



PRESS RELEASE

RESEARCH AND HEALTH– NINE NEW SMOKING CESSATION AND HARM REDUCTION RESEARCH PROJECTS UNVEILED

On Monday 24th June, Dr. Riccardo Polosa, Director of the Center of Excellence for the Acceleration of Harm Reduction at the University of Catania (CoEHAR), announced nine smoking cessation and harm reduction research projects with Dr. Ruggero Razza, Health Councilor for the Sicilian Region; Dr. Derek Yach, President of the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World; and Francesco Purrello, Director of the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine of the University of Catania.

One of the research projects will be implemented in all Sicilian hospitals, two will introduce new monitoring systems to evaluate the smoking and food habits of smokers, and a cohort study will assess the impact of low-risk products compared to combustible cigarette use worldwide. These are just a few of the nine projects that have been already initiated at the CoEHAR.

"Recent data show that lung cancer is causing more deaths in Sicily than any other type of cancer," explained the councilor Dr. **Ruggero Razza**. "We know that smoking addiction is one of the main causes of lung cancer, and that's why we have already implemented anti-smoking services in all regional hospitals with the provision of a direct consulting service on cessation treatments. With the Smoke Free Sicily project, we will be able to further and enhance this newly integrated system and bring this service to other hospitals in the region."

"Quitting smoking is the main objective, but this goal is not always easily accessible for everyone," said Dr. **Riccardo Polosa**. "Thanks to this newly funded research, the Center's researchers can explore new harm reduction tools and switch methods. The University of Catania is proud to take on this challenge, and the projects that are already in progress involve hundreds of researchers from different sectors. Additionally, this funding will help them tap into an international scientific network of considerable academic importance, allowing for scientific collaboration that will further the research – and hopefully help to save lives."

"As millions of people continue to die from tobacco-related diseases globally, it is imperative that we expand the body of scientific knowledge and technology around smoking cessation and harm reduction," said **Dr. Yach**. "We believe these research projects will lead to the discovery of tools and solutions that will help smokers end their dependency on combustible cigarettes for good."

To commemorate this important research initiative, Dr. Yach, along with some CoEHAR representatives, will participate in the **Messina Strait Crossing** on Tuesday, June 25th. The departure is scheduled for the 25th at 8.30 am from Capo Peloro - Torre Faro (Messina).

The nine projects of the CoEHAR have the following objectives:

- **Smoke Free Sicily:** Enhance the antismoking service to all the hospitals infrastructure in the region.
- **Food Recognition Tech:** Allow smokers who want to quit to monitor their food intake by acquiring images of the food consumed.
- **Smile Study:** Compare the effects of tobacco cigarettes and alternative products on dental health.
- **EU-PATH:** Evaluate the consumption habits of tobacco and nicotine products in 16 European and Extra-EU countries.
- **International Summer School on Project Management:** Train 15 young professionals or graduates from around the world on the methods of project management to address harm reduction research.
- **Replication Studies:** Replicate for the first time the most notorious studies on reduced-risk products using standard conditions that reflect the actual conditions of use.
- **Long-Term Health Effect Study:** Observe the long-term health effects and changes that occur in vapers that have never smoked before.
- **Diasmoke 2.0:** Assess the short and long term reduction of cardio-respiratory risk, correlated to the use of combustion-free products, in diabetic patients.
- **In Silico Science:** Train researchers on innovative method for systematic reviews applied to the research on tobacco harm reduction, with particular reference to cardiovascular effects, respiratory effects and weight management.

These CoEHAR research projects are being supported by a grant from **the [Foundation for a Smoke-Free World](#)**, an independent, nonprofit organization with the purpose of improving global health by ending smoking in this generation.

Insert program / contact details and below:

Link to the presentation program: <https://www.coehar.it/comunicati-stampa/a-catania-i-9-progetti-della-rivoluzione-globale-antifumo/>

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