

# Newsletter

2025/1



1.

THE “NATIONAL MULTILEVEL CO-MANAGED COORDINATION OF ACTIVE AGEING POLICIES” IN ITALY

2.

NEWECOSMART PROJECT ON CAPACITY BUILDING IN RURAL AREAS BROADENS TO METROPOLITAN AREAS

3.

AGE-IT MEETING IN ROME AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

4.

EHTEL: 2024 SYMPOSIUM

5.

THREE QUESTIONS TO MARC LANGE, EHTEL DIRECTOR

6.

FEATURED REFERENCE SITE: TUSCANY, UPDATED BY FABIO VOLLER

# National multilevel co-managed coordination of active ageing policies in Italy



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The social, economic and cultural challenges posed by an ageing population have become increasingly important over the years at the international level. As Italy is one of the countries with the highest percentage of older people among the population (24%) in Europe and in the world, the project “National multilevel co-managed coordination of active ageing policies” was developed in 2019 to help addressing these challenges by promoting active ageing (AA) as a prevention tool. The project was based on two three-year grants (2019-2021 and 2022-2025) between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for Family Policies, and the National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing (IRCCS INRCA) of Ancona. The main aim of the project was the

creation, implementation, and consolidation of a national coordination of active ageing policies in Italy, by adopting a multilevel and participatory approach. A main feature of the project was the creation of a network of stakeholders in 2019, by involving three main groups of stakeholders and consisting of approximately one hundred representatives of as many organisations: (a) representatives of national government bodies (Ministries and Departments at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers—PCM); (b) representatives of all regional governments and Autonomous Provinces (AP); (c) representatives of relevant national civil society organisations, pensioners’ unions, academia, and other stakeholders. As a second step, stakeholder networks same characteristics have been



## The “National multilevel co-managed coordination of active ageing policies” in Italy

Davide Lucantoni e Andrea Principi

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built at the regional level, in each region and Autonomous Province. Subsequently, an international framework has been adopted based on the 10 commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS) and 9 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030 - considered to be consistent with the MIPAA/RIS-to fully consider the multidimensional nature of active ageing.

During the first three-year period (2019-2022), the model based on the international framework and the stakeholders' network has been implemented by developing three main tasks: 1) an analysis of the state of the art of AA policies in different Ministries, Departments at the PCM, as well as in all Regions and Autonomous Provinces (AP), was carried out. As a result, a comparative national report was elaborated, from which it emerged that national policies consistent with AA aimed almost exclusively at increasing labour market participation and reducing public expenditure by postponing the retirement age. On the other hand, 12 Regions/AP had adopted regulations and norms dedicated to AA, albeit with different levels of implementation. Where such regulations were not in place, Regions and AP had developed policies in different spheres of AA; 2) based on the state of the art analysis, recommendations for policy making in the field of AA were elaborated; 3) to improve the state of the art by implementing the recommendations, policy objectives have been identified in each national and regional administration.

The second three-year period (2022-2025) continued along the path outlined, through: 1) regional conferences in all Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces, to disseminate the

results on the state of the art, and the policy objectives identified in each region; 2) regional workshops with representatives of regional governments and relevant regional stakeholders of the civil society, to identify the best strategies to implement regional policy objectives on AA in a mainstreaming ageing perspective, by adopting a participative approach; 3) the production of reports for each region, summarising the main results obtained during the previous activities, and the regional policy pathways towards the development or improvement of AA policies over time; 4) the organisation, as a cross-cutting activity, of one online meeting through which regional governments had the opportunity to discuss and share information on possible critical issues encountered or good practices developed when implementing active ageing policies.

The process established within the project has stimulated a multilevel governance and consultation with a heterogeneous stakeholders' group, which in Italy had never occurred otherwise. An important regulatory development recently took place with the enforcement of the Law no. 33/2023 “Delegations to the Government regarding policies in favor of older people” (which refers to AA in Art. 3) and of the related implementing decree no. 29/2024. These regulations are aligned with the international framework adopted in the project. Moreover, the identification of the Department for Family Policies at the PCM as the national governmental body of reference for AA (implementing decree no. 29/2024, Art. 6), could facilitate the implementation of the decree's provisions by exploiting the multilevel and participatory model created within the

project. In the medium to long-term, an effective implementation of these regulatory tools could favor the development of a systematic, multilevel and coordinated approach to the creation of AA policies, and the progressive harmonization of the different levels of implementation of regional policies for active and healthy ageing.

Progetto realizzato con il contributo del



**Dipartimento  
per le politiche della famiglia**  
Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri



**Istituto  
di Ricovero  
e Cura  
a Carattere  
Scientifico**

# NewEcoSmart project broadens to metropolitan areas

From Countryside to Cityscape: NES Project Expands Its Vision, Uniting Rural and Urban Leaders in Naples to Drive Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Across Italy

NES community gathered in Naples to launch its open training platform (<https://newecosmart.eu/>) and strengthen the engagement of municipality stakeholders in the training provided by NES platform. This stakeholders meeting took place in the afternoon of January 29, 2024, at the Department of Architecture of Federico II University in Naples. The event was specifically organized to share NES results and to explore opportunities for expanding the NES network in Italy.

To facilitate this discussion, Federico II Department of Public Health and Department of Architecture invited several key speakers,

representing both project partners and potential new stakeholders. Among the participants there were representatives of the NES Project, such as Ayuntamiento de Yecla, AD ELO – Associação de Desenvolvimento Local da Bairrada e Mondego and the Majella Madre Community, but also several other Italian local administrators and organizations interested in joining the initiative:

- Ciro Buonajuto, Mayor of Ercolano
- Luigi Mennella, Mayor of Torre del Greco
- Josi Gerardo della Ragione, Mayor of Bacoli
- Stefano Pisani, Mayor of Pollica

- The non-profit association Salute in Collina involving many GPs



## The round table

development strategies at both local and national levels.

Discussions also focused on the scalability of the NES model, its potential synergies with existing urban and rural regeneration projects, and ways to engage local communities more effectively in the transition toward a greener and more inclusive economy.

This meeting marked an important milestone for the NES Project, launching NES Platform in Italy, reinforcing the bridges between local, national and international communities and strengthening collaborations aimed at promoting sustainable and equitable development.



## NES delegation site visit in Bacoli

The round table discussion was chaired by Prof. Maddalena Illario and Prof. Lorenzo Mercurio from Federico II Department of Public Health. The participants shared their experiences and discussed how green, digital, and entrepreneurial skills could contribute to reducing social and territorial inequalities. The debate was not limited to rural areas but extended to metropolitan areas and urban suburbs, highlighting the broader impact of the NES Project initiatives also on medium-small businesses.

The meeting fostered a fruitful exchange of ideas among participants, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and policy integration to enhance sustainable



## NES Open Community



# Age-it meeting in Rome at the Ministry of Health with key stakeholders

Age-it Event in Rome Highlights New Vision for Ageing, Demographic Challenges, and a More Inclusive Future for All Generations



**Orazio Schillaci, Maria Rosaria Campiello, Maria Teresa Bellucci, Sandra Gallina, Alessandra Petrucci**



**Daniele Vignoli, AGE-IT Coordinator**

Last January 14th in Rome at the “Cosimo Piccinno” Auditorium of the Ministry of Health, an important national Age-it event took place, with a focus on: “AN INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE POPULATION. Prevention, Active Ageing and Positive Demography”.

Thinking about an Institute where a new society, inclusive for all ages and with intergenerational justice could be enhanced and built: this was the main theme of the meeting.

Italian demography is exceptional: thanks to our health care system we live longer and in better health than others, but we also have fewer children than other countries. This Italian demographic exceptionalism creates one of the oldest population structures by age in the world, in which the proportion of older adults on the total population have the greatest impact.

The vision that has been given so far of aging is an extremely dark, pessimistic vision. People talk about a demographic winter, empty cradles, a population “boom”; thus conveying a sense of little hope and inevitable decline.

We need to change the narrative and vision. We need to build new policies and intervention actions for a new society. For that, we need to unite skills and disciplines in an Italian Institute for the Future of the Population: Italy should become an international scientific hub for research on aging; an “empirical laboratory” in the biomedical, socio-economic, and technological fields to promote an inclusive society for all generations. Starting from research, data, and a holistic, interdisciplinary, problem-solving approach to improve prevention and quality of life for the older adults and their role in society (silver ecology); identifying strategies and treatments for healthy longevity that

can effectively prevent, delay, or slow down age-related and chronic diseases; identifying policies and measures aimed at new generations, fertility, and birth rates. The event was attended by the distinguished keynote speakers Maria Rosaria Campiello, Head of the Department of Prevention, Research, and Health Emergencies – Ministry of Health, Alessandra Petrucci, President of Age-it and Rector of the University of Florence, Daniele Vignoli, Professor of Demography University of Florence; Scientific Coordinator of Age-It; President of the Italian Association for Population Studies. The complete agenda of the event with the speakers is available at the following link:

[FOR DETAILS](#)

[FOR AGE-IT](#)

# EHTEL: 2024 Symposium



The 2024 EHTEL Thought Leaders Symposium featured seven sessions and four EU co-funded supporting projects, involving as knowledge partners xShare, BeWell, COMFORTage, LAUREL, 30 moderators and speakers and over 80 attendees on site.

On 4 December 2024, EHTEL Chair Donna Henderson from NHS National Services, Scotland welcomed not only EHTEL members but also friends from across the community. The whole day focused on why, in the field of digital health, where the only constant is change, looking back at the 'where' and 'why' it all started is crucial to creating a better future.

The opening session of the day focused on policy and leadership from a European perspective, with two keynote speakers.

In the second session, five EHTEL members explored the past and present of digital health and its impacts. The session concluded with insights into the experiences of a collaboration platform, EHTEL itself.

The third session looked to the future: three

speakers focused on projects and initiatives where digital health will act as an enabler of transformative effects when integrating data and services for better prevention, diagnosis and care.

The fourth session continued to look ahead in time. Once implemented, the European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation will interconnect primary and secondary uses of health data.

The fifth session explores what the future holds for the health and care workforce. The goal is to optimize the current and future conditions of the workforce through the use of data and digital health.

Session 6. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly seen as revolutionizing healthcare through early detection, advanced diagnosis, personalized treatment and predictive power.

During the final session of the Symposium, the speakers considered what the implementation and policy priorities of digital health and care will look like in 25 years.

This closing session drew on the insights of experienced leaders from the European Commission, regional governments and industry

## FOR DETAILS

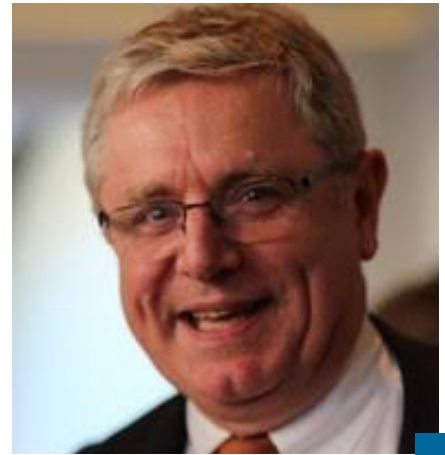


Maddalena Illario, UNINA



# Three questions to Marc Lange, Ehtel Director

Maddalena Illario, UNINA



Marc Lange, EHTEL

## 1.

Ehtel 2024 Symposium focused on the ongoing changes in the digital health field, providing the opportunity to reflect at the “where” and “why” it all started is crucial for creating a better future. What in your view is the most important take-home message emerging from the Symposium?

Actually, the EHTEL community of Members is an implementer one, hence, we didn't reflect on “where” and “why”, but on “how we did it” and “what are the lessons to learn from it”. As one of the most important take home messages, I would retain the importance of a legal policy framework to act as a digital transformation enabler. To illustrate this, I would refer to the enthusiasm of the research and innovation community of Europe about the new EHDS Regulation. To illustrate another take home message, I would say that to achieving digital transformation, we need 20% of technology and 80% of organizational transformation.

## 2.

Can the digital transformation of health really happen across Europe at the same time? Which are the gaps across the EU hindering the digital transformation of health and care?

It already happens everywhere, of course not at the same pace and with the same priority everywhere; health care systems are different, policy priorities need to address local needs and capabilities, and the digital maturity differs from regions to regions. I don't see this as a bad situation. Of course, cross-border data sharing suffers from such a situation, but Creation required 7 days, isn't it? The most important impact of that diversity is probably the fragmentation of the market. Hence, once again, the EHDS Regulation is an example of how to reduce market fragmentation. More efforts like this one are necessary.

## 3.

The fifth session of the Symposium focused on how to encourage Europe to think and act big: considering the current threats to investments in the EU, what could we do to mitigate the impacts on the digital transformation of health and care?

The fifth session was about the need for a digitally skilled health workforce as a key condition for digital transformation at scale. Your question is however a good one. I think that in the anxiety-provoking context we are in, a policy consensus is needed on the fact that Europe competitiveness needs also to rely on a healthy environment for its population and this is enabled by a sound and matured digital transformation of its health and care systems.

# Featured Reference Site: Tuscany Updates by Elisa Scopetani

**Maddalena Illario, UNINA**

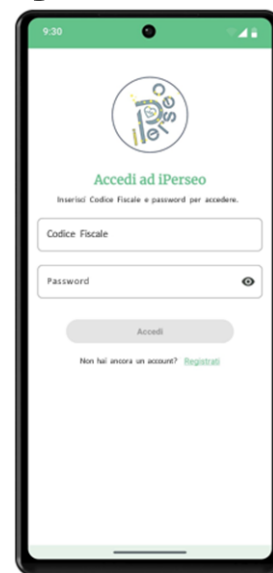
Tuscany RS has been driving a national consortium funded through the CCM instrument of the Italian MoH, and involving Calabria, Veneto and Federico II University to develop a preventive diagnostic therapeutic pathway for obesity in the younger populations.

The team focused on co-creating an innovative approach to address the first level of the pathway, focused on primary prevention. In collaboration with 2 high schools and with Scuola Italiana Comix, the team cocreated an app providing

guidance to teen agers for healthy nutrition and lifestyles. The students also collaborated to create 2 minigames helping to strengthen the interactive features of the app according to their tastes and preferences.

All tools are available for testing through the project website:

**IPERSEO WEBSITE**



## Tree questions to Fabio Voller,

**Regional Health Agency of Tuscany,  
Epidemiology Observatory Coordinator**



**Fabio Voller**

### 1.

**Which challenges did you face when implementing iPerseo?**

Implementing iPerseo involved several challenges, particularly related to delays caused by interregional disparities in addressing adolescent overweight and obesity. The project faced difficulties in aligning procedures and integrating digital solutions across different territories. Additionally, there was a significant challenge related to the recruitment and training of healthcare professionals, essential for testing segments of the integrated care pathways (PDTA), requiring a project extension to overcome these initial delays.

### 2.

**What do you think are the most innovative features of iPerseo?**

The most innovative features of iPerseo include the comprehensive digital application developed with the active involvement of adolescents. This app integrates lifestyle questionnaires, biometric tracking (such as weight and height), personalized nutritional guidance, and interactive features like gamification and visual signaling (traffic-light system) to highlight critical areas needing attention. The collaborative design process involving students and educational institutions significantly enhanced the app's appeal and usability among the target demographic.

### 3.

**Do you think that iPerseo has potential for scaling up?**

Yes, iPerseo clearly shows potential for scaling up. The structured approach combining digital tools with healthcare interventions provides a replicable model for other regions. The pilot projects in Campania, Toscana, Calabria, and Veneto demonstrate that the system can be adapted to different regional healthcare contexts, indicating significant scalability potential. The established network and documented procedures, including comprehensive PDTA guidelines and digital integration, support further dissemination and implementation at a broader scale.



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