

**RETE MARE NOSTRUM – MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH COUNCIL**  
**“ MARIO PRIMICERIO SCHOLARSHIPS”**

*For the formation of youth engaged in the promotion of peace and dialogue in the  
Mediterranean area*

### **1. Context and motivations**

Nowadays the Mediterranean area constitutes a crossroad of meetings, exchanges and tensions. Immigration, environmental, economic, cultural and religious challenges call for new figures endowed with vision as well as the capacity to create dialogue and solidarity networks.

Rete Mare Nostrum, drawing inspiration from **Giorgio La Pira’s “concrete utopian vision”**, proposes a programme for scholarships destined to form a youth equipped with the skills needed to build bridges between the two sides of the Mediterranean basin, which La Pira envisioned as the “wide Tiberias lake”: a symbolic place where encounters, fraternity and peace can take place.

The scholarships have been created in the name of **Prof. Mario Primicerio**, a prominent figure of reference that treasured Giorgio La Pira’s moral and political inheritance. As well as his contributions in the academic field, Primicerio was also one of the main collaborators of La Pira when he was the mayor of Florence, and later on he tirelessly promoted La Pira’s vision both in the years in which he was serving in his administrative role and later on when he was the President of the Fondazione Giorgio La Pira. He also contributed to the constitution of the Mediterranean Youth Council. With these scholarships we intend to celebrate his intellectual and civil contribution, paying tribute to the essential role he played in promoting the transmission of La Pira’s thought to the new generations.

### **2. General objective**

**Forming a new generation of Mediterranean youth** engaged in the promotion of peace, intercultural and religious dialogue, sustainable environmental projects and cooperation among the people inhabiting the area.

### **3. Specific objectives**

1. Offering to such gifted Mediterranean students the opportunity to have access to quality university education in Italy
2. Promoting the academic, linguistic and intercultural competences required for leadership roles in the Mediterranean context
3. Favouring the creation of a **Mediterranean community of young professionals** inspired by Rete Mare Nostrum’s vision
4. Siding the beneficiaries with a relational, psychological and cultural support aimed at fostering a harmonious integration path.

#### 4. Recipients

**Young people aged 18 to 35 originating from one of the Mediterranean countries (or countries linked to the Episcopal conferences or Mediterranean synods) holding:**

- A secondary school Diploma or Bachelor's degree (depending on the scholarship level)
- Documented academic merits
- Documented interest in the themes of peace, dialogue and cooperation
- Willingness to actively collaborate with Rete Mare Nostrum.

#### 5. Scholarships features

The **4 Mario Primicerio scholarships** fully cover:

- **Enrollment** at the University of Florence
- **National Health Service coverage**
- **Didactic support** (materials, transport, contributions to academic activities)
- **Board and lodging** with the Rete partners' structures or the selected host families
- **Intensive Italian course**, with final certification
- **Formation** and labs for intercultural and peace building work
- **Mentoring** provided by Rete Mare Nostrum.

#### 6. Programme duration

- **1 renewable year** for Bachelor's degrees or Master degrees, till the completion of the academic path (max 3–5 years).

#### 7. Selection and candidates prerequisites

Selection criteria will take into consideration the candidate attitude and interest pertaining the values of dialogue, fraternity and peace in synergy with the Rete Mare Nostrum's mission and the validity of the academic project.

In order to promote one's candidacy the proponent must send:

- **a motivational letter** highlighting his/her academic and life project;
- **a reference letter** by a member of the Mediterranean Youth Council;
- **Curriculum Vitae**;

The selection will be made after an **online interview**. in Italian or English, with a commission named by the Rete Mare Nostrum. The criteria are the following:

1. *A socio-economical state of vulnerability*

The commission will attentively evaluate the financial, family and personal context of the candidate, paying particular attention to situations denoting frailty, risk or eviction as well as reasons directly relating to conflicts in the country of origin.

2. *Merit, motivation and solidity of the academic project*

Analysis of the quality and credibility of the academic path proposed, the candidate's motivation and the competences needed to bring to successful completion the academic endeavour chosen by the candidate.

3. *Coherence between the educational path and the opportunities offered by the programme*

The commission will verify the congruence between the educational objectives pursued by the candidate and the opportunities granted by the scholarship ensuring that the project is realistic, adequate for the student's profile and feasible from the perspective of the available financial resources.

4. *Openness to dialogue and collaboration*

The commission will evaluate the candidate willingness to engage in a multicultural environment and contribute to create paths for dialogue, mediation and active participation.

5. *Geographical and gender equality*

Attention will be paid to equality in the distribution of scholarships, favouring a balanced representational selection in terms of geographical area and male/ female ratio.

**The selection will be carried out by the commission nominated by the Rete Mare Nostrum and is non appealable.**

## **8. Candidacy procedures and deadline**

- Candidacies can be sent with the required documentation, see point 7, and the candidate contacts to **info@giovanimediterraneo.org** strictly before the **31<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.
- The selection online interviews will start on the 15th April 2026. The candidate will be contacted via the mail provided prior the date of the interview. Selection results will be communicated by the 15th May 2026.
- For any enquiry or info request you can send an email to the address given above **info@giovanimediterraneo.org**.