

## How the Chinese are treated in Italy?

**A research analyses the relationship of migrants with health care**

Milan, Italy -- How are they treated the Chinese and Filipino migrants living in Italy? What kind of relationship they have with the NHS? They know him and especially know how to access it? Try to answer these questions, the research funded and coordinated by Asia Europe Foundation and entrusted to ISMU Foundation in Milan . A project that aims, in addition to the emergence of the critical, especially to outline strategies to improve the situation and to meet the health needs of migrants.

The survey was carried out between 2011 and 2012 and the results of the research were collected in the book ' The Health Dimension of Southeast Asian Migration to Europe ', presented yesterday in Milan. "Reaching the Filipino community was not easy because we had the contacts past", he tells us Annavittoria Sarli, a researcher at the Foundation Ismu who collaborated on the project. "Having worked a lot with them, there was a willingness, even if talk about their disease and their health, however, raises a minimum of resistance and embarrassment " . More complex, however, was to relate to the Chinese community. "Beyond some cultural mediators, the community has been very reticent, there was suspicion against us" , says the researcher, pointing out that "when they were administered questionnaires, interviewed migrants did not talk about their illnesses, so the data collected from the quantitative are understated, because culturally in the Chinese community do not talk about their health " .

And this closure was also found when the Chinese have to deal with health problems. The research highlights how often their needs are not indicated and cannot be resolved in the circuit of the National Health Service, only to be faced by the migrants themselves who rely on their fellow citizens or their country of origin. Among the migrants interviewed, 45% said they have never addressed the SSN in the period between October 2010 and October 2011. Despite assurances not to have needed, the reality is another. Faced with difficulties to access to health services Italians, the Chinese prefer to give up. Language is only one of the obstacles that lie ahead. An obstacle that can often overcome with the help of their children, born or raised in Italy, or countrymen who serve as interpreters or, in rarer cases, the linguistic-cultural mediators made available for inspection by the structures. But demolished the language barrier remains that bureaucratic, linked to the limited knowledge of the rules of access to health services. Often the Chinese have neither health insurance card or a referring physician. In addition, to further discourage them, fueling their distrust in the healthcare system, the long waiting lists. All this translates to one side in a little recourse to the doctor, to whom it is addressed only 10% of the Chinese, and the other in a massive turnout at the emergency department , which provide immediate assistance, non-bureaucratic and no waiting lists.

Faced with this situation, comments Annavittoria Sarli, "it is for the National Health Service to find answers and strategies, the structure being in charge of the welfare salvaguardare health of the community, including that of these groups of migrants" . According to the researcher, " so far the health system has been trying to gear up to meet the challenges posed by immigration, but did so by adopting a universalistic approach, should instead go to these communities by organizing awareness-raising, information, prevention campaigns and health literacy " .

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