

Economics and finance explained for the young: the “Day of Financial Education for Apulia” arrives in Bari

As a conference-cum-exhibition for upper secondary schools organised by UBI Banca and the Fondazione per l’Educazione Finanziaria e al Risparmio (FEduF – Foundation for Financial Education and Savings), “Fate il nostro gioco” (“Place our bets” or “Play our game”) forms part of initiatives undertaken in Apulia as part of a co-operation agreement between the Fondazione per l’Educazione Finanziaria e al Risparmio (founded by the Italian Banking Association), the Apulia Region and the Regional Schools Office, with the co-operation of the UBI Banca Group.

Bari, 18th January 2018 – To explain economics and finance to pupils using entertainment and to provide heads and teachers in schools with the tools they need to introduce financial education in schools is the objective of the “Day of Financial Education for Apulia”. It is an initiative organised by the FEduF and UBI Banca in co-operation with the Regional Schools Office and the Apulia Region held in the conference hall of Bari University.

This day, designed for lower and upper secondary schools and teachers in all schools, is a positive example of how public and private sector organisations can work together to disseminate a new culture of economic citizenship, an expertise that is indispensable for meeting the challenges of the complex socio-economic scenario in which we live.

During the morning the **Conference-cum-Exhibition “Fate il nostro gioco”** (“Place our bets” or “Play our game”) used methods that really involved these young people to illustrate the mathematical rules employed in gambling. It revealed the hidden sides, the very small probabilities of winning and the high risks of financial losses with the aim of preventing the spread of this dangerous phenomenon among young people. The protagonists were **180 pupils** from four different schools in Bari and the province of Bari: ITES Vitale Giordano di Bitonto, Liceo Scientifico F. of Svevia in Bari, ITE Le Noci of Bari and ITET A. De Viti De Marco of Triggiano. However with the conference overbooked and **over 600 pupils** unable to attend for the first day, a **second edition is currently being planned**.

The afternoon session entitled **“At the school of values”** was dedicated to teachers and heads of schools. The key theme was to introduce the teaching of economics in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 107/15 by means of financial education programmes.

The Bari event formed part of activities laid down in the **Memorandum of Understanding on Financial Education for the Apulia Region**. As part of this the FEduF, the Region and the Regional Schools Office supported by UBI Banca and its local experts on the ground there worked to help

provide young people and adults with the indispensable expertise now needed to acquire economic citizenship and to be able to meet the challenges of the complex world we inhabit.

“The literacy challenge faced by teachers in schools during the last century has not lost its relevance today”, said Mario Trifiletti from the Apulia Regional Schools Office. “While teaching Italian and mathematics is still a priority, there is no doubt that children must face new contexts and learn new languages, especially those related to financial education. Today it is of fundamental importance to launch effective synergies between different institutions in order to encourage the growth of extracurricular education among pupils. And I am convinced that this initiative is important educationally because today there is a need to spread a culture of finance among the young also in view of the new economic processes that affect society, where the objective is to facilitate cultural growth among citizens”.

“The subjects of economics and finance seem far from the everyday lives of the young, but they are not and they know it!”, said Giovanna Boggio Robutti, Director of the FEduF. “Speaking with them in the hundreds of meetings we have had in recent years throughout Italy, we have found great interest in and curiosity about money and investment as a tool for making plans for the future”.

“Thanks to collaboration between public and private sector organisations, this initiative offers pupils in schools and their teachers in Apulia an opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge”, said Alberto Pedroli, Director of UBI Banca’s South Macro Geographical Area. “Its purpose is to allow us to act as educational partners with schools and institutions in order to help schoolchildren increase their economic expertise and to provide them with the educational tools needed to acquire how to use money knowledgeably, in response to the growing demand from schools for financial education.”

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