Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

ISTAO
ISTITUTO ADRIANO OLIVETTI
• MASTER POST LAUREA
• CORSI EXECUTIVE PER QUADRI E DIRIGENTI D'IMPRESA
• STUDI E RICERCHE SULL'ECONOMIA DEL TERRITORIO
Fondato da Giorgio Fuà
Presidente Mario Baldassarri

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
SELECTION NOTICE FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROJECT

Business Management: Economic Diplomacy and Integrated Promotion. From the Olivetti Model to the Digital Challenge

Article 1 - PURPOSE OF THE CALL

ISTAO - Adriano Olivetti Institute for Economic and Business Management Studies is launching a public selection process for the admission of 40 talented young people under 30 to participate in the 2026 Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) youth exchange program entitled "Business Management: Economic Diplomacy and Integrated Promotion. From the Olivetti Model to the Digital Challenge".

The initiative aims to train a new ruling class inspired by the model of Adriano Olivetti and "Humanistic Capitalism." Through an advanced training path designed to integrate profit, ethics, and digital innovation, the project seeks to strengthen skills in internationalization, social responsibility and economic cooperation between Italy and the Balkan area.

The selection is intended to identify motivated profiles with high leadership potential, capable of acting as promoters of economic diplomacy and disseminating the program's results in their respective territorial and professional contexts.

Participation is completely free of charge and accommodation costs are fully covered.

Article 2 - ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The selection is open to young aspiring managers, entrepreneurs, or public officials who meet the following requirements by the application deadline:

- **Age**: between 23 and 30 years old
- **Educational qualification**: a master's degree or equivalent qualification in Economics, Management Engineering, Political Science, or related fields with an excellent academic record
- **Languages**: excellent knowledge of English (minimum level B2). For foreign candidates, basic knowledge of Italian is considered an advantage
- **Citizenship**: Italian citizenship or citizenship of one of the following countries: Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Slovenia

Gender requirement: the call provides a 40% reserve quota for female candidates.

Article 3 - STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

The project will take place between June and October 2026 and is organized into two phases:

1. ***Online training*** (June-August 2026): all 40 selected candidates will have access to a distance-learning program on ISTAO's e-learning platform, consisting of 10 sessions of 3 hours each, delivered entirely in English.
2. ***Residential phase*** (September 2026): on the basis of merit and participation in the first phase, a restricted selection of 16 participants (8 Italians and 8 from the Balkan area) will be admitted to the intensive in-person phase. This phase, lasting two weeks, will be held at ISTAO headquarters (Villa Favorita, Ancona) and will include advanced co-design and leadership workshops, as well as guided technical visits to leading companies in the *mechatronics* and *blue economy* sectors.

Article 4 - HOW TO APPLY AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Applicants must submit their application together with the following documents:

- Completed and signed application form
- Updated curriculum vitae (Europass format)
- Copy of a valid identity document
- Language certificate or self-certification of language skills

"Intent Paper" (maximum 2 pages), in Italian or English, describing: motivation for participation; interest in the project; any previous experience; a short text on the application of Humanistic Capitalism in the applicant's own socio-economic context

Article 5 - SELECTION COMMITTEE

Applications will be reviewed by a committee appointed by ISTAO and representatives of the project partners.

Article 6 - EVALUATION CRITERIA

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Curriculum Vitae: 50%
- Quality of the "Statement of Intent": 30%
- Language skills and previous experience in economic, entrepreneurial, institutional, or social fields: 20%

Article 7 - SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

The application must be submitted no later than **June 23, 2026** to the email address **istao.it/form-maeci** or through the platform indicated in the call.

Incomplete applications, applications submitted after the deadline, or applications without a signature will be considered inadmissible.

Article 8 - RANKING AND ADMISSION

At the end of the evaluation process, a ranking list of eligible candidates will be drawn up. Admission will be granted until all available places are filled.

The outcome of the selection will be communicated to candidates by email and/or published on the official channels of the promoting organization.

In the event of withdrawal or loss of eligibility by a selected candidate, the ranking list may be used to admit the next candidate in line.

Article 9 - PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

The personal data submitted by candidates will be processed in compliance with the applicable legislation on personal data protection, exclusively for purposes related to the selection procedure and project management.

Article 10 - COMMUNICATIONS

All communications relating to this selection will be published or sent through the contact details indicated in the application form.

Project contacts Istao:
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