

Research program:
“The initial teacher education in Italy and Europe: perspectives, models and developments”

Annex C

(CQIA) – The Academy for Teaching and Learning Quality

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Obiettivi della ricerca

Starting from the legislation of the last 15 years, the aim of this research program is to carry out an analysis of education policies – both at Italian and European level – regarding the initial teacher education of primary and secondary teachers, in order to develop an innovative "experimental" model, based on best practices already in place at European level.

Programma di ricerca

The research is divided into three main phases.

- I period: data collection
- II period: critical analysis of the collected data and development of an experimental model
- III period: dissemination of results

Esito della ricerca

The comparative analysis of the education policies – both at Italian and European level – during the last 15 years will provide a new perspective of initial teacher education and teacher recruitment in Italy, both at primary and secondary level.

The development of an experimental model of initial teacher education, in addition to that already proposed during the last 15 years, based on the European best practices explored, aims to pursue three goals: on the one hand to promote and support a larger autonomy of schools; on the other hand to carry out a model of dual education, which can be good and effective also for new teachers; in the end, introducing a teacher education path in third level apprenticeship.

Therefore, from an Italian and European perspective, the research will represent an important contribution able to draw innovative proposals to the development of Italian education policies.

Oggetto della ricerca

The research aims to analyze the Italian and European education policies concerning the initial education of primary and secondary school teachers.

As it is universally recognized, the topic is very up to date in many EU countries where education policies are wondering even more frequently about the best ways to attract young prepared, and motivated graduates to the teaching profession (cfr. the study of the European Commission entitled Study on Policy Measures to improve the Attractiveness of the Teaching Profession in Europe, Vol. 1-2, Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2014); moreover the aim is to raise the quality of the teaching staff, overcoming a merely quantitative prospect.

This topic is serious, current also in Italy, because in the next months some decrees related to the last reform of the education system (Law No. 107/2015) will enter into force: in

particular, one of them will be about the reform of the initial teacher education and the recruitment system of secondary school teachers.

With an overall monitoring of the implementation of the legislation of the last 15 years, the research aims to provide a comparative overview on the latest developments of educational policies in the European Union, and identify best practices in order to outline a model of initial teacher education which can be innovative and alternative, and implemented by decision makers through local experiments.

Struttura della ricerca

The research is divided into three main phases.

- I period: data collection

Through a documentary analysis of the Italian legislation and policy documents of the European institutions, the research will draw a framework highlighting recent reforms, within the current regulatory context. At the same time, a thorough literature review of scientific research, both at national and international level, will be analyzed.

In this phase, a first series of interviews will be carried out with some of the main actors of the system (policy makers and institutional players, both at national and European level).

- II period: critical analysis of the collected data and development of an experimental model

In this period, a critical analysis of the collected data will be carried out in a comparative perspective in order to find out the best international practices and provide a possible implementation in the Italian system, developing an innovative and experimental model.

A particular attention will be put on the methodology of dual education and third level apprenticeship, also as regards the initial teacher education.

A second series of interviews will take place with both qualified Italian teachers who already completed the last Tirocinio Formativo Attivo (TFA) at the University of Bergamo and with graduated students at the University of Bergamo who aspire to the teaching profession in secondary schools.

- III period: dissemination of results

In the last phase of the research, results will be spread through seminars at the Department of Human and Social Sciences of the University of Bergamo and also at other locations (e.g. Italian and international universities, schools, professional associations of teachers); articles will be published in national and international scientific journals.