

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

**Presentation title:** Italy (North: Lecco-Monza-Brianza; Center: Rome; South: Palermo)

**Presenter:** Maria Luisa Scattoni, Coordinator of the National Observatory for monitoring ASD in Italy, Istituto Superiore di Sanità

**Update on activities:**

**Context:** The prevalence study will be performed in the three additional Italian areas through the funding of the Italian Ministry of Health ('Osservatorio Nazionale per il monitoraggio dei Disturbi dello Spettro Autistico' project).

Italy is performing the study using the SCQ lifetime as screening tool. The TN test will be used in parallel to validate the test but not for identifying potential cases. Since in Italy no Special Schools are present - all pupils are in inclusive classrooms – the screening will be performed in the mainstreaming schools.

Starting Screening in November-December 2016 (about 250 schools Primary Schools)

Target population: 15.000/each area approx.

**Progress**

- Three geographical areas have been selected based on the ASDEU criteria. A formal agreement between the ISS and the four clinical centers present in the areas have been signed.
- Expert team: three clinical psychologists have been hired to perform the screening and the clinical evaluation
- A formal agreement with the Giunti O.S. for providing the SCQ lifetime at a special prize has been signed
- A letter to the teachers and an Informed Consent for parents have been prepared and approved by the ISS Ethic Committee.
- "Teacher Nomination" has been officially translated in Italian by ISS and Stella Maris Foundation (ASDEU partner)

**Initial findings**

- To estimate a prevalence rate based on the certification data collected through the Italian Ministry of Education (MoE), we analysed data of children previously diagnosed by ICD-9 – 299.0 or ICD 10 – F84.0; F84.1, F84.5, F84.8 and F84.9. The MoE collect these information to assign a Teacher assistant according to the specific needs/functioning of the child. The mean prevalence rate/three Italian areas 1/155.

**Key learning:**

- ***What worked well***
  - Great support from Ministry of Health/Education.
- ***What could be done differently***
  - School calendar year should be considered. We had a three-month-stop during the summer.
  - Search collaboration with parent's organizations to increase public awareness toward the study.

**Next steps:**

- Organize the material (letters for teachers/teacher nomination and informed consent for parents/SCQ lifetime) and the power point presentation for the regular schools site visits.
- Giunti O.S. is going to provide their web platform for SCQ analysis
- Select schools and plan meetings with teachers and parents
- Administration of SCQ and TN: November-February 2016