

Work package title: WP1: Prevalence and related social and economic costs

Presentation title: ASD Prevalence Study in Italy

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Update on activities:

- Pisa was selected as a geographical area where to develop the prevalence study in Italy. The total number of 7-9 years children who attend schools in this area is 10.138 (9.830 in public school and 308 in private school). The preliminary investigation showed that out of the 9.830 children attending public schools, 239 children were certified for disability. Out of these certified children, 61 have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder performed by a child psychiatrist (ratio: 1/161).

Pisa and province:

No child attends Special Schools: all pupils are included in regular classrooms;

The epidemiological study started with Teacher Nomination (TN) in April 2016 for teachers of the 157 Public Schools;

Target population: 10,138;

Support from local department of Italian Ministry of Education. Support from Parent's organization 'Autismo Pisa';

TN have been translated;

Public schools

46% of teachers filled the Teacher Nomination covering a population of 4086 children out of the total 9830). SCQ was delivered to the parents of these 4086.

342 children were Nominated. Out of these 342 children, 169 have also SCQ filled by parents and 6/169 have a SCQ score > 15 and 23 a SCQ score > 9;

Private schools (308 children)

In these schools only SCQ was administered. At the moment we have SCQ from the parents of 170 children (66%). 2 children have a SCQ score > 15 and 8 have a SCQ score > 9;

Key learning:

What worked well

High level of willingness from local department of Italian Ministry of Education, from many schools, as well as from parent organization.

We managed two meeting about ASD directed to the teachers in the schools of four area of Pisa in order to explain the phenotypic characteristics of children with ASD, to present the project and to answer to the questions of teachers.

What could be done differently

To improve the participation to the project from schools we will offer new meetings for teachers and parents explaining better the potential advantage in terms of family and children wellbeing.

Next steps:

A) Public schools

a. Reach the 173 SCQ of nominated children.

b. Organize new meetings for teachers who have not yet participated through the TN. in order to improve the number of TN and nominated children;

B) Private schools

Reach the SCQ of other 138 children;

- C) Administer ADOS to all children with SCQ > 9.
- D) Describe the 61 children yet certified as ASD from local neuropsychiatric services (in terms of autism severity; cognitive and adaptive level);