

Surveyor: The Italian Model

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1. BRIEF HISTORY

The profession of surveyor in Italy ranks amongst those protected and regulated by law. The criterion to gain access within are the same over the entire country.

Uniform training is provided all over the country and access to the OFFICIAL REGISTERS is granted to those possessing:

- a secondary school diploma (Technical Vocational Institute) with a 5-year duration;
- the professional qualification certificate obtained after a specific State exam following at least 2 years of professional apprenticeship.

In 1967 the Government obliged all the effective surveyors registered in the **Official Registers** to join a Private Social Security Fund. The common belonging to one social security Body, stated by law, established from them onwards an extraordinary bond of solidarity between the younger and older generations of professionals.

Surveyors were entrusted with the task of reconstructing the country after the end of the Second World War, using their education skills based on three fundamental disciplines:

- the construction of buildings;
- topography and land registry;
- rural and urban assessment.

The transformation of the national economy from agricultural to tertiary sector has brought about a deep change in the professional activities. Moreover, this transformation did not corresponded with a substantial modification of the training services offered by Public schools.

The study and the training in the three fundamental disciplines of this profession remained all but identical this until 1979 when, through a partial school reform, school programmes were slowly reduced while basic general vocational training and a liberal studies were favoured.

Today Italian surveyors feel necessary to set up an overdue **PROGRAMME OF DISCIPLINARY AND EDUCATIONAL SELF-REGULATION**. In fact, approximately eighty years from the institution of the professional **OFFICIAL REGISTERS**, the Government has yet to update these regulations.

2. THE PRESENT SITUATION

These days, independent professions (and this holds true for all professions) require a very specific professional knowledge and, more and more, a business-like organisation. From this stems the need, particularly obvious during the last ten years, for a radical reform of the system. In fact independent professions are still present on the market today thanks to legislative “protection” based on belonging to the **Official Registers** rather than on the quality and skills of the single members.

The Italian surveyor has by nature a sort of “intermediate” education aimed at solving technical problems of minor relevance but which are the bulk of the technical needs of society. It is namely for this reason that a surveyor can find a wide range of work and income possibilities on the market. However globalisation eliminated the exclusive competence of the profession in nearly all fields by opening up the market to other new experts.

The liberalization of all professional activities, once reserved only to those enrolled in the professional **Official Registers**, has then further open up the market. This has built up a stronger competition not only between different kinds of professionals, but also between members of the same profession.

Competition has, therefore, amplified the need for “quality” as the only element which allows the survival on the market. The surveyor today cannot be only a generic “intermediate” technician. He must be a specialized expert. And an high qualified one”.

The reform of the university education system (approved in 2001) stressed the difficulties of our profession. A profession made by over 100.000 members. This reform created a new level of intermediate technicians with a three-year degree obtained by encompassing hundred of subjects. A degree basically aimed to provide students with an academic title rather than specific competencies. Italian surveyors run the risk of having a role less professional thanks to the introduction of these new rules. This is in sharp opposition to their traditional education which is based on theoretical knowledge but especially upon their ability to “perform”. A ability due both to their school training and to the following two years of practical apprenticeship.

Of course, these technicians with this new three-year degree are a sort of “natural evolution” of the present ones who in Italy today are grouped within the regulated professions, such as “surveyors”, “farm advisors” and “industrial advisors”.

3. NEW MODEL OF THE ITALIAN SURVEYOR FOR THE FUTURE

In order to avoid the decline of a profession so important for the Italian society, there’s the need for a strong and effective reform and re-qualification to be proposed to the Italian Government and which has to be shared by the International Organization of Surveyors. The proposal involves:

- young people who should already have had a practical training in Secondary School and must extend their know-how during the two years of apprenticeship. The same young people must be encouraged to continue through a three year degree whereby theoretical knowledge may be simultaneously put into practice on the market. Enrolment in the **Official Registers** should involve them in the organizational structure of the profession, enabling them to an easier access to an occupation, further education and permanent updating.
An alternative to obtaining a degree could be the choice of a Vocational Higher Education program, more linked to the projects of each Italian Region;
- the present members of the profession who must re-qualify in specific sectors of their training, reaching higher levels of specialization. The training courses organized by the profession must be agreed upon with the universities, so that the level of preparation, although specialized, would not be inferior to that of young university graduates. Specific training must be mandatory and updating courses must become permanent, the penalty being the banishment from the **Official Registers** (and all this in the interest of the clients).

This is the only way for our profession to maintain and strengthen its position on the D-level amongst the five professional levels set out by the European Directive 2005/36.

But this would not be enough if the field of an Italian surveyor activities is not expanded to meet the demands of modern society. Therefore, it is necessary for the profession to define a new role for itself to carry out within the society.

This new role has been vaguely described under the general title of: “PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORY AND OF THE ENVIRONMENT”.

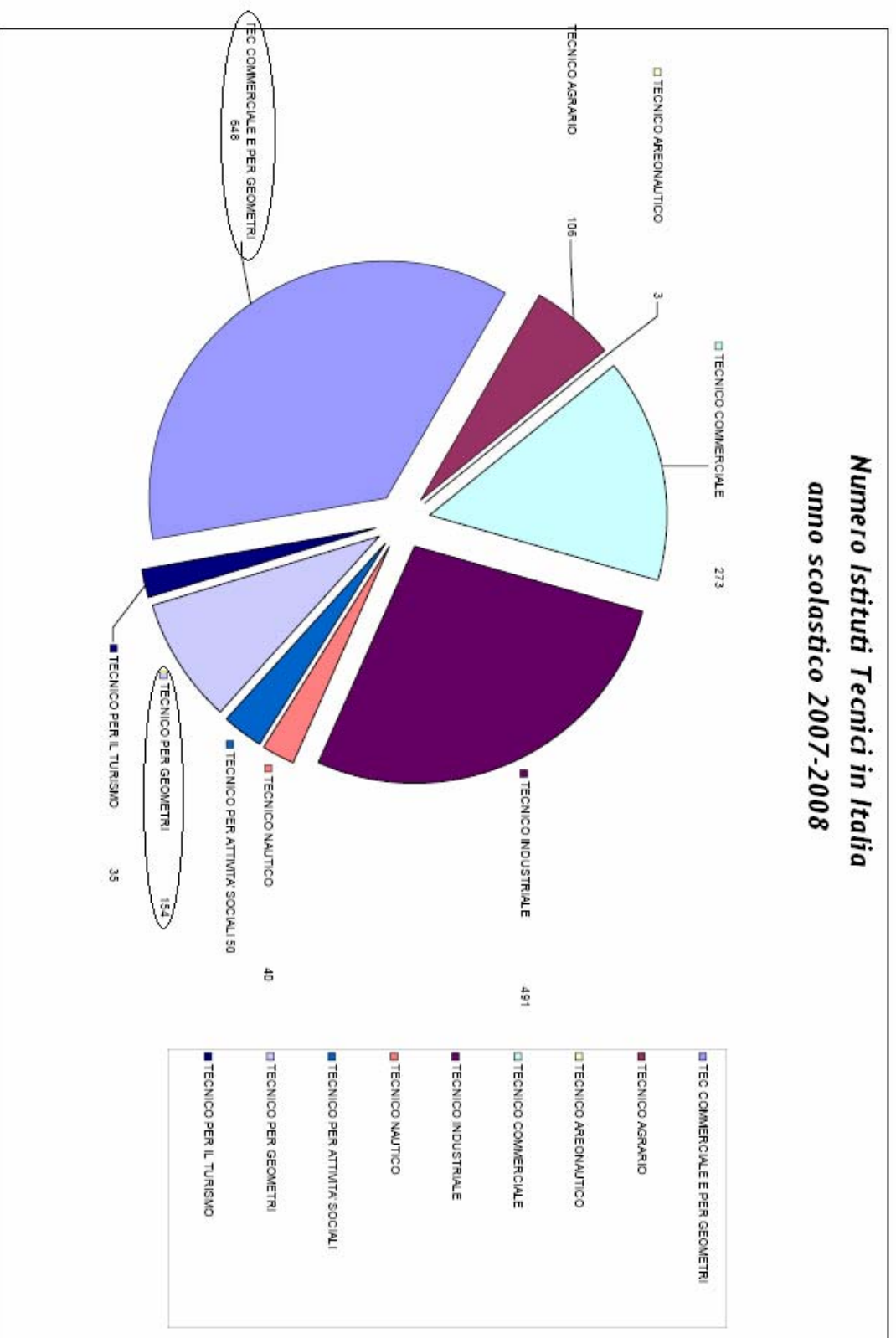
Italian surveyors, therefore, put themselves forward as a professional Body that promotes the culture of environmental protection, since they are acquainted with survey, modify and value the environment.

In order to reach this objective, it is imperative for school and post-school education to be in line with this new goal to be achieved, this is our new “mission”:

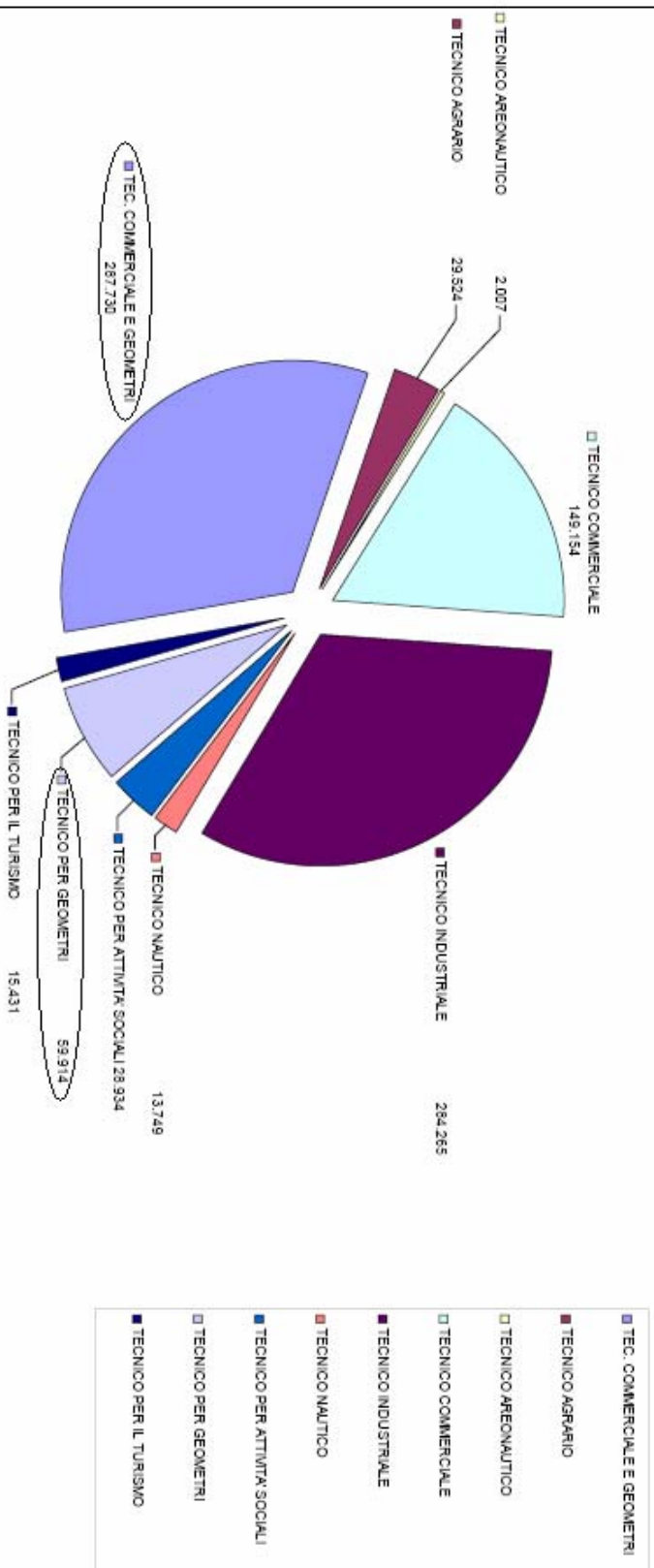
- no longer building, but building safely;
- not just building, but at the same time building saving energy waste;
- no longer just measuring, but surveying the land for the preservation and modernization of cartography (the thematic one included) and for the creation of territory databanks;
- no longer assessing, but valuing in conformity with certified procedures, in accordance with the international standards;
- no more ignoring air and water pollution factors;
- no longer dispersing waste and pollutants into the ground;
- demolishing if necessary.

The continuity of our job, thus renewed, is assured in time by the presence of over 100,000 students enrolled in 154 vocational institutes and in 648 institutes for both accountants and surveyors. The following graphs, provided by the Ministry for Education, illustrate the size of the ongoing generational replacement.

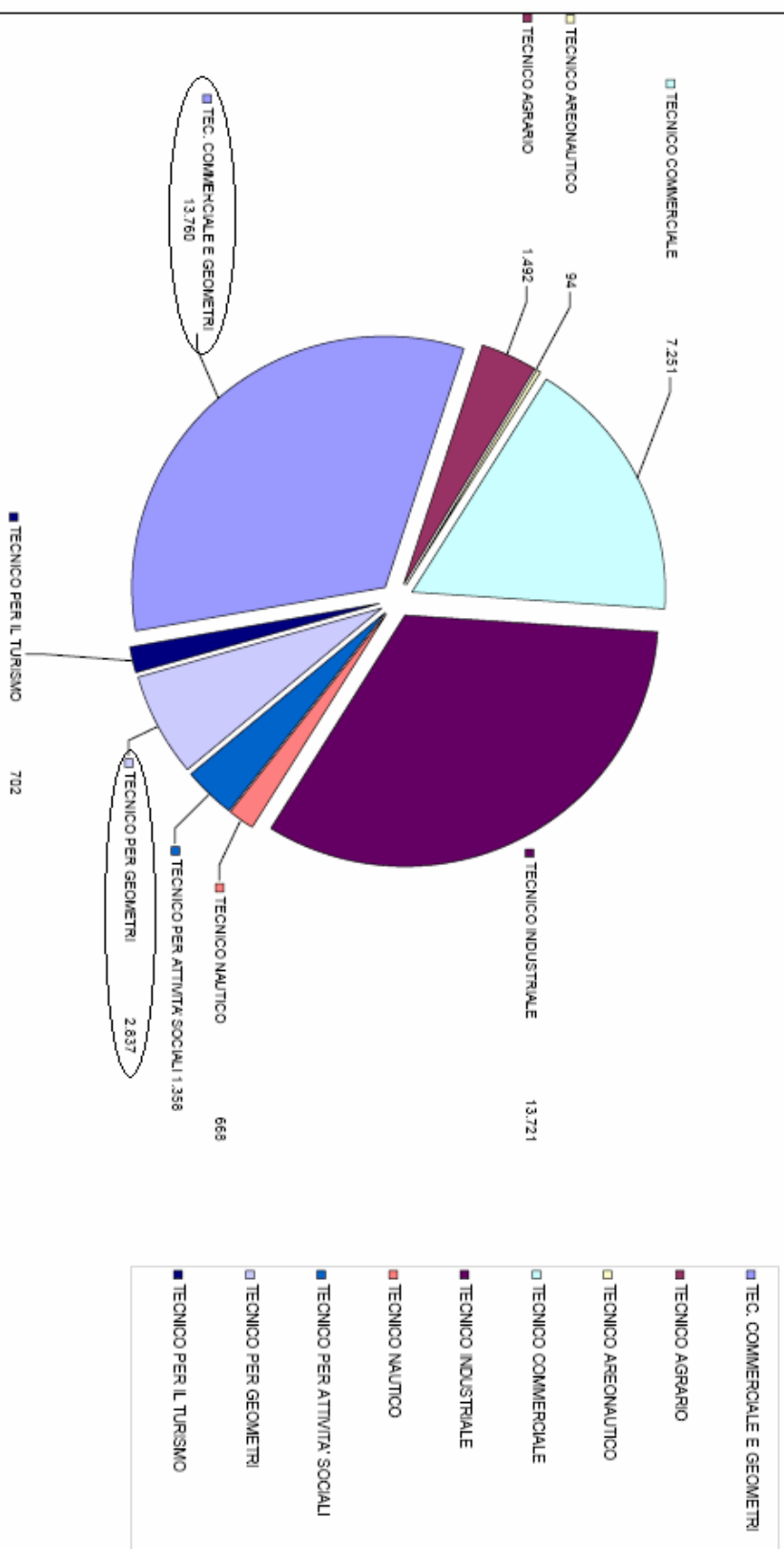
Numero Istituti Tecnici in Italia anno scolastico 2007-2008



Numero Alunni negli Istituti Tecnici in Italia anno scolastico 2007-2008



Numero di classi scolastiche di Istituti Tecnici in Italia anno scolastico 2007-2008



Therefore gradually but with great determination, we set off to build this renewed technical profession:

- directly participating in the organization of the school/work link, starting from the Secondary School level;
- strengthening and regulating post-graduation professional apprenticeships;
- creating an affective school/work link even for those enrolled in the University System;
- making specialistic training course mandatory for all those enrolled in the Official Register;
- establishing definite standard procedures for each professional activity;
- issuing certificates of quality both for the acquired personal training level and the practical organizational of the office;
- encouraging the creation of associated firms;
- strengthening the organizational structure of the profession, which is today composed of 110 country-based Boards (referred to by the members in order to obtain different kinds of services);
- involving the professions of farm advisors and of industry advisors within the renovation process. (They have an **Official Register** too).

All of which with the involvement of great amounts of economical and intellectual resources, for the creation of a “New Expert”. An independent professional who, setting off from “measurements” and “data collection and elaboration”, is able of facing and solving the technical problems of the 21st century. A model that we would like to put forward to our international organizations, hoping that they will respond with their agreement and support.

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BIOGRAPHY

Born on 16 February 1945 in Brescia, where he lives and works as an independent professional.

July 1965: graduates and obtains a diploma as Surveyor at the Istituto Nicolò Tartaglia in Brescia.

1966: Lieutenant in the Infantry Corps of the Italian Army.

November 1966: participates in the emergency campaign during the flood of the city of Florence, coordinating the operations of his unit for saving the artistic heritage of the historic city centre.

1967: enrolls in the Registers of Surveyors of the Province of Brescia and begins to work as an independent professional.

From 1969 to 1978: is elected member of the Provincial Governing Council of the Board of Surveyors in Brescia and is appointed Secretary from 1975 to 1978.

From 1978 to 1983: is elected member of the National Board of Surveyors.

1985: elected for the first time as Delegate to the Italian Social Security Fund for Surveyors, representing the Lombardy region.

From 1989 to present: officiates as the President of the Provincial Board of Surveyors for the Province of Brescia – a professional order with 3,000 professional members enrolled.

April 1997 to present: is elected President of the Italian Social Security Fund for Surveyors, an organization with 95,000 enrolled members that issues 24,000 pensions, with movable goods and real estate property amounting to €1,400,000,000.

2005: is nominated by the Mayor of Brescia as Member of the Board of Directors of the Brescia Mobilità SpA, a company with capital of the Brescia Municipality and the ASM of Brescia for the construction of the urban subway network.

2007 to present: Member of the Board of Directors of F2i, a fund for the creation of infrastructures which stands third in the world for its capitalization.

May 2008: is elected President of the National Board of Surveyors

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