



Adige Valley



The Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy

General overview

The Autonomous Province of Trento (also called Trentino) is a mountainous region located in the northern part of Italy, spanning over 6200 km². Only 13% of the territory is located below 600 m, a threshold conventionally used to distinguish mountain-area municipalities from those in the valleys, about 17% is at levels of between 600 m and 1000 m, and the remaining 70% is above 1000 m (1).

The Province comprises 166 municipalities and has about 544 000 inhabitants, 14% of whom are under the age of 15 and 23% over the age of 64 (1). The gross domestic product per capita is € 37 100 (2020), and life expectancy at birth for males and females, respectively, is 81.3 and 86.3 years (2021) (1).

In 2021, the financial requirements for health services in the Province were calculated at €1.3 billion (2). Universal health care and preventive health services are organized in a national health-care system and provided at the local level by so-called local health units.

The Provincial Health Care Trust (APSS) is responsible for the implementation of national plans and guidelines and for the autonomous development of local health policies.

Political governance is provided by the provincial Health Council, mainly through the annual assignment of goals and objectives in accordance with those outlined in the Provincial Health Plan 2015–2025 (3).

Regional activities linked to the WHO European Programme of Work

The following activities are linked to the three core priorities of the European Programme of Work (EPW): ((i) moving towards Universal

Health Coverage (UHC); (ii) promoting health and well-being; and (iii) protecting against health emergencies).



Moving towards UHC

According to the national legislation, every region/province provides for essential levels of care in favour of the entire population: preventive health care at both the community and the individual levels (protection from the effects of pollution, prophylaxis of infectious diseases, vaccinations); territorial primary care (such as family medicine and pharmaceutical assistance); counselling and social services (mental health, reproductive health, addiction); care/nursing homes and adult day-care services; and hospitalization, long-term care and rehabilitation. There are four health districts with outpatient offices distributed throughout the Province. The aim is to bring the territorial and hospital services closer to the citizen, guarantee equal access and care, and ensure integrated patient care through a widespread health- and social -care network.

Besides the national baseline, APSS guarantees additional services, such as preventive health-care measures, dental care, prosthetic assistance, transportation of the sick and injured, and assistance to people with disabilities.



Promoting health and well-being

Trentino aims to promote equal access to quality health services throughout the territory through the progressive implementation of a polycentric hospital model. In accordance with the Hub-and-Spoke model, the most complex and high-intensity health-care services are concentrated in the Trento and Rovereto hospitals. These are backed by five territorial hospitals, which carry out basic hospital functions and operate in connection with other territorial services.

The local strategy also includes the enhancement of proximity health services and home services, specialized televisit and telecontrol services related to biological parameters, and the promotion of multiprofessional networks and the “family nurse” health professional (4).

In delivering assistance, health professionals operate within the framework of people-centered health care. In particular, they listen to and respect individual perspectives and choices, communicate clearly to encourage effective participation in care, and promote their active participation in policy-making and organizational changes regarding care-delivery models.



Protecting against health emergencies

Trentino is currently working on a provincial plan to protect against a future influenza pandemic (PanFlu 2021–2023) (5). The general objective is to strengthen local preparedness to:

- protect the population by reducing the transmissibility of, and morbidity and mortality from, a possible influenza pandemic as much as possible;
- protect the health of all professionals involved in the emergency;
- reduce the impact of an influenza pandemic on health and social services and ensure the continuity of essential services;
- maintain the functioning of social and economic activities.

Actions linked to the EPW flagship initiatives

(The Mental Health Coalition; Empowerment through digital health; The European Immunization Agenda 2030; Healthy behaviours: incorporating behavioural and cultural insights.)

Initiative relative to the Mental Health Coalition

The suicide prevention project, Invito alla vita (Invitation to life)

The aim of this project is to raise awareness about suicide, offer training for the health-care and

social-service workforce, and provide support to people in distress, as well as those having lost a loved one to suicide.

Initiative relative to empowerment through digital health

Trentino digital health platform (TreC)

This platform comprises an ecosystem of

applications and devices that support citizens in their daily health and care management.

Initiatives relative to the European Immunization Agenda 2030

Agenda for health-care professionals

According to the local legislation, the Provincial Commission for Vaccination Strategies outlines an agenda, which includes information campaigns

and training activities for health-care professionals. APSS monitors vaccination coverage of the whole population on an annual basis (6).

Initiative relative to healthy behaviours: incorporating behavioural and cultural insight

Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative

Territorial health services and birth centres assure children and parents a network of continuous support between the health services, peer groups

and the local community, with a focus on maternal and child health, parenthood, infant and young-child feeding, and breastfeeding.

Initiative specific to the Autonomous Province of Trento

Trentinosalute 4.0, a governance tool for digital health jointly managed by the Autonomous Province of Trento, APSS and the Bruno Kessler Foundation (research institute), was formally established by the Trentino Local Competence Center on Digital Health in 2016. The tool's TS4 programme converges health planning, innovation needs and opportunities offered through research and new digital technologies. It also involves citizens, health professionals and sector companies, according to a quadruple helix approach.

The three most important topics for collaboration within the Regions for Health Network

These are:

1. territorial health care
2. health and environment
3. information and communication technology for older and fragile people.

Main partners and collaborators

These are:

- University of Trento;
- Fondazione Bruno Kessler (research institute);
- United Nations Children's Fund;
- Agenas (a technical and scientific body of the Italian national health service, which carries out research activities on organizational, economic and financial aspects, as well as on the efficacy of health interventions);
- Fondazione Franco Demarchi (research institute);
- digital innovation observatories (for example, the Politecnico di Milano);
- ProMIS (network);
- Fondazione VRT/Fondazione Caritro.

Contact list

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