

Report-back on The 8th Annual Conference of The International Society for The Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP) cum study visit (Rome, Italy)

Itinerary and Service Highlight in Rome

Itinerary

Date: 19-24 May, 2014
Venue: Rome, Italy

Study Visit on Day 1, Day 2 and Day 6

International Conference on Day 3-5



19 May 2014, Day 1 (Study Visit) **Villa Maraini**



Service Highlight

- founded in 1976, as part of Italian Red Cross
- Comprehensive service for the care and rehabilitation of drug - Ambulatory (Methadone Clinic), Homeless Centre, The Detox Center, semi-residential community, street unit, etc
- Free of charge
- Organized training course regarding a comprehensive harm reduction approach to drug use and HIV and AIDS prevention

- The whole staff team composed of social workers, psychologists, Red Cross volunteers and medical doctors. The characteristic of the staff team is former drug abusers make up one third of the staff
- The base of intervention is harm reduction, They welcome all kind of client, accept them and not force them committee to quite drug



Local Mental Health Service Rome, Outpatient Centre

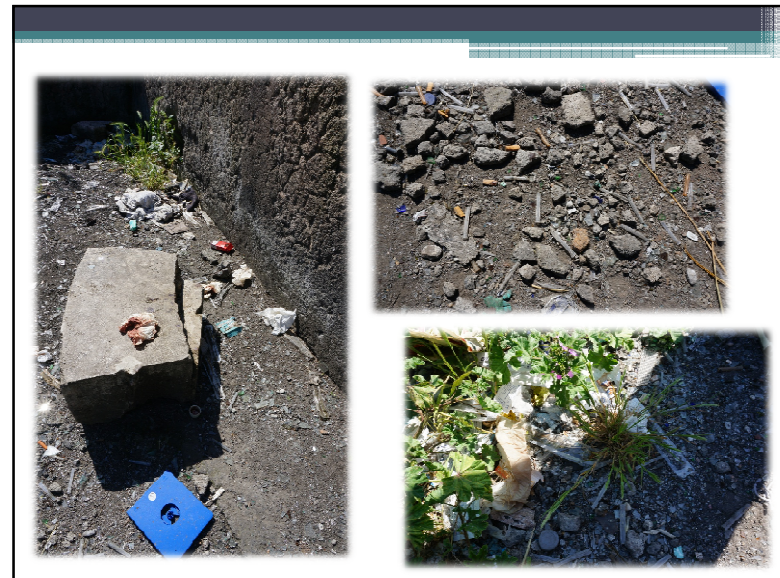


Service Highlight

- funded by the Italian government provides services in acute psychiatry and treatment as well as provides outpatient services.
- As a free public service, over 50% of its clients are foreigners, including north Africans and east Europeans.
- Dr. Vento worried the most, is the increase in the client numbers (he sees at least 100 clients a day as 300,000 are referred to the centre annually), and the complicity in the new drugs that is being introduced into the market.

- Dr. Vento shared that since there is no fast test for NPS, it makes it very difficult for doctors to provide an accurate diagnosis, sometimes placing the patient at risk. There are also no policy or guidelines when it comes to working with patients who are abusing NPS, therefore, making the work much more difficult for doctors and other drug-free practitioners.
- It can be said that the visit was extremely informative for us

20 May 2014, Day 2 (Study Visit) Villa Maraini Street Unit

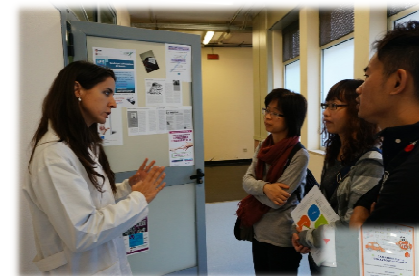


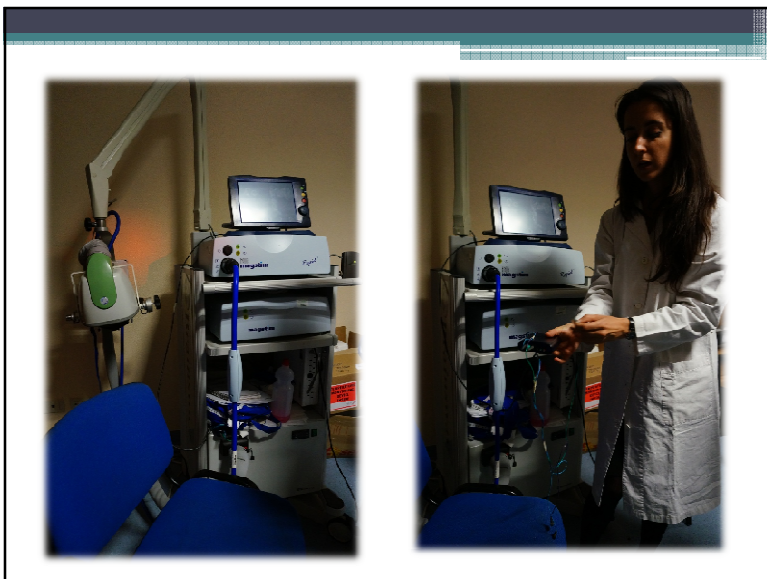


Service Highlight

- It's a part of the service of VM
- Free of charge
- The mobile car will station in difference location for certain period
- Staff know how to do the first-aid injection to rescue people who were overdoes by using NALOXONE.
- They shared that they saved more than 2000 life in emergency by using NALOXONE.

Sant' Andrea Hospital





Service Highlight

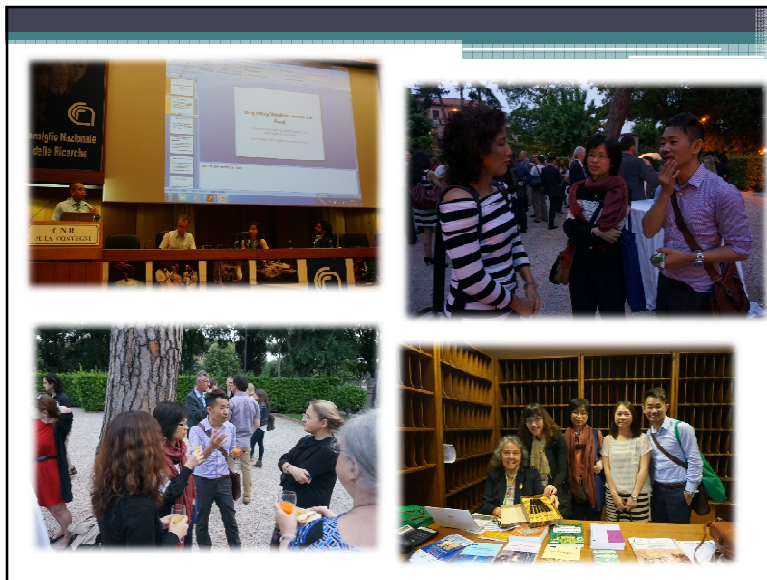
- This is a psychiatric outpatient and inpatient unit, funded by government
- Dr. Piancentino and her team were also the pioneer in bringing DTMS (Deep Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation) to Italy – a sophisticated measuring device which can determine specifically, the level of addiction one has to illegal substance
- She shared she consulted over 100 clients a day and works 12 hours or more.

- Similar to Dr. Vento's concerns, Dr. Piancentino talked about the increasing trend of new NPS that is being introduced in the drug trade and being brought into Italy, especially from China and South America.
- She said that her hospital staff is being exposed to various NPS every week and speculates that they discover over 750 NPS a year through their patients.
- Since these are all new substances, Dr. Piancentino, also talked about staff not having enough knowledge and expertise to properly assess the patients and find them the help they need.
- Dr. Piancentino is currently working with various medical bodies in Italy and other countries around the world to develop a new multi-lingual website that will provide interactive and up to date information on NPS for patients around the world. With the help of the United Nations funding, she hoping to work with a leading university in Hong Kong to develop and launch this new site in a few years time

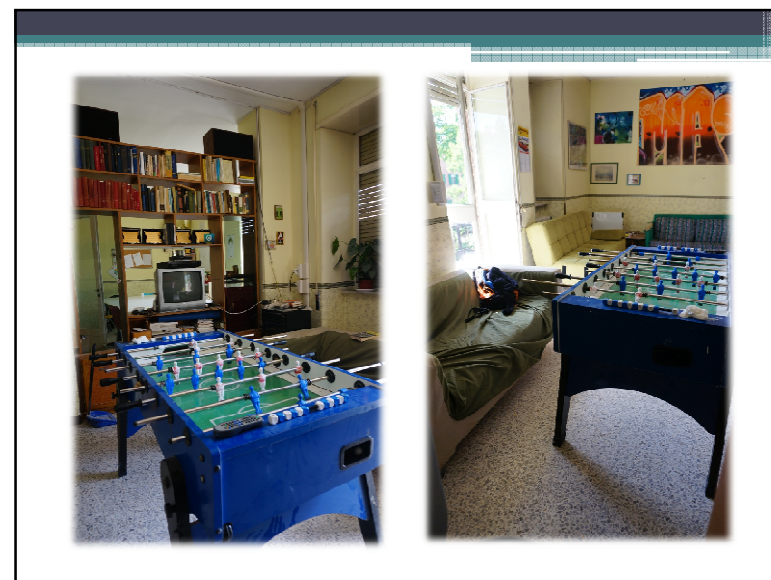
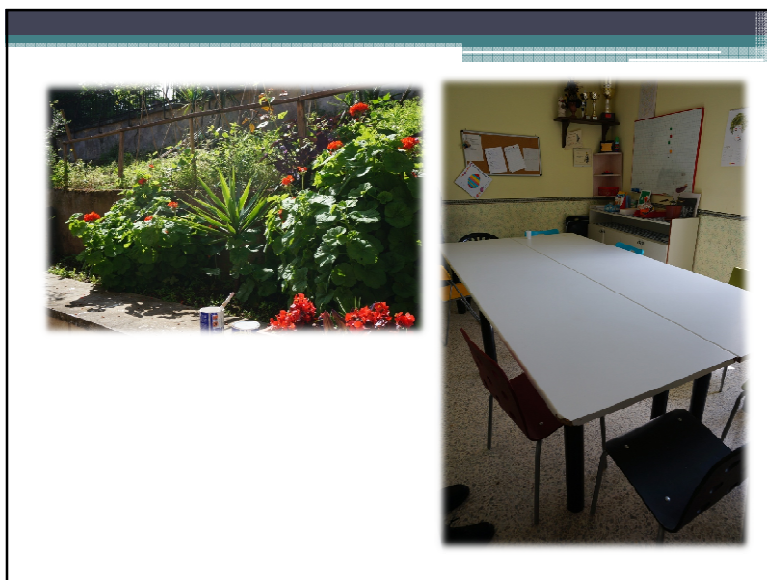
21-23 May 2014, Day 3-5

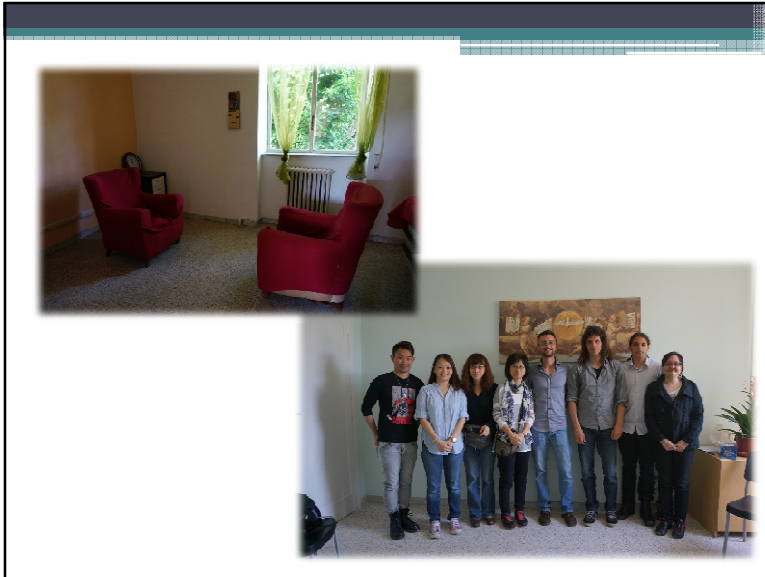
ISSDP





24 May 2014, Day 6 Therapeutic Community “La Tenda”





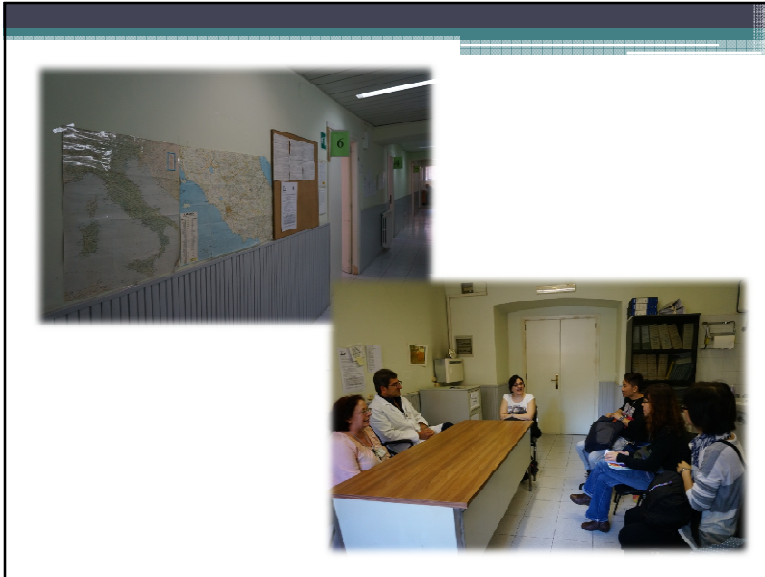
Service Highlight

- The centre was set up in 1984. Though it was located near the community, they had no problem with the neighbour so far
- The Community centre was a day centre for drug treatment and rehabilitation.
- They served people from aged 18-60. Currently, many clients were between aged 30-40. The max capacity was 20 persons.

- The clients were either voluntary based or under law order which meant they underwent treatment instead of going to jail.
- The day program was 9am to 6pm, everyday.
- The treatment period lasted from 19 month to 24 months.
- The clients needed to stay at home every night.
- The aftercare service lasted for 2 years. The client came every 2 months and then reduced to 4 months.
- The government subsidy was 24 Euro per day per person.
- Due to lack of resource, the staff usually needed to work second job to support their living.

Presidio Santiario





Service Highlight

- Funded by government
- They used integrated approach, for 1 intake, the 5 assessments are all different specialists
- Besides of drug addicts, they served other addiction services
- They also have a temporary residential service and did the drop in service