ITALY HAS THE THIRD LOWEST TEACHER STATUS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES POLLED IN NEW GLOBAL SURVEY

ITALY HAS CLOSE TO THE LOWEST TEACHER STATUS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES SURVEYED, RANKING 33RD OF 35 COUNTRIES IN THE GLOBAL TEACHER STATUS INDEX 2018

KEY FINDINGS – ITALY:

> Italy has close to the lowest teacher status of all the countries surveyed, ranking 33rd of 35 countries in the Global Teacher Status Index 2018, making it the lowest ranked European country surveyed and the lowest ranked established Western economy surveyed. Only Israel and Brazil rank lower. The country’s extremely low score in the GTSI is in keeping with its low PISA ranking of 19 out of the surveyed countries by average PISA scores. Teacher status has declined in Italy relative to other countries polled since the survey was last conducted in 2013. In 2013 it ranked at number 18 out of 21 countries surveyed then, and of those 21 countries it has fallen one place behind the Czech Republic to number 19.
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> Only 16% of Italian people surveyed think pupils respect their teachers. This is the sixth lowest of all the countries surveyed, the lowest of any major European economy, and a long way behind first-placed China where 81% of respondents believe pupils respect their teachers. Italians think pupil respect for their teachers has fallen since 2013. Five years ago, 20% of Italian people surveyed said pupils respect their teachers, compared with only 16% today.

> Almost one in three (31%) Italians would encourage their child to become a teacher, the second highest of all the major EU economies after Spain (39%) and an increase from 2013 when 28% of Italian people would encourage their child to become a teacher. In comparison, over half (54%) of Indians would encourage their child to become a teacher, more than any other country surveyed. The country in which the lowest proportion of respondents would encourage their child to become a teacher was Russia (6%).

> Half (50%) of Italians believe teachers should be paid according to the results of their pupils, compared with just over a quarter (26%) who are against the idea. However, support for performance related pay has fallen considerably in Italy since 2013 when around two-thirds (67%) were in favour.

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> When Italian respondents were asked to rank 14 professions including doctors, nurses, librarians and social workers in order of respect, headteachers were ranked higher than all the other major EU economies apart from the UK, but still a long way behind first placed Malaysia. Brazil ranked last for headteacher respect.

> When asked to rank 14 professions including doctors, nurses, librarians and social workers in order of respect, on average Italian respondents ranked secondary school teachers the sixth lowest of all the countries surveyed, and the lowest of any European country surveyed. They ranked primary school teachers the fifth lowest of all the country surveyed and the lowest polled in Europe. The highest ranking for primary school teachers of all the countries polled in 2018 was China.

> Less than three in 10 Italians (29%) instinctively view teachers as respected, the sixth lowest of all the countries surveyed.
Teachers in Italy see their status as being in slightly higher regard than the Italian public do, but not by much. When only polling teachers, the Italian status score rises from 15.42 out of 100 to 18.16 out of 100. This makes Italy one of the 21 countries in which teachers saw their status as being higher than the general public do, but only one of two major EU economies, alongside Germany, in which this is the case.

Most Italian respondents (21%) said the most comparable profession to teachers are social workers, which puts Italy in line with the majority of countries surveyed – 18 of which said teachers were most similar to social workers. Only three countries – China, Russia and Malaysia – said teachers were most like doctors. However, doctors were the second most popular choice among Italians at 14%, more than any other European country surveyed. The Italian view on which profession is most comparable to teachers has not changed since 2013.

Italians estimate starting secondary school teachers earn just $16,000 (adjusted for purchasing power parity) a year, the eighth
ITALY GTSI STATISTICS

HALF (50%) OF ITALIANS BELIEVE TEACHERS SHOULD BE PAID ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THEIR PUPILS

lowest estimate of all the countries surveyed and a lower estimate than in all the other major EU economies. Italians believe this is unfair, saying a fair wage would actually by $20,000. However, teachers actually earn much more than Italians think they do or consider fair, at $33,000 – making Italy one of only seven countries in which teachers earn more than what people consider a fair wage. On average, Italians would have to earn over $30,000 for them to consider becoming a teacher, 82% more than what they think teachers earn.

> While annual wages have increased for starting secondary school teachers in Italy from $28,000 in 2013 to $33,000 today, what Italians consider a fair wage for such teachers has plummeted from $28,000 in 2013 to $20,000 now. Italians also estimate teachers earn much less today ($16,000) than they did in 2013 ($24,000) even though this is untrue.

> Teachers say they would only need to earn $28,000 a year to leave the profession, which is less than the starting salary of a secondary school teacher ($33,000).

> Italian teachers say they work longer hours a week (34.22) than the public think they do (32.3), the seventh lowest public estimate of teacher working hours of all the countries surveyed. Teachers in Italy say they work shorter hours than teachers in any of the other major EU economies.

> Italians rate their education system averagely, scoring it 5.87 out of 10, placing the country in the middle of the survey, and a slight increase from 2013 when Italians rated their education system 5.7. However Italy is ranked 19 out of the surveyed countries by average PISA scores while Germany, whose respondents similarly rated their own education system as 5.9 out of 10, came much higher at 8.5 out of the surveyed countries by average PISA scores. By contrast, Finland topped the rankings when it came to rating their education system (8.06), while Egyptians rated their country’s education system lower than any other surveyed at 3.8.