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He contributed to create a network of networks of universities in 2004 around local economic development as part an ILO inter-regional programme (UNIVERSITAS) of which he was coordinator between 2001 and 2008. Following which he was appointed as Director of the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean until 2015.

He also served in West Africa and Latin America with UNESCO UNICEF and ILO.

He published on decent work agenda and sport as economic and social tool, skills development in sport, sport and tourism, ethics and local economic development and sport. He acted as ILO representative in the UN Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace since its inception in 2003 and contributed to the first ever Report by the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, in that capacity he also assisted the UN Special Adviser on Sport for development and peace.

A citizen of Italy, Giovanni studied in Rome and Paris, earning a Laurea cum laude four-year Bachelor's degree in International relations from the University of Rome La Sapienza, a Master's degree (DEA) from Sciences Po Paris in Soviet Studies, and a PhD in Development Economics from the University of Paris-X Nanterre.