

**SIGNED TODAY THE SPONSOR AGREEMENT FOR THE  
FASHION RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN MILAN to sustain young artists' career  
BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD FUND AND ACCADEMIA COSTUME & MODA**

Milan, 20 January 2023- The Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund Petr Mareš and Furio Francini, CEO of Accademia Costume & Moda, solemnly signed on Friday, 20 January 2023, at the Milan campus of Accademia Costume & Moda the **Sponsor Agreement to the Fashion Residency Program in Milan.**

Today's event with the participation of the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Italy Karla Wursterová, the Consuls General of Hungary, Poland and Czech Republic and the Honorary Consul General of the Slovak Republic in Milan sealed the **initiative of the Slovak V4 Presidency to create a programme for young artists and professionals from V4 countries** - Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic - interested in fashion and creative industry.

*"I am very pleased that today we are launching a concrete cooperation project between the Visegrad region and Italy, which focuses on connecting young creative people and on creating opportunities for their further professional life."* introduced the Slovak Ambassador Karla Wursterová the ceremony. As she added, *"just the opportunity to create in Milan, in this mecca of fashion, is inspiring in itself. Our young professionals will have the opportunity to soak up this atmosphere of creativity and receive valuable mentoring and lectures at the Accademia, Italy's most prestigious educational institutions focused on Fashion and Communication."*

During the residence, four artists will take part in the **educational programme at Accademia Costume & Moda campus in Milan and receive guidance by Accademia** on their own fashion creations and future career.

The programme will be implemented during the months of June and July and will be preceded by a **call for applications published by the International Visegrad Fund on 1 March 2023** and the selection of Fashion Residents by Accademia di Costume e di Moda Milano by the end of April.

*"If art has many varieties, fashion art in Italy has endless manifoldness. It is our intention to dive four young artists from Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia into the intensive environment of the Milan Accademia and help them find or multiply their own sparkles of creativity. The International Visegrad Fund supports art residencies in the region of Visegrad as well as in New York for more than ten years and remains dedicated to supporting young talents from our countries, helping them meet and network with professionals, specifically Italian fashion experts in this case. I am sure it will be a mutually beneficial experience and that art from our countries will become better known also in Italy,"* said Petr Mareš, Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund on this occasion.

The International Visegrad Fund is an international organisation based in Bratislava that supports academic and artistic mobility, common cultural, scientific research and educational projects, youth exchanges, tourism, and cross-border cooperation to develop closer cooperation among the Visegrad Group countries and to strengthen the ties among people in the region.

On 1 July 2022, the Slovak Republic assumed the Presidency of the Visegrad Group. The Visegrad Group founded in 1993 has a system of rotating annual presidencies, with Slovakia handing over the Presidency to the Czech Republic on 30 June 2023.

### **About Accademia Costume & Moda**

Accademia Costume & Moda (ACM) has an important history in the educational landscape in the Italian and international Fashion and Entertainment industries. Founded by Rosana Pistolese – a fashion and costume designer, journalist and academic, whose vision was to train and support the cultural heritage of the Italian Fashion and Costume industries with a unique and innovative approach based on the constant interaction between these two fields - the Accademia Costume & Moda was born in 1964 at the interest of the Ente Moda, by enactment of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (Ministerial Decree No. 26645/CF/1964) and under the patronage of the City of Rome and the National Chamber of Italian Fashion. The institution then became a nonprofit association in 1969 and was formally recognized in 1970 (Presidential Decree No. 620/1970). A leader in the fashion education sector in Italy and among the top three players in the same context internationally according to the ranking compiled by Business of Fashion, the Accademia Costume & Moda has trained from its origins to the present some of the most celebrated talents in the fashion system and in costume and entertainment. Following the opening of the new Milan campus in March 2021, between the two campuses in Rome and Milan there are currently more than 350 students attending the different academic degrees and more than 200 teachers and professionals teaching within the various courses, with more than 150 partner companies representing the various districts of the fashion supply chain (from big brands to "makers") and the costume and entertainment industry.

Ufficio Stampa:

Andrea Spezzigu

PERFECTOGETHER

[press@perfectogether.com](mailto:press@perfectogether.com)

+39 340 000 9665