**Marco Maria Cerbo**, Head of the Unit for the Coordination of Italian Cultural Institutes, Directorate General for Public and Cultural Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

The project “Iosonovulnerabile” – curated by Sergio Mario Illuminato – is a performative practice that brilliantly involved, between 2023 and 2024, artists and professionals from the visual arts, cinema, photography, dance, and music. The synergy created together with the teachers and students of the Academy of Fine Arts and Roman high schools is an extraordinary example of how art can bring together different disciplines in a creative and inclusive dialogue.

The artist residency “Officina Alchemica delle Idee” is an example of the extreme creativity of the artists involved. The “Movimento VulnerarTe APS” – accredited in the National Register of the Third Sector – represents a remarkable experience of innovation and inclusion, addressing the theme of vulnerability through art with sensitivity. Also noteworthy is the editorial initiative “VulnerarTe Magazine,” which dedicated space to reflection on vulnerability.

The Pathway for Transversal Skills and Orientation (PCTO) “Enter Outside, Exit Inside” – in collaboration with the Schools of Rome and Province – is another example of how education can be integrated with art and how such educational projects can prepare students for a deeper understanding of contemporary reality. The International Programme will take place through 2024 and 2025 in the Italian Cultural Institutes abroad, under the coordination of the Directorate General for Public and Cultural Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in a dimension that aims at enhancing the Italian cultural heritage in a global way.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively committed, in all its sectors, to a more equitable and inclusive society, recognising that culture is a valuable tool for promoting dialogue between people and for increasing mutual understanding. Farnesina, in fact, intends to make culture accessible to everyone by overcoming economic, social, and physical barriers.

The themes of inclusion, vulnerability, and fragility have a central role in the cultural promotion policy of the Directorate General for Public and Cultural Diplomacy. The cultural initiatives, designed at central level, as well as those curated within the diplomatic-consular network and the Italian Cultural  Institutes, are designed and built for involving all communities without any exclusion. These include the creation of graphic novels in museums, live performances, contemporary art exhibitions, concerts, and performances of different kinds.

Similarly, at the central level, the Farnesina Collection is not only a valuable heritage, but it is also a symbol of our commitment to inclusion. I would like to recall that it is possible to visit the collection once a month as part of the initiative “Aperti per Voi” of the Italian Touring Club. The project embraced by the Ministry since 2016, aims at making the contemporary artistic heritage – located in public institutional spaces- accessible for free to the largest number of people, with the collaboration of volunteers of the Italian Touring Club.

This is a successful example of collaboration between public and private institutions working for the promotion and dissemination of the knowledge of artistic heritage and for making art accessible to a wide audience. To cope with this principle, we have adopted several initiatives ensuring to everyone the physical accessibility to the place and organising special guided tours for schools and disabled communities.

Sharing the principles that animate the “Iosonovulnerabile” initiative, we are pleased to adhere to the second edition of the project in both Paris, at the Italian Cultural Institute on 3rd October 2024, and Rome, in Villa Altieri on 5th December 2024.