



“Blood donor health and safety: the point of view of the Italian Blood Donors Associations”

Conference “Blood Donor Health and Safety”
Rome, 28th March 2019

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Food for thought

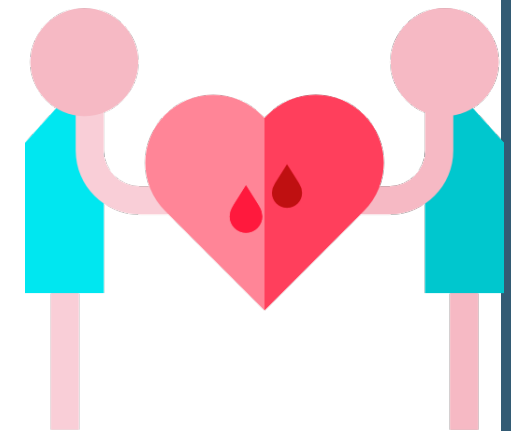
- I. The values of donation and the role of donors' organizations
- II. How to protect donor health and safety: context, values and best practices
- III. Conclusions



The values of **donation** and the role of **donors' organizations**

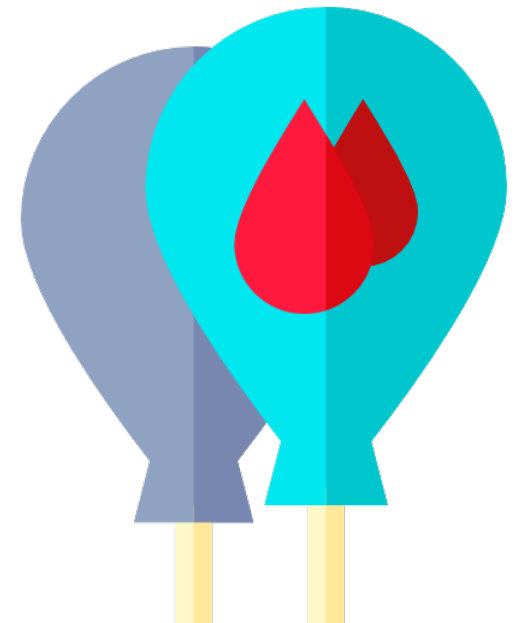
The act of donation

- **Voluntary, anonymous, non-remunerated, regular donors (VNRD)** are the "safest" allies for themselves and especially for the patients.
- Donated blood (and plasma) is considered as a **public, ethical, strategical and community good** in order to assure the dignity of the donor and of their donation.
- Donation is an **act of solidarity** for the benefit of others and contributes to social cohesion and **civic engagement**.



The donor community

- Associations are **responsible** for the **promotion of VNRD, donor recruitment and donor retention** (regular donors).
- **Associations play a strategic role** not only for these major tasks, but also in **raising awareness** about the importance of voluntary non-remunerated donors in public health systems and in promoting the **culture** of solidarity and **healthy lifestyles**.



Blood donors' Associations in Italy

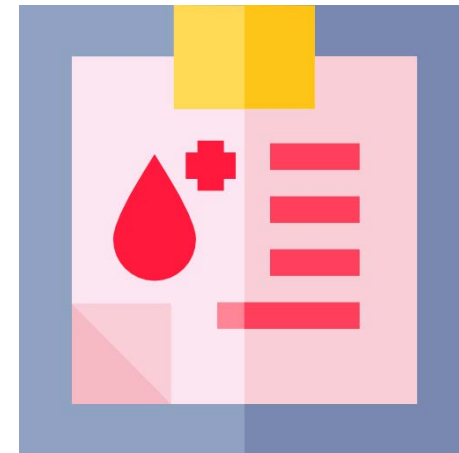


- **CIVIS** (AVIS, CRI, FIDAS e FRATRES)
- Law n. 219/2005: recognition and responsibilities
- Blood collection and promotion of VNRD
- Coordinated approach
- The donors' organizations presence is felt across the whole Italian territory

How to protect donor health and safety:
context, values and best practices

What do we mean

- Protecting the right to health of donors and of those who need to undergo transfusion therapy
- Blood donation is indeed a matter of **health** and **human rights**: donor rights and patient rights.
- Before and after donation (also in case of deferral)
- Not just about blood donation (donor HEALTH)



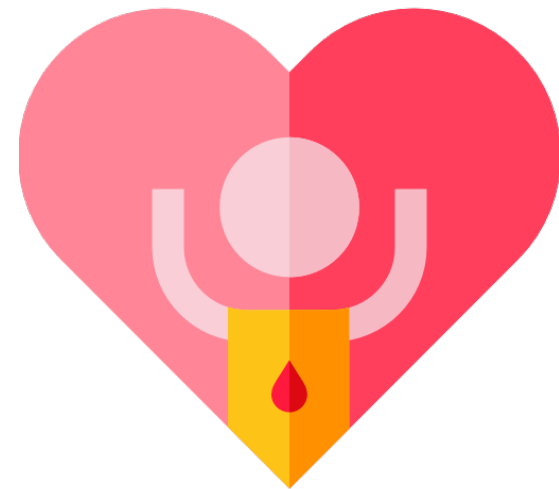
Values

- Safe, standardized, evidence-based donation procedures – training of professionals
- Common donor selection criteria – donor questionnaire
- **Information and awareness**
- Self-sufficiency plans (on the local and national level) – donor call



Best practices

- Donor welcome at the blood donation center
- Regular call for donation
- Promotion of VNRD (focus on specific targets)
- Donor education (eligibility criteria, healthy lifestyles, disease prevention)
- Donor recognition



Some examples

- Guidelines on donor welcome, call for donation, VNRD promotion
- Questionnaire about health habits and nutrition
- Information and awareness-raising initiative about sexually transmitted diseases



testa o Cuore?

Quando una scelta consapevole può cambiarti il futuro

AVIS

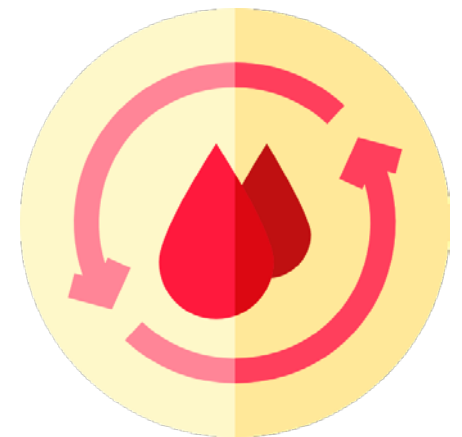
Centro Operativo AIDS
COA

AVIS **NUTRIAMO LA VITA!** per EXPO

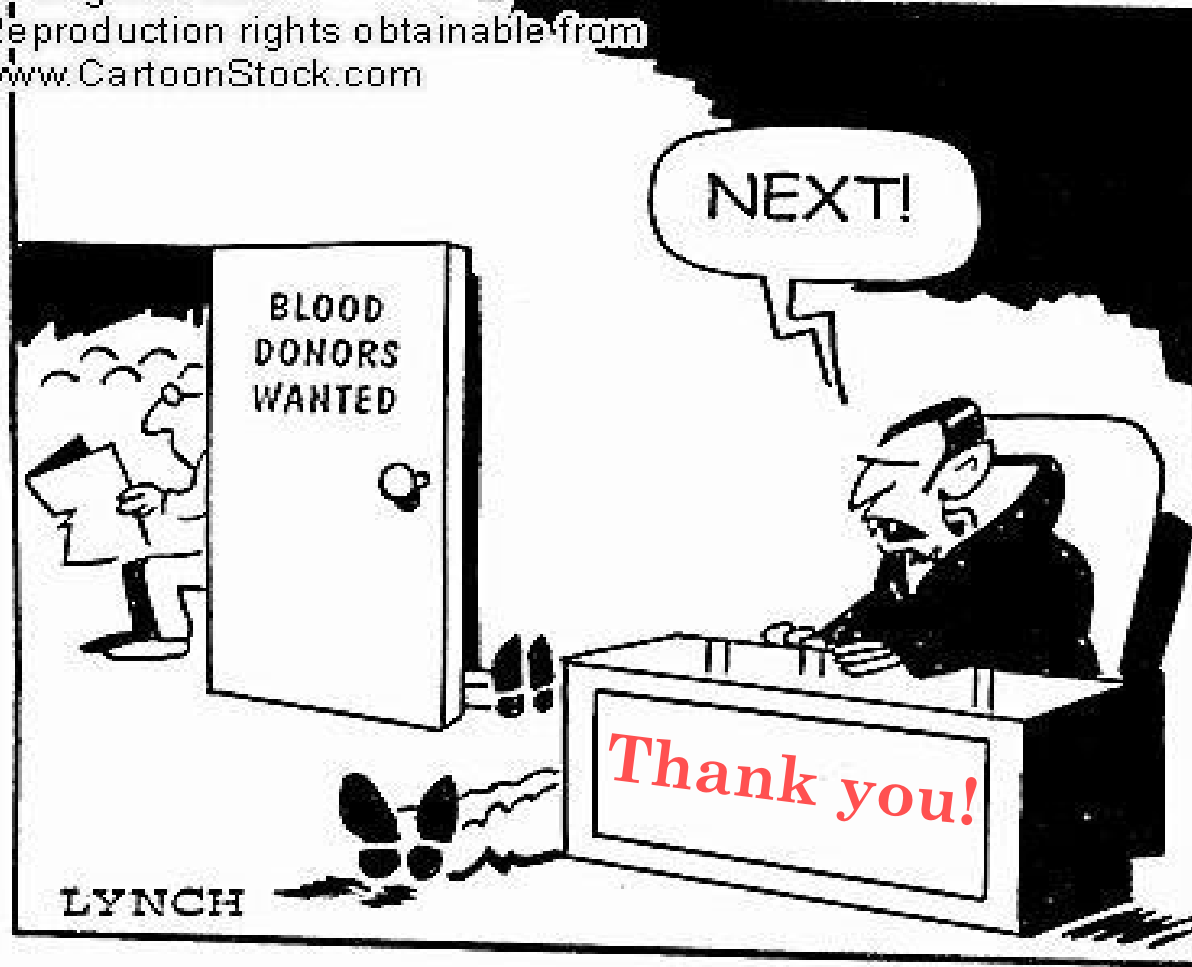
Conclusions

Our key messages

- **Voluntary, anonymous, non-remunerated, regular and responsible (associated) blood donation** is the **main instrument** to ensure donor health and safety
- **Donor education: a well-informed donor is a safe donor** (not only about blood donation eligibility criteria, but also about **prevention and healthy lifestyles**)
- **Empowerment of organizations:** thanks to their proximity with the donors, donor associations can represent a crucial asset for donor education (in a complementary way to the actions of health authorities)
- Investments on national **self-sufficiency plans** and in the **development of the VNRD culture** (financial and social return): the individual donor will donate what suits the donor and depending which are the needs



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