

Evolution of health promotion good practices evaluation system in Italy

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Health promotion effectiveness is increased through the adoption of a systematic and critically reflective approach to practice.

Successful evidence-based HP must rely not only on robust scientific evidence but also on a process ensuring appropriate contextualization, a selection of effective methodologies and the development of a guidance for action appropriate to the local context, as well as an impact evaluation once the guidance have been put into practice.

In Italy an active system to collect and validate best practices has been developed over the last 10 years¹, mainly, but not only, limited to the analysis of the projects developed within the Regional Prevention Plan; focus has also been placed to cross-sectoral and multi-risk interventions, oriented to an "Health in all policies approach".

We define 'good practice' in accordance with the definition by Kahan B., M. Goodstadt² as "those sets of processes and activities that are consistent with health promotion values, goals, ethics, theories, beliefs, evidence, and understanding of the environment and that are most likely to achieve health promotion goals in a given situation"

Our system is aimed to

- highlight strength factors for the effectiveness of an intervention
- promote sustainability and transferability in other settings or contexts
- build a professional network (community of practice) in the field of health promotion and disease prevention.

The system was originally based on a set of 18 criteria (Each criterion is composed of different items): working group, equity, empowerment, involvement, setting, theoretical models, evidence and good practice examples, context analysis, determinants of health, resources, objectives, activities description, process and outcomes evaluation, sustainability, communication, documentation.

After reflection and discussion with colleagues from various fields (Joint action Chrodis, Chrodis Plus and Janpa, CompHP project) we modified and developed a new set of criteria and procedures. Here we want to describe the main results obtained up to now and discuss the strenghts and weaknesses of the work done.

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¹ http://www.dors.it/el_bp.ph

² Health Promotion Practice , 2001, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 43-67