



International Workshop

Innovation and development in health:
Integration of complementary and
traditional medicine in public health systems

28 – 31 October 2008

Florence, Italy
Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare
Via A. Cocchi, 4



In Florence (Italy), on October 28-31 2008, took place the International Seminar « Innovation and development in health : integration of complementary and traditional medicine in public health systems », jointly organized by Tuscany Region, UNDP and UNOPS, in the framework of the international cooperation Initiative ART. The Province of Florence and the Municipality of Florence have supported the event.



220 persons have participated, representing Health Ministries, other public institutions, on-site experiences, NGOs and decentralized cooperation actors, from the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, India, Iran, Italy, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Serbia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Syria, Switzerland and Venezuela.



The works have been introduced by the speech of Edgar Morin. During three days of very intense work, all delegations have brought their experiences and points of view. Among others, the Minister of Health of Ecuador, Caroline Chang Campos, the Executive Secretary of the Andean Project of Intercultural Health, Nila Heredia, and the Responsible of the National Department of Natural and Traditional Health, of the Minister of Health of Cuba, Martha Pérez Viñas, have intervened.

Caldés, and the experts of the Tuscany Network of Complementary Medicine, Sonia Baccetti and Elio Rossi, have intervened.



For United Nations they have intervened: for WHO Precious Matsoso, Director of WHO Secretariat on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, for UNDP Giovanni Camilleri, ART Coordinator in Geneva, for UNIFEM Rita Cassisi, for UNEP Giorgio Grussu and for UN Millennium Campaign, Marta Guglielminetti.



At the end of the works, the participants have agreed the Florence Declaration.

This Declaration gives birth to the International Network for the integration of complementary and traditional medicines in public health systems and makes the proposal of a Cooperation Programme in support of the Network works.



This proposal has been endorsed by the representatives of Regions Tuscany, Lazio, Umbria and Liguria; by ANAAO (the main Italian doctor's trade union) representatives; by Maria Grazia Giannichedda, in behalf of *Franco Basaglia* Foundation and its network for the fight against social exclusion; by Sergio Bassoli, President of SOLIDAR, European NGOs Federation, and Pasquale Campo, President of Seniores-Italy/UNV. Luca Citarella, of the Delegation of European Commission in Bolivia, has proposed himself as an "Ambassador" of this proposal to the EU in Bruxelles. The General Director of Italian Cooperation, Minister Elisabetta Belloni, has sent her support to the Seminar.

Luciano Carrino, Executive Representative of the ART Scientific Committee, concluding the Seminar, has assured that the ART Initiative, with the support of the participants, will take responsibility for follow up the Florence Declaration.



Medias have given great prominence to this event: more than 30 articles have appeared in newspapers and specialized reviews, and many television programs have taken places.