



[Home](#) > [Local](#) > [News](#) > €2 million ITAMA project for research on coeliac condition...

€2 million ITAMA project for research on coeliac condition among children

Wednesday, 30 January 2019, 14:34

Last update: about 2 days ago



The project ITAMA (ICT Tools for the diagnosis of Autoimmune disease in the Mediterranean Area) financed by the INTERREG V-A Italia-Malta programme worth over €2 million aims to optimize the diagnostic methods for coeliac conditions has been launched by the Minister for Education and Employment Evarist Bartolo and Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds and Social Dialogue Aaron Farrugia.

During the conference local educators were given information about coeliac condition, the symptoms that might indicate its existence and the process to be followed for the testing in schools. The project team highlighted the importance of such screening, especially for children who are affected by the condition and are not aware of it.

Being diagnosed and receiving the necessary treatment at an early stage will improve the children's way of life and prevent further damage caused by the intake of gluten. Previous studies in Sicily shows that between 1% and 2% of the population in Sicily is coeliac, which is a significant incidence.

The project of ITAMA will be running along 2019 and over 20,000 children aged 4 to 12 years from schools in Malta and Sicily will be part of a screening exercise by an innovative method of non-invasive tests. These tests will rely on the consent of parents or guardians.

[open](#) this project aims to improve the diagnostic process with the support of ICT tools and defi

Designed and developed by Deloitte Digital

Independent Online. ©2019. Standard Publications Ltd. Registered Office: Standard House, Birkirkara Hill, St. Julian's, STJ 1149, Malta.



Minister for Education and Employment Evarist Bartolo stated that this is a very interesting project by means of screening children for coeliac conditions and a great collaboration between the two countries - Malta and Italy – leading to a successful research which in turn determine any diagnosed pupils from an early age to treat imminently.

Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds and Social Dialogue Aaron Farrugia said that the ITAMA project is one of 15 projects funded by the Interreg Italia Malta Programme 2014-2020. This programme, Farrugia said, is important as it makes part of the national policy and contributes to the sharing of best practices between regions.

The Parliamentary Secretary said that the projects currently being financed under Italia-Malta amount to a total of €10 million. These are significant due to the common challenges faced by the Mediterranean, and deal with issues which are very relevant to Malta. “In a recent meeting I had with President of Sicily Nello Musumeci, we decided to work towards closer cooperation between Malta and Sicily, for the benefit of our citizens,” Farrugia said.

The project coordinator Profs Giuseppe Raso said that “The scientific community agrees on the necessity to improve the diagnostic methods for autoimmune diseases and on the importance of involving ICT to obtain this goal. Particularly for coeliac conditions, we need to find less invasive and less expensive methods that can identify the condition at an early stage in children of paediatric age.”

ITAMA is an interdisciplinary project financed by the INTERREG V-A Italia-Malta programme. The project is under the lead of the Department of Physics and Chemistry - University of Palermo. Other project partners are the University of Messina, Mater Dei Hospital - Malta, the Malta Ministry of Health and a Maltese private company AcrossLimits. Furthermore, the Regional Health Department of Sicily and the “Buccheri La Ferla” Hospital of Palermo will collaborate on the project.

[Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Advertising Rates](#) [Contact Us](#)

Designed and developed by Deloitte Digital

Independent Online. ©2019. Standard Publications Ltd. Registered Office: Standard House, Birkirkara Hill, St. Julian's, STJ 1149, Malta.

don't miss

Auschwitz survivors pay homage as world remembers Holocaust

 Share

Updated: Adrian Delia challenges PM to nominate next President from Nationalist camp

 Share

More women should come forward and contest MEP elections – NCPE

 Share

Coppa Italia: Holders Juventus eliminated, Fiorentina humiliate Roma 7-1

 Share

Xghajra council will wait till land reclamation report released before deciding on action

 Share

Huawei: OPM non-committal on allegations, points to ongoing EU discussions

 Share

Proposed solar farm in Mgarr quarry would have over 17,000 solar panels

 Share



eimvoting.eu



open



Designed and developed by Deloitte Digital

Independent Online. ©2019. Standard Publications Ltd. Registered Office: Standard House, Birkirkara Hill, St. Julian's, STJ 1149, Malta.

Recommend

Tweet

Share

Sort by Newest



Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

Name

Be the first to comment.

Subscribe

Add Disqus to your site

Disqus' Privacy Policy

News



Farewell to a transgender icon



Criminality in Malta decreases



More women should come

open