

IDEE x FARE

Engaging youth in their communities

THE CHALLENGE

Today, many Italian youth feel uncertain about their future. High unemployment rates and a lack of meaningful opportunities, combined with a political and social structure that has traditionally minimized the role of young people, has created a situation where Italy's youth feel increasingly disempowered and disengaged in society. The latest National Report on Volunteerism confirmed that few young people (under the age of 30) participate in organizations linked to volunteerism and community service. Furthermore, there is a lack of intergenerational relationships between youth and adults in society.

THE PROGRAM

To address these needs, the *IDEE x FARE* program was launched in September 2006. Its goal: to provide Italian youth with the opportunities, skills, and know-how to be active, engaged members of their communities. The program embraces young people's own ideas for change and innovation in their communities. Groups of about five young people, ages 15 to 25, are invited to develop and implement innovative projects for the benefit of their communities. Over a period of six months, the project offers training, small grants, mentorship, and other support services to youth groups to help turn their ideas into action. Activities are being carried out in three cities (Milano, Roma, Catania) in the first year. Approximately 500 youth will be targeted in year one, with a total goal of about 1,500 young participants by the end of the three-year program.

OUTCOMES

In the long term, the program will contribute to Italian youth becoming active and engaged community members, as well as to improving community attitudes toward the role of young people in society. Program outcomes include: increased volunteerism among program graduates; improved life skills of participant youth, namely cooperation, decision making, responsibility, creative thinking, contribution, and communication; and increased awareness in local communities about the positive contribution and role of young people in society.

THE PARTNER

The *IDEE x FARE* program is managed by *Laboratorio Giovani*, IYF's implementing partner in Italy. Established in 2001, *Laboratorio Giovani* is an emerging non-profit organization that seeks to empower Italy's younger generation to maximize their potential, while equipping them with the skills and experience to make a meaningful contribution to their society. *Laboratorio Giovani* will deliver the program in partnership with local non-profit organizations (program partners) working directly with the young people in the target locations.



RESULTS TO DATE

Initial program results will be reported in the 1st half of 2007.

PROGRAM: *IDEE x FARE* (Ideas for Action)
PARTNER: **Laboratorio Giovani**
PERIOD: 1 September 2006 – 31 August 2009
LOCATION: Milan, Rome, Catania
REACH: 1,500 young people, ages 15-25
MODEL: Youth engagement in their communities