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EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
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ASOCIAȚIA EUROPEANĂ A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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ITALY COUNTRY REPORT 2021 FOCUS ON COVID-19

Italy was the first European and the second worldwide country to be hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020.

The rapid increase in cases and the high percentage of mortality, also in relation to the reduced screening capacity in the first phase of the epidemic, with the hospital inpatient and intensive care beds rapidly running out, led the Italian government to rapidly issue a series of implementing decrees in which the restriction measures became progressively more strict and extended to the entire national territory, up to the protracted lock down phase of almost 3 months (from 9 March to 3 May 2020).

The descent of the epidemiological curve led to a progressive relaxation of the restrictive measures until August 2020, when, following the rise in the contagion curve and in anticipation of a second wave of the virus, subsequent restrictive decrees were issued.

With the measures introduced starting from November 2020 the Italian Regions have been grouped into three types of different epidemiological scenarios (red, orange and yellow zone), with the adoption of more or less restrictive measures depending on the scenario. With the decree-law n. 52 of 22 April 2021, the state of emergency has been extended until 31 July 2021. The decree also establishes a calendar of gradual reopening for the yellow areas and establishes the green COVID-19 certification for people vaccinated against SARS-CoV -2, who have recovered from COVID-19 or who have performed an antigen swab test with negative results.

Data form COVID-19 integrated surveillance in Italy (Source ISS) CUMULATIVE DATA (February 2020-April 2021)

Cases of confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection reported in Italy	4,032,008
Cases among healthcare workers	133,050
Deaths (Case-Fatality Rate)	119,904 (3%)
Recovered	3.222.490

The Covid-19 epidemic is and remains a mainly health problem, determined by a progressive weakening of the health system, which in recent decades has seen a significant cut in health personnel and in hospitalization and intensive care places, that is not capable of withstanding the shockwave of a pandemic.

Medical staff, on the front line against the Covid-19 epidemic, have been hit hard. To date, 359 Italian doctors have fallen during the pandemic. Their names are listed in the memorial list published on the portal of FNOMCeO: <https://portale.fnomceo.it/elenco-dei-medici-caduti-nel-corso-dellepidemia-di-covid-19/>

To honor the work, commitment, professionalism and sacrifice during the Coronavirus pandemic of the one and a half million workers operating in the health and social sector in Italy, the Italian Parliament has established by law the National Day of health professionals and social workers on February 20 of each year (the day on which "patient one" was discovered at the Codogno hospital).

On 20 February 2021, at occasion of the first National day of the health professionals and social workers, FNOMCeO organized a memorial ceremony in Rome and Codogno to the presence of the highest offices of the Italian State: two commemorative plaques was unveiled at FNOMCeO siege and at Codogno Hospital from FNOMCeO and CPME, to commemorate European health professionals who lost their lives due to COVID-19.

National COVID-19 Vaccination Plan

December 27, 2020, the so-called "Vaccine day", is the date that marked the official start of the vaccination campaign against COVID-19 throughout Europe. In Italy, the actual distribution of the vaccine began on December 31st.

The first to be immunized against the virus were health workers and residents of RSA (residential care homes). Vaccination then continued in accordance with the following order of priority:

- Over 80s;
- People with high frailty and their cohabiting family members and caregivers;
- People aged between 70 and 79 years and, subsequently, those aged between 60 and 69, using mainly Vaxzevria vaccines (previously called COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca) as indicated by AIFA.
- Starting from 10 May, vaccinations for over 50s will be open.

The following categories were also identified as priorities, regardless of age and pathological conditions:

- School and university staff;
- Armed forces, police and public aid;
- Prison police and staff, inmates.

Approximately 23 million doses of vaccine have been administered to date, mainly Pfizer (17.796.870), followed by AstraZeneca (6.565.080) Moderna (2.217.900) and Janssen (336.800). The goal is to vaccinate the total population by September 2021.

FNOMCeO Election:

In March 2021 the FNOMCeO elections took place. The results confirmed the previous executive and dr. Filippo Anelli as FNOMCeO President.