

# The *Lombardia Insieme* Project. Engaging patients in health programs. Towards an involving policy.

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## CONTEXT

Increasingly central role of Patient associations over time

**BUT**

delay and fragmentation in formalizing participation in decision-making procedures in healthcare

## THE PROJECT

*Lombardia Insieme (Lombardy Together)*: an activation and facilitation path for patient associations intended to strengthen real co-construction processes of health and welfare policies

## KEY WORDS

- Policy Cycle Model
- Brainstorming approach
- Guided discussions
- Training meetings
- “how might we” questions

## METHODS

**Applied criteria | Participatory Health Model:** set of tools to ensure co-participation and accountability on the part of associations, following the method referable to the Policy Cycle model.

Participated discussion on the 4 focus



Participated and facilitated discussion on the 4 focus



Split in 4 working groups



Split in 4 facilitated working groups

### Highlights:

I. Needs assessment of Lombardy Region's General Welfare Administration → necessity: make the relationship with patient associations more constructive and collaborative

II. Select group of associations → scope: identify areas of shared interests and challenges, not related to specific diseases → 4 focus areas

III. Call-up to all regional patient associations to adhere to the project and choose 1 of the 4 focus areas

IV. Extended group: participated discussion on the 4 focus → 4 proposal documents  
Two-day debate split in 4 working groups: starting from the draft proposal, each group had gone through the documents in a problem-solving attitude, aiming to obtain the broadest possible consensus to identify suggestions to get over critical issues and detect innovative insights.

**SUM UP**  
8 months  
126 associations  
4 working groups

### FOCUS AREA

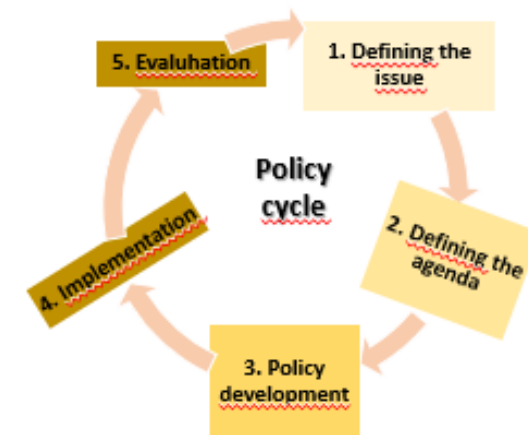
- Patient centricity
- Residential and home care
- Gender medicine
- Patient associations as proactive stakeholders.

### Final documents endpoints:

- Focus on the patient's point of view
- Focus on the institutional framework
- Potential development of a new governance model
- Potential development of IT tools

## VALUE

The participatory health model by enforcing the institutionalization of patient engagement, has the potential to be exported and adapted in other environments.



## RESULTS

- 1) Identification of **common areas of interest** on cross-cutting themes for enforcing a 'participatory health' model
- 2) Creation of an **informal network** of patient associations in Lombardy
- 3) Identification of tools and request (PROPOSAL) to enhance the clinical-care networks in Lombardy
  - Official submission of an organizational model based on the construction of an extended governance, co-participation and shared responsibilities in the decision-making process about healthcare
  - Creation of an official register of patient associations
  - Creation of an official four-monthly agenda to discuss core issues
  - Identification of a spokesman who can represent each category in the same networks
- 4) Some motions had been transposed by the **Region into Act XI/2635/2019**

## REFERENCES

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