

Italian Space Agency, ASI

Introduction

In preparation and after the UNISPACE + 50 the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations have been recognized to be also relevant in and for Space sector. The SDGs have become a priority for many public and private actors in the international space community, in particular, for national and international space agencies as a fundamental factor for growth and innovation. Since the preparation of UNISPACE+50 Italian Space Agency (ASI) is highly engaged in the promotion of the SDGs in , building up its space strategy 2020-2022 and in sharing them through cooperative projects with other space agencies around the world.

In particular ASI space activities contribute to sustainable development goals in the field of earth observation, communication, positioning and navigation, space science and microgravity research, technology and spin-off, , education and capability building.



ASI Strategic Goals

ASI is developing its new space strategy 2020-2022 and, among the goals to be reached, we find the boosting up of innovation, competitiveness and growth, development of welfare and work-life balance policies, promotion of talents, enhancement of STEM skills, professional growth and female leadership to also contribute to the SDGs.

ASI strategic vision focus on 4 main goals:

- Promote the development of services and applications for the Space Economy
- Promote the development and use of infrastructure for the Space Economy
- Accelerate and support scientific and cultural progress
- Increase the country's international prestige

D&I expressed in terms of innovation, competitiveness and growth, is perfectly transversal to ASI strategic goals, and is fundamental to a sustainable space agency.

Focus on D&I

In recent years, diversity, equality and inclusion have been recognized as a determining factor for a model of growth, and the D&I has become a priority for the major space agencies. According to the OECD and MIUR (Italian Ministry of Education & Research) reports 2017, in Italy only 25% of student were graduated in one of the scientific-technical disciplines, and female students who choose STEM disciplines are just 1/3 of the total. The 2018 OECD report presents a new focus on target 4.5 of SDG4 on equity in education, providing an assessment of where OECD and partner countries stand in providing equal access to quality education at all levels.

Ongoing D&I initiatives

In 2017 ASI joined the ESA project "D&I" to contribute to:

- Implement a modern professional environment beyond barriers
- Address the diversity issue in the space sector
- Stimulate young generations to undertake STEM careers



ASI Diversity Day: started in 2019, this event gathered speakers from different background to share their experience and to promote an "inclusive" culture.



Space Girls, Space Women: Space as seen by Women: ASI, together with ESA, CNES, GSA, NEREUS – is one of the partners of this international exhibition that aims to promote the role of women in the space sector, to inspire young generation in STEM and to show the diversity of professional profiles in the space sector



ESERO Italia: in 2018 ASI joined the a strong European ESERO network coordinated by ESA. ESERO uses the theme of space as a fascinating state-of-the-art scientific context, proven very successful in increasing the effectiveness of the teaching and learning of STEM subjects



Actions 2020-2022

In line with this strategic vision, ASI strives to:

- Define a sustainable strategy of the Italian space sector
- Initiate a process of national harmonisation in the European and international context on the subject of D&I
- Promote an "inclusive" culture where everyone feels valued and respected and contribute fully to common goals in coordination with the national Committee of Warranty (Comitato Unico di Garanzia, CUG)
- Adopt sustainability policies in line with SDGs
- Act as a catalyst to federate research institutions, scientific institutions and industrial clusters at the national level
- Strengthen dialogue in D&I projects with national space agencies, ESA, UNOOSA and IAU
- Encourage the introduction of D&I as part of H2020 space projects
- Stimulate young people's interest in STEM subjects to preserve the Italian tradition of science-technology talent
- Develop projects to connect Italian schools and face the challenge of Digital Divide in education

Next Projects

ASI Research Day 2020: a 'first' of new a year/event that will bring together representative of universities, industries and research centres in order to interactively discuss about potential cooperative space initiatives

Science meet Schools: thematic monthly workshops with secondary schools to inspire and stimulate them in STEM studies

ASI D&I Day 2020: started last year, the event aims to promote cultural global diversity and inclusiveness

Space Women Hackathon: event to exchange knowledge and experience and provide special support for women who are pursuing their academic degrees and starting their careers in STEM

Art & Space: Inspiring young generation in STE(A)M, thanks to the cooperation with the Italian artist **Michelangelo Pistoletto**, with the idea of making space activities as inclusive as possible for more of the public on Earth. His collaboration with ASI includes the design of the VITA's Paolo Nespoli mission to the ISS and the installation of the of "Third Paradise" in ASI premises



Vision 2020-2022

The evolution of technology, globalization, and demographics is upending business and organizational models, changing customer and citizen behaviors and transforming the competitive landscape. To thrive in this transformative age, an inclusive and diverse workforce is a critical enabler to remain competitive and adapt to rapidly shifting space market dynamics.