

Italy

Claudio Cominardi

Music Therapist
Brescia, Italy

Snapshot

Area

Italy is a peninsula extending from the North by the Alps to the South in the Mediterranean Sea, along the chain of Apennines. It has an area of 301.338 square kilometers.

Population

60,325,805 (2009 estimate)

Official Language

Italian and regional or local dialects.

Ethnic Groups

Almost 7% of residents come from more than 20 different countries out of EU, especially East Europe, Middle Asia, Northern and Central Africa, China and Latin America.

Median Age

43.2 years

Children under 5

3,400,719 (2009 estimate)

Sources

www.istat.it
www.wikipedia.it



"I threw away my cup when I saw a child drinking from the stream using his hands."
– Socrates

Demographics

In Italy, music therapy is very complex. There is no official recognition from the government, and therefore, there is a lack of investment by and for public and private institutions. Many music therapy associations and registries with different policies and approaches have been formed; however, they often disagree among themselves. This has caused a further dispersion of resources and professionals. For example, currently in Italy there are dozens of associations and more than thirty different schools offering courses in music therapy, some of them gathered in federations. In this complex situation, it's impossible to determine how many music therapists are working in Italy, as well as specialties they may have.

Music therapy is utilized in centers for individuals with disabilities, home hospices, and psychiatric hospitals. It remains unclear how many operators are still active in childhood and infancy schools, as there are no official guidelines or regulations to invest in or be accountable to. Each school or education institution manages its own projects with complete autonomy, according to their requirements and policies,

which are generally renewed year after year. There are many projects for children with autism, evolving syndromes and special needs, although most Italian music therapists work with part-time or temporary contracts.

Background Information

The two most important Italian federations of music therapy are CONFIAM and FIM. Other schools and associations are often located inside conservatories or university faculties and recognized by regional departments. The main federations are approved by the Italian ministry, but there is not a national definition or a state law that regulates music therapy.

Common Approaches

The main theoretical and methodological approaches range from Benazon's model to Nordoff and Robbins' Creative Music Therapy. Humanistic psychology and music didactics such as Orff and Kodaly are widely used, too. In most cases, the approach used depends on the schools and/or associations the music therapist has chosen or to which he/she belongs.

However, there are a wide variety of music therapy projects and research which is being funded.

This is stimulating continued dialogue, acknowledgement and quality development with the institutions. The future of music therapy in Italy will hopefully be influenced by the growing confidence in the profession.

Prominent Publications

- Scardovelli Mauro (1992). *Il Dialogo Sonoro*. Nuova Casa Editrice Cappelli, Bologna, Italy.
Manarolo Gerardo (1996). *L'angelo della Musica*. Omega Edizioni, Bologna, Italy.
Postacchini P. L, Ricciotti, A., & Borghesi M. (1997). *Lineamenti di Musicoterapia*. La Nuova Italia Scientifica, Roma, Italy.
Cremaschi Trovesi Giulia (2010). *Il Corpo Vibrante*. Edizioni Scientifiche Magi, Roma, Italy.



About the Author

Claudio Cominardi is a graduate of the APIM-CONFIAM school of Turin. He lives and works in Brescia, Northern Italy. His work mainly revolves around children, researching new forms of musical and analogical languages aimed at intercultural integration, attention and hyperactive disorders. He is a trainer of early childhood educators and school teachers at numerous institutions and schools.

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