Stop TB Italia engages youth in the fight against TB
Submitted by Stop TB Italia - January 2012

On January 25, Stop TB Italia engaged local students, professors and community members by presenting informational booklets on tuberculosis and other materials about the Stop TB Partnership at an event hosted by the Shared Development Consulting Group (SDCG) and the University of Pavia. Through the event, many students were made aware of the very real threat that TB poses to the international community, as well as learned more about successful stories from national stop TB partnerships such as Stop TB Italia.

The Shared Development Consulting Group, a Stop TB Italia's partner, was created on the basis of pre-existing networks of students, professors and researchers from the University of Pavia and other development professionals from international organizations. Their aim is to use these networks – at least one partner in every continent in the world – to enhance local capacities to support governments’ national strategic development plans in many fields, including health. Stop TB Italia partnered with SDCG for an awareness-raising event aimed at engaging local students in the college town of Pavia, where students make up about a third of the population. The event was considered to be a great success and, for future events, Stop TB Italia will continue to partner with SDCG.

Finding innovative new ways of engaging students in health issues such as TB is not an easy task, but Stop TB Italia has already hosted several concerts and events targeting students and is already gearing up for their next concert which will be held on World TB Day, the 24rd of March, hosted by “radio popolare,” a very popular radio station among the student population.

Additionally, on 23 March a symposium will be held in coordination with Milan city council on the social determinants of urban TB control. Stop TB Italia’s youth engagement strategy aims at bringing in fresh ideas, raising awareness about TB and building more extensive networks and partnerships in new communities.