

# Campania Region's Educational Quality Facilities Project

By **Giorgio Ponti**, CISEM, Italy

*Italy's Campania Region has undertaken a project to provide quality facilities to all of its communities, basing new spaces on the "Flexible Learning Module".*

CAMPANIA REGION	
Population	6 million
Size	13 600 square kilometers
Number of school buildings	4 375
Number of students	1 153 million (13% of the national school population)



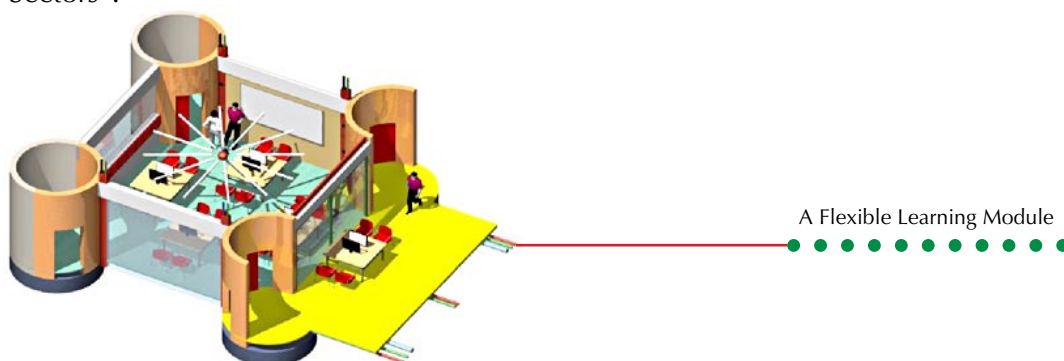
Thanks to financing from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (2009-2013 Programme) and other Italian funding programmes, the Campania Region has begun a project to improve the quality of its school buildings, in partnership with the research centre CISEM of Milan.<sup>1</sup> The Educational Quality Facilities (EQF) project has a total budget of about EUR 600 million. The Campania Region will allocate the necessary funds to the municipalities and provinces for the construction and equipment involved.

The objectives of the five-year project are to:

- build and equip new educational spaces;
- improve the quality of existing buildings and equipment;
- manage the transitional periods in planning and providing mobile facilities;
- create four prototypes of better quality schools.

1. See "Campania, Italy, Launches Educational Quality Project" in *PEB Exchange*, October 2008.

The EQF project is based on the Flexible Learning Module, which is used to create “Flexible Learning Sectors”.



### BUILD AND EQUIP NEW EDUCATIONAL SPACES

Some areas of the Campania Region lack sufficient educational spaces. The first objective of the EQF project is to ensure that every community has a quality school, built according to legal standards. The Regional and National Educational Building Register will serve to identify which areas require new schools or additions. The initial budget for this part of the project is estimated at EUR 120 million.

### IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT

Secondly, the Campania Region aims to gradually increase the quality of its learning facilities, while strengthening the relationship between the school and the community to raise cultural awareness. The initial budget for carrying out this work is approximately EUR 90 million.

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### Indicators of quality

The Campania Region's project will respect the following 20 indicators of quality for educational spaces:

- 1 multi-purpose capability;
- 2 compliance with government regulations;
- 3 integration of new policies for education and training;
- 4 involvement of the community and local authorities;
- 5 adequate spaces for basic teaching activities;
- 6 spaces for special activities and a basic workshop;
- 7 specialised laboratories (high quality information technology, science, astronomy, etc.);
- 8 collective spaces and sports facilities;
- 9 spaces for community use and lifelong learning;
- 10 outdoor learning areas and green spaces;
- 11 spaces that are flexible and can be easily modified over time;
- 12 flexible, safe and accessible services and plants;
- 13 symbolism and architecture as a teaching resource;
- 14 elements of bio-architecture;
- 15 energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy;
- 16 computer integrated building;
- 17 ordinary and exceptional maintenance, and operating costs within an existing budget;
- 18 safe and secure environment;
- 19 earthquake resistance;
- 20 active disaster management.

## MANAGE THE TRANSITIONAL PERIODS IN PLANNING AND PROVIDING MOBILE FACILITIES

The project's third objective is to explore ways to manage the periods during which work is planned and carried out. This covers new buildings, renovation, reuse, maintenance and equipment. The work can be complex, last over long periods and involve many people.

Some situations require the immediate availability of safe, fully equipped and high quality spaces – spaces that may be temporary and should integrate highly specialised laboratories or high-tech equipment. To meet this need, mobile facilities of high quality will be industrially produced. These Flexible Learning Modules will be available individually to temporarily relieve certain schools. The modules will be designed to assemble or disassemble quickly. A prearranged combination of modules may also serve as whole temporary schools.

The initial budget for the third part of the project is estimated to be EUR 54 million.

## CREATE PROTOTYPES OF QUALITY SCHOOLS

Lastly, the project aims to better define and demonstrate the principles of quality by creating four prototypes of buildings located in different areas of the region:

- a nursery school for 180 children;
- a primary school for 300 students;
- a secondary school for 600 students;
- a vocational training centre for 600 students.

The initial budget for designing and building the prototypes is expected to be EUR 36 million.



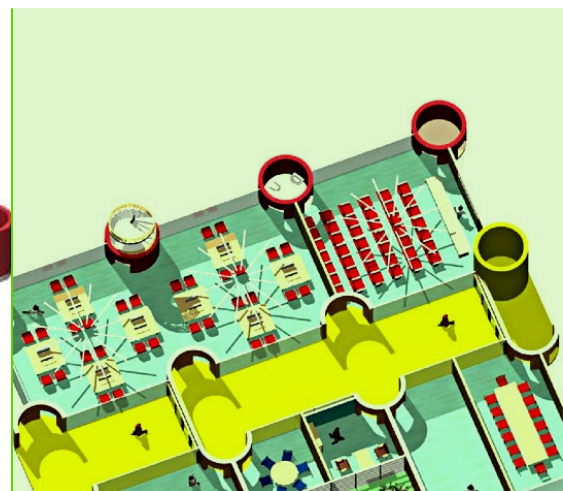
The primary school under construction in Solaro, Italy, is an example of the use of Flexible Learning Modules (designed by Giorgio Ponti and Ettore Zambelli, Department BEST, Politecnico of Milan). See *PEB Exchange*, February 2007.

## FLEXIBLE LEARNING MODULE

The Flexible Learning Module (FLM) serves as the basis for the schools to be built under the EQF project. It is a single unit space able to accommodate 25 to 30 users. The basic module measures approximately 50 m<sup>2</sup> and can be expanded to 75 m<sup>2</sup>. It is equipped with full services and with a CIB (Computer Integrated Building) system. Natural ventilation and the most modern technologies to support teaching and learning complete the quality standard of this educational space.



A Flexible Learning Sector with open spaces



A Flexible Learning Sector with various closed spaces

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Several FLMs can be combined to form a Flexible Learning Sector and quickly adapted to create laboratories, administrative areas, spaces for group work of various sizes and other activities.

The FLM is environmentally friendly without being costly. Energy consumption is low at 20 Kwh/sm/year (energy class A < 30 Kwh/sqm/year); heat pumps and solar panels are used for heating and cooling.<sup>2</sup> Construction costs about EUR 1 100 per square metre.

*For more information, contact:*

*Giorgio Ponti*

*Area Co-ordinator for Educational Architecture*

*CISEM (Centre for Educational Innovation and Experimentation of Milan)*

*via Petrarca, 20*

*20123 Milano*

*Italy*

*E-mail: [arch@giorgioponti.it](mailto:arch@giorgioponti.it)*

*[www.campania.n2d.it](http://www.campania.n2d.it)*

*[www.cisem.it](http://www.cisem.it)*

2. To learn more about work in Italy on environmentally friendly school buildings, see "[Eco-sustainability Principles and Responsible Development for Educational Facilities](#)", a presentation made by Maurizio Mandaglio, advisor to CISEM and the Campania Region, at Mexico's "VII International Congress on the Development of Educational Spaces".

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