

Procurement, distribution, financing, organization and delivery of adult vaccination services in different regions of Italy, highlighting the challenges and opportunities

Tuscany Region

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Tuscany Region



- Region in central Italy
- 3,6 MI inhabitants
- Large populated towns
- Industrial areas
- Little communities on countryside

Regional Health System

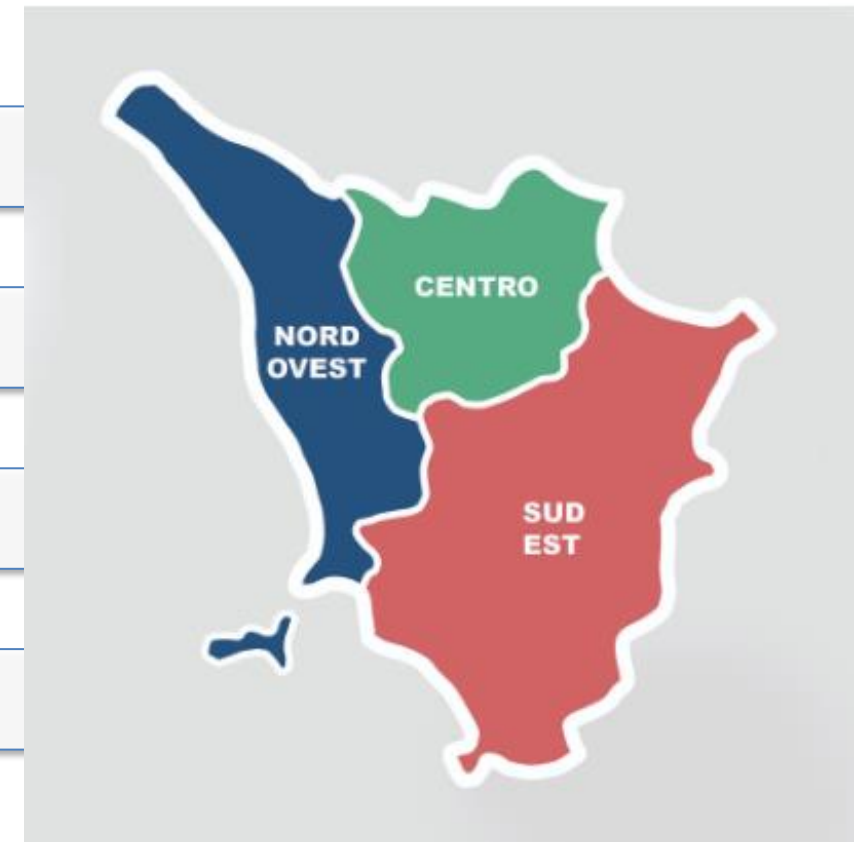
Regional Authority organizes the health system through several entities that cover the whole regional territory

3 Local Health Units (ASLs)

4 University Clinical Centers - Teaching Hospitals

1 Service Company (ESTAR)

All of them are divided 3 Clusters (Area Vasta)



Regional Health System

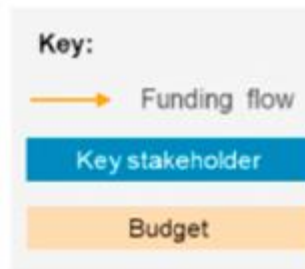
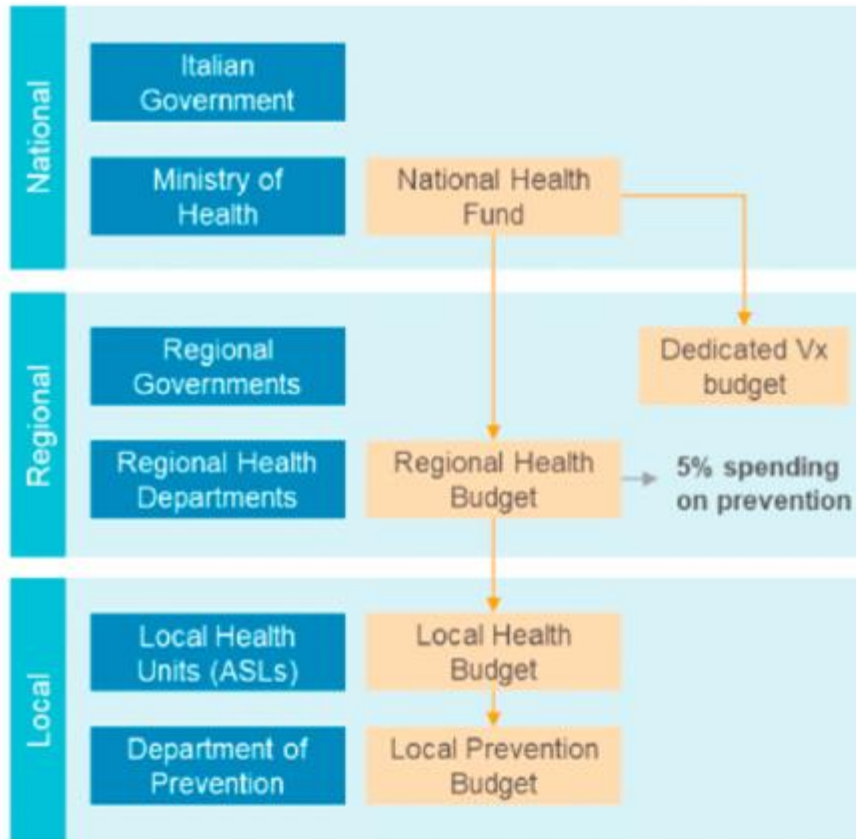
Local Health Units (ASLs)



- Hospital Care
- Primary Care (1/1500)
- Outpatient , Specialty Physicians and Related Services
- Diagnostics and Radiology
- Pharmaceutical
- Emergency Services (Hospital, Ambulances, Helicopters)
- Preventive Medicine, Screenings and Vaccinations
- Food Control, Veterinary Service
- Work Safety Control and Accidents Prevention
- Mental Diseases, Drug Addicted Service
- Hedley and Social Services (with Municipalities)
- Handicap (partially with Municipalities)
- Healthcare for the Prison National Service

Regional Health System

Italy budget organisation and funding flow



Since 2017, the National Health Fund includes an additional dedicated budget item for each region to support reimbursement of vaccine purchasing. The Fund also includes a dedicated budget for innovative drugs and innovative oncology drugs

Purchase

In Italy, **Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA)** manages:

- ❑ **Authorization** processes for the **manufacturing** of medicines (including vaccines)
- ❑ **Inspection and pharmacovigilance** activities
- ❑ **Definition of the reimbursement and supply regime** for all authorized medicines, by negotiating the price of drugs charged to the NHS, after negotiations with pharmaceutical companies.

AIFA operates under the guidance and supervision of the **Ministry of Health** and supervision of the **Ministry of Economy and Finance**, in conjunction with the **Regions, the Istituto Superiore di Sanità**, Scientific Institutes for Research, Hospitalization and Healthcare, Patient Associations, Practitioners, Scientific Societies, the production and distribution system.

Purchase

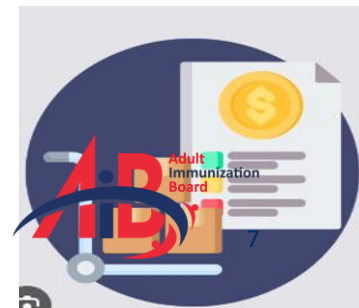
In Tuscany, **ESTAR**, the Service Company and the regional central purchasing body, is responsible for vaccine procurement.

Vaccine prices are defined by regional public tenders managed by ESTAR, it usually allows a decrease of price and defines suppliers usually for 3 years

The demand for adult vaccination assessed in Tuscany Region takes into the account:

- **Population data** from Italian Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)
- **Historical data** of vaccine demand
- Categories included in free vaccination offer from **National Plan of Vaccine Prevention (PNPV)** and **Regional Vaccination Plan**

People at risk are difficult to define



Distribution

ESTAR organizes **logistics** for delivering vaccines:

- to administration points of Local Health Care Units (ASLs)
- to public and private pharmacies, where GPs and Pediatricians can order and then pick up vaccines and patients can buy them (if they are not for free)



Distribution system is dynamic:

- A operating system consents to make orders, to view vaccine availability and to check deliveries
- Vaccines are distributed on the basis of ASLs and GP and Pediatricians orders

Finance

- Adult vaccination programs are fully funded by the government.
- For vaccines not included in the free offer within the **National Plan of Vaccine Prevention (PNPV)** and implemented by the regional calendar, there is a co-payment for citizens.
- The co-payment is calculated by applying the discounted price of the vaccine emerged from the public tender and the cost of the health care service
- Some vaccinations are recommended to different categories of workers, depending on professional risk, and are offered free of charge (flu, COVID, MMR, Varicella, Ep.B,..)

Are there concrete short-term and/or long-term plans to improve this field?

Short-term strategy:

To draw from the dedicated budget for innovative drugs, according to HTA reports, to purchase new vaccines

Long-term strategy:

To request additional funds to national level to support vaccination policies



Administration

- **Vaccination centers of ASLs**
(both pediatric and adult vaccinations)
- **General Practitioners**
(mostly adults and kids from 7 or 14 years of age)
- **Pediatricians** (children and teens)
- **Occupational doctors** (workers)
- **Pharmacies** (adults-only COVID and flu vaccinations)



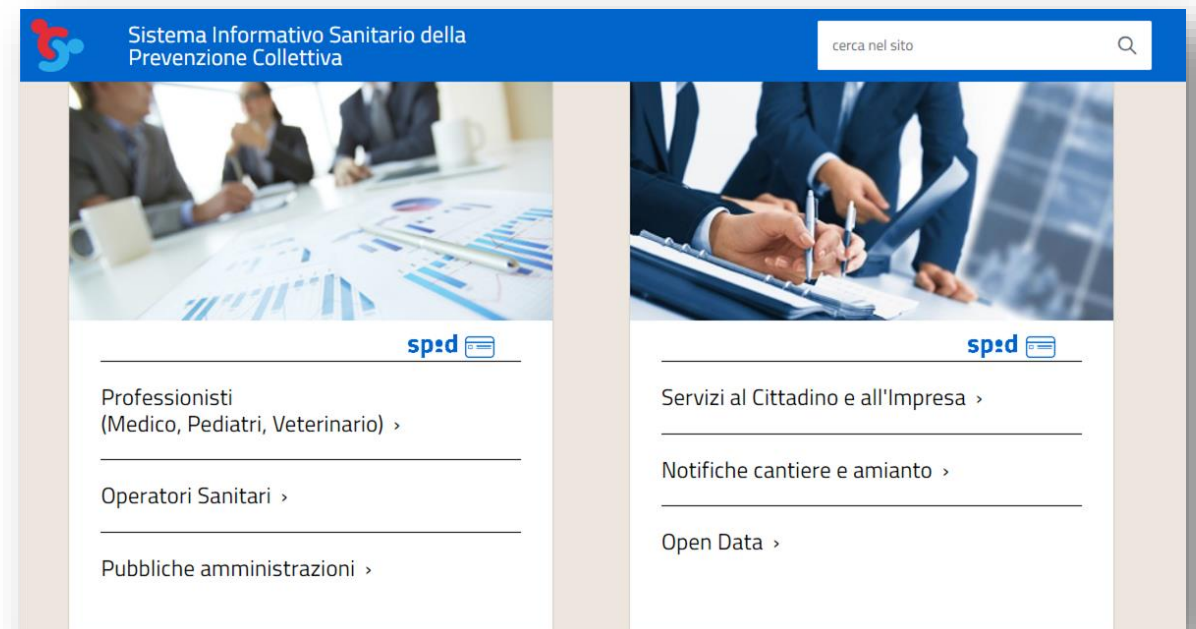
Recording and reporting of adult vaccination data

All pediatrics and adult vaccinations are recorded in **Regional Information System for collective prevention (SISPC)**

This system is capable to send data to National Vaccination Registry (AVN)

This system allows:

- ✓ real time monitoring and reporting
- ✓ vaccination coverage calculation *for age and population groups*
- ✓ **Completeness and accuracy of data, through alert and mandatory fields**



Vaccine accessibility and acceptance

Adult patients can receive vaccination at their GPs or ASLs vaccination centers

Current strategies to promote vaccination acceptance among adults:

- Tailored vaccination campaigns
- Communication strategies
- Engagement of GPs and pharmacists to recommend vaccination to elderly, frail people and patients with special risk conditions

Success stories: Covid vaccinations' experience

- Vaccination centers guaranteed extended openings, even on weekends
- Booking system was simplified and with a dedicated web portal
- the workflow was designed to ensure low waiting times and also to manage a large number of people

Are there concrete short-term and/or long-term plans to improve this field?

- ❑ **Identify and address barriers to adult vaccination** (needle to arms strategies, simplify vaccination booking)
- ❑ **Organize tailored vaccination campaigns**
- ❑ **Work with providers to implement standing orders for immunizing adults in clinical practice** (both in hospitals and primary care)
- ❑ **Develop and maintain partnerships with key stakeholders partner** (pharmacists and community vaccinators)
- ❑ **Enhance Communication strategies**
- ❑ **Implement other reminder/recall functionality in SISPC and promote active call**
- ❑ **Establish relationships with employers to promote vaccines to employees.**
- ❑ **Collaborate with community to promote immunizations for adults.**





**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY ON
VACCINATING**

**Thanks for your
attention**



**Servizio
Sanitario
della
Toscana**