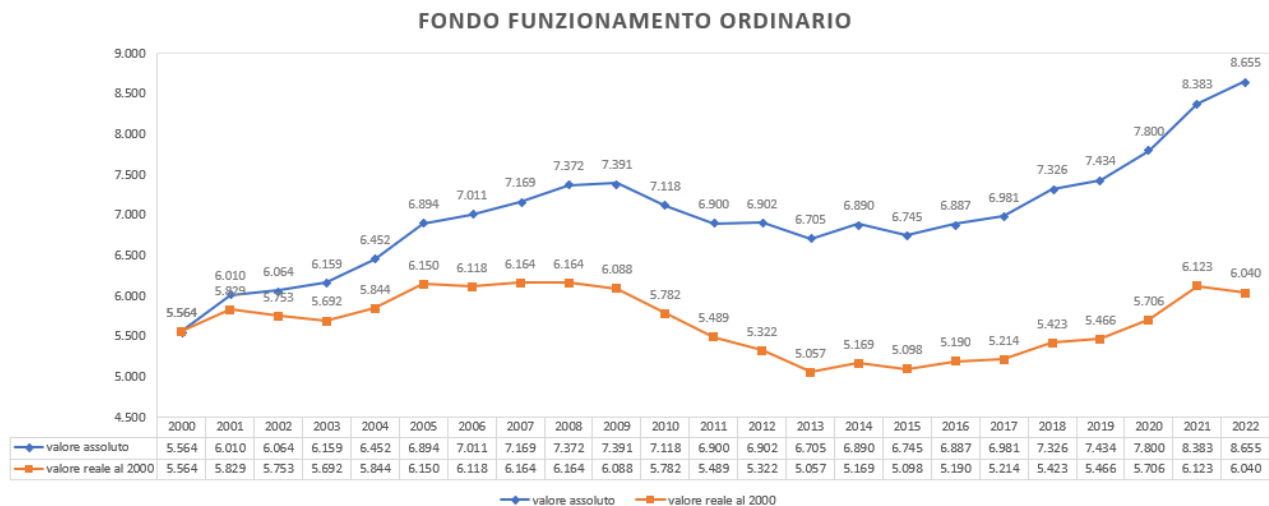


## **“Public financing for further and higher education and research: a global overview”**

**The FLC CGIL point of view on the Italian condition.** The Ordinary Financing Fund is the mechanism for the distribution of public funds. The current fund, considering the weight of inflation, is lower than the pre-crisis one and since 2008 we have lost more than €5 billion in funding.



The consequence has been a **sharp reduction in staff**, in percentage terms the largest decrease recorded since the economic crisis of 2008 among all sectors of public activity, **even though the teacher/student ratio in Italy is particularly low**, so much so that **another 40 thousand hires among teachers (almost 80% of the current tenured staff) would be needed to reach the European average.**

In the face of this drastic reduction in tenured staff, the contribution of workers hired on precarious contracts has been decisive, which has allowed the universities to maintain their functioning, as well as **guaranteeing research and teaching activities.** To safeguard the national university system, we urgently need a further extraordinary intervention on recruitment.

The Italian university is based on an evaluation mechanism that **determines the allocation of funding on a reward basis**, the performance-based funding (PBF), as Julian Garritzman told us in his introduction, **and that has produced only one sure and constant result: strong universities**

**are getting stronger and stronger and weak ones are fighting more and more for survival.** This is also leading to the impoverishment of the university educational offer in some areas of the country. On the other hand, it is necessary to guarantee adequate conditions for those who do not want or cannot transfer to a university in northern Italy or abroad. We must return to a different, fairer, and more sure distribution of resources among universities!

**We need** to go back to financing the university system and set ourselves the goal of progressively increasing public resources to stem the damage caused by more than a decade of lack of development. Instead, in Italy, we are faced with the choices of the right-wing government, led by Prime Minister Meloni, which would even provide for a cut in ordinary university funding.

**One thing is sure for FLC CGIL, together with Education International: another economic policy is not only possible but necessary if we want a fairer world, the future of the new generations depends on it.**