



ROME

Maker Faire
THE EUROPEAN EDITION

Press Release

HUGE SUCCESS FOR THE CALL FOR SCHOOLS AND THE CALL FOR UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES MAKER FAIRE ROME 2016

Rome, 17 June 2016 - An extraordinary number of participants, more than 300, almost tripled compared to 2015, have signed up for the **Call for Schools** of **Maker Faire Rome**. This is a true launch pad for innovation, open to Italian and European Union secondary schools (students aged 14-18) and realized in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research.

274 schools (including 68 non-Italian schools) presented over 300 projects to participate in the important technological innovation meeting scheduled at the New Fair of Rome from October 14th to the 16th 2016.

A special committee will meet in early July to select the projects which will be presented at the Maker Faire Rome. The committee will select 35 Italian schools, 5 ITS (Higher Technological Institutes) and 15 EU schools. The Maker Faire Rome will provide free space and hospitality for a teacher and two students from the foreign schools in addition to covering travel expenses.

The 55 selected institutes will also have a chance to win a prize, a 3D Professional X-Fab printer, offered by DWS, one of the Maker Faire partners.

"With the Italian National Plan for Digital Education - emphasizes the **Minister of Education, University and Research, Stefania Giannini** - we are focusing on innovation. And the school is proving to be responsive and active. I think that the information arriving at the Call for Schools is further proof of this fact. It is a sign of change that has taken off and which is now irreversible. Words like fab lab, maker or coding are no longer a taboo, they are becoming part of the everyday language of teachers and students. This government has introduced computational and IT programming in primary school, it is investing in digital laboratories, the training of teachers with more resources and new tools, the updating of skills. It is a necessary challenge, dictated by the times and we are facing it with great enthusiasm. The same enthusiasm - concludes Giannini - with which we decided to cooperate with the Maker Faire Rome to involve the schools, but also, this year, universities and the research community. "

"A result - says **Luciano Mocci, President of Asset Camera**, a Special Agency of the Chamber of Commerce of Rome which organizes the Maker Faire Rome - beyond our wildest expectations. A clear demonstration, in case it was needed, that the Maker Faire is now an event involving everyone, especially the younger generations, and not only digital artisans and new entrepreneurs. Considering the high number of applications received, I do not exclude that the space devoted to the schools at the Maker Faire Rome may increase, in order to enable everyone to display their projects . I'd like to already thank everyone - Mocci concludes - all the schools and, in particular, all the students who have demonstrated such a wide and enthusiastic participation. This great participation is a clear signal also for Italy. Today's young people are the hope for a radical shift. They are the real asset of our Country and Maker Faire want to support them in every way possible."

Among the Italian schools, ten are the ITS (Higher Technological Institutes) , many are also IIS (Higher Education Institutes) and classical and scientific high schools, from Trento to Agrigento, representing all Italian regions.

Among the foreign schools, leading are the schools from Greece followed by Turkey, Romania, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Estonia, Lithuania, Israel, Hungary and Germany.

Great success also for the **Call for Universities and Research Institutes** of Maker Faire Rome 2016, new to this edition, which involved the most important Italian and international research institutes and as many as 60 of the most important Italian universities and six foreign universities (two from China, two from Spain and two from Germany). A special area of the Fair will be made available to the Universities, after an evaluation by a committee checking that the projects are according to the criteria of Maker Faire Rome (3d printing, 3d scanning, drones, cultural heritage, etc ..).

Continuous updating at : www.makerfairerome.eu

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MAKER FAIRE

Maker Faire is the most important innovation show in the world - a "family-friendly event", full of invention, creativity and inventiveness, and a celebration of culture and the #makers movement. It is the place where makers and enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds come together to present their projects and share their knowledge and discoveries. The first Maker Faire was held in San Mateo, California in 2006, less than a year after the publication of the first issue of "Make: Magazine", the reference magazine for all #makers, in 2005.

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Organized by the Chamber of Commerce of Rome, through the Asset Association, its Special Agency, the MFR aims to put the focus of the debate on innovation on the city of Rome and encourage the spread of the culture of innovation. Maker Faire Rome is the largest Maker Faire outside of the United States. An event that continues to grow: in the last edition and in just three days, it attracted more than 100 thousand visitors. Some other figures. Students (Educational day): 16,400 (6,000 in 2013; 15,000 in 2014); Light talks and workshops allowed: 511 (70 in 2013, 237 in 2014); projects on display: 452 (250 in 2013, 410 in 2014); Accredited journalists and bloggers: 600 (260 in 2013, 500 in 2014).