

AP

On August 27th, the College Board reported the final figures for the AP Italian 2013 exam: 1980 students took the exam, a better figure than the interim figure we were given in July of 1898. This figure represented an 8.8% increase over 2012 (when 1806 students took the exam).

If this rate of increase can be maintained, we will come close to **but not attain** the 2500 goal of students taking the exam. At this crucial point in time, therefore, we should gather our forces and target our efforts to push the program to the max.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Observatory's role/function: we think there should be an increased sharing of responsibility, especially through delegation of certain sectors to particular individuals or institutions represented within the Observatory (for training, teaching, updating, outreach activities to schools/principals/authorities, etc.).

Local branches of the Observatory: in order to increase the level of participation, information sharing and involvement at the local level, it is recommended that a representative and participatory entity be set up within the various Consulates, so as to share ideas, forces and **responsibilities**.

The local branches of the Observatory, coordinated by the Consulates, should actively engage, at the local level, Italian and Italian- American organizations, schools and school districts with the main aim to open new classes of Italian at the AP level. They should engage also in fundraising to support the creation of these new classes.

Every branch will have an individual responsible for it, who can be chosen among its members. The individual responsible should preferably be someone outside the Consular office, so as to better engage the local community.

The Observatory in Washington will maintain the coordination of the activities of the local branches.

Italian Organizations, Associations and Companies: must hold new fundraisers. These funds are for:

- Italian courses in schools (adopt a school, teacher, class);
- Website maintenance (based on the Calandra Institute in cooperation with Università' per Stranieri di Perugia);
- database creation and updating (uploaded on usspeaksitalian website);

- advertisement (even updating the brochures);
- instructor training and certification (using the best practices of the teaching AP Italian);
- AP courses;
- Incentives (after the 2012-13 Scholarship assignment experience, the Observatory believes that it is preferable that scholarships be given solely to teachers. With reference to the students, it is preferable to reward students taking the exam with monetary incentives: with larger amounts going to those actually passing the exam.)

Local branches, in cooperation with the Consular offices, will identify students whose families are unable to pay the AP registration fee and support them by covering the fee on their behalf.

Database: in order to have a complete registry, a database is essential:

- of public, private and charter schools where AP level Italian language courses are offered; as well as of those schools offering non-AP level Italian courses;
- of colleges and universities that offer courses in Italian for the training of new teachers;
- of the requirements needed to become a teacher of Italian at public schools at various levels and in different states;
- of cultural centers and other institutions that offer courses in Italian
- spread (share on usspaksitalian?) the global database as pedagogical resource.
- The Embassy will mail a letter to the Italian American organizations part of the Conference of Presidents to stress the importance of their pro-active role in realizing the above mentioned steps and achieving the above mentioned results.

DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Instructors and courses: Need more courses of Italian. In order to do this, besides direct contacts with principals, superintendents and other school authorities, funding and certified teachers are essential.

a. In order to obtain **additional funding, there must be a new campaign geared at raising awareness among Italian and Italian-American associations, organizations and companies.** Each of these, in particular the larger ones, could “adopt a course, a school or a teacher .”

b. In order to obtain **more teachers:**

- work with the State Department in order to modify the Visa requirement (from J-1 to H-1B) for teachers recruited in Italy;
- advice and help could be offered in order to streamline the **certification** process;
- **scholarships** could be offered for participation in courses organized by the CB or other institutions, on the teaching of AP Italian, giving priority to those teachers without prior AP experience;
- **recognize those teachers** who get the greatest number of students to register for the AP Italian exam, as well as those whose students obtain the highest scores in the AP Italian exam by **presenting them with a cash award or an official recognition at the appropriate Consulate or at the Embassy.**
- **host AP Italian training workshops** in those states where the highest number of students register for AP Italian (NY, NJ, CA, IL, FL , MS, PA , RI, CT).

2. Students

- Meet with the **principals and teachers** of the **214 schools** in the U.S. that offered AP Italian courses, so as help increase the number of students attending the courses and taking the AP Italian exam; **in fact, if just 2 (two) additional students enroll in each of the classes, we can meet our target of 2500!**
- Meet with the principals of schools offering Italian courses but not at the AP level, and ask for their support in opening new AP level courses;
- Identify the areas with the highest concentration of newly immigrated Italian families so as to:
 - organize additional courses that will lead to the AP Italian Program;
 - activate AP Italian exam preparation courses for older students.
- Inform teachers** of non-AP Italian courses, as well as of the international schools that do not offer AP, that **Italian students, or students of Italian descent, can take the AP Italian without having taken a specific course;**
- Inform families, students and teachers** that students who take **AP Italian** together with two other additional **AP courses**, can **matriculate** at an Italian university to pursue their university studies;
- Cover the registration fee for the AP Italian exam (\$89.-)** for needy students;
- Provide scholarships**, from Italian-American associations and organizations, exclusively and specifically for students who enroll in the AP Italian exam;

- h. Similarly, for the students who scored the highest (5) in the AP Italian exam;
- i. **Give monetary awards to all those students registering for the AP Italian Exam** (simply for having registered).
- j. give monetary awards, with larger amounts for those students who pass the exam with a score of 4 or 5.

3. **Communication**

- a. **Develop the website usspeaksitalian.org** on the basis of the contract being finalized between the College Board and the Calandra Institute;
- b. **Increase participation at the local level** (advertising, initiatives, events, etc.).

4. **Database**

- a. to **identify the public, private and charter schools** where AP-level Italian language courses are offered;
- b. to **identify the public, private and charter schools** where non-AP level Italian language courses are offered;
- c. to **identify the requirements that must be met** to become a teacher of Italian at schools at various levels and in different states;
- d. to **identify cultural centers and other institutions** that offer courses in Italian;
- e. to **identify colleges and universities** that offer courses in Italian, and at what levels (minor, major, PhD) these are offered, with the purpose of recruiting new teachers.

THE OBSERVATORY OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE IN THE USA

STRATEGIC PLAN – SEPTEMBER 2013 UPDATED

General goal: sharing of responsibility, especially through delegation of certain sectors to particular individuals or institutions represented within the Observatory and to major Italian-American Organizations.

NATIONAL LEVEL

	ENTITY	GOAL	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTIONS	DEADLINE	Standards for EVALUATION
1	Embassy and Observatory	Establish working groups at the local level that can make a significant contribution to the development of the Italian language	Embassy and Observatory	Together with the Consulates, identify the organizations, associations, businesses, individuals to be targeted for this effort	By October 30th, 2013	Meet goals, as well as deadlines

	ENTITY	GOAL	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTIONS	DEADLINE	Standards for EVALUATION
2	Italian-American Organizations, Associations and Italian Companies	Raise sufficient funds to pursue actions at the national and local level (website maintenance, database, teachers training, advertisement, incentives, etc)	Individual in charge of the local branch of the Observatory	Fundraising	By December 20 th , 2013	The funds should be managed by an organization or foundation able to administer them with absolute effectiveness and transparency
3	Calandra Institute – Università per Stranieri di Perugia	Website maintenance	Anthony Tamburri Roberto Dolci	Launch the new website	By October 20 th , 2013	Website effectiveness
4	Copilas - Calandra Institute	Data base creation	Daniel Stabile Roberto Dolci Anthony Tamburri	Data collection; sorting and interpretation	By March 31 st , 2014	Collect data on: - schools - teachers - AP - Italian population and distribution
5	Individual/Entity responsible at the National level	Advertisement	Berardo Paradiso Daniel Stabile Heads of Consular Posts	Create a new advertisement campaign	By February 28 th , 2014	Release of the new advertisement campaign
6	College Board	Clarify administrative and didactic issues	Embassy	Plan a meeting with the new President	By December 20 th , 2013	- Improvement of administrative and didactic issues
	Letter to the Organization Members of the Conference of Presidents	Ask Italian-American Organizations to assume a proactive approach towards AP Italian programs	Embassy	Send letter	By October 20 th , 2013	- Fundraising results

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7	(particularly through fundraising aimed at adopting a teacher/school/class, etc)				

LOCAL LEVEL

ENTITY	GOAL	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTIONS	DEADLINE	Standards for EVALUATION
1	Raise enough funds to pursue actions at the local level (adopt a teacher/school, AP Italian courses, teachers certifications, etc)	Individual responsible for local Observatory Branch	Fundraising	By December 20 th , 2013	Part of the funds should be managed at local level by an organization or foundation able to administer them with absolute effectiveness and transparency
2	Adopt a teacher, a school, a course	Individual responsible for local Observatory Branch	Together with the Education Offices, identify the schools in which to launch the new Italian courses	By February 28 th , 2014	- Opening of sponsored courses for the 2014-15 school year
3	AP courses	Individual responsible for local Observatory Branch	Funding AP courses	By December 20 th , 2013	- Identification of funding requirements - Undertake the necessary actions
	Incentives for teachers and	Individual responsible	Collect data on teachers and	By December 20 th , 2013	- Incentive plans

	ENTITY	GOAL	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTIONS	DEADLINE	Standards for EVALUATION
4	Individual responsible for local Observatory Branch	students	for local Observatory Branch	students so as to be able to select who/how/when to provide incentive		
5	Individual responsible for local Observatory Branch	Teachers certification	Individual responsible for local Observatory Branch	Funding part of the certification expenses of the local teachers; Local agreement focused on facilitating the certification process	By December 20 th , 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of individual to be tasked; - Have an initial local level action plan