

After 8 years of formal education (from 6 to 14 years of age), the Italian education system offers two different options:

- higher education (secondary schools lasting 5 years regulated by the Italian Minister of Education) including vocational training institutes giving access to university
- professional training: vocational training centres CFP (lasting 3 years and regulated by Province Governments)

All citizens residing in Italy (Italian and foreign-born) are admitted to the above mentioned schools after having acquired a middle school certificate. These schools, institutes and centres are free (unless they are private schools with fees) and provide a secondary school qualification.

Other training centres, operating outside the Italian education system, provide professional courses (tailoring, gardening, warehouse keeper, etc) on demand with a final attendance certification. These courses are usually free for unemployed people (in this case courses are financed by Regione Lombardia, which is in charge of managing funding related to training and employment policies).

In none of the cases, specific training or learning paths are intended for foreign-born citizens only. On the other hand, it has to be noted that the amount of foreign-born students attending vocational schools and centres has been increasing in the last few years.

Cooperativa Tempo Libero manages different specific projects providing training (Italian language and vocational training) and/or counselling for foreign-born citizens:

- 2013-2014 a project (financed by the European Commission in cooperation with the Italian Minister of Internal Affairs) aimed at vocational training of non European citizens in need, residing in Brescia.
- 2014-2016: in the framework of the National protection system for refugees and asylum seekers (SPRAR), Tempo Libero supports refugees and asylum seekers in housing, language learning, legal assistance. SPRAR provides also training courses and apprenticeships .

The attitude of the people involved in the above mentioned learning paths is different and depends on each individual. Generally speaking, the students attending vocational training schools and centres as well as other training courses are motivated and have the objective of finding a job as soon as possible.