinary budget availability without any additional cost for the State budget of the Italian Republic and UNHCR regular budget.

Article 6

(Privileges and Immunities of UNHCR)

Nothing in this MOU will be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of UNHCR, pursuant to the Convention on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations (1946), customary international law, other relevant international agreements, and pertinent national law, including, law n. 114 of 14 February 1994.

Article 7

(Final provisions)

This MOU takes effect on the date of signature and it will be valid for a period of three (3) years.

Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this MOU will be settled amicably by means of direct consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

The Participants may amend this MOU in writing by mutual consent.

Signed in Rome, on March 23rd 2021 in two originals, each in the Italian and English language, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergences in the interpretation the version in English will prevail.

For the Ministry of Education

The Minister

Patrizio Bianchi

**For the Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees**

The Representative for Italy, Holy See and San Marino

Chiara Cardoletti