

“Public Health Policies – Training Romanian staff at Regional level to develop Public Health Policies (PHPRO)”

PHP ITALY – REGIONAL REPORT

Interviews with:

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Documents reviewed: Regional Health Plan

I. INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

The University of Perugia was involved in elaboration of all regional PHPs in Umbria together with the Regional Department of Health
Clinical governance is an important principle for the health system in Umbria.

WHAT?

Public Health policies at regional level can be either regulation (Regional Plans) Health Plan, Regional Community Health Plans, Regional prevention Plans, etc.) or programs. The latter are developed based on these plans. The most important is the Regional Health Plan. Each region has one. Examples are: Regional Health Plan, Regional Community Health Plans, Regional prevention Plans, etc.) These policies have to be effective and sustainable and its most important feature is universal access to care.

Based on the National Health Plan each region is mandated to elaborate its own regional health plan.

Typically, a regional health plan comprises the present normative framework, an analysis of the health system, health data and challenges in the region, specific objectives and actions (the organization of health services provision, health promotion and disease prevention, health networks and continuity of care, hospitals, emergency care, main morbidities and therapeutic methods, healthcare for vulnerable groups), special projects, new challenges and development, management instruments and methods and last but not least health resources. It is always correlated with other public policies (occupational health, environmental health, health promotion and prevention, healthcare delivery) or has its own provisions in these regards.

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II. PROCESSES QUESTIONS

1. The decision to make the new public health policy

WHO?

The Regional Department of Health decides upon the development of the PHP (Regional Health Plan). This is based on the national plan; it can be the same or augmented in case financing is available. The basic package defined by the national plan is mandatory.

The Regional Department of Health and other regional public institutions are the main stakeholders in the process.

HOW?

It is mandatory according to present regulation to develop a Regional Health Plan every 3 years.

The data used to justify actions/decisions is based on health data, health profiles, evaluation of health activities, health studies / surveys.

The regional health Plan is integrated with the Regional Development Plan, with the Territorial Directive Plan, with the Regional Plan for Environmental Action and with the Regional Integrated Social Plan.

2. The development of the public health policy

WHO?

The Regional Health Plan is developed by the Regional Health Department in collaboration with other regional public institutions and other public health experts. The stakeholders in the process are the Regional Department of Health, NGOs, and the health services providers.

Who works in developing the Regional Health Plan (conditions they have to comply with)?

HOW?

The human resources necessary for developing the Regional Health Plan are mainly provided by the Regional Health Department / Agency.

The University of Perugia provides data to support the elaboration of the Regional health Plan of Umbria region.

The selection of people for working in developing the Regional health Plan is based on their diploma, professional titles, written exam on theory and regulation of the health system, a practical epidemiological quiz, and an interview.

3. The approval of the public health policy

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WHO?

The Regional Council approves the Regional Health Plan based on concepts like appropriateness, quality, productivity, initiative.

Who are the stakeholders in the process?

HOW?

How is the Regional Health Plan approved?

Are there any rules you have to consider while approving a Regional Health Plan?

4. The implementation of the public health policy

WHO?

ASL and providers implement the Regional Health Plan.

The stakeholders in the process are the ASLs, the University of Perugia, NGOs, and professional associations

Who controls its implementation?

Who applies Regional Health Plan?

Who provides resources required for Regional Health Plan implementation?

HOW?

Based on the Regional health Plan the Regional Health department designs and develops programs which are further implemented by ASLs; examples of fields of interest: tumors, pain management, chronic care, food and healthrisks for occupational health.

The regional Health Plan is implemented according to local needs.

5. The monitoring of the public health policy outcomes / effects

WHO?

The ASLs monitor the PHP their programs / projects whereas the Regional department of Health monitors the implementation of the Regional Health Plan.

Who works in monitoring the Regional Health Plan (conditions they have to comply with)?

HOW?

The formal instruments (mechanisms) used to monitor the Regional Health Plan are health and epidemiological data, surveys, and research data from local and regional levels (examples).

How are people selected to work in monitoring the Regional Health Plan (skills and credentials)?

Are there any rules you have to consider while monitoring the Regional Health Plan?

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6. The evaluation of the public health policy

WHO?

The Regional Department of Health, evaluates the Regional Health Plan using external evaluation, internal evaluation and screening.

HOW?

Data (indicators) are the instruments and methodology used to evaluate the Regional Health Plan. (examples)

What kind of data (indicators) is used for evaluation (impact assessment)?

How are people selected to work in evaluation of the Regional Health Plan (skills and credentials)?

Are there any rules you have to consider while evaluating the Regional Health Plan?

A Conference is organized to present and debate publicly the outcomes of the implementation of the Regional Health Plan.

III. FINAL QUESTIONS

The strengths of the process are considered to be the reliability of data, and clinical detail (epidemiological methods).

The weaknesses of these processes are the low participation of professionals, the high costs, and the lack of political commitment.

The recommendations for a successful agency in charge of Regional Health Plan development consider the following factors: good information systems, motivation of professionals, dedication to profession, team work, political commitment.