

UNICEF and ISMU ETS Foundation: report on results and impact of the Akelius digital platform trial published

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UNICEF and Fondazione ISMU ETS today publish the report “The implementation of the Akelius digital platform: results, impact and sustainability” to document the results achieved with the Akelius app in Italy.

Akelius is the innovative platform that makes language learning a fun and interactive experience. Adopted in 13 countries thanks to the collaboration between UNICEF and the Akelius Foundation, the app offers lessons, games and exercises in listening, reading, writing and listening comprehension, adapting to the different levels of competence of the students, transforming learning into an engaging and personalized adventure.

In Italy, introduced by UNICEF in 2021, it aims to support students with a migrant background in learning Italian as a second language (ITA L2), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Merit.

Akelius thus promotes a blended learning approach, combining the use of the app and digital tools in the classroom with traditional teaching methods.

After a pilot phase in partnership with AIPI, UNICEF extended the program thanks to the collaboration with **Fondazione ISMU** to 55 comprehensive institutes and 5 Ukrainian structures in extra-scholastic contexts, involving, in the 2022-23 school year alone, over 1,000 students and 450 teachers. From 2021 to today, the Akelius project has reached around 700 teachers and over 2,500 students in primary and lower secondary schools, promoting the acquisition of the Italian language and the inclusion of newly arrived students, including Ukrainian refugee girls and boys in Italy.

The evaluation conducted by Fondazione ISMU on the implementation of the project has shown how, thanks to the provision of digital devices (including tablets) for students and teachers, the training of teachers on the use of the app in hybrid mode and the daily help desk service, Akelius supports schools in the process of integrating digital technology into the paths of improving the Italian language of newly arrived students.

In line with the results collected in the pilot phase, students have shown significant progress in the acquisition of Italian.

Through an assessment test developed for reading and listening skills, it emerged that over 90% of students have achieved the Italian L2 learning objectives they had set themselves, with 57% of students having increased their skills by more than one level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Positive evaluations also emerge from teachers: 81% believe that the use of Akelius in Italian L2 lessons can improve and accelerate learning

AKELIUS

Significant progress in acquiring Italian

90 %

STUDENTS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED THE ITALIAN L2 LEARNING OBJECTIVES THEY HAD SET FOR THEMSELVES

57 %

STUDENTS WHO HAVE INCREASED THEIR SKILLS BY MORE THAN ONE LEVEL (COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE FOR LANGUAGES)

81 %

TEACHERS WHO BELIEVE THAT USING AKELIUS IN ITALIAN L2 LESSONS CAN IMPROVE AND ACCELERATE LEARNING