

The contribution of Italian national federation of radiographers and technical, rehabilitation and prevention health professions (FNO TSRM & PSTRP) and the reference research centre SAPIS - studies and action for innovation in healthcare at the 18th European patients' rights day 2024

"THE KEY ROLE OF HCPS FOR A HEALTHIER EUROPE. Combining the protection of patients' rights with skills shortage, medical desertification, and job strain"

Regarding the national survey jointly developed by your organizations and Cittadinanza attiva and the theme of job strain, what reflections have been prompted within the organizations you represent?

The results of the survey conducted in Italy in collaboration with Cittadinanza Attiva have offered some interesting food of thought to be brought to the attention of Italian and European politics, in support of the current reform process of the NHS. Summarizing the survey data, around 60% of health professionals affirmed that they are daily committed to ensure high levels of quality in the services provided, focusing on their training and empathy, despite the heavy workloads and the unsatisfactory remuneration in relation to the responsibilities assumed.

The privileged perspective of the Italian national healthcare system by Italian National Federation of Radiographers and Technical, Rehabilitation and Prevention Health Professions (FNO TSRM & PSTRP), representing 18 of the 30 recognized Italian health professionals (around 170.000 professionals), underlines the importance of developing in collaboration with specific offices of the European Commission a comparative comparison tool that allows to know, which profession is responsible for a specific area of competence in response to a specific health need for each Member State. This is in order to have objective elements on the basis of which to evaluate national panoramas of healthcare professions and understand if and where rationalization is applicable having a robust comparator to look at, evaluating the pros and cons of different solutions.

The scope is to enforce the opportunity to establish multi-professional as well as international collaboration networks aimed at identifying shared challenges and collaboratively pinpointing comprehensive solutions. This network may be interested to various areas, such as training initiatives or the development of predictive models for assessing the requirements of health professionals. We have been already involved, for example, in the joint action HEROES and we would like to develop other joint actions, as proposed, to manage together common challenges.

In recent years, the standardization of health professionals' competences is one of the main topics of interest at the European level and within the FNO TSRM & PSTRP. The current internal discussion on this topic is oriented towards the purposes of the acted actions by health professionals rather than the specific tools they employ. In fact, acted competences qualify a recognized health professionals and not the used tools because they can/must be shared within multi professional working group.

This reflection naturally encourages a European dimension for healthcare professions, fostering greater formative, experiential, and research mobility.

From the research center SAPIS perspective, this topic not only opens to new and compelling research opportunities but also provides the chance to initiate the establishment of a European interprofessional network focused on the collaboration among European health professionals for the mutual knowledge of contexts and the exchange of experiences.

So, a heartfelt appeal to Italian political-health decision makers and to the European one is to give value to the human factor within health sector as the most important available resource. Please, also remember us, the technical, rehabilitative and of prevention health professionals who are daily involved in prevention campaigns, diagnostic processes, and clinical pathways, and research with our more spready known nurses, physiotherapists, and midwives.

European health decision makers jointly will work hard for the wider recognition of all health professionals by public opinion because of their daily commitment to be close as much as possible to assisted people, ensuring the best response to public's unlimited health needs with limited resource.