

SIGN WEBSITE AND DATABASE

Anna Savoia

Department of Reproductive, Developmental and Public Health Sciences, IRCCS Burlo Garofolo, Trieste

Genetics is a complex field of medicine that is rapidly evolving thanks to application of new approaches and technologies. Only the excellence centres that are able to constantly updated to such a technological evolution will provide patients with the best assistance and adequate cures.

Through the gathering of information and data collection, and the assessment of the current state of the health system and common practices, the SIGN project will ensure an equal assessment of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures for patients with genetic diseases, increasing the quality of the management of patients with genetic diseases in the Italian/Slovenian inter-regional area.

To achieve these aims, a series of different aspects have been addressed by the project. A key aspect is to fill the gap of the poor knowledge of medicine, particular of medical genetics and rare diseases, within general population. Despite genetics is a relevant topic, general population does not have enough knowledge to understand health implications and choose among different treatment options. Several work packages of SIGN are devoted to resources and activities for education and information of the general public and health professionals in general. Therefore, the partners of the SIGN project have organized not only specific public events and training activities but have also developed a dedicated website (http://www.signgenetics.eu/), available in both Italian and Slovenian so that everybody could benefit from it.



The SIGN website is organized in different sections for general public: basic genetics and genetic diseases are two of the main topics. There are also specific "educational" area for students and researchers where to find power point lessons related to general topics of genetics and clinical cases.

Moreover, the website is connected with the genetic diagnostic centres and the genetic therapeutic and rehabilitation centres present in the cross border region. This database, which has been developed thanks to a series of questionnaires filled in by different Institutions, is available as resource to anyone interested in the accessibility to genetic services in the area.





