

Roundtables on Arabic Language Education in Italy

**Why impactful Arabic language education matters:
connecting communities, improving language learning programs, and exploring ways of
making the language easy to learn**

Hosted at Università IULM – Milan

IULM 1, Seminari Room

September 13, 2024, 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Registration and welcome coffee

09:30 AM - 09:45 AM

Institutional Greetings:

**Giovanna Rocca, Pro-Rector for Research, Dean of the Faculty of Interpreting and Translation,
Università IULM**

Luciana Volta, Ministry of Education and Merit, Director General for Lombardy

Opening Remarks:

Manuela E.B. Giolfo, Università IULM

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

Introduction by the Roundtable Participants

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Roundtable One – Perspectives and Strategies

How can we enhance Arabic language education in schools and make it successful?

Objective: Focus on actionable steps to map out Arabic language education in Italy. What support and resources are available from the Ministry of Education and Merit at central and regional level? How can the language education sector, regional and local communities, and other stakeholders contribute to make Arabic successful in Italian schools?

Moderator: **Manuela E.B. Giolfo, Università IULM**

Discussion leads:

- **Gisella Langé**, Foreign Languages Inspector, Ministry of Education and Merit
- **Adamo Castelnuovo**, Ministry of Education and Merit – Regional Office for Lombardy
- **Antonietta Centolanze**, Ministry of Education and Merit – Regional Office for Piedmont
- **Andrea Facchin**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Q&A

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Coffee Break

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Discussion in Break Out Groups:

20 minute pre-set break out groups to discuss: **What is Arabic and why should it be taught?**
25 minutes for report back on Key Highlights by each rapporteur.

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

Roundtable Two – The Current Landscape

What is the current landscape of Arabic language education in Italy?

Objective: Sharing challenges and opportunities from different perspectives in universities and schools.

Moderator: **Ibraam Abdelsayed**, Università per Stranieri di Siena (University for Foreigners of Siena)

Discussion leads:

- **Giuliano Lancioni**, Università degli Studi Roma Tre (*University Perspective*)
- **Gloria Farisé**, Liceo Linguistico Falcone - Bergamo (*School Perspective*)
- **Mattia Venturato**, I.C. Puccini (*School Perspective*)
- **Mirko Colleoni**, Liceo Linguistico Falcone - Bergamo (*Educator Perspective*)

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Lunch Break

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

Roundtable Three – Change Makers

Leveraging public private partnerships to impact successful Arabic programs in schools.

Objective: Share examples of community partnerships as well as public-private partnerships that have activated Arabic in education.

Moderator: **Federico Salvaggio, Università degli studi di Udine**

Discussion leads:

- **Haifa Alsakkaf, Good World Citizen - Florence**
- **Fhiona MacKay, Scotland's National Centre for Languages (SCILT)**
- **Amanda Ferrario, ITE E. Tosi - Busto Arsizio (Varese)**
- **Craig Cangemi, Qatar Foundation International**

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

Q&A

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Coffee Break

3:45 PM - 4:30 PM

Discussion Break Out Groups

Foster collaboration between universities, the Ministry of Education and Merit and local communities to improve Arabic learning programs from primary/secondary schools to universities.

20 minutes break out groups to discuss: **Improving Arabic language learning programs connecting primary/secondary schools with universities.**

25 minutes for Report on Key Highlights by each rapporteur: 3-5 recommendations and action steps to improve Arabic language learning.

4:30 PM-5:00 PM

Closing remarks and next steps

Moderator: Julia Sylla, Qatar Foundation International
