




Partner Presentation Form

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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Sestini Comprehensive Institute is located in the Municipality of Agliana, in the center of the Pistoia plain on the road that connects Pistoia with Prato and Florence.

The Institute is attended by over 1800 pupils, about 400 in kindergarten (13% foreigners), 800 primary school students (16% foreigners) and 630 lower secondary school students (115 foreigners 18%). Foreigners represent about 16% of the total school population.

Disabled pupils in the academic year 2022/2023 are 97 in total.

In these numbers lies the great complexity of a School which is insisting on a territory with important social challenges. It must stand out as a guide of the community and work to guarantee the right to study, providing digital and transversal skills that enable young people to grasp the challenges of the future, overcoming disparities and fighting against early school leaving, educational poverty and territorial differences. Sestini Institute takes particular care of relations with families and the involvement of parents is good.

Over the years, good attention has been paid to methodological training of teachers, promoting international exchanges as a tool for enrichment and professional training. There are several active collaborations with external institutions, universities, organizations and associations to spread activities that affect teaching and process improvement teaching/learning. Among these cultural and sports associations, some social cooperatives, the

Municipality of Agliana, the Province of Pistoia, the Tuscany Region, the USR Toscana, the State Universities of Florence and Pisa, the LUMSA University of Rome, the University of Barcelona (ES), CONI. Sestini Institute has a good ability to use fund resources (PON - ERASMUS - Foundations...) to be allocated for the purchase of equipment and services.

The following needs emerge from the territory, to whom the Institute responds with its own offer:

- long school time (40 hours per week) for kindergarten and primary school, organized on 5 days a week;
- laboratories, clubs and extracurricular physical activities for lower secondary school and in summer for primary and nursery school;
- activities that promote the inclusion of SEN pupils with particular attention to linguistic facilitation and initial literacy in Italian L2.
- metaphonological and linguistic enhancement activities for students attending the "bridge years" between nursery and primary school.

Educational policies of Sestini Institute focus on the improvement of the following aspects:

- motivation to learn
- emotional well-being of pupils and staff
- active and collaborative learning among peers
- collaboration and interaction between students and teachers
- development of problem solving
- inclusion and personalization of teaching

Sestini Institute consists of 4 secondary and primary school buildings and 4 nursery schools which lack additional physical spaces other than the classroom. That's why we are organizing existing laboratories in a functional way, focusing heavily on digitalization.

The technological equipment of each building has been increased with the aim of realizing innovative learning environments that are increasingly "close" to the needs of pupils.

In particular we refer to a series of events carried out thanks to the resources of the PON, of the PNSD actions and of the interventions financed with private resources (Foundations...) such as:

- providing each school with wi-fi and wired connectivity
- accrediting the Institute on the Microsoft 365 platform to take advantage of communication, sharing, collaboration, co-planning and teaching tools
- equipping each kindergarten with touch monitors
- acquiring at least one desktop PC or notebook for each classroom, in most cases equipped with document camera to facilitate the sharing of activities
- equipping mobile laboratories with trolleys that allow to recharge and "bring" convertible PCs into the classrooms

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- equipping educational robotics and coding laboratories at various levels in relation to the target age/class of pupils

We also worked on the organization of some spaces in each of the Institute's buildings, equipping them with modular and flexible furnishing so to favour an inclusive and innovative teaching approach.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

Sestini Institute has ten years of experience in the field of European projects, mainly with Erasmus.

- From 2008 to 2014 it constantly participated in Comenius LLP partnerships between schools in various European countries for the mobility and exchange of pupils and teachers.
- Activated in 2012 and until 2019 a school twinning with the school of Mallemort de Provence (FRA), for the exchange/mobility of students of the lower secondary school with French peers to strengthen the use of the language and share uses and traditions.
- From 2013 to 2016 it promoted the "EduCHANGE" project with foreign, global volunteer students on the issues of multiculturalism
- In the two-year period 2015/17 it was partner of a consortium with the USR Toscana of the Erasmus KA1 project "Participate" based on the construction of the vertical curriculum.
- From 2015 to 2018 it took part as a partner school in the Erasmus + KA2 project "B.L.O.S.S.O.M. <https://www.icsagliana.edu.it/erasmus-k2/>
- From 2017 to 2019 she was the leading school of a network of institutes identified by the USR Toscana for the Erasmus KA2 project "Tradition and Innovation in Kindergarten" <https://tik.pixel-online.org/index.php>
- From 2018 to 2021 he was a partner of the Erasmus KA2 Project "M@kers" <https://www.icsagliana.edu.it/erasmus-k2/>
- From 2018 to 2021 he organized and managed the Erasmus KA1 project "One Step Forward" <https://www.icsagliana.edu.it/erasmus-k1/>
- In 2020 it entered as a leading school of a KA1 consortium led by the USR Toscana "Across well Being" still ongoing
- In 2020, Sestini Institute obtained the Erasmus 2020/2027 KA121 accreditation and it is managing a series of mobilities aimed at training nursery, primary and secondary school teachers (job shadowing, teacher assignment, teacher training, structured courses) and students.

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

The Institute can use the available resources and the good experience of the staff in the use of digital technologies - wi-fi and wired connectivity in every school, availability of notebooks, tablets, touch monitors, Microsoft 365 account for all staff and pupils' families, exclusive use of electronic register – to make it available for the project documentation.

Nursery teachers have also developed transversal and vertical school curricula where they try to enhance formative assessment as the driving force of learning process, where the documentation of training experiences becomes a tool not only for communication to families, but also as a feedback to regulate the teaching activity.

<https://www.icsagliana.edu.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Curricolo-infanzia.pdf>

Sestini Institute took part for many years in the "Laboratories of Scientific Knowledge" promoted by the Tuscany Region. Today also extended to the Human Sciences. In this context, one is conducted and documented every year as a series of good teaching practices starting from nursery school <http://atelierscienza.blogspot.com/>

During the period of the health emergency and the following restrictions, several digital teaching activities were implemented, collected and documented in a dedicated web page

<https://atelierdigitalessestini.blogspot.com/>

Sestini nursery school took an active part in the implementation of the activities of the Erasmus project KA2 "Tradition and Innovation in Kindergarten" <https://tik.pixel-online.org/index.php>
Currently the staff teachers are participating in a training course organized by the Institute in collaboration with INDIRE named "Training workshop on the documentation of practices teaching structure 1 - laboratory teaching and innovation of the curriculum in the linguistic-humanistic area"

Contributions that can be provided to the project

Sestini Institute includes a very large kindergarten section with 16 classes and about 400 pupils. This has led over the years to continuous attention to didactic/methodological practices to promote the good inclusion of pupils, to improve the relational climate and the development of their skills and life skills with a view to constant dialogue and continuous collaboration with families.

Therefore the great experience in the use of digital technologies and the resources of the Internet, the participation of many teachers in exchanging projects and international mobility for the enrichment of their professional training, the experience of teaching and documentation of good practices of the teachers themselves will be made fully available to the EYPD Project

Reasons of involvement in the project

The institute is concretely committing itself to the search for innovative solutions and improvements to the environments of learning, as there is a pressing, though not explicit, request for learning modules that are flexible, personalized, inclusive and dynamic from the first years of schooling. A well-calibrated project on documentation, aiming to the implementation and use of each pupil's digital portfolio is one of the innovative practices to be followed. In this case the documentation of the learning experience and the realization of each student's digital portfolio are linked to the skills assessment process, recognized as particularly relevant.

EYPD also allows comparison and collaboration with partners at an international level. This will be a further enrichment for the teachers of the Institute providing them with professional tools and empowerment. Effective and mutual communication between School and Families on the topics covered by EYPD, will in fact allow the sharing of purposes as well as the organization of the materials; it will make the relationships more fluid and immediate, will contribute to the well-being of the whole organization.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Angela Desideri is the Headteacher of the I.C. Sestini.

She graduated in Pedagogy in 2002 at the University of Florence. In 2003 she obtained a specialization in "School Management".

From 1986 to 1991 she was a kindergarten teacher

From 1991 to 2007 she was a primary school teacher

Since 2007 he has held the position of head teacher at the I.C. Sestini of Agliana. He also held various regency positions as head teacher at the I.C. Montale PT (year 2009/10), at the IPSAA De Franceschi PT (from the year 2010/11 to the year 2015/16), at the I.C. Caponnetto Monsummano Terme PT (a.s 2017/18 and 2018/19)

She was president of the Teacher Competition Commission in 2016. She collaborated with training agencies for the training of teachers and future school leaders.

She has been President of the regional section of A.N.DI.S. (National Association of School Managers) since December 2021, She is president since 2016 of the Agliana Fencing Club A.S.D.

Martina Lunardi is the coordinator of the European Projects for the I.C. Sestini.

She graduated in Modern Foreign Languages and Literature in 1995 at the University of Florence. In 2009 she obtained the teaching qualification S.S.I.S. for competition classes A345 and A346 (English)

Since September 2008 she has been a teacher at the I.C. Sestini of Agliana.

Lucia Lavuri is the deputy teacher of the headteacher at the I.C. Sestini of Agliana. She graduated in 1993 from the A. Vannucci teaching institute in Pistoia, and in 1998 she obtained the orthophrenic specialization diploma for support teachers. She has held various positions as trainer in the field of technologies (ICT) at institutions and schools. Since 2003 she has held the role of teacher of mathematics and science at the lower secondary school, from 1998 to 2003. She currently holds the position of primary school teacher since 1998 and digital animator at the I.C. Sestini of Agliana.

Tiziana Biagiotti is the second collaborator of the headteacher. She graduated in Biological Sciences at the University of Florence in 2000. In 2001 she acquired the qualification to practice as a biologist. From 2002 to 2004 she attended a research doctorate and obtained the title of Ph.D in experimental and clinical oncology. In 2005 she had a university research grant in General Pathology. In February 2008 she acquired the qualification for secondary teaching S.S.I.S. in the competition classes A28 (mathematics and sciences in 1st grade secondary school), A50 integrated sciences in 2nd grade secondary school and A15 health disciplines. She has held the position of trainer at various institutions and schools. Since 2007 she has been continuously teaching mathematics and science at the Sestini secondary school.