



## Università degli Studi di Trento

November 22nd & 23rd 2013



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
DI TRENTO

### *Beyond the Economic, Social and Political Crisis: The Role of Healthcare Systems*

*Call for Abstracts*



## Conference Theme

With the 2013 National Convention, the AIES invites researchers and practitioners to consider the impact of the global financial and economic crisis that began in 2007 on the health of the population and the role that the health and social systems play in promoting development and contributing to overcome the current recession; which has led to a real social and political crisis, especially in Europe.

For many European countries, and in particular for Italy, the economic crisis turned out to be deep and prolonged. It thus becomes an essential point of the health policies and social systems to alleviate the impact of unemployment and uncertainty, with particular attention to those who are already living in precarious conditions. The SSN is currently experiencing the most severe economic and social crisis since its establishment; the underlying principles clearly indicate the need to equip all levels of the system to mitigate the effects of the recession and unemployment on health; paying particular attention to the most deprived sections of the population in terms of material resources, emotional and relational, who are destined to pay a higher price.

In addition, the dynamics of the past health expenditures and the current macroeconomic environment characterized by a recession, raises questions about the ability of the health and social systems to maintain adequate coverage for the population. Expenditure growth depends on many factors, many of which are influenced by the same institutional characteristics and regulations of the health and social systems. According to the forecast models developed by major international organizations, the aging of the population should be in better health than ever before. Therefore, they have relatively limited direct effects on the dynamics of healthcare spending over the next 50 years, while the greatest impact of the demographic transition will cover the ongoing support of dependent persons in old age. The main factor, even in the light of past trends, is considered crucial in nurturing the growth of healthcare spending given by innovation in the biomedical field. Another important factor, although so far not adequately considered by the forecasting models, is represented by the evolution of lifestyles and individual behaviors that may decisively influence the future epidemiological trends; given the incidence and prevalence of chronic diseases that represent major causes of mortality and morbidity.

The challenge that is facing many countries today is ensuring the sustainability of their health and social systems without affecting the values of universal coverage, solidarity in financing and equity of access on which they are founded. It is an even more challenging goal for those countries, such as Italy, which are characterized by a high stock of public debt. This challenge requires innovative policies that aim to improve the overall performance of the health and social systems, in order to make the best use of available financial resources to achieve the best results, without compromising fairness. A consensus has been formed at the international level that the objective can be achieved by working on two fronts: first, to promote the economic sustainability of health and social systems, governing the main factors of demand and supply that fuel the growth of spending, and secondly, to ensure the financial sustainability by seeking a new balance between public funding and private funding, while still maintaining the universal nature of the health and social systems.

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The explicit choice of the amplitude and the level of coverage over time provided to citizens, considering its appropriateness and cost-effectiveness, will always remain a highly political choice that depends on how the company is willing to pay for public health.

The conference will also consider the contribution that the healthcare sector could give, as a factor in investment and development, to resolve the current recession. In this respect, however, there is ample empirical evidence that the universal coverage of disease risks led to significant benefits, not only in terms of health, but also in terms of increasing labor productivity and capital in different countries.

Research work will be accepted in various areas of interest in economics, business and social health, with particular regard to the following areas:

1. effects of the crisis on health and social systems;
2. the healthcare sector as a growth factor
3. models for assessing the sustainability of health systems;
4. policies and management tools for sustainability;
5. european policies and convergence between health and social systems;
6. new models for integrating health and social care;
7. technology assessment and prioritization;
8. crisis, equity and inequalities;
9. efficiency and quality of the system and healthcare companies;
10. prospects for financing the health system.

We provide:

- A plenary session;
- Thematic parallel sessions for oral presentations in Italian and English (English sessions to be held in one day, on Friday);
- Poster sessions;
- A panel discussion on "The health system needs to be reformed?"

The AIES also urges members to present proposals on the organization of short courses and pre-conference sessions within the general theme of the Conference.

Short Pre-Conference Courses: By the June 14<sup>th</sup> deadline, those who are interested in proposing a short course (from 2 hours to half a day) to be held before the opening ceremony of the conference, should send a brief description of the course, complete with goals, teachers, subjects covered, and recipients.

Training Sessions. Special sessions with invited lecturers (maximum of 4) by the proposer (or the proposers) mainly on policy issues of particular relevance. They can be organized in collaboration with organizations and non-profit organizations operating within the health system. To be assessed by the Committee

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## Method and Time Frame

The work must be sent as an "extended abstract" (min. 900 max. 1200 words) by email to the AIES secretary general at [aleksandra.torbica@unibocconi.it](mailto:aleksandra.torbica@unibocconi.it) specifying in the subject line, "Abstract for the AIES 2013 Conference in Trento". The "extended abstracts" must contain the following contents:

- The name of the authors (with the name of the presenter indicated by an asterisk) and affiliation; corresponding author for correspondence indicating postal address, email address and telephone number;
- Indication of the thematic area (including those listed above, or "open");
- Desired presentation format (Oral, Poster, organized session);
- Title of the work;
- Objectives of the work;
- Methodology of the work;
- The main contents of the work;
- Existing literature and specific contribution of the work presented;
- please specify, given you fulfill all the requirements, if you are interested in participating in the "AIES Award for the Young Researchers of 2013" (if all the authors of the study are under the age of 35 and the study is not yet published, authors can compete for the award of 1,500 Euros).

The deadline for submission of extended abstracts is scheduled for **June 30, 2013**. The deadline for submitting the pre-conference short courses and organized sessions is **June 30, 2013**. **Acceptance will be communicated by July 29, 2013**. The Scientific Committee will evaluate the suitability, methodological soundness and relevance of each proposal for inclusion in the conference program. Entries may be accepted as a poster or oral presentation. The Scientific Committee will group the selected contributions of the different sessions, for consistency of theme commonality and techniques used (theoretical analysis, empirical, institutional).

For the accepted papers, you will be required to **submit a written report by October 18, 2013**. In the absence of the written report you can send a power point presentation with the full results of the study by the same deadline. The submission of the report or the PPT presentation is mandatory for inclusion in the final work program of the Conference.

Jobs sent in the form of a written report will be assessed, at the discretion of the Scientific Committee, for the purposes of publication in the Journal of Health Policy and inclusion, if warranted, in the "AIES Award for Young Researchers of 2013".

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## Scientific Committee

- **Cesare Cislighi**, AGENAS (National Agency for Regional Health Services) and Università degli Studi di Milano: [cislighi@agenas.it](mailto:cislighi@agenas.it)
- **Andrea Francesconi**, Department of Economics and Management, Università degli Studi di Trento: [andrea.francesconi@unitn.it](mailto:andrea.francesconi@unitn.it)
- **Francesco Longo**, Department of Policy Analysis and Public Management e CERGAS (Center for Research on Health and Social Care Management), Università Bocconi: [francesco.longo@unibocconi.it](mailto:francesco.longo@unibocconi.it)
- **Luigi Mittone**, Department of Economics and Management, Università degli Studi di Trento: [luigi.mittone@unitn.it](mailto:luigi.mittone@unitn.it)
- **Vincenzo Rebba**, Department of Economics and Business Sciences, Università degli Studi di Padova: [vincenzo.rebba@unipd.it](mailto:vincenzo.rebba@unipd.it)

## Organizational Committee

- **Andrea Francesconi**, Department of Economics and Management, Università degli Studi di Trento: [andrea.francesconi@unitn.it](mailto:andrea.francesconi@unitn.it)
- **Luigi Mittone**, Department of Economics and Management, Università degli Studi di Trento: [luigi.mittone@unitn.it](mailto:luigi.mittone@unitn.it)
- **Giuliano Mariotti**, Rovereto Hospital, Provincial Company for Health Services, Province of Trento: [giuliano.mariotti@apss.tn.it](mailto:giuliano.mariotti@apss.tn.it)

## Organizational Secretary

Communication and Events Division - Polo di Citta' Università degli Studi di Trento  
ph:+39 0461 283288-1809-3126; fax:+39 0461 282899; email: [comunicazione-citta@unitn.it](mailto:comunicazione-citta@unitn.it)

## Administrative Secretary

Accounting Administrative Services – invoices and administrative questions  
[Serv.amm.cont.citta@amm.unitn.it](mailto:Serv.amm.cont.citta@amm.unitn.it)

Administration Department of Economics; tickets and hotel reservations; Anna Maria Pretaroli  
[annamaria.pretaroli@unitn.it](mailto:annamaria.pretaroli@unitn.it)

## Conference Location

Università degli Studi di Trento; Department of Economics and Management; Via Inama, 5 38100 Trento

Organized by Department of Economics and Management – Università degli Studi di Trento  
Contact: [comunicazione-citta@unitn.it](mailto:comunicazione-citta@unitn.it)