



AGORDO CELEBRATES LEONARDO DEL VECCHIO: A NEW COMMITMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PLACE HE CALLED “HOME”

Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio launches a pilot project with the U. Follador – A. De Rossi Higher Education Institute.

Opened on the day Leonardo Del Vecchio would have turned 91, the exhibition “Sguardi Che Cambiano Il Mondo”, dedicated to the life of the founder of Luxottica, was inaugurated at Sala Don Tamis in Agordo. The photographic journey telling the story of the redemption and vision of one of the world’s greatest entrepreneurs will remain open to the public until July 4, 2026. For the Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio, the event in the town that the Cavaliere considered “home” more than any other place was also an opportunity to launch an important pilot project with the IIS U. Follador – A. De Rossi aimed at developing the pathway initiated with the Ministry of Education and Merit for a new educational project supporting technical and vocational schools.

Agordo, Milan, May 22, 2026, The photographic exhibition “**Sguardi Che Cambiano Il Mondo – The Story of Leonardo Del Vecchio**” was inaugurated today in Agordo at Sala Don Tamis, Via XXVII Aprile 5/B, dedicated to the life and vision of the founder of Luxottica (now EssilorLuxottica) and one of the greatest entrepreneurs of the twentieth century. Organized by Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio, the exhibition will remain open until July 4 and, thanks to the support of members of the Luxottica Retirees Association, can be visited during scheduled opening hours from Monday to Saturday. Joining Foundation **President Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio** at the opening were **Maria Lorraine Berton, President of Confindustria Belluno Dolomiti; Roberto Chissalè, Mayor of Agordo; and Claudio Magalini, Principal of IIS U. Follador**. Making the occasion even more special were testimonies from people who knew Leonardo Del Vecchio very well: **Roberto Chemello, Livio De Nardin, and Italo Schena**.

Agordo, the place that more than any other was “home” for Leonardo Del Vecchio, also marks the stage of the exhibition where the new step in the Foundation’s mission of giving back is being presented. As President of the Foundation, Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio is shaping this mission so that it becomes a source of inspiration and opportunity for talented young people with fewer economic means. This initiative is part of the agreement launched by the Foundation with the Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM).

In particular, after already writing a new chapter in the history of Italian educational philanthropy by signing, in October 2024, an agreement to permanently fund scholarships at Bocconi University through the “Leonardo Del Vecchio Students Award” fund, the Foundation is now focusing on a key segment of the Italian education system: **technical and vocational institutes**. This is an area in which Minister Valditara has invested strongly, promoting the reform of the 4+2 model that integrates school and business, personalizes educational pathways, and enables students to enter the workforce with solid and marketable skills.

The Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio has committed to launching a working group with the Ministry of Education and Merit to define and finance the most impactful initiatives supporting the enhancement of technical education quality. With the aim of building intervention models that can be replicated nationally, the Foundation is launching a new pilot project by supporting IIS U. Follador – A. De Rossi, allocating the funds necessary to provide all fourth-year students with scholarships to strengthen the school/work experience abroad program over the next three years.

“Education shapes the future of a country. We have worked with determination on the reform of technical and vocational institutes because equipping all young people with strong and practical skills is the most effective response to the challenges of life, the labor market, and the competitiveness of the Italian system. Change has deep and lasting effects when institutions and citizens share the same vision. For this reason, I express my gratitude to the Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio and President Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio: their commitment is not philanthropy for its own sake, but civic responsibility. It is the choice of those who understand that giving back to the country means investing in young people. Building this path together is a positive example of collaboration between the public and private sectors,” declared **Minister Giuseppe Valditara**.

“Today, on the day my husband would have turned 91 – for me one of the most important milestones of our life together – my gratitude to everyone gathered here in Agordo to remember him is especially heartfelt. Hearing the memories of his longtime collaborators is deeply moving. It is an additional motivation to fulfill the responsibility he entrusted to me by creating, through the Foundation, projects with a strong positive impact on society. For this reason as well, I want to reiterate my gratitude to Minister Valditara for recognizing the value of our Foundation’s proposal and for choosing to build a concrete path together, as Leonardo would have wanted. The commitment to support the first technical and vocational institutes through pilot projects, such as IIS Follador in Agordo, represents an accelerator toward achieving the great mission of enabling every young person to access quality education that opens the doors to the future,” declared **President Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio**.

Agordo Mayor Roberto Chissalè added: *“It is a great honor to host in Agordo an exhibition dedicated to Cavaliere Leonardo Del Vecchio. It is a valuable opportunity to remember how his vision, ingenuity, and extraordinary determination found fertile ground among the Dolomites in which to grow and thrive. Agordo knew Leonardo Del Vecchio as a man committed to public administration, as a sports executive, but above all as an enlightened entrepreneur capable of placing people at the center of his vision with attention and respect. More than sixty years ago, through his initiative, a modest industrial project was born here: the heart behind that idea was immense, as was the vision that involved our land, unleashing extraordinary energy and a tenacious desire for growth and improvement. Today that project is recognized worldwide as an international giant, without ever losing its ‘Dolomite heart.’ Welcome back to Agordo, Cavaliere Del Vecchio: in truth, you never really left.”*

“Enhancing talent by developing skills is the best way to remember an extraordinary entrepreneur like Leonardo Del Vecchio, for whom every person could make a difference. The mission of the Foundation in his memory is an act of love – yet another one – for our mountains and our young people. No one like Del Vecchio projected our Dolomites onto the world stage, giving meaning and a future to our communities,” emphasized **Lorraine Berton, President of Confindustria Belluno Dolomiti**. *“Our Association shares the challenge of developing new technical skills necessary for our manufacturing sector, an ongoing effort of innovation and training that is among the most*

valuable lessons Del Vecchio left to the Belluno business world. Confindustria Belluno Dolomiti is ready to work with the Foundation to strengthen the bond between business and territory under the banner of maximum social responsibility, a concept of which Del Vecchio was a pioneer, practicing it through actions rather than words.”

Claudio Magalini, Principal of IIS Follador, concluded: *“When I was contacted by the Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio, it was an emotional moment for me because I had heard about Cavaliere Del Vecchio and his entrepreneurial success from the very first day I arrived in Agordo. In particular, his forward-looking vision, his passion, and his entrepreneurial approach aimed at widespread and shared prosperity, including with his employees, immediately revealed the uniqueness of a man who had experienced - but overcome, significant personal and economic hardship with confidence and hope for the future.*

It is this vision that explains the love for younger generations that entrepreneur Del Vecchio always demonstrated and which today, thanks to Foundation President Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio and her commitment, finds concrete expression in a three-year scholarship project for students of the Follador De Rossi Institute, enabling them to develop skills and strengthen knowledge through work experiences abroad. On behalf of the entire school community, heartfelt thanks to you, President, for carrying forward the legacy left by Cavaliere Del Vecchio.”

The photographic exhibition “Sguardi Che Cambiano Il Mondo” is curated by Maria Vittoria Baravelli for all its editions. The exhibition will remain open thanks to the support of the Luxottica Retirees Association from Monday to Friday from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM and on Saturdays also in the morning from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

The Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio

Established according to the wishes of Leonardo Del Vecchio, an entrepreneur of extraordinary vision who shaped the development of the Italian economy, the Foundation is a non-profit organization created by the entrepreneur as a project of giving back to society.

Today the Foundation is led by Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio who, as President, is committed to preserving the values that distinguished her husband’s life and work, both as a man and as an entrepreneur. She does so by promoting and supporting projects capable of generating a real and meaningful social impact in the priority areas identified by Leonardo himself: education, healthcare, research, and support in situations of need.