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Supplementary Materials for

Searching for an alliance with journalism: a survey to investigate health literacy in Italy

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SUPPLEMENTAL METHODS M1

Variables entered in the first step of the backward stepwise selection for the multiple regression models.

All models were adjusted for age and gender as fixed terms.

Concerning the models including both journalists and general population: The first step included: nationality, geographical area, educational level, number of household components, currently worker/non-worker/student, economic situation, personal chronic disease or disability, family member with a chronic disease or disability, family member working in the healthcare field, work/study background (i.e. the categories: health journalists, non-health journalists who had personally written about medicine/health, journalists who had never written about medicine/health, general population).

Concerning the models including only journalists: Having personally written about medicine and having studied health communication or scientific dissemination through a course or other means were also fixed terms like age and gender. The first step included: nationality, geographical area, educational level, number of household components, currently worker/non-worker/student, economic situation, personal chronic disease or disability, family member with a chronic disease or disability, family member working in the healthcare field, working for a daily newspaper, working for a periodical, working as freelance, working for an online newspaper, primary area of specialization (politics; news report; education; science & medicine).

Concerning the models including only healthcare workers: The first step included: nationality, geographical area, educational level, number of household components, currently worker/non-worker/student, economic situation, personal chronic disease or disability, family member with a chronic disease or disability, family member working in the healthcare field.

Table S1

Characteristics of the journalists' subsample: overall descriptive analyses and stratified by the health literacy outcomes

		Journalists (n = 142)	SILS: inadequate HL			METER: low/ marginal HL			MDIT: non-passing HL		
			No (n = 107) N %	Yes (n = 35) N %	p	No (n = 21) N %	Yes (n = 119) N %	p	No (n =51) N %	Yes (n = 73) N %	p
Target groups	Health journalists	36 (25.4)	31 (86.1)	5 (13.9)	0.222	11 (30.6)	25 (69.4)	**0.007**	22 (73.3)	8 (26.7)	**<0.001**
	Non-health journalists who had personally written about medicine	56 (39.4)	40 (71.4)	16 (28.6)		7 (12.5)	49 (87.5)		16 (31.4)	35 (68.6)	
	Journalists who had never written about medicine	50 (35.2)	36 (72)	14 (28)		3 (6.3)	45 (93.8)		13 (30.2)	30 (69.8)	
Having personally written about medicine	No	50 (35.2)	36 (72)	14 (28)	0.494	3 (6.3)	45 (93.8)	**0.036**	13 (30.2)	30 (69.8)	0.072
	Yes	92 (64.8)	71 (77.2)	21 (22.8)		18 (19.6)	74 (80.4)		38 (46.9)	43 (53.1)	
Having studied health communication or scientific dissemination through a course or other means	No	97 (68.3)	73 (75.3)	24 (24.7)	0.969	11 (11.6)	84 (88.4)	0.100	30 (35.3)	55 (64.7)	0.051
	Yes	45 (31.7)	34 (75.6)	11 (24.4)		10 (22.2)	35 (77.8)		21 (53.8)	18 (46.2)	
Mean of communication*											
Communication agency	No	133 (93.7)	101 (75.9)	32 (24.1)	0.532	20 (15.3)	111 (84.7)	0.736	50 (43.5)	65 (56.5)	0.057
	Yes	9 (6.3)	6 (66.7)	3 (33.3)		1 (11.1)	8 (88.9)		1 (11.1)	8 (88.9)	
Press office (public institution)	No	127 (89.4)	95 (74.8)	32 (25.2)	0.659	18 (14.4)	107 (85.6)	0.566	47 (42)	65 (58)	0.564
	Yes	15 (10.6)	12 (80)	3 (20)		3 (20)	12 (80)		4 (33.3)	8 (66.7)	
Press office (private institution)	No	130 (91.5)	97 (74.6)	33 (25.4)	0.503	19 (14.7)	110 (85.3)	0.758	49 (43)	65 (57)	0.157
	Yes	12 (8.5)	10 (83.3)	2 (16.7)		2 (18.2)	9 (81.8)		2 (20)	8 (80)	
Press agency	No	137 (96.5)	105 (76.6)	32 (23.4)	0.062	21 (15.6)	114 (84.4)	0.339	50 (42)	69 (58)	0.327
	Yes	5 (3.5)	2 (40)	3 (60)		0 (0)	5 (100)		1 (20)	4 (80)	

Continues

Table S1
Continued

		Journalists (n = 142)	SILS: inadequate HL			METER: low/marginal HL			MDIT: non-passing HL		
			No (n = 107) N %	Yes (n = 35) N %	p	No (n = 21) N %	Yes (n = 119) N %	p	No (n =51) N %	Yes (n = 73) N %	p
Radio channel	No	131 (92.3)	98 (74.8)	33 (25.2)	0.604	21 (16.3)	108 (83.7)	0.147	48 (42.1)	66 (57.9)	0.456
	Yes	11 (7.7)	9 (81.8)	2 (18.2)		0 (0)	11 (100)		3 (30)	7 (70)	
Service	No	139 (97.9)	105 (75.5)	34 (24.5)	0.724	20 (14.6)	117 (85.4)	0.369	51 (42.1)	70 (57.9)	0.143
	Yes	3 (2.1)	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)		1 (33.3)	2 (66.7)		0 (0)	3 (100)	
Online magazine	No	114 (80.3)	85 (74.6)	29 (25.4)	0.659	13 (11.5)	100 (88.5)	**0.018**	43 (42.6)	58 (57.4)	0.493
	Yes	28 (19.7)	22 (78.6)	6 (21.4)		8 (29.6)	19 (70.4)		8 (34.8)	15 (65.2)	
Television channel	No	129 (90.8)	98 (76)	31 (24)	0.591	20 (15.7)	107 (84.3)	0.438	46 (41.1)	66 (58.9)	0.968
	Yes	13 (9.2)	9 (69.2)	4 (30.8)		1 (7.7)	12 (92.3)		5 (41.7)	7 (58.3)	
Daily newspaper	No	87 (61.3)	63 (72.4)	24 (27.6)	0.307	12 (14)	74 (86)	0.662	25 (32.5)	52 (67.5)	**0.012**
	Yes	55 (38.7)	44 (80)	11 (20)		9 (16.7)	45 (83.3)		26 (55.3)	21 (44.7)	
Periodical newspaper	No	114 (80.3)	85 (74.6)	29 (25.4)	0.659	14 (12.4)	99 (87.6)	0.077	39 (39)	61 (61)	0.325
	Yes	28 (19.7)	22 (78.6)	6 (21.4)		7 (25.9)	20 (74.1)		12 (50)	12 (50)	
Freelance	No	113 (79.6)	83 (73.5)	30 (26.5)	0.300	14 (12.5)	98 (87.5)	0.098	40 (40.4)	59 (59.6)	0.744
	Yes	29 (20.4)	24 (82.8)	5 (17.2)		7 (25)	21 (75)		11 (44)	14 (56)	
Other	No	137 (96.5)	103 (75.2)	34 (24.8)	0.806	20 (14.8)	115 (85.2)	0.750	49 (40.8)	71 (59.2)	0.714
	Yes	5 (3.5)	4 (80)	1 (20)		1 (20)	4 (80)		2 (50)	2 (50)	
Area of specialization*											
Politics	No	91 (64.1)	70 (76.9)	21 (23.1)	0.562	10 (11.2)	79 (88.8)	0.099	34 (42)	47 (58)	0.793
	Yes	51 (35.9)	37 (72.5)	14 (27.5)		11 (21.6)	40 (78.4)		17 (39.5)	26 (60.5)	
News report	No	96 (67.6)	75 (78.1)	21 (21.9)	0.268	15 (16)	79 (84)	0.650	35 (41.2)	50 (58.8)	0.987
	Yes	46 (32.4)	32 (69.6)	14 (30.4)		6 (13)	40 (87)		16 (41)	23 (59)	
Arts	No	106 (74.6)	82 (77.4)	24 (22.6)	0.341	10 (9.5)	95 (90.5)	**0.002**	40 (43.5)	52 (56.5)	0.367
	Yes	36 (25.4)	25 (69.4)	11 (30.6)		11 (31.4)	24 (68.6)		11 (34.4)	21 (65.6)	
Education	No	102 (71.8)	80 (78.4)	22 (21.6)	0.174	13 (12.9)	88 (87.1)	0.256	37 (40.2)	55 (59.8)	0.726
	Yes	40 (28.2)	27 (67.5)	13 (32.5)		8 (20.5)	31 (79.5)		14 (43.8)	18 (56.3)	
Sports and motor sports	No	110 (77.5)	85 (77.3)	25 (22.7)	0.325	18 (16.7)	90 (83.3)	0.310	50 (53.2)	44 (46.8)	**<0.001**
	Yes	32 (22.5)	22 (68.8)	10 (31.3)		3 (9.4)	29 (90.6)		1 (3.3)	29 (96.7)	
Agriculture	No	119 (83.8)	89 (74.8)	30 (25.2)	0.724	16 (13.7)	101 (86.3)	0.322	40 (38.1)	65 (61.9)	0.107
	Yes	23 (16.2)	18 (78.3)	5 (21.7)		5 (21.7)	18 (78.3)		11 (57.9)	8 (42.1)	
Business/Finance	No	119 (83.8)	90 (75.6)	29 (24.4)	0.861	16 (13.7)	101 (86.3)	0.322	40 (37.7)	66 (62.3)	0.062
	Yes	23 (16.2)	17 (73.9)	6 (26.1)		5 (21.7)	18 (78.3)		11 (61.1)	7 (38.9)	
Science and medicine	No	105 (73.9)	75 (71.4)	30 (28.6)	0.068	10 (9.7)	93 (90.3)	**0.003**	29 (31.2)	64 (68.8)	**<0.001**
	Yes	37 (26.1)	32 (86.5)	5 (13.5)		11 (29.7)	26 (70.3)		22 (71)	9 (29)	
Technology/ Computer science	No	111 (78.2)	83 (74.8)	28 (25.2)	0.763	14 (12.7)	96 (87.3)	0.149	35 (35.7)	63 (64.3)	**0.017**
	Yes	31 (21.8)	24 (77.4)	7 (22.6)		7 (23.3)	23 (76.7)		16 (61.5)	10 (38.5)	
Entertainment	No	116 (81.7)	89 (76.7)	27 (23.3)	0.423	19 (16.4)	97 (83.6)	0.315	47 (45.6)	56 (54.4)	**0.024**
	Yes	26 (18.3)	18 (69.2)	8 (30.8)		2 (8.3)	22 (91.7)		4 (19)	17 (81)	
Kitchen/fashion/ travel	No	127 (89.4)	98 (77.2)	29 (22.8)	0.145	19 (15.1)	107 (84.9)	0.937	49 (43.4)	64 (56.6)	0.105
	Yes	15 (10.6)	9 (60)	6 (40)		2 (14.3)	12 (85.7)		2 (18.2)	9 (81.8)	
Other	No	135 (95.1)	101 (74.8)	34 (25.2)	0.514	20 (15)	113 (85)	0.957	49 (41.5)	69 (58.5)	0.691
	Yes	7 (4.9)	6 (85.7)	1 (14.3)		1 (14.3)	6 (85.7)		2 (33.3)	4 (66.7)	

Table S2
Health literacy of journalists and general population compared with journalists whose primary area of specialization is medicine: simple regressions with poor health literacy as outcome (according to SILS, METER, and MDIT)

	SILS			METER			MDIT		
	OR	**95% CI**	**p**	**OR**	**95% CI**	**p**	**OR**	**95% CI**	**p**
Health journalists	Ref.			Ref.			Ref.		
Non-health journalists who had personally written about medicine	2.48	0.82-7.51	0.108	3.08	1.06-8.92	**0.038**	6.02	2.21-16.39	**<0.001**
Journalists who had never written about medicine	2.41	0.78-7.45	0.126	6.60	1.68-25.9	**0.007**	6.35	2.25-17.93	**<0.001**
General population	1.50	0.56-3.99	0.419	1.55	0.73-3.28	0.257	4.61	1.98-10.7	**<0.001**

Table S3
Multiple regression models in the healthcare subsample with poor health literacy as outcome (according to SILS, METER, and MDIT)

	SILS			METER			MDIT		
	adjOR	**95% CI**	**p**	**adjOR**	**95% CI**	**p**	**adjOR**	**95% CI**	**p**
Age	0.92	0.87-0.97	**0.004**	0.96	0.94-0.98	**<0.001**	1.00	0.98-1.02	0.904
Female	0.99	0.17-5.81	0.994	1.24	0.56-2.77	0.599	0.77	0.34-1.73	0.526
Northern Italy	Ref.			Ref.					
Central Italy	<0.001	-	0.999	0.29	0.03-2.47	0.259			
Southern Italy	<0.001	-	0.999	1.18	0.28-5.01	0.818			
Bachelor or Master's degree	Ref.			Ref.			Ref.		
High school or lower	8.29	0.84-82.33	0.071	2.29	0.66-7.93	0.191	3.86	0.98-15.24	0.054
Postgraduates degree	1.87	0.24-14.49	0.549	2.28	0.86-6.04	0.098	2.05	0.81-5.17	0.129
Worker	Ref.			Ref.			Ref.		
Non-worker	<0.001	-	0.999	3.41	0.51-22.64	0.205	1.37	0.12-15.59	0.801
Student	<0.001	-	0.998	0.19	0.04-0.88	**0.034**	0.28	0.07-1.13	0.075
Family member with a chronic disease or disability	0.62	0.1-3.79	0.601						
Insufficient/poor perceived economic status				2.23	0.99-5.03	0.052	2.75	1.16-6.56	**0.022**
Family member working in the healthcare field							0.47	0.21-1.08	0.074

Figures are expressed as adjusted Odds Ratios (adjOR) and 95% Confidence Interval (CI).