

Dear Colleague,

Turin, February the 25th

I am an Italian sociologist based in the University of Turin, my name is **MARIO CARDANO**, and I am writing to you to wonder if you can be interested in participating to the call for a European project on the resistance to vaccination policy.

From the research office of my University, I had the Draft of the work Programme 2018-2020, that contains the indication of the calls that are forthcoming. Among them, the one that captured my interests is the call **SC1 – BHC – 33 2020 ADDRESSING LOW VACCINE UPTAKE**. The call will be officially published this summer, with a deadline for the presentation of the proposal about the next autumn or winter.

The draft of the call, after recognising the relevance and the success of the vaccination policies, introduces the issue of the coverage that for many vaccines is below the recommended limit. Then the draft carries on maintaining that research has an essential role to play in understanding the underlying causes of poor vaccine uptake, including vaccine hesitancy, and to develop strategies and guidelines to help member States increase vaccination coverage.

The call asks for proposals that can analyse causes and motives for the opposition and hesitancy toward vaccination and design and testing of one or more interventions to improve vaccine uptake. This is the gist of the call, but if you are interested, I can send you the complete text for your examination.

I think that the topic of vaccine resistance and even more that of vaccine hesitancy is very relevant for the health policies and it offers an interesting opportunity for elaborate – in a specific context – the topic of irrational beliefs and that of the conspiracy model of thought.

With this letter, I mean to solicitate the creation of a research network that will participate in the Horizon call. I would prefer to be on of the partner of the Research group, not necessarily the principal investigator. To evaluate my proposal, I close this letter with a short self presentation.

I am full profesor on Qualitative Methods for Social Research and Sociology of Health at the department of Culture, Politics and Society at the University of Turin. I am the coordinator of the Research Network Health and Medicine of the Italian Association of Sociology, for the triennium 2017-2020 and the member of the faculty (previously the director) of the PhD course on Sociology and Methodology of Social Research jointly run by the University of Turin and the University of Milan.

My research interests are focused in two areas, the methodology of social sciences and sociology of health. Studies related to the first area focus on methods and epistemology of qualitative research and on the application of the theory of argumentation as instruments to improve the rigour of this research approach. On this topic, I am writing a book for the publisher Routledge, titled *Defending Qualitative Research. Design, Analysis and Textualisation*, be published by the end of the year. In the second area, the sociology of health, my interests are directed toward health inequalities, mental health and disability. In this area, I carried out some pieces of research on health inequalities, and recently I started a team ethnography on the use of coercion measure (involuntary treatment and mechanical restraint) in the Italian psychiatric ward.

Last November I participate in the European Commission as expert evaluator for Horizon 2020 Funding.

My contribution to the research group can be focused on the use of qualitative methods to study the resistance and the hesitancy to vaccination and in the combination of quantitative and qualitative evidence. My past studies, starting from my PhD thesis on the apparently irrational beliefs can be of some help to theoretically frame the topic in the study.

You can have more information on my publications and on their impact at my Academia website (<https://unito.academia.edu/MarioCardano>) and on the Google Scholar website (<https://tinyurl.com/yayfgjrv>).

If you are interested in this topic or simply curious, you can be in touch with me by email: Mario.cardano@unito.it or by phone: +0039 338 115 6499.

I look forward to see you, yours sincerely

Mario Cardano


