**Country:** Italy

**Committee:** The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

**Agenda Item:** Climate change education, training and public awareness

Italy, officially the Italian Republic, is a country in Southern and Western Europe. Italy covers an area of 301,230 km2, with a population of about 60 million. It is the third-most populous member state of the European Union. Italy became a republic in 1946. On 22 October 2022, Giorgia Meloni was sworn in as Italy’s first female prime minister.

In the last decade, Italy has become one of the world’s leading producers of renewable energy, ranking as the world’s fourth largest holder of installed solar energy capacity and the sixth largest holder of wind power capacity in 2010. However, air pollution remains a severe problem, especially in the industrialized north, reaching the tenth highest level worldwide of industrial carbon dioxide emissions in the 1990s.

Education can encourage people to change their attitudes and behavior; it also helps them to make informed decisions. In the classroom, young people can be taught the impact of global warming and learn how to adapt to climate change. Education empowers all people, but especially motivates the young to take action.

In December 2019, after a large public petition, The Italian government declared a climate emergency which the Senate approved in June 2020. The climate emergency declaration commits the Italian government to strengthen their carbonization initiatives, including energy efficiency, energy security, research, and innovation measures. A number of schools, higher education institutions, municipalities, and other entities have subsequently also declared climate emergencies and committed to reduce their carbon footprint. Based on this, in 2019, in order to implement the Law No 92 of 20 August 2019 passed by the Parliament, the Italian Education Minister Lorenzo Fioramonti announced the integration of climate change and sustainability at the core of Italy’s school curriculum, as part of the Civic Education discipline. Starting from the school year 2020/2021, environmental themes have been introduced as part of the compulsory Civic Education discipline in the curriculum of primary, secondary education and adult education (with and introduction in Early Childhood Education and Care), in line with the Guidelines on Civic Education Discipline.

We, as Italy, are very aware of the importance of climate change education, training and public awareness. We are looking for lasting solutions for not only our own country but also for our unique world. This is the major problem that we need to prioritise.