

## Advantage-JA presented at the Ministry of Health in Rome (Italy)

An ADVANTAGE-JA National Workshop has been held in Rome (Italy) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Health Commission of the Italian Committee of the Regions. The meeting was chaired by Mr Giovanni Nicoletti of the Health Planning department of the Ministry of Health and Mr. Luca Ceriscioli, President of the Marche Region. It was attended by high profile experts of the Ministry of Health, of the Italian Regions, the Universities and the Health Care Providers and Agenas.



The meeting aimed at creating awareness regarding the activities of the JA and its preliminary results. Most of all, it represented an opportunity for discussing the state-of-the-art of the “frailty-challenge” in Italy: its dimension and characteristics, the current and the future strategies to address it. The President of the Marche Region highlighted the importance of reforming modern health systems to face the new needs of older people, through the adoption of innovative approaches for the provision of services. In this respect, he stressed the relevance of initiatives like ADVANTAGE JA for the innovation and sustainability of the health and social care systems.

Other European initiatives where Italy is involved, relating to frailty and chronic diseases, were presented, underlining the importance of networking and cooperating. Only by working together at national and European level, the health and care systems can tackle the trajectory of disability, developing an effective proactive medicine approach and giving older people the chance to live longer, healthier and independently.

Italy is strongly committed to the JA activities. Marche Region is currently leading the WP2 activities on “Communication, dissemination and awareness”, with a cluster of other four Regions, i.e. Campania, Liguria, Piedmont and Emilia Romagna, which are Reference Sites for the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIPAH). The National Institute on Health and Science on Ageing (INRCA) is leading WP3 on “Evaluation”, while the University of Sacred Heart in Rome is leader of WP4 “Knowing Frailty at individual level”. In addition, the *Istituto Superiore di Sanità* is the co-leader of the WP5 “Knowing Frailty at population level”. Agenas is also one of the partners of the Joint Action.

The event was well attended and received a good coverage in the national media, also thanks to the support of the ProMis Initiative, the programme managed by the Ministry of Health for promoting the Internationalization of the National Health System. ProMis involvement ensures that the relevant information and inputs from the JA will be thoroughly disseminated through all the Italian Regions. This is of paramount importance as the Italian Health System is highly decentralized and the successful exploitation of JA findings will require their customization at a regional and local level.