



FOOD EDUCATION ITALY

FONDAZIONE ITALIANA EDUCAZIONE ALIMENTARE

A short introduction for our English-speaking audience

The Italian Foundation for Food Education – Food Education Italy (FEI) – was established in July 2011 as a new participatory foundation, aiming to foster strong and fruitful collaborations between schools, families and territory – the latter defined as the communities, and public and private institutions and companies active in a specific territory.

FEI is a non-religious, open and autonomous organization officially recognized at a national level and is not controlled by any entity or company.

The Foundation promotes local and global food culture, healthy eating habits and sustainable lifestyles, aiming to undertake continuous preventive actions and eventually direct those in need of treatment to medical attention.

We believe that the more competent teachers become, and the more they and the schooling system as a whole can coordinate with other public and private entities involved, the more successful educational programs developed with and for students will be.

FEI's mission is to develop and implement educational projects on food and nutrition (from farm to table and beyond) for school-age children as well as for adults, and offer training and other support to teachers and educators.

Background information

FEI's six founders, who all have extensive experience in the fields of education, health, food, communication and sustainability, started working together in 2009 as members of the Technical-Scientific Committee "Food & Schools" (Comitato Tecnico-Scientifico "Scuola e Cibo") established by MIUR – the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. The Committee was entrusted with developing a shared methodological framework to promote food education in the Italian school system as a whole.

In its three years of activity, the Committee worked with MIUR's regional coordinators, school principals and teachers all over the country, involving government agencies, public authorities and private entities representing the food industry, leading the co-development of a comprehensive program that successfully introduced food education into the school system. The program aimed at promoting an interdisciplinary

social, cultural and scientific approach to food education and was formalized by the committee in the form of specific guidelines, officially issued by MIUR in October 2011 as Linee Guida per l'Educazione Alimentare nella Scuola Italiana (Guidelines for Food Education in Italian Schools).

Through their activity in the Committee "School and Food", FEI's founders established significant relationships at all levels of USRs (Regional School Offices) and USPs (Provincial School Offices) throughout the country. The wish to harness this important wealth of relations and common experience led them to establish the Italian Foundation for Food Education.

FEI'S Program

FEI's aim is to create value by raising the overall effectiveness of food education practices.

The Foundation also intends to support and give visibility to those professionals and organizations involved in nutrition and food education whose contribution and experiences can benefit the thousands of primary and secondary schools throughout Italy.

The Foundation responds to the need to increase the impact and efficiency of food education in schools, establishing itself as a potential partner and home base in which all its members can identify and interact while putting food education into practice. FEI operates at local, national and international levels, acting in four main areas:

- (Advocacy) Creating and promoting food education projects in schools;
- (Funding) Finding the resources needed to support food education and promote initiatives within schools;
- (Social networking) Establishing networks of relationships that provide all the parties active in food education opportunities for structured dialogue and interaction;
- (Awareness) Fostering the *community of practice* that includes all who identify with the emerging values of nutrition and food education.

Governance

FEI is a participatory Foundation, a formal aggregation of economic, professional and relational resources organized to achieve its unalterable goal, as defined in its Statute. The Foundation is an independent legal entity and has been recognized at the national level (highest grade). The formula of Participatory Foundation offers everyone the opportunity to participate at the very core of the Foundation by actively contributing to its scope and achievements.

How to participate

Thanks to the contributions it receives from members and donors, FEI has the opportunity to develop successful and efficient food education projects, helping teachers do a better job. Participating in FEI also means recognizing the importance of schools in promoting healthy lifestyles and eating habits, and investing in the role of teachers as educators of children and teenagers about food and nutrition.

Donations are always welcome, and participation is open to individuals, schools, and public and private organizations. There are three individuals, schools, and private and public organizations can participate in and support the Foundation's activities, becoming:

1. **Ordinary Member** by paying the yearly membership fee.
2. **Supporting Member** by paying the yearly membership fee and contributing further, including with one's own time (internships, volunteer work, professional activity).
3. **Meritorious Member**: by paying two years of membership fees and contributing further, with a significant project or any tangible or intangible asset.

Institutions can join the Foundation and participate in the development of its activities as **Institutional Members**.

Contact person

Cristiano Sandels Navarro

Secretary General

Fondazione Italiana per l'Educazione Alimentare – Food Education Italy

Tel +39 335 627 55 15

E-mail c.sandelsnavarro@foodedu.it | www.foodedu.it