

# EDUCATION FOR INNOVATIVE SOCIETIES. COULD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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*Modern soft skills in value based school programmes*

Rome, Italy | 20 - 22 April 2017



**The independent schools' response to the challenge of improving the social  
and economic future of young people**



# Characteristics of the educational market

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An educational market is characterized by the coexistence  
of public and private schools  
at the same conditions.

In a competitive market  
schools must improve their quality to attract students  
The social capital embedded in denominational schools  
increases the learning outcomes



# Differences in achievement

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In PISA tests, students perform much better in some countries

For well known traditional reasons:

- differences in students' background (social, cultural, economic)
- system differences (teachers quality, amount of resources)

But recent research found two more elements:

- institutional setting
- the “dark matter”: character skills



# The institutional setting

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The organization model changes  
from a *centralized State school system*  
to

*a network of autonomous schools* financed by the State  
competing to attract students with high quality education

Parents are free to choose the school they think would be the better  
for different reasons:

religious identity, cultural program, compc

Freedom of choice is an  
*Essential requirement*  
for an effective school system



# Character skills

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For an effective schooling in innovative societies  
learning outcomes must fit the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century

*Cognitive skills* are important, but not sufficient

*Non cognitive and transversal skills* are required

for a personal global development

To cope with the changes in labor market  
the diverse dimensions of character skills  
are interconnected

they constitute the **WHOLE CHILD**



# ***Education for the person***

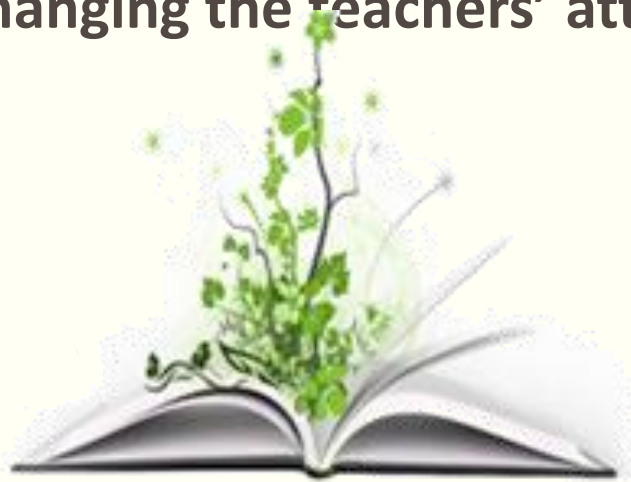
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**Character skills are not fixed traits of personality  
an effective education could enhance them  
and produce an incremental development of the “Big Five”**

**In a creative process**

**This is a big challenge for free schools**

**Changing the teachers' attitudes**





***. ...to give a short description for the 21th century school...***

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***Education is not a bureaucratic job***

***for office workers***

***It is***

***a basically unpredictable human activity***

***for creative teachers***

***and***

***entrepreneurial schools***



***..... TO START GROUP WORK.....***



to improve learning outcomes, a fundamental requisite is

***a positive relationship with an adult***

to facilitate the success

to increase motivation and self-esteem.

*Do you think that a specific training should be planned in teachers' qualification or in-service training?*

*Do you agree with the importance of enhancing character skills, non cognitive abilities and capabilities?*

*Which is in your opinion their connection with cognitive skills and learning outcomes?*



# ***the role of families and their participation***

is very important

How could a learning community support teaching job?

Free schools are more effective than state schools

for the growing of a “whole child”

and to give the students more possibilities to find a job

if “prevention is better than cure”, what could schools do to reduce failures?

How an autonomous school could support failing children and adolescents?

How could a free school integrate school and work?





to identify leading elements and criticalities  
***monitoring and assessment are fundamental.***

What do you do or think about the evaluation in free schools?

Is it possible to disseminate best practices in a competitive environment?

Which actors are involved in evaluation?

Which type of communication is more useful to support innovation?

Which are the qualities and limits of standardized tests?



which is ***the role of political decision makers?***

finance teachers' and tutors' specific qualification

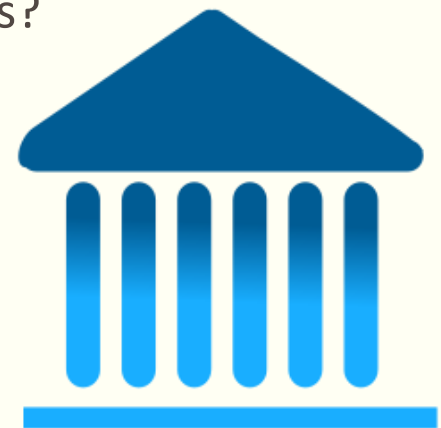
start a medium-term external evaluation program

As for ***the state role,***

is there any difference between independent and State schools?

What should the Government do to support autonomous schools in promoting the development of character skills?

Which are the actors, and how do they connect with one another and with the Government, for citizenship education and development of character skills?





*Thank  
you*

