

Alessandro Pansa was born in Eboli in the Province of Salerno on 9 June 1951. He is married and has two sons. He graduated in Law from the "Federico II" University of Naples in 1973.

He joined the Italian State Police in 1975 as Public Security Deputy Commissioner. He began his career at Cosenza Police Headquarters, where he dealt with organized crime and terrorism. In 1982 he moved to Rome to join the Narcotics Squad, then the Criminal Police and the Central Directorate of Criminal Police in 1985, where he conducted major investigations into organized crime. In 1996 he became Director of the State Police Central Operational Service.

Appointed prefect in June 2000, he took on the role of Central Director of "Special" Police Operations, coordinating the Road, Rail, Border and Post & Communications Police. In July 2003 he took on responsibility for the Central Directorate of Immigration and Border Police for the Ministry of the Interior. He became Deputy General Director of Public Security (Deputy Chief of Police) in November 2005 as well as Central Director of Criminal Police (Criminalpol). On 4 January 2007 he was appointed prefect of Naples by the Council of Ministers. For a few months (from 6 July to 31 December 2007) he was also Extraordinary Commissioner for the waste emergency in the Campania region as well as Delegate Commissioner for the nomad settlement emergency in the Campania region from 31 May 2008.

On 30 August 2010 he took on the role of Director of the Department for Internal and Territorial Affairs at the Ministry of the Interior.

On 31 May 2013 the Council of Ministers appointed him Chief of Police – Director General of Public Security. He was named Head of DIS (Security Intelligence Department) on 29 April 2016.

He was retired from duty on 10 December 2018.

Grand Cross Knight in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, he has taught at the Police Academy, the School of Internal Administration and several universities. In 2000, he published "La Farina del Diavolo" together with Professor Donato Masciandaro, published by Dalai. He is the co-author of many texts on security.

From 2019 he is the Chairman of Sparkle and from 2022 of Telsy.