

Developing Smoke-free Health Care Facilities in North-West Italy

Promoting healthy lifestyles among health care workers

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Background

In Italy smoking ban in hospitals exists since 1975. A survey, carried out in 2008 in eight Italian hospitals, showed that smoking ban in health care facilities was not adequately enforced. It also appeared that the proportion of health professionals who smoke was higher than general population. Smoking ban in Health Care Facilities is strategically important for providing care and also to promote citizen's health.

Why promoting the project?

Health professionals are a lifestyle' model for citizens. They may also play an important role in promoting health with patients, high risk groups, and healthy people. For this reasons **Cancer Network of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta** started a project for building an alliance of various organizations and professionals, active in prevention and health promotion..

Partners

Activities started in May 2012 through the collaboration of Cancer Network of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta (project funder), Regional Network of Health Promoting Hospital and Piedmont Center for Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention.

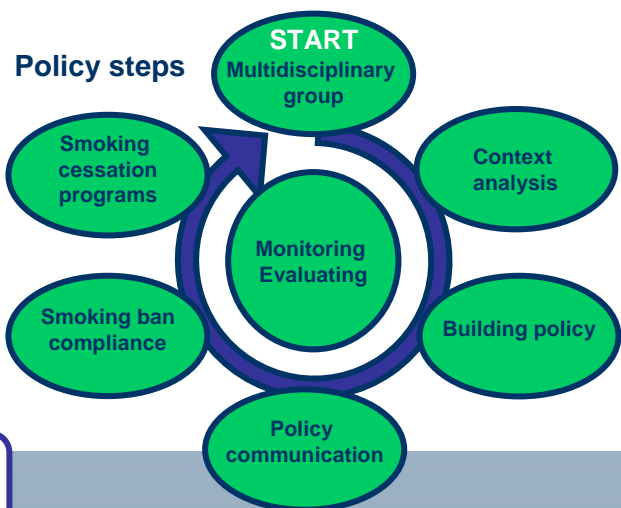
Aim

The aim of this project is to facilitate the activation of smoke-free policies in healthcare facilities in Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta, through the exchange of experiences and best practices.

How we're working

In order to share the instruments of the project and to define common recommendations for implementing the policy, professionals are attending a training program that will enable them (in December 2013) to create guidelines for smoke-free health care facilities. At the end of May 2014 organizations achieving every step of policy implementation will receive the initiative's logo.

Preliminary results. 13 on 20 organizations adhered to the initiative. In every organization working groups started to implement the project. Professionals pushed heads to approve smoking policy. In order to share experiences and resources specific initiatives (surveys, training, communications) were activated without any additional cost. Evaluation of the project's impact will be performed through data collected by occupational medicine on employees' smoking status. Environmental tobacco smoke will be observed with repeated surveys and data will be disseminated in order to create a critical mass on the topic



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