

# Annual Report - Italy

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In Italy, the official scientific society in Health Psychology is the Italian Health Psychology Society (Società Italiana di Psicologia della Salute, SIPSa), established in 1998. The Society ([www.psicologiadellasalute.org](http://www.psicologiadellasalute.org)) organizes a biennial Congress, and publishes a Journal (“Psicologia della Salute”, <http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario.asp?IDRivista=72>), currently indexed on Scopus.

The current President of the Italian Society of Health Psychology is Pio Enrico Ricci Bitti (2015-2017) (past president Elvira Cicognani).

The Italian Health Psychology Society (SIPSa) organized its XI Congress in Catania (28-30 May, 2015). The Keynote speaker was Irina Todorova. Key themes of the Congress were the following: training in health psychology, health promotion in virtual environments, health psychology in primary care, health promotion in educational settings, organizational models of health services, community health promotion, evaluation of health promotion, health promotion in organizational settings, inequalities in health, quality of life in the elderly.

A key issue in current scientific and professional debate in Italy is the role of Health Psychology in primary care and the emergent profile of “Psicologo di Base” (Primary Care Psychologist), a professional category still formally missing within the Italian National Health Service, even though several significant experiences of collaboration between psychologists and the medical profession have been documented at local levels. A similar profile (“Psicologo del territorio”, e.g. territorial/community psychologist) has been introduced at regional level (e.g. Region Campania). Several initiatives have been

organized at local level, by Local Health Services in collaboration with the Order of Psychologists (e.g. Treviso, Parma); a national workshop was organized by the Department of Psychology of the University of Bologna in early June.

The discussion will continue in spring 2016, when the Italian Health Psychology Society will organize a national seminar in Rome.

Future important events planned in 2017 Italy are the XII National Congress of Health Psychology (Florence) and the EHPS Conference, which will be organized in Padua.



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