



European Territorial Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta 2014-2020



INFO ITALIA MALTA

Info Italy-Malta, the monthly information service of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta Cross-border Cooperation Programme is online.

On info-Italia Malta you will find information about the state of implementation of the Programme and on the results achieved by the funded Projects.

Each issue contains a thematic focus on the contribution of the Programme to the development of the territories and illustrates the benefits for the populations of the cross-border area.

This first issue is dedicated to the contribution that research and innovation have made to the quality of life of citizens and to the solutions developed by the MEDIWARN and I.T.A.M.A projects, funded under the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta 2014-2020 Programme.



ITAMA is a project coordinated by the Dipartimento di Fisica e Chimica (Department of Physics and Chemistry) "E. Segrè" of the University of Palermo, in partnership with the Dipartimento di Patologia Umana dell'Adulto e dell'Età Evolutiva (Department of Human Pathology of the Adult and Developmental Age) "Gaetano Barresi" of the University of Messina, the Mater Dei Hospital of the Ministry of Health of Malta and the Maltese company AcrossLimits LTD.

ITAMA project addresses the **problem of the diagnostic delay of autoimmune diseases typical of the Mediterranean area, with particular attention to celiac disease, which determines high costs for national health systems.**

Furthermore, to date, the diagnosis of celiac disease requires the execution of invasive tests, even in children, and involves high patient management costs. The I.T.A.M.A project, by applying a logic of transferring technologies and innovative processes to the healthcare sector, **improves the diagnostic process through the management and analysis of biomedical**

data.

The identification of the disease is realized through the identification of specific symptoms combined with standard serological analyses, also making use of artificial intelligence ICT techniques and thus avoiding the use of invasive clinical tests.

Thanks to ITAMA, it has now been possible to screen 10,593 of 20,000 school-aged persons for celiac disease by taking a single drop of blood, using a simple Point of Care Test (POCT). Currently tests of 88 persons have resulted positive and therefore those persons are addressed to standard non-invasive serological tests, as potential subjects with celiac disease.

Thanks to the adoption within the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta 2014-2020 Programme of the reprogramming measures of European funds in response to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been possible to transfer the procedures and technologies developed by I.T.A.M.A. to contrast the pandemic emergency, especially among younger subjects.

It was developed a Web Application dedicated to detecting symptoms from Covid-19, which at the same time provides indications on the advisability of placing students in school, and an online e-learning Platform that informs users about adoption of behaviours suitable to contain the contagion from COVID-19.

In addition, an epidemiological data collection is underway in Sicily at the *drive-ins*. These data, analysed by artificial intelligence software, will support the decision-making and prevention process from Covid-19 in the area to optimize the management of medical resources in local healthcare facilities.



[To learn more on I.T.A.M.A. project click here](#)



MEDIWARN addresses the **problem of delayed early medical intervention in critically ill patients**.

The project has made it possible to develop a **system of biosensors** that, thanks to the constant contact with the body of hospitalized patients, allows the monitoring of vital parameters (heartbeat, respiratory rate, blood pressure, body temperature, etc.) from a single computerized workstation and then wirelessly send data to the nursing staff. The project is carried out jointly by

the Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile e Architettura (Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture) of the University of Catania, by the U.O.C. Anestesia e Rianimazione 2 (Anesthesia and Reanimation 2) of the "Policlinico - Vittorio Emanuele" University Hospital of Catania) and the Surgery Department of the University of Malta.

Also in this case, the adoption within the INTERREG VA Italy-Malta 2014-2020 Programme of the reprogramming measures of European funds in response to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic made it possible to apply the innovations developed by MEDIWARN to solve some of the problems that, in the health sector, characterize the management of infected patients.

The monitoring system, in fact, has been adapted to facilitate the monitoring of the vital signs of isolated patients in negative pressure rooms, allowing medical and nursing staff to operate in complete safety and to identify early degeneration of their state of health.

Thanks to the project, the sensor system is currently being used at the San Marco Hospital in Catania, the Mater Dei Hospital in Malta and at the University of Catania in order to perform laboratory tests.

This system, once successfully tested, can be replicated as a good practice in infectious disease wards.



To learn more on MEDIWARN project click here

The topic "quality of life and health of citizens" in the European framework of programming 21-27: future prospect

Public health, in addition to being a fundamental right and value to be protected and guaranteed, is also a crucial factor for the prosperity, well-being and quality of life of European citizens, for social protection and stability throughout the Union.

In the current socio-economic framework, hit by an unprecedented crisis, the EU is committed to promoting a more social and inclusive Europe that implements the European Pillar of Social Rights, including through the promotion of good health.

The goal of a "more social and more inclusive" Europe plays a strategic role in the future cohesion policy 2021-2027 and also passes through the use of tools that can improve the effectiveness and resilience of health systems and cross-border long-term care services.

In the current 2014-2020 cycle, the INTERREG V-A Italia Malta Programme has gained significant experience in the health and social field, creating the conditions for effective cross-border cooperation in this sector as well.

The cogency of the theme at European level, together with the results achieved so far by the Programme, trace the perimeter of the consideration currently underway on the contribution that Italy-Malta cooperation can make to the future of Europe.

italiamalta.eu



From October 2020 the new website of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta Cross-Border Cooperation Programme is online.

Realized with a new graphic layout, the site ensures maximum transparency and ease of access to information about the programme and its activities, on notices and financed projects and on the results achieved.

Now it is possible to learn about the characteristics of the Programme such as the [Priority Axes](#), the [Programme Area](#), the [Beneficiaries](#), [Body and Authorities](#) and download all related documentation.

The site regularly publishes news and updates on the opportunities offered by the Programme ([Calls](#)) and by the projects ([Job opportunities](#)), while the [Projects](#) section offers the user an overview of the projects financed by Public Notice or Thematic Objective, allowing to get to know closely the beneficiaries, objectives, activities and expected results of each project.

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