A symposium projected into the future

On 21-22 September 2012 it took place at the Civic Aquarium of Milan in Italy the Third National Conference on Tuberculosis, organized by Stop TB Italia and the Permanent Training Centre on Tuberculosis.

The title of the Symposium "Tuberculosis: a social disease," wanted to emphasize the social aspects of the disease, setting them in a wider context of health and wellness.

As occurred on the occasion of the World TB Day 2012, the symposium was opened by Pierfrancesco Majorino, Town councillor for Social Affairs and Culture of Health of the Municipality of Milan, who reiterated the commitment of the Municipality towards the most marginalized and vulnerable people into our society. The opening was followed by the intervention of Mario Raviglione, Director of the Stop TB Department at the WHO, who outlined the current situation of the global fight against tuberculosis.

During the two days of the symposium, the speakers retraced the historical interventions implemented against the disease, to get to the latest and technologically advanced answers, and addressed all the social issues related to the disease, which can be solved by public institutions only if supported by private institutions and voluntary associations. While institutions are involved in the processes of diagnosis and treatment, the voluntary and non-profit sector and civil society should take action on the social aspects, which cannot be tackled by the institutions. The role of the voluntary and non-profit sector becomes extremely important in the resolution of social problems related to the disease especially in a period of limited resources. However its actions, in order to be effective, must be coordinated, supervised and connected to the institutional activities with the aim of creating a network of services that are compatible and have the same purpose, language and procedures.

During the symposium, Stop TB Italy has also had the change to present its projects aiming at identifying new partnerships and new forms of collaboration. Many doctors, healthcare professionals and biologists attended the symposium, appreciating the topics of the presentations and involving themselves in lively and particularly interesting discussions and debates.

The particular projection into the future of the topics of the symposium have allowed to hypothesize new approaches of combating tuberculosis identifying new models of supervision, no longer used in industrialized countries, which are more modern and sustainable.

Please find all the symposium power point presentations on the Stop TB Italy’s public profile on slide-share: http://www.slideshare.net/StopTbItalia.