



**“Horizons 2015: First Experiences, Emerging Expectations”
Venice, 30th October 2014**

Message from the Minister of Education and Research Stefania Giannini

Dear President Vattani,
Dear Friends,

With the current Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Italy leads the transition from the old to the new Commission, that will take office in November. It will be, we hope, the beginning of a new political era, able to reconcile the demands of economic growth with those of other social dimensions, creating a virtuous integration between the different dimensions of Knowledge.

The Presidency of the semester coincides with the start of the new seven-year programming of the Structural Funds and the Programme "Horizon 2020". This allows us to guide the debate on the allocation of resources in favor of those initiatives fully responding to the the best performing requirements.

But we need a change of view, the adoption of a new paradigm of reference. In thinking about the Europe of tomorrow, today we need to talk about Culture and Education together, overcoming the division which, for too long, separated these two dimensions of identity in Europe.

The dialogue between art, literature and philosophy, music, theater and science, has always been the hallmark of our identity, the bedrock on which the European Union has grown, as well as designed by the Founding Fathers.

We believe that culture and education are an integral part of human and civil development of each citizen - as rightly pointed out by the United Nations, that encourage the adoption of the Human Development Index.

We also believe that they contribute significantly to the growth and progress of the community, the first as product, the other as a process designed to integrate and nurture the real economy through research and technology transfer.



In the extraordinary richness of its history, Europe must find the motivational resources to outline its future. Do not forget that *ars* and *techne* are our pillars of learning from greek-Roman Antiquity. They are an essential part of our identity: Italian, of course, but also more broadly European, and must be determined without delay.

Téchne and *ars* will be the basis to change for the better the way of life of an entire society: we Europeans would expect consistency (as is commonly said "walk the talk") in the application of the guiding principles of Sustainable and Responsible Development.

This vision will help to understand how the economic crisis in which Europe is struggling for some time, overcomes a significant increase in investment in Education and Research.

Education increasingly popular and more and more in line with the challenges we face is not only the best guarantee of a European future more conscious, more cohesive, but also the most effective tool for the dissemination of skills suited to the global challenges we ahead.

To achieve this, you need to give impetus to a renewed sense of historical European universalism, so that the Old Continent can always be more globally competitive and we can provide a solid infrastructure and equipment and intangible assets mainly, from primates which has in the different sectors cultural.

The Europe of Education, Culture and Research is the Europe of the future.

With this my contribution to your Seminar, I send to all of you my best wishes for a fruitful work.