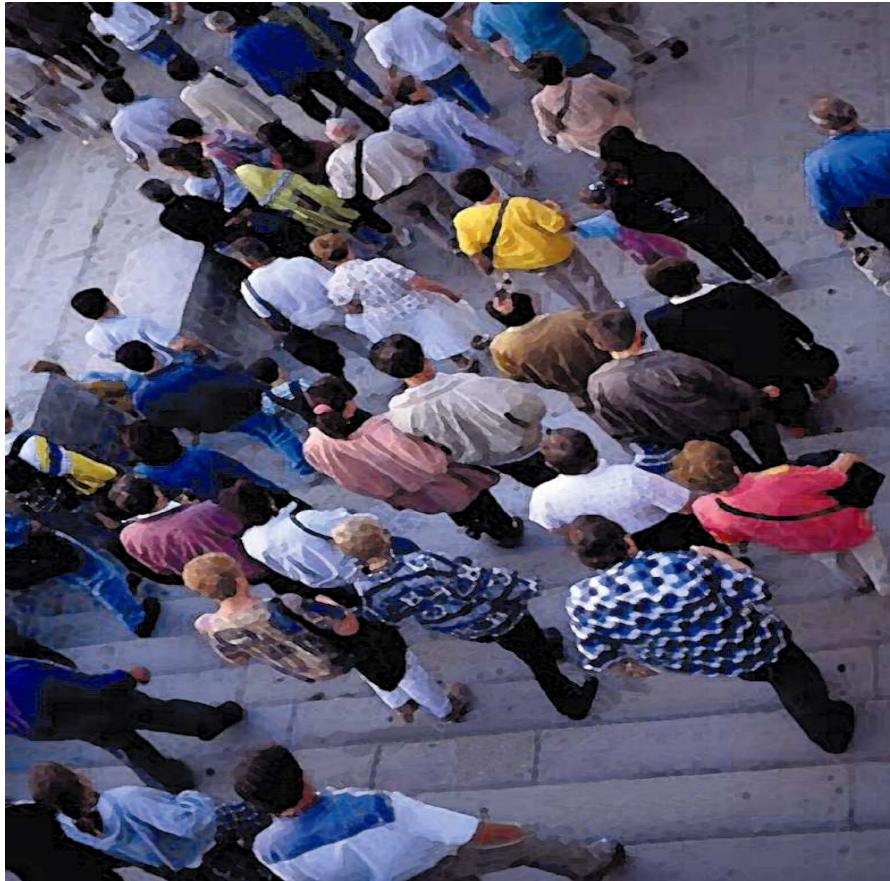


ITALIAN NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

European “*AIDS & Mobility*” Project



ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED FROM 1997 TO 2006

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INTRODUCTION:

The European Commission (Action against AIDS Programme), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) has been financing the 'AIDS and Mobility' Project from 1991 with the aim of starting HIV/AIDS/MST preventive intervention for mobile populations (immigrants, ethnic minority groups, refugees, truck drivers, homeless youths, soldiers and foreign born prostitutes) of the European Union. The Project, coordinated by the Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NIGZ) of Worden (Holland) will try to reach three main goals within the year 2009:

- Building a NFP Net in any member state to have a deeper vision of the European situation together with a closer look between different experiences.
- Identifying the specific needs of the migrant populations of EU Nations.
- Starting preventive intervention on HIV/AIDS/MST infections addressed to foreign citizens.

ITALIAN NATIONAL FOCAL POINT:

The Italian National Focal Point (NFP) was born in 1997 within the 'AIDS and Mobility Project'. This working group, coordinated by Anna Maria Luzi of Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, has been working together with Public Institutions, Non-Governmental and Volunteer Organizations with the aim of studying the migrant flows phenomenon associated with the health needs of foreign populations. In the last few years the growing flow of people coming from areas marked by poverty, famine and war, has caused a series of socio-cultural and health problems which involved both the health national system and the world of voluntary service on a larger scale. The cooperation between different structures and the specific members knowledge has enabled the Italian NFP to propose, on both national and international level, some epidemiological researches and projects on the field of HIV/AIDS prevention.

Particular attention has been also paid to migrating populations while precious training courses for psycho-social and health operators have been organised with special regard to transcultural approaches. Paying attention to migrating populations actually reflects the need to study the close relation existing between migration itself and health conditions; it is therefore essential to promote a multiethnic health intervention giving a wider knowledge of those cultural differences able to have an impact on foreign population's approach to individual health conditions or illness treatment.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS:

- "Creation Of a Net Among The NFP Of The Countries Of The Mediterranean area", financed by the European Commission for one year. (Scientific Responsible Giovanni Rezza, Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Rome) The research, developed in partnership with Greece, Portugal and Spain, has allowed to map the psycho-social and health structures that, in these countries, answer the health needs of foreign citizens, creating the basis for the constitution of a net between Mediterranean countries NFP.
- AIDS & Mobility – Working Group IV: “Undocumented migrants & people with an uncertain resident status living with HIV/AIDS in Europe”.

NATIONAL PROJECTS:

- “The Arianna Project”, financed by the 4th Social AIDS Research Plan for one year (Scientific Responsible Aldo Morrone, IRCCS "San Gallicano" - Rome), aims at creating a multicentric training net for linguistic and cultural mediators; the information will be precious for preventing the HIV/MST infections and it will also improve immigrants access to psycho-social and health services: clandestine and irregular foreigners as well as drug-addicted people or prostitutes will not risk being excluded from these vital services anymore. The project has allowed the professional and highly skilled training of multiprofessional equips engaged in granting aid to the growing immigrant population.
- Project: “Creation of a national net between those psycho-social and health structures granting aid to migrating populations with problems concerning HIV/AIDS/MST infection”, financed by the 4th Social AIDS Research Plan for one year (Scientific Responsible Nicola Petrosillo, INMI-IRCCS "Lazzaro Spallanzani"-Rome), financed. This investigation has allowed to map the governative and non-governative structures responsible for migrating populations in Italy comparing the various experiences played by the different structures themselves.
- Project: "Development of prevention programs to identify the health needs of foreign citizens concerning HIV/AIDS infection through the involvement of Italian National Focal Point", financed by the 5th Social AIDS Research Plan for one year (Scientific Responsible Anna Maria Luzi, Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Rome). The health investigation has allowed to analyse the health needs of foreign people.
- Project: “Socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics of a sample of foreign citizens with HIV” (Scientific Responsible Anna Maria Luzi, Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Rome).

The following national projects, developed in 2006 by the Italian NFP:

- Pr.I.S.H.M.A Project. “National Perspective and Multicentric Study for the evaluation of prevalence, incidence, risk factors and definition of HIV subtypes in migrating populations; analysis of antibody avidity” (Scientific Responsabile.Issa El Hamad, spedali Civili - Brescia). 6th national AIDS/ISS research plan.
- “Development of prevention programs aimed at identifying the health needs of foreign citizens regarding HIV/AIDS infection through the involvement of Italian National Focal Point (2nd year)”, (Scientific Responsible Anna Maria Luzi, Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Rome). 6th National AIDS/ISS Research Plan.
- “HIV/AIDS Risk Factors among Italian and non Italian Students; a psycho-social and behavioural study developed in Secondary and High Schools” (Scientific Responsible Vincenzo Vullo, University “La Sapienza” - Rome). 6th National AIDS/ISS Research Plan.
- Immigrants and HIV Prevention: a study on the evaluation of a leaflet campaign prepared by the Ministero della Salute with the collaboration of National Focal Point AIDS & Mobility, (Scientific Responsible Pietro Gallo, Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Rome). 6th National AIDS/ISS Research Plan.
- Transcultural Phone Counselling: Intervention Project aiming at HIV prevention in foreign people living in Italy (Scientific Responsible Dott. Anna Maria Luzi, Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Rome). Ministry of Health.

Italian National Focal Point has also played an important part in the Informative and Educative Campaign (2005-2006) promoted by the Ministry of Health and specifically addressed to foreign citizens.

Actually, such cooperation has allowed to elaborate a leaflet (content, language, graphic design) for the foreign population in Italy. The leaflet has been translated into seven languages (English, French, Spanish, Romanian, Russian, Chinese and Arabic) by cultural and linguistic mediators working in the Italian NFP organizations.

The Italian NFP also has an important role in the distribution of the informative material: 410.000 leaflets; as a matter of fact the individuals component of the net have the chance to make a capillary and effective distribution of the leaflet working in those structures whose access is often preferred by most of foreign people.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

The studies led by the Italian NFP have highlighted the necessity of focusing greater attention on formative interventions aiming to the creation of an integrated multiprofessional approach; updating the technical and scientific knowledge of the operators actually means giving an effective answer to the more and more complex health needs of the growing foreign population.

Some training activity experts - members of the Italian NFP - have therefore elaborated a new didactic methodology for the realization of formative ways turned to operators engaged in a multiethnic context. Such a methodologic approach is based on the principles and criterions of the andragogic model (Malcom Knowles) whose most important feature of the formative intervention is the operator experience as a person but also as a professional figure, a real learning subject within the whole process of relation with others.

Professional updating courses of 30/40 hours each have been therefore promoted and customised for multidisciplinary equipes (medics, biologists, psychologists, cultural mediators, social assistants and nursing personnel) coming from different Italian regions and working in both public and non-governative structures where foreign people access to.
14 – 16 November 2006: the course on “Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Young Migrant People”

Every year, Italian and foreign experts and moderators take part in the National Meeting organised in the Istituto Superiore di Sanità by the Italian NFP itself; a report is written and addressed to the European Commission with the aim of providing a portrait of migratory flux in our country. The real need actually is answering to the growing social and health needs of such a foreign population both on a national and European scale.

PUBLICATIONS:

Some publications of Italian NFP:

- ✓ Colucci A, Gallo P, Rezza G e Luzi AM (a cura di). Convegno del National Focal Point italiano. Infezione da HIV, AIDS e popolazioni migranti. Quali possibili interventi in ambito psico-socio-sanitario. Rapporti ISTISAN; 2006/29
- ✓ Colucci A, Gallo P, Carosi G, El Hamad I, Vullo V, Prestileo T, Petrosillo N e Luzi AM. Risposte fornite dalle strutture pubbliche ai bisogni di salute delle persone straniere nell'ambito dell'infezione da HIV e dell'AIDS. Atti della IX Consensus Conference sull'immigrazione - VII Congresso Nazionale SIMM Palermo, 27 – 30 aprile 2006. p. 329 – 332.
- ✓ Luzi AM, Colucci A. Il National Focal Point: un approccio transculturale a tutela della salute persona non italiana. *ReADfiles* 2006; 7(1):35.
- ✓ Luzi AM, Colucci A, Gallo P, El Hamad I, Vullo V, Prestileo T, Valli R, D'Agostini A. I Bisogni di Salute dei Cittadini Stranieri in Merito all'Infezione da HIV. Rapporti, ISTISAN Congressi 05/C1 pag. 308.
- ✓ Petrosillo N, Colucci A, Luzi AM, Gallo P., Palmieri F e il gruppo del National Focal Point italiano. L'intervento delle strutture pubbliche e non governative italiane nel rapporto tra popolazioni migranti e infezione da HIV. *Ann Ist Super Sanità* 2004;40(4):433-439.
- ✓ Italian NFP Working Group "AIDS e Mobility Project: activity report 2001 – 2002 of the Italian National Focal Point ", Rapporti ISTISAN;2003/47.
- ✓ Italian NFP working group "Access to care: privilege or right? Migration and HIV Vulnerability in Europe", pp. 74 – 87, *AIDS and Mobility*, October 2003. Edited by Georg Bröring, Chris Canter, Nicola Schinaia, Bryan Teixeira, NIGZ, Woerden, The Netherlands, 2003.
- ✓ Italian NFP Working Group "AIDS e Mobility Project: activity report 2000 – 2001 of the Italian National Focal Point ", Rapporti ISTISAN;2002/27.
- ✓ Luzi AM (a cura di) "Creation of a net among the NFP of the countries of the Mediterranean Area". Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italia), Netherlands Institute for Health, Promotion and Disease Prevention (Olanda) e Commissione Europea, 2001.
- ✓ Italian NFP Working Group "Immigration and Health: the Italian National Focal Point experience". *Ann Ist Super Sanità*, 2000;36(4):479–90.
- ✓ Italian NFP Working Group "Italy". In "HIV/AIDS Care and Support for Migrant and Ethnic Minority Communities in Europe", pp. 93 – 110, *AIDS and Mobility*, February 2000. Edited by Kris Clarke and Georg Bröring, NIGZ, Woerden, The Netherlands, febbraio 2000.
- ✓ Colucci A, Covre P, D'Agostini A, Gallo P, Geraci S, Kanieff M, Mayer R, Morrone A, Petrosillo N, Spizzichino L, Volpicelli S. "Italy". In *AIDS and STDs in Migrants, Ethnic Minorities and other Mobile Groups. The State of Affairs in Europe*, pp.133 – 156. *AIDS & Mobility*, June 1998. Edited by Jeannette de Putteu, NIGZ, Woerden, The Netherlands.
- ✓ Italian NFP Working Group "Immigration and Health: the Italian situation". *Ann Ist Super Sanità*, 1998;34(4):473–87.

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