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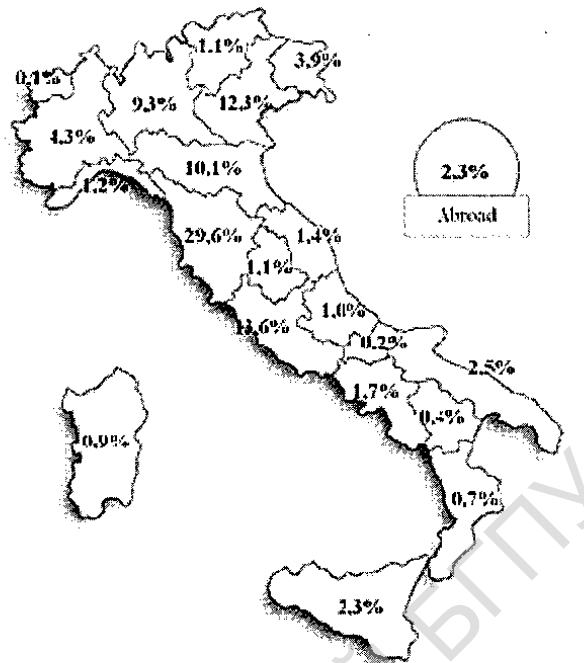
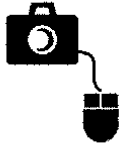


Figure 3. Percentage distribution of subscribers by region.

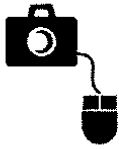
The questionnaire of satisfaction, optional and present online two years ago, has been compiled by 222 members. About the course content (content, clarity and completeness of information, quality of information) the 97% of users felt that they were "Perfectly appropriate or appropriate" and only 3% "not at all appropriate or inappropriate".

Similar results were obtained by analyzing the answers to questions on more technical aspects such as graphics/animation and navigation; in this case the 90% considered "Perfectly satisfied or satisfied" and 10% "not at all satisfied or dissatisfied".

The 80% who have filled out the questionnaire believed this online learning experience better than the traditional one. It was asked to assign an overall score for the course, from 1 to 10: 94% has attributed a score  $\geq 6$  and 68% a score  $\geq 8$ .

## CONCLUSIONS

The course, credited as Elective teaching activities at the Faculty of Medicine of Florence University, has aroused considerable interest at local and national level. The encouraging results obtained encourage us to constantly update the course in order to provide a useful tool for distance education, more and more enjoyed. New strategies to increase the number of beneficiaries in the South Italy and abroad are under evaluation. Our intention is to translate the course in English and in Russian.



## Online training course on "global health and equity in health"

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### ABSTRACT

Human health is determined not only by behavioral factors, but social factors, economic and cultural factors are increasingly responsible for the inequity in health, in a world in rapidly changing. The "global health" is an understanding of how the health determinants, actors and context interact globally, and also is a totally new approach to deal with new realities and to provide responses to the health community in relation to these new theoretical and practical developments. The distance learning course "Global health and equity in health" attempts to define global health through the coordinated treatment of different topics that are meant to analyze the relationship between the social, economic and political determinants of our time and the health status of the population. In 4 years from starting the online course, the enrollees are 3449, 2478 females and 971males. Over 80% of members are between 21 and 50 years and the age group most represented in both sexes is 21-30 years. The 53% of subscribers exerts a health profession. The high percentage of students and postgraduates (35.4%) and the presence of people who do not have a health profession (11,6%) are worth mentioning. About the course content (content, clarity and completeness of information, quality of information) the 97% of users felt that they were "Perfectly appropriate or appropriate" and only 3% "not at all appropriate or inappropriate". The 80% who have filled out the questionnaire believed this online learning experience better than the traditional one.

### INTRODUCTION

And 'more and more evident that, under the growing pressure of globalization, the world is changing rapidly. The globalization of communication, finance and economy, the increasing number of migrant workers, the global interests on food and drinking water supply, the alarm pollution and global warming, show a world in which national boundaries are no longer sufficient to define homogeneous communities with unique characteristics.

The impact of this global interdependence on the determinants of health requires a new approach by those who deal with health and which may be unprepared for such a challenge. Health promotion in the era of globalization necessarily involves a new paradigm and health professionals with knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to the new field called "global health".

While there are few doubts about the urgency of this challenge, the size and characteristics with which manifests are less clear. The term "global health" is not only an understanding of how the health determinants, actors and context interact globally. "Global health" is also a totally new approach to deal with new realities and to provide responses to the health community in relation to these new theoretical and practical developments.

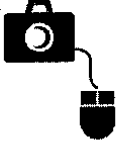
The distance learning course "Global health and equity in health" seeks to respond to this challenge. The course attempts to define global health through the coordinated treatment of different topics that are meant to analyze the relationship between the social, economic and political determinants of our time (including in the foreground stands out precisely "globalization") and the health status of the population, or rather of populations.

### AIMS

The aim of the online course "Global health and equity in health" is to increase and upgrade the provision of training on the issues of global health among students of Medicine and of those from other faculties (law, political science, economics, sociology, etc.) that, in various ways, dealing with health and the right to health. The course is also aimed at all those who for different reasons (work, cultural / political, belonging to NGOs and voluntary) intend to explore these issues. The course was produced by the Department of Public Health of the University of Florence, within the project "Equal opportunities for health: action for development", developed by "Doctors with Africa Cuamm", with the support of the European Union. Later it was expanded with the support of the Tuscany Region, within the framework of the Regional Initiative project (PIR).

### METHODS

The course is free, and it is delivered in streaming mode. It consists of 7 modules (9 hours), each accompanied by a section with insights / updates periodically sent to subscribers. The arguments are: - determinants and inequalities in health, - health systems development (focus on the last thirty years of history and on globalization and health), - international health systems, - immigration and health, - chronic diseases and global health, - climate change and global health, international health cooperation.



For the design and construction of the course we have attributed to the content the highest centrality. In fact, in the interface a very large space welcomes the contents that are displayed from time to time. The features and information about the learning object are displayed in two frame spaces.

There is also the possibility to access a printable text version in order to allow a full and autonomous control of the content.

The entire course has been created with Adobe Flash technology and the interface runs in streaming mode that allows for a fast and efficient downloading of content to display.

In order to access content, the students are invited to fill out the registration form that represents a useful monitoring tool. It is structured in a practical way with precise and targeted objectives and this allows us to store and process information about the user (provenance, age, education, occupation, etc).

A questionnaire of course satisfaction allows the users to express an opinion on the content and on aspects related to the web page and to give the course a total score (from 1 to 10).

The course WEB site: <http://www.mediciconlafrica.org/presentazione>.

**RESULTS**

In 4 years from starting the online course, the enrollees are 3449, 2478 females and 971 males. Over 80% of members are between 21 and 50 years and the age group most represented in both sexes is 21-30 years (Figure 1).

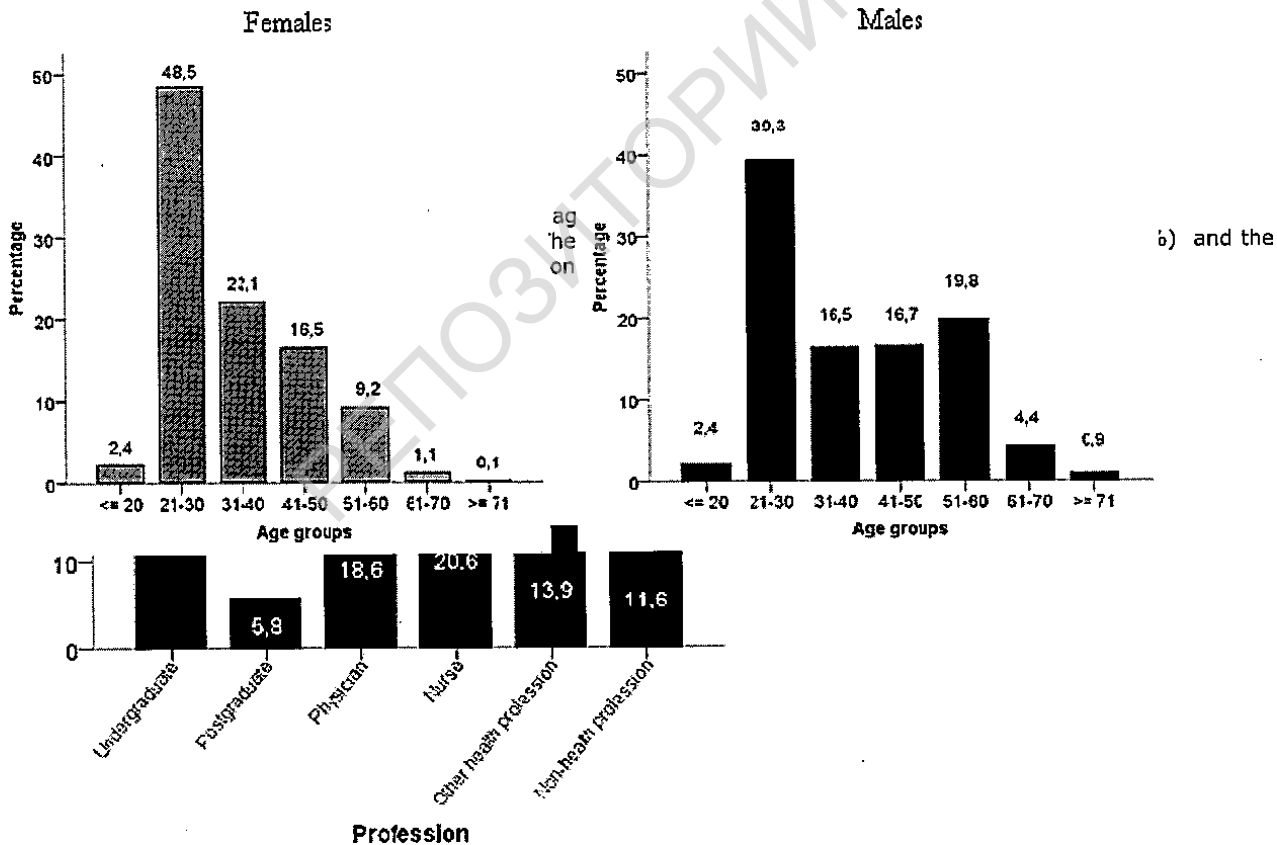


Figure 2. Distribution of subscribers to the course for the profession.

The 42,2% of the subscribers lives in North Italy, 45,7% in Center Italy, 9,8% in South Italy and Islands, and 2,3% abroad (Figure 3)