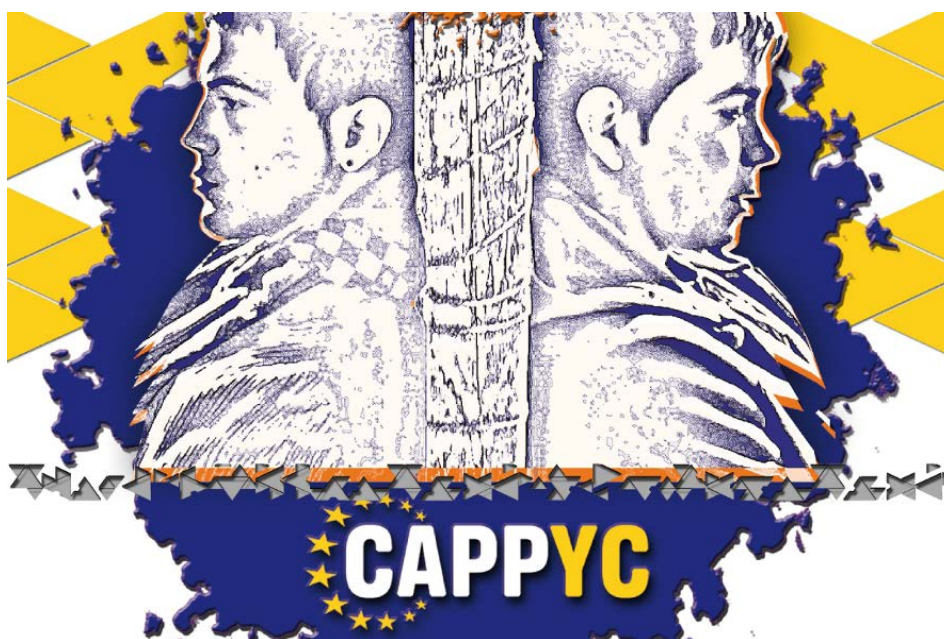




European implementation of CAPPYC

- Cannabis Abuse Prevention Program for Young Consumers -
and evaluation of their results using a scale
measuring attitudes towards drug use

www.cappyc.eu



National Implementation and findings Report ITALY

CESIE

www.cesie.org

2015





Introduction

This *Implementation and Findings Report* for Italy belongs to a series of national reports produced within the partnership of the project entitled “*European implementation of CAPPYC (Cannabis Abuse Prevention Program for Young Consumers) and evaluation of their results using a scale measuring attitudes towards drug use* www.cappyc.eu, co-funded by the DG Justice, [Drug Prevention and Information Programme \(DPIP\) – Demand Reduction](#) with the objective of promoting an aware cannabis use amongst young people aged between 15 and 18 years, by directly influencing underlying attitudes towards its use.

The CAPPYC program is a methodological work proposal intended for educators in formal and non-formal education to facilitate their educational task with people between the ages of around 15 and 18. The programme proposes 5 sessions with each group of young people, adopting different dynamics as supported by audiovisual sessions, developed specifically to encourage the reflection among peers about the risks and benefits associated with cannabis use.

This report first provides a brief insight into facts and figures on cannabis consumption in Italy, into political issues and developments around the consumption and abuse of cannabis, to then approach the research analysis findings itself, while introducing program’s activities and its implementation cycle at each of the involved schools in Palermo.

The adoption of different CAPPYC assessment tools¹, based on quantitative technique of questionnaires, allowed to collect information on:

[RESULTS EVALUATION]

- Number of young people involved in the program
- Assessment of the experience both from the educational staff and young people
- Assessment of CAPPYC as a preventive tool (adequacy) from the mediators
- Satisfaction level obtained and perceived in the experimental group (by educators)
- Interest and assessment of the workshops and the audiovisuals
- Utility and meaning of the content delivered through the different sessions
- Perceived difficulties and implementation barriers
- Willingness to readopt the program in future years, sustainability

Two of the main simultaneous and specific objectives of the CAPPYC project and of this paper, is to:

1. To learn about young people’s opinions regarding cannabis use.
The project partners agreed on a questionnaire (with different measurement scales for the most relevant psychosocial variables for predisposition towards cannabis use amongst the adolescent-youth population) to be simultaneously administered to the young people participating in the project.
2. To offer participation in an essentially educational prevention programme, which aims to change attitudes directly or indirectly favourable towards cannabis use – by designing a prevention program (based on a successful initiative undertaken in Spain, called “[Pasa la vida](#)”), administered similarly over several session in Italy.

¹ Please refer to Annex 1, 3 and 5



For further information on the content and/or format of this Report, please refer to:

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Report prepared by P4: CESIE www.cesie.org

Visit the project website <http://cappyc.eu> and get free access to all the resources you need to apply successful the prevention programme in your educational context:

- 'Pasa la Vida' VIDEOS (doubled and/or subtitled)
- 'Pasa la Vida' Tutorial (The programme, contents, methodological proposals, activities)
- CUIQ Questionnaire template (Cannabis Use Intention Questionnaire)
- CUIQ Questionnaire Application and correction Manual (with a detailed explanation of how it was structured, how to use it and how to evaluate the data obtained after application to a group of young people)
- *CUIQ analytical tool 'Rules for correction and Excel template for automatic calculation of the scores'*
- 'National PROCESS and RESULTS Reports' in all partner countries
- Comparative European Results Evaluation Report

Please note, the Partnership offers the CAPPYC material free of charge with no copyright restriction (all material is available for download in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Rumanian](#) and [Italian](#) language), in the hope that it will prove useful to prevention educators of formal and non-formal education all over Europe.

We only kindly ask that users please reference our work when the materials are used, and to please send us an acknowledgement, and ideally examples of the new uses, to the authors of the present report at cappyc@cesie.org. Thank you

*This Report is part of 'WS3 Analysis of data collected':
'Deliverable n.3 Process evaluation reports' and 'Deliverable n. 4 Results evaluation reports'.*

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Nationally specific context information, ITALY

(Literature review)

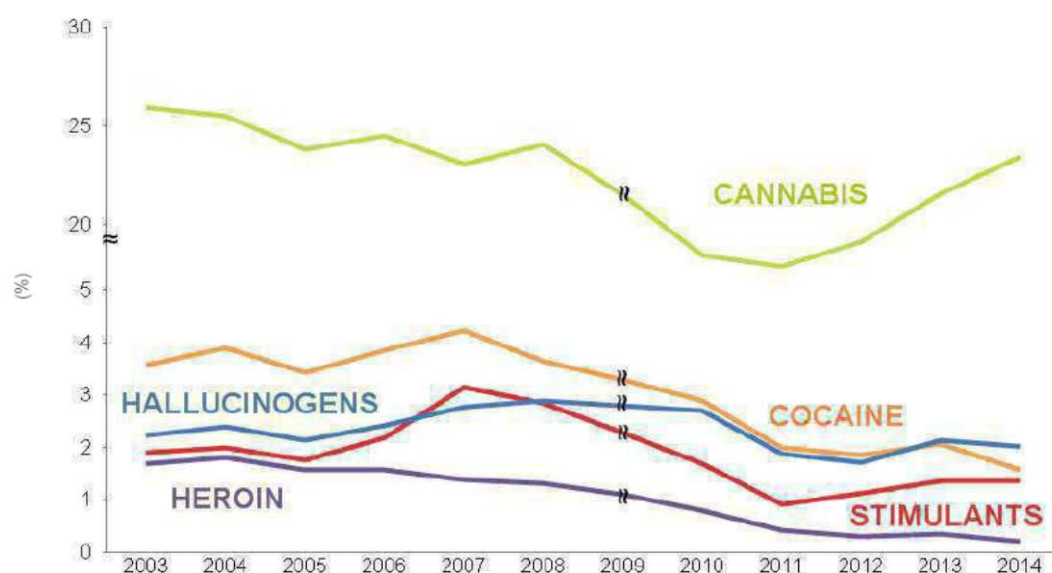
There has been a sharp rise in the numbers of Italian students smoking cannabis. It's the most common drug used by teens in the 15-19 age group. In 2014, 26.7% of students had tried it at least once (up from 24.6% in 2013), while 23.1% said they had smoked cannabis at least once in the past year (up from 21.6% in 2013), and 15.5% claim to have used the drug in the past 30 days (15.2% in 2013). The increase was more marked among girls. However, both sexes make mainly occasional use of the drug, between one to nine times in the past year – 68.2% for girls and 56.5% for boys. With regards to geographical regions and types of school, the survey, part of [the annual parliamentary report on the state of drug use in Italy](#), produced by Italy's Department for Anti-Drug Policies, the biggest student users of cannabis are in the central regions and go to arts-based institutions and schools.²

A brief summary of drug use³

Data on drug use among students, which has been collected on a yearly basis since 2003, shows a progressive, albeit variable, decrease in the number of cannabis users, which continued until 2011. In the three-year period that followed (2011-2013), there was an upturn in the number of cannabis users, with 2014 prevalence percentages returning to 2008 levels.

The prevalence of cocaine use, after an initial increase during the period lasting until 2007, remained in constant and on-going decline until 2011, leveling off during the following years, albeit with some variability.

Figure 1: Drug use in the student population aged 15-19 (subjects who reported having used drugs at least once in the last twelve months). The years 2003 – 2014



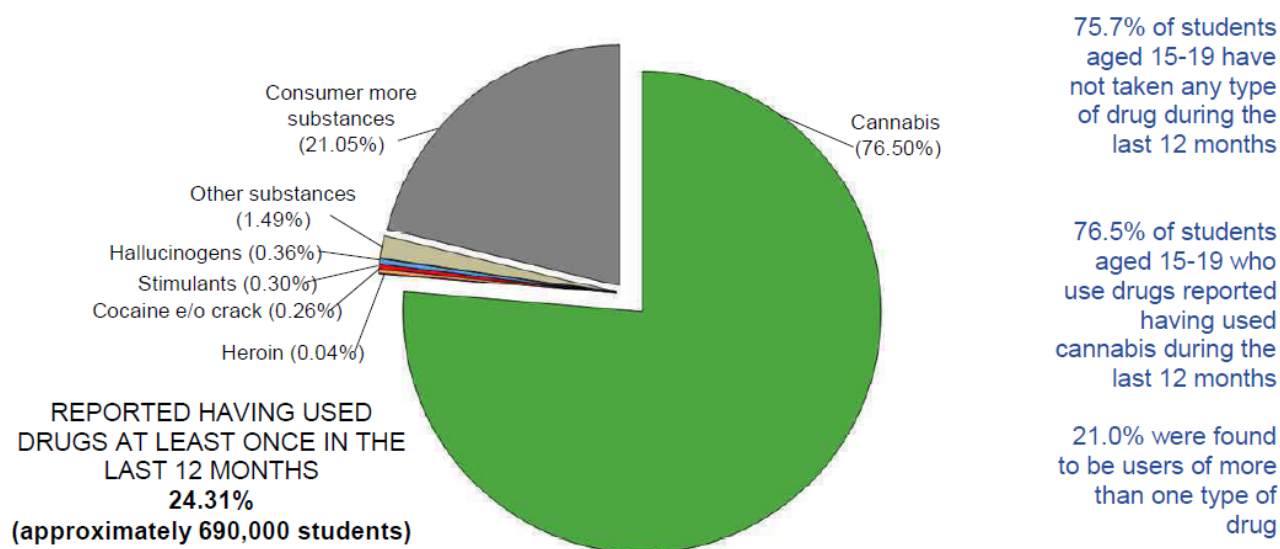
Source: ESPAD Italy 2003-2008; SPS-DPA Surveys 2010-2014 – Department for Anti-drug Policies

² [Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department for Anti-Drug Policies](#): Annual parliamentary report on the state of drug use in Italy 2015.

³ 2014 National Report (2013 data) to the EMCDDA by the Reitox Italian Focal Point: *ITALY, New Developments and Trends*.



Figure 2: Types of drugs used by students aged 15-19 who reported having used drugs at least once in the last twelve months). The year 2014:



Source: SPS-DPA Survey 2014 – Department for Anti-drug Policies

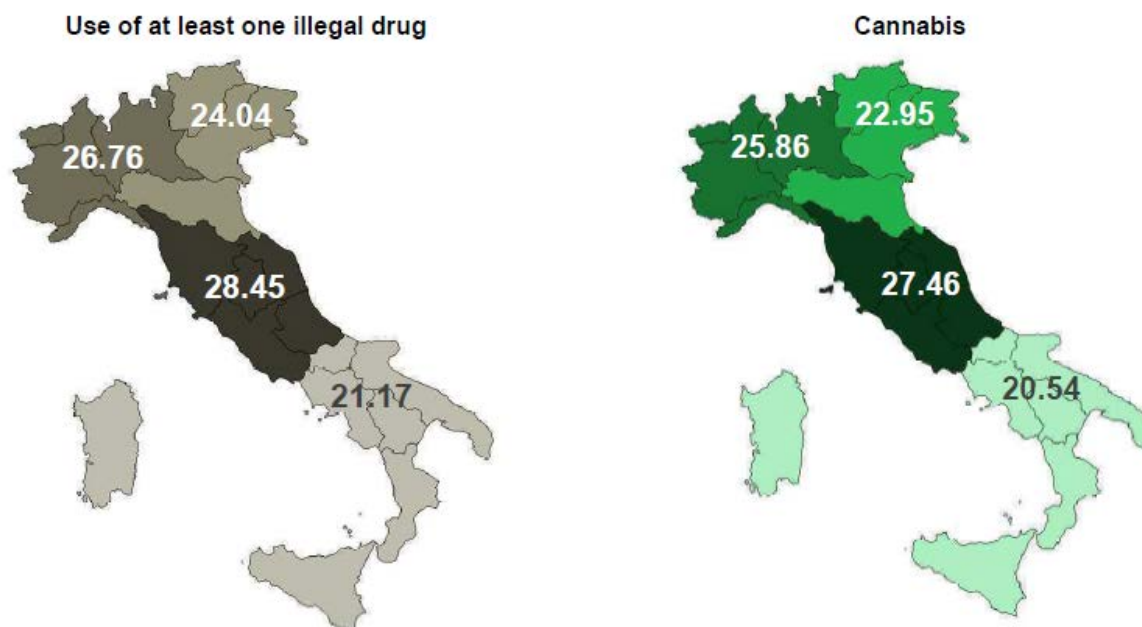
Figure 3: Cannabis (marijuana or hashish) users (% prevalence) in the student population aged 15-19 over the last 12 months. The years 2003 – 2014:



Source: ESPAD Italy 2003-2008; SPS-DPA Surveys 2010-2014 – Department for Anti-drug Policies

If we examine use prevalence by geographic area, we find the highest levels of cannabis in Central Italy:

Figure 4: Drug use (prevalence %) in the student population aged 15-19 (subjects who reported having used drugs at least once in the last twelve months), by geographic area. The year 2014:



Source: SPS-DPA Survey 2014 – Department for Anti-drug Policies

*Full report at <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/national-reports/italy-2014>

Italy: National drug strategy⁴

The Italian National Action Plan on Drugs 2010–13 was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 29 October 2010 and remains active pending the development of a new strategy. Taking a comprehensive approach, 89 objectives are set out in the Action Plan in two pillars, demand and supply reduction, across five cross-cutting areas of intervention. Demand reduction activities include prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration, while supply reduction covers evaluation and monitoring, legislation, combating drugs and youth justice. Primarily focused on illicit drug use, the Action Plan also covers licit drug use and addictive behaviours as elements, predominantly in the context of prevention. A series of initiatives are envisaged within each of the five cross-cutting intervention areas (prevention; treatment and diagnosis; rehabilitation and reintegration; evaluation and monitoring; legislation, combating drugs and youth justice). These cover the themes of coordination, cooperation, raising public awareness, assessing results and costs, scientific research and data collection, and training and organisation. The main Action Plan is accompanied by three other elements designed to support overall strategy implementation:

1. Individual regional plans can be drawn up by the Regions and Autonomous Provinces, following the approach of the National Action Plan on Drugs, as well as their own planning priorities.
2. Technical and scientific guidelines are designed to provide methodological support in implementing the drugs strategy.
3. The Projects Plan sets out the different national projects being carried out under the five cross-cutting areas of intervention in the National Action Plan on Drugs. It is renewed and implemented

⁴ EMCDDA The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA): [Italy: country overview](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/national-reports/italy-2014)



on the basis of annually defined financial resources. The second Projects Plan, for 2011–12, covered 10 areas: overall prevention; prevention of drug-related diseases; treatment and support via Public Drug Treatment Units (SerTs) and therapeutic communities; reintegration; epidemiology and assessment; warning system and technological innovations; planning and organisation; research; training; and international activities.

In 2014, Italy launched its national action plan for the prevention of the distribution of new psychoactive substances and demand on the Internet. It addresses the phenomenon of new psychoactive substances through six pillars: epidemiology and early warning; diagnostic enhancement; prevention and demand reduction; supply reduction; scientific research; collaboration, coordination and training. Objectives and supporting actions are defined for each pillar.

- [Italy Action plan 2010-2013 \(IT\)](#)
- [Italy Project plan 2009-2010 \(IT\)](#)
- [Italian Department for Anti-drug Policies \(2014\) National action plan to prevent NPS internet distribution](#)

Italy: National drug laws

In Italy, the Consolidated Law, adopted by the Presidential Decree No. 309 on 9 October 1990 and subsequently amended, provides the legal framework for trade, treatment and prevention, and prohibition and punishment of illegal activities in the field of drugs and psychoactive substances. Use itself is not mentioned as an offence. Possession for personal use is punishable by administrative sanctions (such as the suspension of a driving license), which may be for up to one year, increased from four months in 2006. A distinction is made between illicit drugs (Table I) and medicinal drugs (Table II). A maximum quantity determines the threshold between personal possession and trafficking. If a person is found in possession of illegal drugs for the first time, administrative sanctions are not usually applied, and instead the offender receives a warning from the Prefect and a formal request to refrain from use. The offender may also voluntarily request treatment or rehabilitation, and proceedings will then be suspended whilst the user is referred for treatment. Failure to attend or complete a treatment programme may result in the application of the above sanctions.

Nota Bene: The above information, data and figures are not meant to be comprehensive of the state of drug use in Italy but to provide a general overview to the reader. Please note, the above does not replace official national and European documentation on the subject.



CAPPYC at School

The need for CAPPYC in Palermo

In Italy universal drug prevention activities are routinely implemented in schools⁵ (focusing on both licit and illicit substances), however these remain limited to information provision and awareness-raising through lectures and discussions. In the light of the to date existing educational prevention approaches, interactive methods like the CAPPYC Programme become paramount as it introduces the use of technology through audiovisual aid as considered to be more appealing to students than the traditional methods.

To ensure a heterogeneous research sample (in terms of gender, socio-cultural background and demographics) the programme in Italy was implemented in different types of secondary schools: Scientific lyceum (upper class), Human Sciences lyceum (mainly female attendees) and Technical institute (lower class and mainly male attendees).

Italian CAPPYC implementation in numbers:

Scale piloting PRE and POST Questionnaire(s)	Male	Female	PRE	POST
(i) Liceo Classico Vittorio Emanuele II ⁶	146	66	212	207
(ii) Technical Institute 'Nautico Gioeni Trabia' ⁷	288	37	325	334
(iii) Istituto Magistrale Regina Margherita ⁸	142	454	596	559
(iv) Educandato Statale Maria Adelaide ⁹	43	136	179	160
(v) Liceo Scientifico Benedetto Croce ¹⁰	181	135	316	306
TOTAL	800	825	1.628	1.566
Percentages	49,14%	50,67%	100%	96,3%
<i>N.B. #1.477 students (n. of valid PRE and POST matching filled Questionnaires)</i>				

⁵ The planning and implementation of prevention activities in Italy are mainly the responsibility of the regional and autonomous provinces; however, the Department for Anti-Drug Policies at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers provides part of its annual budget to support universal and selective prevention activities.

⁶ Liceo Classico 'Vittorio Emanuele II' [Classic lyceum] is dedicated to humanistic studies, features Latin, Ancient Greek, Italian, history and philosophy as its most important subjects. www.liceovittorioemanuelepa.it

⁷ Istituto Tecnico Trasporti e Logistica Nautico 'Gioeni Trabia' [Technical institute]. The education given offers both a wide theoretical education and a highly qualified technical specialization in a specific field of studies (e.g.: economy, humanities, administration, law, accountancy, tourism). www.nauticopa.it

⁸ Istituto Magistrale 'Regina Margherita' [Human sciences lyceum]: emphasis is more on relational, behavioral and educational, such as pedagogy, anthropology, psychology, sociology, and social research. www.reginamargheritapa.it

⁹ Educandato Statale 'Maria Adelaide' [Classic lyceum]: dedicated to humanistic studies, features Latin, Ancient Greek, Italian, history and philosophy as its most important subjects. www.mariaadelaide.it

¹⁰ Liceo Scientifico 'Benedetto Croce' [Scientific lyceum]: dedicated to scientific studies, shares a part of its program with Liceo classico in teaching Italian, Latin, history and philosophy, but is more oriented towards mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, Earth science and computer science. www.liceocroce.it



48 STUDY GROUP classes (SG) 917 youth		36 CONTROL GROUP classes (CG) 711 youth	
<i>n. of classes</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>n. of classes</i>	<i>Age</i>
17	15-16	5	14-15 (1 st grade)
20	16-17	12	15-16 (2 nd grade)
9	17-18	10	16-17 (3 rd grade)
2	18-19	5	17-18 (4 th grade)
		4	18-19 (5 th grade)

STUDY GROUP: Programme implementation [n. of beneficiaries]	Male	Female	Total
(i) Liceo Classico Vittorio Emanuele II	41	93	134
(ii) Technical Institute, 'Nautico Gioeni Trabia'	125	20	145
(iii) Istituto Magistrale Regina Margherita	65	303	368
(iv) Educandato Statale Maria Adelaide	31	101	132
(v) Liceo Scientifico Benedetto Croce	80	58	138
TOTAL	342	575	917
Percentages	37,3%	62,7%	100%

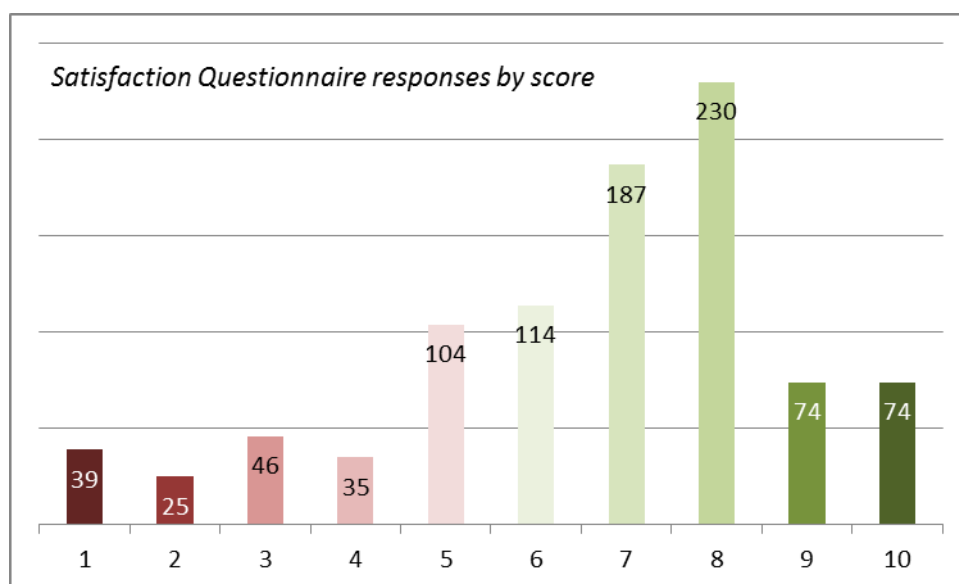
CAPPYC programme implementers [teachers]	Male	Female¹¹	Total
(i) Liceo Classico Vittorio Emanuele II	3	9	12
(ii) Technical Institute, 'Nautico Gioeni Trabia'	1	9	10
(iii) Istituto Magistrale Regina Margherita	1	15	16
(iv) Educandato Statale Maria Adelaide	0	3	3
(v) Liceo Scientifico Benedetto Croce	1	5	6
TOTAL	6	41	47

Satisfaction Questionnaire (STUDY groups only) [Suggesting to a friend?]	YES	NO	TOT.
(i) Liceo Classico Vittorio Emanuele II	66	50	116
(ii) Technical Institute, 'Nautico Gioeni Trabia'	166	29	195
(iii) Istituto Magistrale Regina Margherita	327	59	386
(iv) Educandato Statale Maria Adelaide	44	54	98
(v) Liceo Scientifico Benedetto Croce	122	15	137
TOTAL	725	207	932
Percentages	77,8%	22,2%	100%

¹¹ According to the latest data available ([here](#)) women represent the 79% of the Italian teaching body.



How would you rank from 1 to 10 your overall satisfaction towards the project?										
score	1 😞😞	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 😊😊
#	39	25	46	35	104	114	187	230	74	74
%	4,18%	2,68%	4,93%	3,75%	11,15%	12,23%	20,06%	24,67%	7,93%	7,93%
	26,69% 😞					😊 72,82%				
	Arithmetic mean = 6,61									



Local implementation timeframe (selection, preparation, implementation, sustainability):

CAPPYC schools identification and selection	May/November 2014
#5 Secondary School Institutions #12 different school complexes = 84 classes	
Train the 'CAPPYC implementers'	December 2014
#47 teachers have implemented the CAPPYC programme	
PRE-questionnaires hand-out (study & control group) [#1.628 Questionnaires]	(12/01/15 - 25/03/15)
Italian programme implementation (study groups only)	March/April 2015
POST-questionnaires hand-out (study and control group)	
[#1.566 Questionnaires]	(09/04/15 – 20/05/15)
<u>#1.477 students (n. of valid PRE and POST matching Questionnaires)</u>	
SATISFACTION questionnaires hand-out [#932 filled Questionnaires]	May 2015
Hosting international consortium meeting at CESIE, Palermo [Read more]	(12/06/2015)
Mid-term process and progress presentation, CESIE	
Data loading (PRE POST Satisfaction)	June/August 2015
Italian findings analysis for school data feedback events	September/October 2015
Local dissemination: data feedback events (exploitation)	November/December 2015
National, regional online dissemination actions (see Annex 16)	January/February 2016



Acknowledgements

First and foremost, we would like to thank the teachers of the schools joining the CAPPYC project in Palermo, for their dedication and professionalism implementing the programme and all the students for their openness to the topic and the applied method.

Liceo Classico Statale Vittorio Emanuele II

School head: Prof.ssa Rita Coscarella

Educators/teachers:

Gaspere De Luca, Claudia Vassallo, Francesco Machi', Caterina Ferro, Marina Buttari, Piera Fallucca, Francesco Scorsone, Francesca Milazzo, Roberta Pizzullo, Franca Fileccia, Anna Maria Farina, Lidia Fiocco

Istituto Tecnico Trasporti e Logistica "Nautico Gioeni Trabia"

School head: Prof. Giovanni Litrico

Educators/teachers:

Angela La Mattina, Maria Elena Pitisci, Antonella Giordano, Gilda Messina, Rosetta Pistone, Giuseppe Russo, Giulietta Mondini, Carmela Lamonica, Daniela Capraro, Maria Cardilicchia

Istituto Magistrale Regina Margherita

School head: Prof.ssa Pia Blandano

Educators/teachers:

Maria Ciulla, Silvia Mercurio, Rossella Minaudo, Giorgia Campisi, Orietta Sansone, Maria Cantone, Elisabetta Maria Carollo, Rita Todaro, Clara Santoro, Giuseppa Tarallo, Elena Scalici, Giovanna Scarantino, Paola Pennisi, Concetta Gandolfo, Paolo Spinoso, Rosaria Cascio

Educando Statale "Maria Adelaide"

School head: Prof.ssa Laura Piacenti

Educators/teachers:

Vitalba Valenti, Daniela Piazza, Capitummino Rosaria

Liceo Scientifico Statale "Benedetto Croce"

School head: Prof.ssa Simonetta Calafiore

Educators/teachers:

Ina Salerno, Liliana Pipitone, Salvatore Stira, Giuseppina Grassa, Bianca Parisi, Vera Catalanotto

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