ECEC and school education

Teachers of state schools can be distinguished as follows:

- Teachers of pre-primary schools;
- Teachers of primary schools (generalist);
- Teachers of lower secondary schools (specialist);
- Teachers of upper secondary schools (specialist);
- Support teachers (pre-primary school and all school levels);
- Teachers of technical-vocational subjects in technical and vocational institutes (they mainly carry out teaching activities in laboratories);
- Teachers of Catholic religion (pre-primary school and all school levels).

Teachers in State schools are civil servants with a private contract, which can be either temporary or permanent. The national collective labour contracts regulate teachers’ conditions of service.

Initial teacher education takes place at higher education level (universities and Afam institutes) and varies according to the level of education teachers will teach at:

- Pre-primary and primary teachers should complete a specific single-cycle university programme, lasting 5 years, including traineeship activities to be carried out starting from the second year of studies;
- Secondary teachers should complete a second-cycle course - either a two-year or a single-cycle course - at universities or at institutions of the High level arts and music education system (in case of arts, music and dance teachers at both lower and upper secondary level). In addition, they should acquire specific competences in anthropology, psychology and pedagogy, as well as in teaching methods and technologies for a total of 24 ECTS. These are the requirements to access the national open competition for the recruitment of teachers and, for those who pass the competition, to become qualified teachers.

Initial education and recruitment for secondary teachers is currently under reform, within the reform process started in 2015 with law 107 that has delegated the Government to issues specific decrees on some sectors of the education system.

The Government is expected to issue the delegated decrees within 17 April 2017. In particular, the decree on ITE regulates the re-organisation and simplification of the ITE and recruitment system of secondary teachers, in order to make the system more efficient for the increase of the social and cultural value of the teaching profession.

The reform foresees the direct access to the open competitions for teachers, after the obtainment of a second-cycle university qualification.
Those who pass the open competition start a three-year training, which includes a paid traineeship, aimed at the obtainment of a specialisation qualification and to the acquisition of teaching competences. The positive conclusion of the three-year training, gives the teacher the right to a permanent contract.

Continuing professional development is compulsory for teachers in state schools. According to the national collective labour contract, CPD activities are both a right and a professional duty, as they contribute to the development of teachers’ professional life.

The same conditions apply also to teachers working in the adult education sector, as they are teachers of the State education system.

Higher education

University teaching staff include:

- Full professors (professori ordinari or di prima fascia)
- Associate professors (professori associati or di seconda fascia)
- Fixed-term professors
- Permanent researchers (entered into service before 2010)
- Researchers with fixed-term contract
- Researchers with research allowances;
- Native language collaborators and linguistic experts;
- Exchange lecturers in accordance with bilateral co-operation agreements.

The following paragraphs only focus on the figures of professors and researchers.

Entry to the profession and conditions of services of professors and researchers are regulated by central legislation. Given the different recruitment procedures that have been followed over the years, the information included in the paragraphs of this chapter on teaching staff at universities refer exclusively to professors and researchers recruited according to the most recent legislation (law 240/2010).

University professors do not undergo either a specific initial training or continuing professional development activities. Access to the recruitment procedures for full and associate professors requires the possession of the national scientific habilitation, which has been introduced in 2010. Researchers must have a PhD or other qualifications required for specific sectors.

The recruitment of professors and researchers takes place at university level through the publication of vacancies. Fixed-term professors are recruited directly by universities for integrative teaching needs.

Up to 2010, professors and researchers were recruited through open competitions assessing candidates’ qualifications and publications.

High level arts and music education institutions (Afam) institutions recruit their teaching staff through national lists.

DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

YES

NO