

Ministry of Education and Merit and the Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Technical and Vocational Schools

A public-private partnership to strengthen the strategic role of technical and vocational education, expand opportunities for students and local communities, and contribute to a cultural shift among young people and families in their perception of the opportunities these educational pathways offer

Rome, September 16, 2026. The Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM) and the Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch an important project in support of Technical and Vocational Schools.

The signing is part of the Foundation's mission to develop and support projects with a high social impact. The agreement marks the beginning of a partnership aligned with the ongoing process of innovation within the education and training system, while respecting the principles and autonomous choices of individual schools.

The resulting public-private collaboration aims to promote, for lower secondary school students and in specific geographical areas, initiatives and guidance pathways designed to develop transversal and professional skills in line with innovation and digitalisation processes. The objective is to enhance the technological and vocational education and training pathway and support efforts to align education and training with the current and future needs of the productive system, with particular attention to high-growth-potential sectors—including advanced manufacturing, energy, mobility, digital technologies and green technologies—and to the technical skills required by companies and innovative start-ups.

Minister Giuseppe Valditara comments: *“With this Protocol signed with Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio, we have fulfilled our commitment to involving a major private stakeholder in the effort to enhance the quality of technical and vocational education and training. We are strengthening dialogue between schools, businesses, ITS Academies and the innovation ecosystem by investing in the ‘4+2’ technological-vocational education pathway, a strategic reform designed to provide our young people with ever greater opportunities and to develop the skills Italy needs.”*

Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio, President of the Leonardo Del Vecchio Foundation, adds: *“I would like to thank Minister Valditara for giving me the opportunity to provide tangible support for technical and vocational education and training, a pathway that was always part of Leonardo's own journey: he was an engraver who built a major company starting from a technical profession. Since 2018, the Foundation has developed and launched many important projects, but this has always been one of my greatest aspirations since I became President, and today it is becoming a reality. Young people have always been a central focus for my husband as well. As a visionary, he understood that educating young people is a priority for shaping the future, which he was able to envision so clearly. Access to quality education for all is one of the key areas of focus for our Foundation. I believe it is important to unleash ideas and energy, in line with the policies pursued*

by the Ministry, to help definitively bridge the gap between how families and young people perceive technical and vocational pathways and the real opportunities they offer, including employment, attractive salaries, opportunities to continue one's education and access to positions of responsibility."

The next step will be the appointment by the Ministry of a joint technical committee, comprising two representatives from the Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM) and two representatives from the Foundation. The committee will be responsible for defining the activities in detail and monitoring their implementation and outcomes. In particular, the agreement aims to promote, starting as early as lower secondary school, an entrepreneurial mindset, personal initiative, and project-based, innovative and creative skills. Through guidance activities, information and practical workshops, and interaction with the professional and business communities, the objective is to help students gain a better understanding of educational and career opportunities and to develop informed pathways that are open to the transformations taking place in the world of work and society. The collaboration will strengthen the ties between schools, local communities and the productive system, supporting the 4+2 technical and vocational education pathway and continuity between secondary education, tertiary technological education and skilled employment. The agreement will also foster stronger links with ITS Academies, businesses, start-ups, accelerators and research centres, with the aim of promoting innovative teaching models and technical and scientific skills relevant to the digital, ecological, economic and social transitions.

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.