

Sergio Martini

PERSONAL CONTACT

Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Science, University of Siena

Via Mattioli, 10, I-53100, Siena, Italy

✉ sergio.martini@unisi.it

👤 [ORCID](#)

📄 [Google Scholar](#)

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor (non-tenured)

since 2023

Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Science

University of Siena, Italy

Collaborator

since 2012

Research and Expertise Centre for Survey Methodology

Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

Member of the Behavioral and Experimental Social Sciences Group

since 2013

Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Post-doctoral Fellow

2018-2023

Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Science

University of Siena, Italy

Adjunct Professor (Professore a Contratto) in Political Science

2019-2023

Department of Political Economy and Statistics

University of Siena, Italy

Post-doctoral Fellow at the Research and Expertise Centre for Survey Methodology *2017-2018*

Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

EDUCATION

Ph.D. <i>Europaeus Cum Laude</i> in Political and Social Sciences Pompeu Fabra University, Spain (Supervisor: Mariano Torcal Lorient).	2017
M.A. <i>Cum Laude</i> in Methodology and Empirical Research in the Social Sciences University of Florence, Italy (Supervisors: Andrea Lippi and Claudius Wagemann)	2010
B.A. <i>Cum Laude</i> in Sociology, Methodology and Applied Research Techniques University of Urbino, Italy (Supervisor: Yuri Kazepov)	2006

RESEARCH VISITS AND STAYS

Visiting Scholar GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Science EUROLAB and Monitoring Society and Social Change	June 2018
Visiting Ph.D. researcher (Mentor: Diego Gambetta) Department of Political and Social Sciences European University Institute, Italy	Fall 2014
Visiting Intern (Supervisor: Diane Payne) Geary Institute, Dynamics Lab University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland	June-July 2011
Erasmus Visiting Student Graduate School of Social Sciences University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands	Winter-Spring 2008

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Big data and social media, Survey Experiments Barcelona Summer School in Survey Methodology, Pompeu Fabra University Spain	2017
Bayesian modeling, Big data and social media, Multilevel models for longitudinal data Web and mobile-web surveys Barcelona Summer School in Survey Methodology, Pompeu Fabra University Spain	2016
Hierarchical models 48th Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex, UK Multilevel modeling, Structural equation modeling Barcelona Summer School in Survey Methodology, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain	2015
	2014

Public opinion and political behavior, Advanced research design
Graduate courses at the European University Institute, Italy

Maximum likelihood estimation, Game theory

Summer School in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, University of Michigan, US

2013

Panel data analysis of microdata

46th Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex, UK

2012

Experiments in the social sciences

Experimental Summer School, University of Oxford, Nuffield College, UK

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- (2026) European Public Opinion and Security Policy: An Eroding Consensus? Fragmentation, Polarization and Politicization in European Foreign and Security Policy during the Ukraine War, with Pierangelo Isernia, Francesco Olmastroni and Claudio Cozzi Fucile, Forthcoming in Cambridge University Press.
- (2023) *La Classe Politica Italiana: Struttura, Atteggiamenti, Sfide*, with Pierangelo Isernia and Luca Verzichelli (eds.), Bologna: il Mulino.
- (2023) *Populismo all'Italiana. Cosa Dicono, Pensano e Fanno i Populisti in Italia*, with INTERDISPOC, Bologna: il Mulino.
- (2020) *Citizens and Democracy: Contexts, Changes and Political Support in Europe*, with Mario Quaranta, Palgrave Macmillan (first published 2019).

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- (2025) *Populist attitudes and foreign policy postures: a comparative analysis of four European countries*, with Pierangelo Isernia, Matthias Mader, Bogdan Radu and Harald Schoen, European Political Science Review, 17(1):22-40 (First published 2024). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755773924000122>
- (2025) *Winning is the only thing. Election outcomes, satisfaction with democracy and political trust among populist voters in Europe*, with Mario Quaranta, European Societies.
- (2024) *The Italian political class: Two multilevel datasets on the profiles and opinions of elected politicians*, with Pierangelo Isernia, Francesco Olmastroni and Luca Verzichelli, Italian Political Science Review. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/ipo.2024.17>.

- (2024) **Challenging by cueing? An investigation of party and leader cueing effects across main-stream and challenger party voters**, with Mariano Torcal and Emily Carty, *Political Behavior*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-024-09950-w>
- (2024) **Between prudence and selfishness. Pooling the polls on what Italians think of the Ukraine war**, with Pierangelo Isernia and Claudio Cozzi Fucile, *Contemporary Italian Politics*, 16(3), 340–352. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23248823.2024.2341517>
- (2021) **Paranoid styles and innumeracy. Implications of a conspiracy mindset on Europeans’ mis-perceptions about immigrants**, with Mattia Guidi, Francesco Olmastroni, Linda Basile, Rossella Borri and Pierangelo Isernia, *Italian Political Science Review*, DOI: 10.1017/ipo.2021.26.
- (2021) **Psychological correlates of populist attitudes**, with Cengiz Erisen, Mattia Guidi, Selin Toprakkiran, Pierangelo Isernia and Levente Littvay, *Advances in Political Psychology*, DOI: 10.1111/pops.12768.
- (2021) **From the lab to the poll: The use of survey experiments in political research**, with Francesco Olmastroni, *Italian Political Science Review*, DOI: 10.1017/ipo.2021.20.
- (2021) **Framing effects on the COVID-19 see-saw**, with Francesco Olmastroni, Mattia Guidi and Pierangelo Isernia, *Swiss Political Science Review*, 27(2): 257-270, DOI: 10.1111/spsr.12453.
- (2020) **A tale of bias: Longitudinal evidence of the effect of electoral defeat on citizens’ evaluations of the economy**, with Mario Quaranta and Moreno Mancosu, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 32 (3), 604-620. DOI: 10.1093/ijpor/edz038 (first published 2019).
- (2019) **A sinking boat? The refugee crisis and attitudes towards the European Union in Italy, 1993-2018**, with Mario Quaranta, *Italian Political Science*, 14 (2), 129-148.
- (2019) **Political support among winners and losers: Within- and between-country effects of structure, process and performance in Europe**, with Mario Quaranta, *European Journal of Political Research*, 58 (1), 341-361. DOI: 10.1111/1475-6765.12284 (first published 2018).
- (2019) **Trust across political conflicts: Evidence from a survey experiment in divided societies**, with Mariano Torcal, *Party Politics*, (2), 126-139. DOI: 10.1177/1354068816685933 (first published 2016).
- (2018) **Deciding about the unknown: The effect of party and ideological cues on forming opinions about the European Union**, with Mariano Torcal and Lluís Orriols, *European Union Politics*, 19 (3), 502-523. DOI: 10.1177/1465116518769754.
- (2017) **Easy come, Easy go? Economic performance and satisfaction with democracy in Southern Europe in the last three decades**, with Mario Quaranta, *Social Indicators Research*, 131 (2), 659-680. DOI: 10.1007/s11205-016-1270-0 (first published 2016).

- (2016) **Does the economy really matter for satisfaction with democracy? Longitudinal and cross-country evidence from the European Union**, with Mario Quaranta, *Electoral Studies*, 42: 164-174.
- (2015) **Finding out the hard way: Uncovering the structural foundations of political dissatisfaction in Italy, 1973-2013**, with Mario Quaranta, *West European Politics*, 38(1): 28-52. Coverage: [stukroodvlees](#)

Book chapters

- (2025). **Politics through the microscope: The use of experiments in European political science**, with Francesco Olmastroni. Forthcoming in C. Wagemann and L. Verzichelli (eds), *Political Science Methods in Europe*, London: Routledge.
- (2025). **Bound to the audience: Foreign policy decision-making and the costs of empty threats and unkept promises in successful and unsuccessful war scenarios**, with Pierangelo Isernia and Francesco Olmastroni. In M. Grabowski and L. Verzichelli (eds), *The International System in the Post-Pandemic World*. London: Routledge.
- (2025). **Support for democracy and support for autocracy: Two sides of the same coin?** In M. Ferrín and H. Kriesi (eds), *How Europeans View and Evaluate Democracy Revisited*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (contract signed, under review).
- (2023). **Elettori e partiti di fronte alla guerra in Ucraina**, with Linda Basile e Pierangelo Isernia. In ITANES. Bologna: il Mulino.
- (2023). **Opinione pubblica e guerra in Ucraina: Un'anomalia italiana?**, with Pierangelo Isernia. In Salvatore Vassallo and Luca Verzichelli (eds.), *Bipolarismo Asimmetrico. L'Italia al Voto dopo il Decennio Populista*. Bologna: il Mulino.
- (2023). **Studiare la classe politica in tempi di crisi: Questioni di ricerca. Metodologie. Dati**, with Pierangelo Isernia and Luca Verzichelli. In Pierangelo Isernia, Sergio Martini and Luca Verzichelli (eds.), *La classe politica Italiana. Struttura, Atteggiamenti, Sfide*. Bologna: il Mulino.
- (2023). **Pubblico vs. Politici. L'immagine dell'opinione pubblica tra i politici**, with Pierangelo Isernia. In Pierangelo Isernia, Sergio Martini and Luca Verzichelli (eds.), *La classe politica Italiana. Struttura, Atteggiamenti, Sfide*. Bologna: il Mulino.
- (2023). **Politici vs. pubblico. Le sfide della democrazia e la deliberazione**, with Pierangelo Isernia. In Pierangelo Isernia, Sergio Martini and Luca Verzichelli (eds.), *La classe politica Italiana. Struttura, Atteggiamenti, Sfide*. Bologna: il Mulino.
- (2022) **O come opinione pubblica. COVID-19, fiducia politica e politiche di contenimento della pandemia**, with Pierangelo Isernia. In Maria Giovanna Sessa (Ed), *Dalla Pandemia all'Infodemia:*

La Disinformazione ai tempi del COVID-19, Quaderni/41, Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli.

- (2018) Formándose opiniones sobre Europa: El uso de “pistas partidistas e ideológicas” como atajos informativos por los votantes españoles, with Mariano Torcal and Lluís Orriols. In Mariano Torcal, *Opinión pública y cambio electoral en España. Claves ante el reto europeo y la crisis política y económica*, Centro de Investigación Sociológicas Academia Series 41.

PhD dissertation

- (2017) *Trusting People in Times of Crisis: Panel and Experimental Evidence on the Political Foundations and Consequences of Social Trust*, PhD thesis, Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Committee: Sonja Zmerli, Francisco Herreros Vázquez, Gema García Albacete. External evaluators: Pedro Magalhães.

Non-peer-reviewed articles and volumes

- (2023) “L’opinione pubblica italiana e la guerra in Ucraina”, with Pierangelo Isernia and Claudio Cozzi Fucile, OSF, DOI: 10.31219/osf.io/x3dv7.
- (2021) “Public preferences for the COVID-19 Reopening Policies: An experimental assessment”, with Gianni Betti, Mattia Guidi, Pierangelo Isernia, Francesco Olmastroni and Paolo Pin, OSF, <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/XMF3Q>.
- (2020) “Gli effetti del Covid-19 sulla politica italiana” with Linda Basile, Rado Fonda, Mattia Guidi, Pierangelo Isernia, Francesco Olmastroni and Alida Spurio *il Mulino*.
- (2018) Political support as an evaluation: Democratic satisfaction and political trust indicators in comparative survey research, with Mario Quaranta, *European University Institute Max Weber Programme Working Papers*.
- (2014) Review article on “Gli Onorevoli. Cosa Fanno e Come ci Rappresentano i Nostri Parlamentari” (by Federico Russo), *Contemporary Italian Politics*, 6(1): 108-109.
- (2013) Los efectos negativos de la polarización política: Confianza social, partidismo e identidades nacionales/territoriales en España, with Mariano Torcal, *Anuario de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)*, 17: 333-353.

Datasets

- (2020) *Online Political Participation and Deliberation in a Democracy in Crisis: A New Methodological Approach (E-Dem) (2017-2020)*, with Mariano Torcal, Andrés Santana, Javier Lorenzo, Emily Carty, Melanie Revilla, Pedro Riera, Josep Maria Comellas, Daniela Tamayo. Mendeley Data, V2, doi: 10.17632/6bt6r8cn2r.2.

- (2016) [Crisis and challenges in Spain: Attitudes and political behavior during the economic and the political representation crisis \(CIUPANEL\)](#), with Mariano Torcal and Danilo Serani. Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (CSO2013-47071-R, 2014-2016, PI: Mariano Torcal).

CONFERENCE AND TALKS

2025

Conference of the Italian Political Science Association, University of Naples Federico II, Italy.

Conference of the European Consortium of Political Research, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

Conference of International Political Science Association, Seoul, South Korea.

2024

Conference of the Italian Political Science Association, University of Trieste, Italy.

European Consortium of Political Research General Conference, University College Dublin, Ireland.

Conference of Italian Standing Group on International Relations, University of Parma.

Polarization and Beyond: What Comes Next in Political Communication Research? International Conference, University of Bologna.

2023

Conference of the Italian Political Science Association, University of Genoa, Italy.

IPSA-AIPS 27th World Congress of Political Science 15-19 July, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

APSA, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles CA, USA.

V Conference of the Italian Scientific Society of Sociology, Culture and Communication (SISCC).

Conference of the Italian Association of Political Communication 8-10 July, University of Turin, Italy.

How do we feel about democracy? Results of the European Social Survey. Conference, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Southern Political Science Association, Mini Conference, Political Institutions and Elite Behavior 9: Experimental Approaches, St. Pete's Beach, Florida, US.

2022

36th Italian Association of Political Science, Department of Political Science, Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.

British International Studies Association Conference, Newcastle, UK.

17th European Union Studies Association, Miami, USA.

2020

Political Trust in Crisis Conference, TrustGov Project. [Web Conference](#).

2019

GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Science, Monitoring Society and Social Change, Köln, Germany.

5th Conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics, Loughborough University, UK.

APSA, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA.

2018

GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Science, Monitoring Society and Social Change Team Meeting, Mannheim, Germany.

2017

Political Behaviour Colloquium, European University Institute, Italy.

31st Conference of the Italian Association of Political Science, Department of Economy, Society and Politics, Laboratory of Political and Social Studies, University of Urbino, Italy.

2016

Italian Center of Electoral Studies (CISE), Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli - Luiss, Rome, Italy.

World Association for Public Opinion Research regional conference on “Political trust in contemporary representative democracies”, Barcelona, Spain.

2nd Barcelona-Gothenburg Experimental Political Science Workshop, International University Consortium Menéndez Pelayo, Barcelona, Spain.

2015

12th Conference of the Spanish Association of Political and Administration Science, University of Basque Country, San Sebastian, Spain.

68th Annual Conference of the World Association for Public Opinion Research, Tres de Febrero National University, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

2014

European Consortium for Political Research, General Conference, University of Glasgow, Scotland.

European Graduate Network Conference, Sciences Po, Paris, France.

2013

1st Southern European Conference on Survey Methodology and VI Congreso de Metodología de Encuestas, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain.

11st Conference of the Spanish Association of Political and Administration Science, Pablo de Olavide University, Seville, Spain.

27th Conference of the Italian Association of Political Science, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Florence, Italy.

2012

European Social Survey International Conference. European University Cyprus.

27th Conference of the Law Faculty Autonomous University of Madrid: “Identity, Rights and

Politics”, Autonomous University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain.

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROJECTS

2023-2027

Team Member: REDIRECT is a project funded by the EU’s Horizon-Europe programme. Call: HORIZON-CL2-DEMOCRACY-01-Democracy in flux. Grant Number: 101095142

2021-2024

Collaborator. EuComMeet: “Developing Participatory Spaces using a Multi-stage, Multi-level, Multi-mode, Multi-lingual, Dynamic Deliberative approach (M4D2)”, H2020-SC6-GOVERNANCE-2020.

2022-2023

Research collaborator. Progetto “PRIN2017 IPolHyS Investigating Polarization in Hybrid media Systems”, Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Bologna.

2019-2021

Team Expert. “European Social Survey round 10”, European Research Infrastructure Consortium.

2018-2022

Collaborator. “SecEurity Project ”European common defence and shared security in an age of brexit and trump”, finanziato dalla Volkswagen Stiftung.

2018-2022

Research member. “The study of the determinants and the effects of populism in Italy with survey and experimental methods” funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, code: 2272-2018-IA-PROFCMIUR_001, Department of Excellence 2018-2022. PI: Pierangelo Isernia, University of Siena.

2017-2020

Research co-director. “Online political participation and deliberation in a democracies in crisis: a new methodological approach” funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness: State Agency for Investigation (AEI) and European Regional Fund for Development (FEDER), code: CSO2016-79772-P. PI: Mariano Torcal Loriente, Pompeu Fabra University.

2013-2016

Research member. “Crisis and challenges in Spain: Attitudes and political behavior during the economic and the political representation crisis (CIUPANEL)” funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, code: CSO2013-47071-R. PI: Mariano Torcal Loriente, Pompeu Fabra University.

2012-2013

Research collaborator. “Design and Implementation of the sixth round of the European Social Survey in Spain” funded by the National program for internationalization of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, code: AIC10-A-2011-0672 (2011-2013). PI: Mariano Torcal Loriente, Pompeu Fabra University.

2012

Research collaborator. “European citizenship in Spain: Electoral behavior and political attitudes towards the European integration process” funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation, National plan I+D+I, code: CSO2009-14434 (2010-2012). PI: Mariano Torcal Lorient, Pompeu Fabra University.

2011-2012

Research collaborator. “Design and Implementation of the fifth round of the European Social Survey in Spain” funded by Implementation program for the international scientific infrastructures of the Ministry of Science and Innovation (mode A), code: AIC10-A-000399 (2010-2012). PI: Mariano Torcal Lorient, Pompeu Fabra University.

2011-2012

Research collaborator. “Research group on Public opinion, voting and survey methodology” funded by the Agency for University and Research Grants, Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain, code: 2009SGR1368 (2009-2013). PI: Mariano Torcal Lorient.

2011

Research collaborator. “Comparing Climate Change Policy Networks-Irish COMPON Project”, Geary Institute, Dynamics Lab, University College Dublin, Ireland. International research team led by Jeffrey Broadbent, University of Minnesota; Supervisor: Diane Payne, University College Dublin.

TEACHING AND OTHER ACADEMIC SERVICES

B.A. Course: Political communication (40 hrs) (in Italian) University of Siena, Italy	2025-
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B.A. Course: Methodology of social research (40 hrs) (in Italian) University of Siena, Italy	2024-
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M.A. Course: Research Design for the Intercultural Context (14 hrs) (in English) University of Siena, Italy	2022-2024
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M.A. Course: Global Comparative Politics (40 hrs in English) University of Siena, Italy	2024-
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PhD Course: Experimental Methods (3 hrs in English) University of Siena, Italy	2022-
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Adjunct Professor, B.A. course: Political Science (60 hrs in Italian) University of Siena, Italy	2019-2023
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M.A. course: Global Politics and International Relations (4 hrs in English) University of Siena, Italy	2018
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M.A. course Democracy in the EU (6 hrs in English) 2018
University of Siena, Italy

B.A. course “Political Parties and Interest Groups” (in Spanish) 2014-2016
Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain

Short Seminar on “Social research methods” (6 hrs in Italian) May 2013
Department of Economy, Society, Politics, University of Urbino, Italy

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale Professore di Seconda Fascia 14/A2 - SPS/04 - Scienza Politica - Associato (Accreditation for Associate Professor by the Italian Ministry of Research and University) since June 2020
Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca

Research Grant Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Science, “Fondo giovani ricercatori” (covering data collection) 2021

Research Grant Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Science, “Fondo giovani ricercatori” (covering participation to APSA conference) 2019

Research Grant Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Science June-November 2018
University of Siena, Italy

GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Science Grant June 2018
EUROLAB and Monitoring Society and Social Change, Germany

Best PhD paper award for *Trust across political conflicts* 2017
Department of Political and Social Sciences, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

UPF publication award 2016
Department of Political and Social Sciences, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

FI-DGR Pre-doctoral grant 2013-2016
Agency for University and Research Grants, Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain

EBES - Funding for short stays in other university departments 2012, 2013, 2014
Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain

Erasmus Student Grant 2008
University of Florence, Italy

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant *October 2011 - January 2013*
Research and Expertise Center for Survey Methodology
Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain

Research Intern *June - July 2011*
Geary Institute, Dynamics Lab
University College Dublin, Ireland

Research Intern *February - April 2009*
Sociolab and Department of Political and Social Sciences
University of Florence, Italy

Research Intern *October - December 2006*
Department of Political and Social Sciences
University of Florence, Italy

ASSOCIATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Political Science Association (2019-2020)
European Consortium for Political Research (institutional)
Italian Association of Political Science (2013-)
Spanish Association of Political and Administration Sciences (2013-2020)
World Association for Public Opinion Research (2017-2018)

REVIEWER

Comunicazione Politica, British Journal of Political Science; European Union Politics, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Political Studies, Political Behavior, South European Society and Politics

LINGUISTIC PROFICIENCIES

Italian: mother tongue
English: fluent
Spanish: fluent

COMPUTER SKILLS

Data Analysis
Advanced: SPSS, STATA, *Intermediate:* R-package
Economic experiments
Basic: Z-tree

Operative System
Microsoft Windows, Apple Macintosh OS X
Typesetting
 \LaTeX
Office utilities
Word, Excel, Power Point

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public opinion formation, Electoral behavior, Trust and social capital, Political parties in Europe, Political support, Political participation and media exposure, Political psychology, Populism, Mixed methods, Survey and experimental methods, Behavioral game theory, Quantitative data analysis.

In compliance with the Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 dated 30/06/2003, I hereby authorize the recipient of this document to use and process my personal details for the purpose of recruiting and selecting staff and I confirm to be informed of my rights in accordance to art. 7 of the above mentioned decree.

October 15th, 2025

Sergio Martini