

Associazione EP ICT Italia

(European Pedagogical ICT Licence)

The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations and their Potential in Supporting Initial Teacher Education

ATEE – Budapest 2023

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Associazione EPICT Italia is an Association born in 2015 as a spin-off of the University of Genoa, made up:

- of teachers and researchers who have participated in the European project EPICT - European Pedagogical ICT Licence
- of teachers who have acquired Epict Certifications over time.

We nurture and promote the professional development of our community

We have an operational headquarters in a lab shared with the University of Genoa where we carry out our activities:

- Give information about the EPICT Certifications
- Organize workshop in presence and online
- Sharing knowledge, discussing, chatting,...

As we are a community at national level, we have online environments with all the things that someone can find in the in-presence lab

The European Pedagogical ICT Licence

During years 2002 – 2005 - the EPICT European Project had the aim to develop on the basis of a Danish experience, an European pedagogical ICT licence **addressed to in-service teachers** comprehensive of:

- A system of syllabi on the pedagogical use of the digital technologies used in Schools
- A method to train the competences described in the syllabi
- A method to assess the competences

From 2005 to today

in Europe – nowadays in Italy and UK – the EPICT group set up after the end of the project, deployed courses based on the model and at the end the certifications: **in Italy master courses for initial and in-service teachers**

Today (from October 2023)

after Covid and after a lot of formal and non formal training in using ICT to run classes, times are mature to give to teachers the opportunity to certificate the competences they have acquired.

What we do (our role)

We collaborate with University of Genoa for:

- training facilitators: teacher educators prepared in delivery courses with the method developed during the EPICT Project;
- update the syllabus of EPICT Certifications;
- teaching in university master's programs for initial and in-service teachers;
- disseminate knowledge about the Certifications

We are starting to collaborate with University of Genoa in carry on the Certification process: train the certicators, assess the candidates

We collaborate with School stakeholders in project aimed to the support the digital innovation in school:

- Courses school based
- Research projects with national stakeholders

Our potential (our role)

- We support the University in carrying out the training and certification of in-service teachers, an activity that is not primary for the University
- We bring into the group that at University of Genoa updates the EPICT certifications syllabi the school point of view
- In university courses and in school based courses, our *teacher educators*, being *teachers* themselves, are able to communicate better to colleagues than university professors, using both school language and academic soundness
- In some projects our light administrative structure plays a role in facilitating some processes and supporting larger entities in *making things happen*