Introduction of EU partner institutions: The University of Florence

Gianluca Villa M.D.

School of Medicine
Department of Health of Sciences
Section of Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care and Pain Therapy
University of Florence
The University of Florence

126 Degree courses organised in 10 Schools, with a population of about 51,000 enrolled students, one-fourth of which come from outside of Tuscany.
Pain management at the University of Florence was initiated in 1970 and has gradually expanded since then. The School of Medicine is the academic body responsible for the training, assessment, practice and continuing professional development of specialist medical practitioners in the management of pain. It supports a multi-disciplinary approach to pain management informed by evidence-based practice and research.

Tradition
Innovation
Continuous education

Pain management at the University of Florence was initiated in 1970 and has gradually expanded since then.

- Acute pain
- Chronic pain

School of Medicine
Postgraduated School in Anaesthesiology, Intensive care and Pain therapy
Pain management in Florence

University of Florence

Careggi Teaching Hospital

1,322 beds
15,200 hospital admission/yr
5,200 health care providers
The Pain Management Unit of Careggi Hospital in Florence offers a comprehensive range of services for patients dealing with acute or chronic pain problems. The team includes anesthesiologists, neurologists, surgeons, psychologists, physical and occupational therapists and nurse practitioners.

**Acute**
- Postoperative pain service
- Oncological pain service
- Outpatient pain service

**Chronic**
- Consultation and in-hospital pain service
- Outpatient facility care

Each year, the Pain Management Unit of Careggi Hospital provides care for more than 3,500 outpatients with acute, chronic, and cancer pain problems.
Pain management in Italy

Italian chronic and acute patients are treated on the “Hub and Spoke model” which provide different levels of complex assistance.

**Hub**
- High complexity interventions on an outpatient basis, hospitalization and day hospital

**Spoke**
- Responsible for making provision for diagnostic, therapeutic, pharmacological, instrumental and surgical interventions differently integrated to reduce pain and disability of assisted persons in outpatient center

**Regional Authorities**
- Peripheral practitioner
Pain management in Italy

Italian chronic and acute patients are treated on the “Hub and Spoke model” which provide different levels of complex assistance.

The three levels (Hub, Spoke and Regional authorities) are in direct contact, and interact in the diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitation pathway necessary to the patient, with a first triage performed by a general practitioner who, after listening to the patient, can send him towards the most proper structure to meet his needs.

continuity of care
Pain management in Italy

This model ensures the continuity of care of the patient from the hospital to their home, including in such network the whole set of health care facilities and identifying professionals dedicated to supply palliative care and pain control at all stages of the disease and for any type of patient.

The Italian Law 38/2010 to guarantee the access to palliative and pain treatments

"Measures to ensure access to palliative care and pain therapy"; this law represents a unique example of legislation in the Italian and European panorama.

This law, one of the first in Europe, protects at art. 1 "the right of citizens to have access to palliative care and pain therapy," and detects three networks of treatment dedicated to palliative care, pain therapy and pediatric patient.