

Position Paper

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COMMITTEE: WHO (World Health Organization)

COUNTRY: Italy

AGENDA: Leaving no one behind



Italy, a European country with a long Mediterranean coastline, has left a powerful mark on Western culture and cuisine. The health care system in Italy is a regionally based national health service known as Servizio Sanitario Nazionale (SSN). It provides free of charge universal coverage at the point of service. While the national level ensures the general objectives and fundamental principles of the national health care system are met, regional governments in Italy are responsible for ensuring the delivery of a benefits package to the population. Health care facilities vary in terms of quality in different regions of Italy. In 2013, Italy hosted an expert consultation on public health aspects of migration in collaboration with WHO/Europe. Italy was the first Western country to be heavily affected by COVID-19. The government and community, across all levels, reacted strongly and turned around the trajectory of the epidemic with a series of science-based measures. The Italian government has donated €350 000 to help WHO strengthen health care capacity at points of entry to stop the spread of COVID-19 among migrants and other vulnerable groups. The Italian state runs a universal public healthcare system since 1978. However, healthcare is provided to all citizens and residents by a mixed public-private system.