

4. CLASSES FOR PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS: UNIONE STAMPA FILATELIA ITALIANA

Italy's Ordine dei Giornalisti is a non-economic Italian public body representing professional journalists. It manages the Register of Journalists, membership of which is compulsory for the exercise of the profession, and has supervisory and protective functions over the work of its members. Every journalist must reach a given objective regarding

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permanent education in terms of courses attended either on a digital platform or on a traditional platform in a classroom. Over recent years, the USFI, the national association that gathers journalists and writers active in philately, has been charged with organising and teaching classes in Milan, Genoa, Venice, Florence, Rome, Trieste, Turin, and Aosta. Recently, a new version of the course was introduced, emphasising control of sources and detection of fake news; it has already been taught in Trieste, Milan, and Novara. The course aims to present the main characteristics of stamps and mail services and address clichés that the press often treats superficially, if not incorrectly. Teachers were USFI president Fabio Bonacina, his successor Beniamino Bordoni, and vice president Domitilla D'Angelo. The classes had an average attendance of about 30 people. In some instances, they were also open to members of the Press offices of Poste Italiane and other personnel of the same company engaged with its Philatelic Service.



USFI meeting in Trieste.

USFI also organised a course for the students of the Istituto Superiore per le industrie artistiche (a university-level school for industries active in the field of arts) of Florence, highlighting the graphical and communicative aspects of a stamp.