

Dear friends,

The finance act currently before Parliament provides for a reduction of 50% of the state contribution to cultural institutions. If this reduction were to be confirmed, cultural institutions would see their activities shrunk dramatically.

The inevitable consequences would be:

- Difficulties in participating in international programmes and networks, belittling the contribution of Italian culture internationally with a serious loss of credibility. Institutions would simply be unable to ensure the co-financing that is now required for participation in any international and local project, whether public or private.
- Reduction of qualified staff, creating further unemployment
- Reduced public opening hours at libraries, archives, museums
- Reduction in inventory and cataloguing activities
- Reduction or stop to the acquisition of new books and subscriptions to periodicals, creating serious damage to collections, which would lose much of their value if incomplete, and leading to a drop in public service standards.
- Decrease in internships sent by universities
- Downsizing of all research and learning activities

**We ask you to sign the appeal that follows, with your name, city, email address and resubmit to this email address [[segreteria@insmli.it](mailto:segreteria@insmli.it)].**

A group of German scholars of the University of Münster has already, of its own accord, shown us its solidarity.

Best Regards

The Association of Italian Cultural Institutions

### **Appeal for cultural institutions**

As users of libraries, archives and museums of Italian cultural institutes and users of research and educational activities pursued by them, we very much hope that the heavy cuts to state funding, planned in the current financial act, are withdrawn. The chance to consult books, periodicals and archival documents, access museum exhibits, and use the results of original research is important and valuable for the activities of academics and students.

If these institutions were forced by the cut in contributions to drastically reduce public services and reduce research and educational initiatives, the consequences would be very serious and research studies would suffer significantly.

We have a very negative opinion of any cuts in funding to institutions that preserve and make available documents, archives, and literature of great significance for European history and culture, and conduct intense research activities.