



FirstStep helps Italian graduates

FirstStep, a non-profit association aims to provide free internship opportunities in companies or institutions in the UAE to top qualified young graduates from the best universities in Italy



vealed that nine out of 10 Italian graduates were seriously worried about their professional perspectives.

In order to help Italian university graduates, FirstStep, a non-profit association aims to provide free internship opportunities in private companies or institutions in the UAE to top qualified young graduates from the best universities in Italy.

Through this voluntary initiative it aims to increase the movement of highly skilled students and graduates between Italy and the UAE. The association's vision is to create a positive attitude about the future among today's generation.

This can be realised by offering an internship, a first chance for this generation facing today's working world. Being a non-profit organisation, FirstStep does not charge any fee for its services. It is completely free of charge both for the companies and for the graduates.

The mission of FirstStep is to select the cream of graduates (business, en-

gineering, social sciences, etc) coming from the most prominent Italian universities and to look for internship opportunities for them in the UAE. On the other hand, it also makes companies here aware of the potential of collaboration, facilitating between internship offer and demand. A big part of the association's work is to assist in the first phase of acclimatisation in the UAE and to encourage graduates to be part of a network through monthly meetings. The Italian Embassy in Abu Dhabi encourages the association in carrying out its activities.

There are advantages not only for graduates but also for companies, like getting an extremely motivated workforce with a solid academic background. Companies have the chance of concretely testing graduates with the prospect of hiring them after they successfully complete their internship.

By following this method companies can avoid hiring lesser-known staff. They also have access to human resources for specific projects for a limited time and the benefit of new ideas from select graduates coming from the most competitive academic contexts. Stakeholders can be made aware of the company's corporate social responsibility and the care shown for the professional education of future generations.

www.firststep.it

Following the global financial and economic crash in 2008, the unemployment rate among the youth was thrice the normal unemployment rate.

Young people found it hard to get an opening in the labour market because of their lack of experience, something that makes them especially vulnerable during economic downturns.

This could be the reason why they are the prime victims of the market slump and the worst sufferers of the ongoing recession in Europe.

Research done by the Trendence Institute in 2009 on 196,000 students from 750 universities in Europe re-