



Facts about Italy

Capital:	Rome
Official languages:	Italian
Ethnic groups:	Italian 96%, North African Arab 1%, Others 3%
Government:	Unitary parliamentary republic
Area:	301 338 km ²
Population (2010):	60 605 053
EU accession:	25 March 1957

il progetto cuore

Osservatorio Epidemiologico Cardiovascolare/Health Examination Survey, 2008-2012



HES in Italy

Regional and national health examination surveys have been carried out since the early 1980's. The Osservatorio Epidemiologico Cardiovascolare (OEC) was first carried out between 1998-2002 and the second OEC is now ongoing in Italy.

The survey got started in 2008 and will be finished by the end of 2012. For each of the 20 regions, one or two centres have been selected. A sample of 9020 persons aged 35-79 years is selected.

The fieldwork staff (nurses and physicians) are from the local hospitals. They are trained for survey measurements before and during the first days of the fieldwork.

In addition to the EHES core measurements, hip circumference, bone density, spirometry and ECG are measured, in most regions also carbon monoxide. 24-hour urine samples are collected and the EPIC food frequency questionnaire is administered.

Additional items in the interview cover physical activity, alcohol intake, additional medical conditions and medication. For participants aged 65 and over the MMSE is included. ADL/IADL questions are self-administered.

An invitation letter with the information notice is mailed to selected persons with an appointment time. After not showing up after the second invitation, a phone call attempted. If, after three attempts, a person refuses to participate or could not be contacted, he/she is considered as a non-respondent.

The survey is funded by the Ministry of Health and the National Association of Hospital Cardiologists. A good collaboration with cardiologists and GPs is considered important. There are no fixed plans for the next national HES in Italy.

See <http://www.cuore.iss.it/eng/default.asp>



Central team in Rome, with visitors from the EHES RC, Helsinki: Francesco Dima, Päivikki Koponen, Grazia Rago, Hanna Tolonen, Susanna Conti, Mark Kanieff, Luigi Palmieri, Chiara Donfrancesco, Cinzia Lo Noce, Simona Giampaoli



People waiting for the examination



Fieldwork team in Brescia: Simona Giampaoli, Silvia Pezzetta, Elisa Locatore, Olga Cinelli, Marytess Arcena, and Gloria Belleri (in the front)



Storing blood samples into straws