

The Friuli Venezia Giulia Child Protection's MoU

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UNICEF ECARO has formalized a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the **Friuli Venezia Giulia Region** (Italy) with the **University of Trieste**, the **University of Udine**, the **Superintendence of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape** (under the **Ministry of Culture**), the **Regional Ombudsperson**, the **Trieste Juvenile Court**, the **FVG Guardians Association** and the **UNICEF National Committee**.

This MoU establishes a dynamic and self-sustaining framework for the promotion and protection of children's and adolescents' rights. Through an integrative, multidisciplinary, and intersectoral approach, this initiative capitalizes on the expertise of Academia and key institutional stakeholders to develop holistic strategies that foster child welfare and development.

Central to this collaboration is Academia's pivotal role in advancing child rights through its Third Mission activities—university-driven endeavours that transcend traditional teaching and research to generate tangible societal impact. This initiative underscores the transformative power of knowledge as an instrument for cultural and social advancement, fostering a society grounded in social justice, equality, and universal human rights.

Given the inherently interdisciplinary nature of child rights, Academic institutions will curate a cross-sectoral capacity-building program spanning anthropology, pedagogy, sociology, political science, languages and communication science. This initiative aims to empower students, professionals, and caregivers with the expertise required to champion child rights within their respective fields.

A distinctive element of this MoU is its partnership with the Superintendence of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape, reinforcing a commitment to public engagement in line with the Third Mission and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Through participatory initiatives, the MoU cultivates an inclusive and evolving societal identity that embraces diversity while nurturing a global cultural universalism of child rights. Projects will focus on citizenship education and cultural heritage as intergenerational connectors, fostering inclusive spaces for self-expression, cultural integration, and civic consciousness within a shared heritage community.

By leveraging interdisciplinary expertise and institutional cooperation, this alliance aspires to establish a sustainable and impactful model for safeguarding and promoting children's rights, reinforcing their role in shaping a more just and equitable society.