

Giovanni Leonardi is Head of the Department of Human Health, Animal Health and the Ecosystem (One Health) and of International Relations at the Ministry of Health. He graduated in Political Science in June 1987 at the University of Catania and earned a Master of Arts in Economics and International Relations at the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University (Bologna 1988, Washington, DC, 1989). In 2018, he earned the Executive Master EMMAP at SDA Bocconi.

After winning the 13th Course-Competition of the Higher School of Public Administration, he joined the Ministry of Health as an official in December 1994. He has been a Senior Executive since 2001, following completion of the II Course-Competition for managerial training held by the same School (now the National School of Administration – SNA).

During his career, he served as Deputy Head of Cabinet (2003-2005 and 2011-2013). In September 2005, he was appointed General Director of Health Professions and Human Resources of the National Health Service; in September 2014, he was appointed General Director of Health Research and Innovation and, in May 2021, General Secretary of the Ministry of Health.

From April 2022 to June 2023, he served as Deputy Director of the Vaccination Campaign Completion Unit. From February to June 2024, he served as Acting (ad interim) Head of the Department of Prevention, Research, and Health Emergencies.