Call for applicants to the PhD Programme in

**International Studies**

Academic Year 2017-18 (33rd cycle)

N.B. Please note that only the Italian version of the present call issued with Rector’s Decree n. 212 of April 5, 2017 (Annex 1) is legally binding; the English version is provided for information only.
Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE CALL

The 33rd cycle of the PhD Programme in International Studies will commence in the academic year 2017/2018 at the University of Trento. The PhD Programme is partially funded by the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Trento e Rovereto.

Applications are therefore welcomed for:

Places: n. 6
Scholarships: n. 6

The scholarships are funded as follows:
- n. 5 scholarships by the University of Trento
- n. 1 scholarship by the European Academy of Bolzano (Eurac Research) on the topic “Cross-Border Co-operation, Sub-National Entities and Multi-Level Governance”.

The topic-specific grant is conditional to the execution of a particular research topic for which specific skills are required. Those interested in the topic-specific grant should carefully check the topic and required skillset indicated on the web page http://web.unitn.it/en/drsis/34963/specific-research-areas

One supernumerary postgraduate research position is available for a candidate who fulfils the requirements set out in art. 20, par. 3 of the University Regulations regarding PhD Programmes.

Deadline for applications: 16 May 2017 16:00 Italian time
Duration: 3 years
Start of the Academic Year: 1 November 2017
Official language: English. However, all PhD students are encouraged to learn Italian during their studies.
Coordinator: Prof. Jens Woelk - Phone + 39 0461 283877 email: jens.woelk@unitn.it
PhD programme webpage: http://web.unitn.it/en/drsis (also contains information about second and third year admission requirements and the final exam)
Competition website: http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1946
Rights and duties of PhD students: http://www.unitn.it/en/node/52919
Information about scholarships: http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1937

The number of places funded by scholarships and/or covered by internship contracts or other forms of financial support may be increased, should financing from other universities, public research bodies or private organizations be made available after publication of this announcement and before candidate interviews. Any increase in the number of scholarships or other means of financial support shall result in a corresponding increase in the total number of available places. Any such increase will be published online at http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1946.
IMPORTANT
Intermediate and final stage selection results, i.e., the list of candidates (identifiable through ID number) who are excluded from the process after official checks and the list of candidates whose foreign degree was not considered suitable by the admissions committee, are published on the Announcement of Selection Webpage.
Publication on this webpage means that notification has been carried out officially; candidates will not receive any personal notification.

Art. 2 – PHD PROGRAMME AND THEMES

The PhD Programme in International Studies adopts a vigorously interdisciplinary approach. It provides a solid foundation in the disciplines that lie at the core of international studies (law, economics, sociology and politics in particular) and includes further specific training in the main subject area within which each student’s thesis falls.

The programme aims at developing multidisciplinary skills and critical reflection on international and European Union changes, by using an empirical approach to verify theoretical propositions, through comparison and evaluation of case studies.

The PhD learning goals include:

- understanding the theoretical approaches which are the foundations of the disciplines underpinning International Studies (economics, law, sociology and politics)
- utilize the analytical instruments and empirical research tools of International Studies
- acquiring and mastering the tools that are necessary to submit research projects to scientific (including non-academic) committees, to present the end results of a research to the public, to send articles and reviews to national and international scientific magazines

A multi-disciplinary approach will be used to address topics like Sovereignty, democracy and crisis – the global role of the European Union – European (dis)integration - Bargaining, voting and power in European decision-making processes - Technology, revolution in military affairs and international politics – ‘Complex’ commerce: disputed areas, embargos and sanctions - Cross-border co-operation, sub-national entities and multi-level governance – Role of sub-national entities after the economic-financial crisis: between re-centralisation and greater asymmetries - Food security and international commerce - International commerce and financial markets integration – International economic unbalances – European Union and international law – Human and minority rights – Transnational criminology – Armed conflicts and international security.

Methodology and Intensive Academic Writing courses complement the PhD programme.


Art. 3 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applications for admission to the PhD programme described above are accepted from candidates (regardless of gender, age, religion or nationality), who hold:
   a) an Italian Laurea Magistrale, recognised by Ministerial Decree no. 270 of 22 October 2004 or equivalent degree, second level degree awarded by an Italian “AFAM” Institute (Artistic and Musical Higher Education) or
   b) a university master’s degree awarded abroad and considered suitable1 by the admissions committee in line with current legislation and international accords for further education.

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1 Suitability of foreign qualifications will be ascertained by the admissions committee in line with current legislation and international accords for further education.
committee for the sole purpose of participating in this admissions process. Foreign qualifications must be equivalent to the Italian ‘Laurea Magistrale’ (master’s degree), in terms of duration, level and subject area\(^2\) and must give access to an academic course equivalent to the PhD in the country where the degree was issued. The preferred disciplines are Economics, Law, Political Science and Sociology, as well as Humanities, History and Philosophy, or other disciplines related to International Studies.

2. Applications are also accepted from candidates who expect to obtain their master’s degree or equivalent by 31 July 2017. In this case, applicants must attach the documents specified in art.4 par.6 (Obligatory Attachments) to the relevant sections in their application online.

3. Admission to the course for a successful candidate yet to be awarded their master’s will be subject to confirmation. The candidate shall provide the ‘PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities’ (email: phd.office-cssh@unitn.it; fax n. + 39 0461 282191) with a certificate attesting to their qualification or a self-declaration (see Annex A) no later than 1 September 2017, upon penalty of exclusion.

4. Candidates who hold a foreign academic qualification that has not yet been declared equivalent\(^3\) to an Italian degree can request that their qualification be recognized as eligible as part of their online application by attaching the required documents.

5. Candidates who hold a foreign academic qualification that has already been declared equivalent to an Italian degree will need to indicate in the online application the date and number of the Rectoral Decree of the Italian University that has issued the academic qualification. Such document must be uploaded in the online application.

6. The admissions committee will publish online a list of candidate application IDs whose academic qualification has been considered\(^4\) ineligible. It is the candidate’s responsibility to provide all documents useful to their evaluation. The admissions committee may request further documentation via the administrative offices, if deemed necessary in order to establish suitability of the qualification before the start of the selection process.

Art. 4 – APPLICATION

1. The deadline for submission of the online application is 16 May 2017, 16:00 Italian time. Application can only be made online using the form at: http://www.unitn.it/en/apply/dott. A username and password are required to access the UniTrento reserved area. Candidates must first register\(^5\) on the University website: http://www.unitn.it/en/account.

2. Participation in the selection process is subject to the payment of a non–reimbursable application fee of €15.00, payable by credit card\(^5\) as indicated in the appropriate section of the application online (‘selection participation fee’).

3. Candidates are recommended to check that they have received an email confirming that their application has been successfully completed and submitted. The administration is not responsible for any online applications improperly closed by candidates.

4. The candidate is wholly responsible for ensuring that his/her application is complete and correct. Incomplete or irregular applications, missing attachments, non-payment of the participation fee, or applications transmitted in ways other than those set out in this article, shall not be considered valid and will consequently be excluded from the selection process.

5. Admission to the selection procedure is conditional upon verification that a candidate fulfils the admission requirements.

6. The University of Trento is entitled to sample-check such requirements, as per art. 71, and ensuing Law no. 445 of 28 December 2000.

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\(^2\) For further information about the university system in Italy: http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/study/new-degrees.html


\(^4\) The issue of passwords can take up to two working days. You are therefore advised to register well ahead of the deadline.

\(^5\) The POS accepts the following: Carta sì (Visa, V-Pay, Maestro, MasterCard); BankAmericard-Key Client.
4. In accordance with Law 104/92, art. 20 and Law 68/99, art. 16, paragraph 1, disabled candidates or those with learning disabilities may request, in their online application, any necessary additional support or time required in order to undergo an interview. All personal data will be treated in accordance with the privacy criteria set out by the Legislative Decree 196/03, ‘Data protection code’.

5. For all purposes in law, the application is considered to be a self-declaration of personal details and information provided.

6. **OBLIGATORY ATTACHMENTS** (candidates will be excluded from the selection process if one or more of the obligatory attachments are missing⁶):

   a) **ID document**: copy of identity card (for EU citizens) or passport, in particular of the pages that include the photo, personal details, passport number, date and place of issue, expiry date;

   b) **Academic documents**
      - **for candidates holding an Italian qualification**:
        - Self-declaration using the appropriate form as per art. 46 of Law no. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments (drafted using the Annex A attachment), stating that the candidate holds the academic qualification, the degree type, date awarded, issuing university, overall grade, list of examinations with dates, credits and marks attained. Trento University students need only to declare their graduation date; other information will be acquired internally.
      - **for candidates holding a foreign qualification**:
        - academic degree, in the original language, necessary for entering PhD studies, complemented mandatorily by the list of examinations, credits and marks attained (Transcript of Records).
        - In addition, if available, one of the following documents:
          - *Diploma Supplement*⁷ (according to the model developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO / CEPES);
          - *Declaration of value*⁸ which certifies that the educational qualification is valid in the country of achievement for being admitted to Doctoral programme (third level of higher education according to the Bologna Process - European Higher Education Area; EQF level 8);

   ![Translation of Announcement no. 212 issued on April 5, 2017](http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1946/announcement-of-selection)

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⁶ The ID numbers of candidates not admitted due to submission of incomplete applications will be published at:

⁷ The Diploma Supplement is a document attached to the final qualification, intended to improve international “transparency” and to facilitate academic and professional qualification recognition (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc.). The Diploma Supplement must be issued by the same institution which has given the diploma. See: [http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/il-sistema-italiano-di-istruzione-superiore/diploma-supplement.aspx](http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/il-sistema-italiano-di-istruzione-superiore/diploma-supplement.aspx)

The Declaration of value can be replaced by the **Statement of comparability - university qualification**\(^9\) awarded by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA) that contains all the information necessary for the evaluation of the qualification;

− **Rector's Decree of “Equivalence-academic recognition of the title”**\(^10\).

If the language of your diploma or of the list of exams is different from English, the applicant will have to submit a translation in English, which can be done by the candidate under her/his own responsibility, in order to allow the Admissions Committee to evaluate the eligibility of the certificate, for the sole purpose of participating in this admissions process.

**If candidates have yet to be awarded their degree** (The following two points refer to foreign degree applicants who expect to complete it by 31/07/17 and are therefore “conditionally” admitted to the selection):

− an enrolment certificate listing exams taken and marks attained (Transcript of records); the candidates have to attach a translation in English, if the language of their certificate is different from English;

− a letter signed by their thesis supervisor declaring that the candidates will obtain their University degree by 31 July 2017.

c) **Curriculum vitae** in English

d) a **short research proposal** in English (max. 4 pages – 2000 words, excluding any bibliography). Each candidate can only submit one proposal, which must include a title and an abstract of no more than 150 words.

The aim of the proposal is such that the candidate may demonstrate his/her analytical and methodological abilities. The proposal should be the basis for the doctoral thesis; the definite topic of it will be agreed with the supervisor during the first year of the programme.

Particular emphasis will be given to projects related to one of the research areas of the School of International Studies (see link http://www.sis.unitn.it/159/research-at-the-sis ) or to the topic-specific scholarship listed below.

Within the 33\(^{rd}\) cycle, besides the general strand of interest of the School of International Studies in ‘**Integration and disintegration of the European Union**’, particular emphasis will be given to research projects on the following subjects:

- **Technology, Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA), and International Politics**
- **Bargaining, voting and power in European decision-making processes**
- **‘Complex’ commerce: disputed areas, embargos and sanctions**

- **Cross-Border Co-operation, Sub-National Entities and Multi-Level Governance** – (funded by the European Academy of Bolzano - EURAC Research)

Candidates are advised to consult the list of the PhD Programme teaching staff and their respective research topics at http://web.unitn.it/en/drsis/11118/faculty and then indicate a potential PhD supervisor in their research proposal.

e) a **short statement of purpose** (max. 500 words) outlining their reasons for undertaking doctoral research and for choosing International Studies at the University of Trento;

f) an **international certificate** attesting the candidate’s **knowledge of English** at C1\(^{11}\) level or higher in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).


\(^11\) “Nostrification procedure (equipollenza)”.

Translation of Announcement no. 212 issued on April 5, 2017
Candidates who are mother-tongue speakers of English must attach a self-declaration attesting to this.

Documentation of qualifications considered equivalent to mother tongue or C1:

- Candidates who have completed a BA or MA course taught entirely in English are requested to attach evidence thereof; a link to the relevant University’s webpage (where the official course language is specified) must be included.
- In the absence of such certificates or statements, candidates can submit a declaration made by the company or organization for which they have worked, that states they have at least two years of full-time or equivalent overseas or international experience, and that English is the language of communication in that company or organization.

7. **OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:**

   a) list of **scientific publications** (if applicable);
   b) any **other qualifications**, such as international examinations (GRE or equivalent);
   c) any other documents which help demonstrate the candidate’s research skills (awards, scholarships, post-graduate study and research, etc.);
   d) **up to two letters of introduction** in English.

Candidates may nominate two people as referees. Within 24 hours of the candidate completing and saving the relevant section, the system will send an automatically generated email to each referee, giving instructions on how to complete and return the form. Candidates are advised to check with their referees to make sure that their references are uploaded onto the website by **18 May 2017**.

8. If the candidate needs to upload further documents after completing their online application and closing the procedure, they are required to deliver these **by the deadline for application** to the following email address: ateneo@unitn.it (stating in the email’s subject field: “Application ID – Surname and Name – PhD Programme in International Studies – 33rd cycle – supplement to application”). Additional material will only be accepted if sent by the method specified.

9. **A candidate whose application is discovered not to meet the admission criteria may be excluded at any time. The candidate will be given written notice to this effect, including an explanation of the decision.**

   **Art. 5 – ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS**

1. The evaluation of the applications is carried out by an Admissions Committee, appointed by the Rector. It is composed of a minimum of three members chosen from among the university’s permanent professors and researchers, including non-Italians, qualified in the academic fields related to the PhD Programme. The committee may also include a maximum of two other experts, of any nationality, selected from either public or private research institutes. A member from the European Academy of Bolzano (Eurac Research) may be present for the evaluation of the applications for the topic specific scholarship.

2. The selection is based on:

   - an **assessment of qualifications** (see Art. 3 of this announcement) in accordance with the criteria established by the admissions committee;

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11 These certificates and tests are acceptable proof if they have been issued within the last five years: IELTS minimum band score of 7 on each of the 4 modules of the academic version; Cambridge CAE (minimum grade B) or CPE; TOEFL IBT minimum score of 110; Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic minimum score 76.

12 EU citizens may use a self-declaration as per Law no. 445, 28/12/2000, and subsequent amendments.
- an interview (for candidates whose academic qualifications pass the assessment with at least 48/80) to evaluate:
  - the extent of the candidate’s knowledge in the area of their proposed research;
  - their competence in English.

3. Candidates who also intend to compete for potential topic-specific grants, made available after the publishing of this call, must express their intention to the admissions committee before the interview, during the identification process. Those candidates will be evaluated on the knowledge of the specific subject matter(s) of that grant. A candidate’s request for the allocation of a topic-specific grant implies that candidate’s preference for the specific scholarship above all other grants.

4. The admissions committee awards a maximum of 200 points:
- 80 points for qualifications;
- 120 points for the interview.

5. Candidates require a score of at least 48/80 points for their qualifications in order to be offered an interview.

6. Results following the qualifications assessment stage will be published at:
   announcement of selection Webpage
Information regarding interviews – times, date and venue – will be made available with at least 20 day notice at announcement of selection Webpage.
Candidates must show valid ID before the start of their interview.

7. Candidates unable to attend their interview in person - whether because they reside abroad, or because of serious obstacles - may request a remote interview via video-conference in their online application. The candidates concerned must carefully fill in the relevant section of the online application (‘remote interview’) and identify a suitable location, at either a university or a diplomatic mission, and nominate an official who can formally confirm the candidate’s identity before the interview.
Remote interviews are subject to the admissions committee’s approval and to a prior technical feasibility check.

8. Candidates who obtain a minimum score of 72/120 points are considered to have passed the interview.

Art. 6 – RANKINGS

1. Once the interview process has been completed, the committee will finalize their candidate ranking by combining the points assigned for qualifications with those for interview.
2. Scholarships are awarded to candidates on the basis of:
   a) their position in the final ranking;
   b) their position in the ranking and the number of potential scholarships available for topic-specific PhD places. The admissions committee’s evaluation of a candidate’s suitability based on his/her educational profile is a decisive factor in the allocation of these topic-specific scholarships.
3. Request for a topic-specific grant implies the candidate’s preference for that specific scholarship with respect to the others. The successful applicant awarded the topic-specific scholarship is therefore required to accept it; renouncing the topic-specific grant results in the candidate losing his/her right to enrol in the PhD Programme.
4. Non-allocation of such scholarships results in a reduction in the number of places available.
5. The ranked list (again using candidates’ application IDs) will be published on the announcement of selection Webpage.
Publication of this ranked list means that notification has been carried out officially. Successful candidates will **not** receive any personal notification, since the ranked list of candidates will be posted on the website.

**Art. 7 – ADMISSION TO THE PHD PROGRAMME AND ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER**

1. Candidates will be admitted to the PhD Programme according to their position in the ranking, until all available places are filled.
2. Should two candidates obtain the same score, the candidates’ economic situations shall be the deciding factor for funded places, in accordance with the criteria established by Law on 9 April 2001 and subsequent amendments and integrations.
3. Should a successful candidate withdraw before the beginning of the course (1 November 2017), the next candidate in the ranking will be admitted. Such a candidate will be expected to accept the offer within 8 days of receipt of communication from the relevant University Office (‘PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities’).

If a successful candidate withdraws or is excluded within the first three months of the first year, the PhD Programme Committee may decide to offer their place to the next candidate on the shortlist.

4. Successful candidates must confirm that they accept the PhD place offered within 8 days of publication of the shortlist. Offers are accepted online and instructions can be found at: [http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1928](http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1928).

5. Successful applicants holding a foreign qualification must present (if they have not already done so under former application ex Art. 4 “Application Form”) to the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities, by fax +39 0461 282191, or email: phd.office-cssh@unitn.it at least one of the following documents **by 6 November 2017**[^13]:
   - Diploma Supplement in English (according to the model developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO / CEPES);
   - alternatively the Declaration of value which certifies that the educational qualification is valid in the country of achievement for being admitted to Doctoral programme (third level of higher education according to the Bologna Process - European Higher Education Area; EQF level 8);
   - The Declaration of value can be replaced by the Statement of comparability - university qualification awarded by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA) that contains all the information necessary for the evaluation of the qualification;
   - alternatively the Rector's Decree of "Equivalence-academic recognition of the title".

6. Successful candidates who fail to submit their acceptance according to the terms and procedures set out in par. 4 of this article, lose their right to enrol. Their places will be made available to other eligible candidates, in order of their position on the shortlist.

**Art. 8 – SUPERNUMERARY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH POSITIONS**

1. In accordance with art. 20, par. 3 of the University Regulations regarding PhD Programmes, the admissions committee can admit **one extra candidate**, further to the number of places initially announced, providing that the candidate has been shortlisted and without granting a university scholarship. Such a supernumerary candidate must belong to one of the following categories:
   a) foreign nationality, eligible in the general ranking, who are granted scholarships by other entities;

[^13]: Should the Declaration of Value not be available by the given deadline, the candidate has to produce evidence of the request to the Diplomatic mission. The candidate has to provide the original Declaration of Value as soon as available.
b) shortlisted candidates from countries which have specific inter-governmental agreements with Italy, and subsequently make a special agreement with the University, without the University of Trento being required to assume any financial obligations;

c) be a research fellow receiving not less than 24 months worth of grant at the date of the start of the PhD programme. The candidate must be researching a subject relevant to the PhD research programme (subject relevance to be determined by the PhD programme committee);

d) be employed in the public sector or state legal system. Admission is dependent on candidates being given leave of absence or exceptional leave, in accordance with article 2 of the Law of 13 August 1984, no. 476 and subsequent revisions.14

2. Candidates who wish to take advantage of the supernumerary position also have 8 days following publication of the ranking in which to request enrolment and present the necessary documentary evidence of their eligibility to Divisione Supporto Corsi di Dottorato e Alta Formazione-Polo Città e Rovereto (email phd.office-cssh@unitn.it – fax +39-0461-282191).

3. Supernumerary enrolment is limited to the number of places specified in article 1 and is subject to the final ranking.

4. Supernumerary candidates will receive an offer via email from the PhD office once the documentation regarding their eligibility (see par. 2 above) has been verified. They must then formally accept this offer within 8 days of receipt, using the online procedure at the link mentioned in art. 7, paragraph 4.

**Art. 9 – ENROLMENT**

1. Registration on the doctorate course for the successful candidates, who have accepted their places according to the procedures in the previous article, will automatically be formalized as soon as the Ministry of Education, University and Research sets out the requirements for PhD Programmes for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Should accreditation not be given, candidates who have accepted places will be notified immediately via email and the local education tax (TDS) will be refunded.

**Art. 10 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS TO RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

1. Without prejudice to the Italian law on copyright (legislative decree 633/1941 and subsequent amendments), intellectual and industrial property rights on the results eventually achieved by the student, including (but not limited to) softwares, industrial inventions patentable or not, know-how, models, data and data collection, are regulated in accordance with applicable laws and University regulations and, if necessary, according to the provisions in the individual agreements with universities, companies or entities involved.

**Art. 11 – DATA PROTECTION**

1. The University of Trento, in accordance with the Law 196/2003 (Personal data usage), shall use the personal details provided by the candidate for the sole purpose of participation in the selection procedure.

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14 Neither public employees who have already been awarded PhDs, nor those who have been enrolled on a PhD Programme for at least one academic year (having been granted exceptional leave), are entitled to exceptional leave, either with or without research grants, whatever their subject area.
2. Participation in the selection procedure implies, in the full respect of the above mentioned norms, that candidates implicitly accept that the results of the selection procedure be published on the University of Trento’s website.

3. The University of Trento, via Calepina 14, 38122 Trento is the data controller.

Art. 12 – REGULATIONS


2. The Call in Italian and English will be published on the University of Trento, Euraxess and Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) websites. Any changes or additions to this Call will be published on the webpage listed in art.1.
ANNEX A

Declaration substituting
DEGREE CERTIFICATE¹
(Article 46 - letters l, m, n - D.P.R. 28 December 2000, No. 445)

The undersigned ___________________________________ _____________________________________
Place of birth (city+country) ________________________________ date of birth __ ____________________
Official postal address (street, number, zip code, city, country) _______________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone _____________________   Mob. ________________ ______email___________________________

aware of the penal sanctions pursuant to Article 76  of the Italian Presidential Decree No. 445 of 28.12.2000 for falsifying documents and making mendacious declarations

DECLAR...
ANNEX A

University of: ____________________________________ Country: ________________

Expected graduation date: ________________________________________________

AND TO HAVE PASSED THE FOLLOWING EXAMS (fill out the following section C, obligatory in either case A) or B)

SECTION C: List of exams taken (marks and dates mandatory):

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Date and place, ___________________________  Signature of the declarant (full and readable)

This declaration is exempt from stamp duty, pursuant to Article 37 of the Italian Presidential Decree No. 445 of 28.12.2000.