



DESC National Action Plan

Recommendations to Implement Democratic Education in Italian Public Schools

This action plan aims to guide Italian schools on how to concretely implement democratic schools' methodologies and pedagogies.

The objective of the guidelines is to transfer DESC project outcomes to educational stakeholders in order to activate a process of adoption of democratic principles in public schools. Schools can use the document to understand how to include democratic education approaches in their educational systems.

- Raise awareness on the importance of democratic values in the education system through targeted events, meetings and open discussion among school teachers, students and parents.
- Consider the role of the teacher as a key starting point towards innovation in schools, therefore dedicate time to the selection of teachers and their training.
- Provide teacher training workshops on democratic education, self-directed learning and active citizenship.
- Promote self-education of the adults, in particular of teachers, so they can be a reference to children development.
- Be in continuous contact with the natural, socio-cultural and socio-economic environment outside of the school.
- Build trustful relationships within the school pedagogical teams as well as with local stakeholders: policy makers, NGOs, civil society organisations.
- Seek to preserve self-directed education as a central motor of development and learning.
- Set up an internal school governance structure that includes representatives of students and teachers so that both are involved in the decision-making processes.
- Promote personal development in democratic environments, which form citizens accustomed to responsible, cooperative and supportive democratic participation.



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- Recognise free play as a basic need for students' healthy development.
- Strongly increase the students' freedom of movement and critical thinking activities.
- Promote a pedagogical work that acts on situational and spontaneous concepts (and not pre-established and rigid study plans), and is focused on the process itself (and not mainly towards the visible products).
- Live together in inclusive, open and mixed, also mixed-aged groups, which provide indispensable empathetic social learning.
- Implement self-evaluation systems for students and teachers.



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