

VOLONTARIATO INTERNAZIONALE  
PER LO SVILUPPO



Insieme, per un mondo possibile



# VIS

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VIS is a **civil society organisation (CSO)** that has been implementing **development and humanitarian aid projects** since **1986**. It became a participatory foundation in 2026, with **Missioni Don Bosco Valdocco ETS** as its founding body, and is present in over 20 countries worldwide. It primarily operates in the areas of **vocational training** and **employment, migration and development**, and the **protection** of socially vulnerable groups.

In Italy, it carries out initiatives in **global citizenship education, volunteering** and **advanced training** on human rights and international cooperation. VIS is an organisation **inspired by the message of St. John Bosco**, commonly known as Don Bosco, and works in close collaboration with the Salesian Congregation.





“**Together, for a possible world**” reflects our intention to build a network in Italy, Europe and the rest of the world to improve living standards for young people, in the belief that education and training can tackle the root causes of poverty.

Watch the video about VIS



VIS' vision reflects “a world where **every person can fully enjoy their rights** and actively **participate** with dignity in **community life**, thereby contributing to their own development”.

VIS' mission is “**to promote the development and empowerment of every person** – as an individual and a member of a community – paying particular attention to **girls, boys and young people** in the most disadvantaged and vulnerable situations. The aim is to provide them with educational, training and socio-professional integration opportunities, as well as tools for the promotion and protection of their rights”.

# Worldwide

VIS mainly works through **development projects**, carried out in partner's countries, aimed at promoting empowerment and capacity-building of every individual and community: a set of interconnected activities designed to **bring about meaningful and positive change in the lives of recipients**, including in emergency situations or **humanitarian crises**.

**Key factors in human development** are **education** and **training**, which aim at broadening knowledge and opportunities, overcoming all forms of discrimination, contributing to resilience and the achievement of a full and decent social and professional integration.

VIS projects are characterized by the presence of **national and international staff**, working in **synergy with Salesians** present in partner countries. Considering recipients as active participants, holders of rights and needs, is one of the main features of VIS' interventions.

The **Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)**, **capacity-building**, and **institutional strengthening** are cross-cutting elements of VIS' interventions, embedded across project design, implementation, and sustainability perspective.

VIS commitment around the world



Through its **Long-Distance Support (SAD)** programme, VIS provides **ongoing support** to local communities, as well as to children and young people living in vulnerable circumstances, placing their rights at the center of its work. VIS, through its **Mission Support (SAM)** programme, **acts as a 'link'**, channelling donations towards specific missionary community, as per donor's request.

Opportunities of working abroad are also offered through **volunteering projects**, **mainly directed to young people** willing to support VIS and Salesians' mission in various countries for a limited period of time. These experiences, beyond being of a great human value, enable participants to **acquire professional skills and knowledge** by working alongside with VIS staff operating on the field.



# In Italy

VIS works in Italy through awareness-raising campaigns and **Global Citizenship Education (GCE)**, keeping human rights at the core of any intervention, making relevant the interdependence between local and global to promote sustainable and solidarity-based behaviour. The campaigns target civil society and, in particular, schools, youth centres, educators, teachers and young people. **Activists, volunteers and supporters** embody VIS' commitment across Italy. They help to **promote educational and awareness-raising initiatives**, in collaboration with Salesians and other institutions in various regions.

## VIS campaigns



Educational and training activities are also delivered through the **Education Department**, which develops and promotes initiatives across multiple levels. VIS offers **professional training** in post graduate diplomas and master's degrees. VIS works in collaboration with different Italian and foreign universities, and universities members of the international Cooperation and Development Network (CDN).

Through its **School for Advanced Professional Training**, the department delivers short-term online courses designed to equip individuals, associations and public bodies with specialized skills in international cooperation and the third sector.

## Find out more on training courses



Through its **advocacy** activities, VIS **engages with institutions** to promote and strengthen the protection of human rights, while actively contributing to Italian, European, and international networks.

VIS has special consultative status within the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is accredited at the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and is a member of:

- European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)
- Italian Coordination of International NGOs (CINI)
- Don Bosco Network (DBN)





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