

Roma, 12 February 2024
Prot. 37/2024 GF/GD-stm

To the attention of Prof. Anna Maria Bernini,
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and c.c.
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Subject: REQUEST FOR DATA ON APPLICATION OF LAW 167/2023 FOR EX- LETTORI

As you well know, with respect to the professional profile of the ex-*Lettori*/CELS, differing solutions have been adopted at a national level, giving rise to a long series of legal disputes, and this, in the long run, has also created uncertainty about the employment of this professional figure by universities, which have not infrequently replaced them with alternative, precarious figures, with consequent detriment to the workers themselves and to the policies for the development of language competence skills in Italian universities.

Article 11 of Law 167 of 2023 had raised the hope that it would be possible to overcome this situation, allocating funding to overcome the litigation of the former foreign language *Lettori* and to prevent further litigation, calculated on the basis of a precise technical report, with 8,705,000 euros starting from the year 2017. At a distance of almost 7 years since the law was passed, unfortunately, the situation has been far from resolved, and most of the money allocated has apparently not yet been used for the career reconstructions of the ex-*Lettori*.

Indeed, the various government modifications of Law 167 of 2023, and most recently the Interministerial Decree of 24 May 2023 modifying the first Interministerial Decree No. 765 of 16 August 2019, have not yet brought about an end to the persistent discrimination against foreign language lecturers, and universities have adopted differing solutions that often have not led to the proper recognition of the activity performed and to the reconstruction of careers according to the parameter of the confirmed part-time researcher or more favorable conditions.

In particular, for the correct reconstruction of the careers of the ex-*Lettori*, the situation is complicated by the supposed "authentic interpretation" of Law 63/2004 by Article 26 of Law 240/2010, which would limit the career reconstruction of the ex-*Lettori* to the period before

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1995. The most recent Interministerial Decree of 24 May 2023 also refers several times to this restrictive interpretation, although, at the same time, Article 4 (Economic Treatment) of Attachment 1 of the same Interministerial Decree would seem to contradict this limitation of career reconstructions to the year 1995, in that it explicitly refers to the passage from two-year to three-year seniority pay increases ("scatti") for the career reconstructions of the *ex-Lettori*, and then back again from three-year to two-year increases, a change which took place in the period between the years 2011 and 2020!

Given this unclear situation, in order to draw attention to the need for a comprehensive solution for the *ex-Lettori* and *Collaboratori esperti linguistici* (CEL), after a number of demonstrations in front of the Ministry of University and Research, on 30 June 2023 two trade unions, including the undersigned, called a strike of the category, a strike that saw a large participation of the foreign language teaching staff but, as further proof of the superficiality with which this matter is treated, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Department of Civil Service, officially provided absolutely imprecise data on the strike participation, calculating the adhesion based on the absurd figure of a total of 6,772 teachers, while the actual figure for employment in the universities of *ex-Lettori* and CELs is below 1,400.

In light of the above and the consequent serious concern that the situation regarding the *ex-Lettori* is far from being in the process of a positive resolution, as shown by the figure that appeared in the press according to which only 1/4 of universities have requested access to the funding provided for by Law 167 of 2023, the undersigned Trade Union Organization requests the official disclosure of the data on the implementation of the provisions of the Interministerial Decree of 24 May 2023 in application of Article 11 of Law 167 of 2023, including the teaching staff and the universities involved, and above all how much of the available finances have been utilized for the career reconstructions of the *ex-Lettori* according to the provisions of the law.

The Secretary General of the FLC CGIL
Gianna Fracassi

