

# Health information literacy & research new horizons in the Italian school-work alternating system

FIRST ITALIAN  
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Disseminating science outside the boundaries of research is a new challenge for the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS, the Italian National Institute of Health). Communicating research data on health issues is the first step towards health information literacy to **promote life skills & healthy life styles**.

The ISS collaborates with schools offering seminars, workshops, handbooks and leaflets addressed to young people.

**Training future citizens becomes strategic to fill in the gap between science and society increasing students' interest in health sciences and providing them tools to gain awareness on responsible healthy behaviours.**

In Italy the Law 107/2015 introduced the school-work alternating system: high-school students have to spend a period of time at workplace thus enhancing and orienting their education.

The ISS hosts students in laboratories and helps them to become aware of the value of health research through practical activities. The ISS experts have developed science communication skills to catch students' attention on both science and health as part of their research commitment.



In 2016-2017, over **200** ISS experts designed **50** training modules with more than **13,600** hours of activity within four public health research areas:

environment

biology

prevention

communication

**13** schools participated in the project and **260** students attended the modules.

Both students and teachers gave a very positive feedback on **high quality scientific** contents and **multidisciplinary approach** to scientific research of the ISS. These aspects allow integrating scientific and social-cultural knowledge to improve science literacy for a win-win agreement between science and society.

**The chance of the school-work alternating system can help in looking at research in a new way towards reaching the goal of a CITIZEN SCIENCE.**

scientific communication  
*training* research  
SCIENCE *society* schools