

Università La Sapienza

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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Fields of action:

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Description of the organisation

Sapienza University of Rome, founded in 1303 by Pope Boniface VIII, is one of the oldest universities in the world and the second largest University in Europe, greatly able to manage its outstanding numbers: 111.000 enrolled students, 8.000 of them coming from outside Italy and 1.000 incoming and outgoing exchange students each year, 11 faculties which cover any kind of scientific and social area with their 63 departments, more than 4.700 professors and researchers and 4.300 administrative and technical staff.

Sapienza offers a vast array of courses: around 260 degree programmes at Bachelor and Master level, 80 PhD courses, one to two year long lasting professional courses and Specialization Schools, Master degree programmes entirely taught in English (including a full 6-year long lasting degree in Medicine and Surgery), plus many English-taught single courses in various disciplines.

Sapienza is also one of the few Italian public Universities always ranked in major international rankings, active member of several international networks such as COURSERA, UNICA, UNIMED, the SANTANDER GROUP and many others and therefore plays a fundamental role in the academic international scenario.

Committed to the importance of the internationalization of education and training, to the expertise and know-how sharing, to the collaboration in institutional and capacity building, Sapienza University is engaged, since a long time, in an extensive range of international cooperation projects and actions with almost every geographical area of the world: from Asia to the Balkans, from Australia to the Middle East, from America to the ACP countries.

This long lasting experience has brought Sapienza to an extensive knowledge of the international cooperation that made our University able to develop a wide and now tested range of management and operational skills in the field.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

La Sapienza University participated in numerous projects in every field and disciplinary sector. It has a very long experience like project proposer and manager.

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

The History of Medicine within Sapienza University of Rome represents the backbone in the Didactic Planning of the seven Degree Courses in Medicine and Surgery. In addition to being part of the Didactic Program of the Degree Courses and the different educational and training programs dedicated to the History of Medicine, offered through multi-professional Forums, Conferences and Congresses that accompany the student along the entire training path, elective teaching activities are organized annually on specific in-depth topics. Moreover, the Polo Museale della Sapienza (Museum Centre of the Sapienza University) has dedicated an entire section to the themes of the History of Medicine, providing targeted programs of active teaching to medical students and the general public. Moreover, since 1964, through *MEDICINA in the SECOLI-Arte e Scienza/ The Journal of the History of Medicine*, an international peer-reviewed Journal edited by Sapienza University of Rome, La Sapienza has promoted the publication of scientific contributions and research work concerning the various fields that fall within the History of Medicine. Furthermore, since 1989, this journal has published original research papers, critical reviews and short works devoted to all aspects of the History of Medicine and Biomedicine, the History of Healthcare and health-professions, as well as the History of Bioethics. Science produces exciting successes, but there are still many gaps between what we expect from medicine and how much it can offer. This perspective explains the renewed role of the History of Medicine as a fundamental tool in order to understand the methods and ideas used not only in the past, but also in the present. The horizons of culture in a historical perspective help to educate the critical and anti-dogmatic sense, not so much to acquire certainties, but rather the awareness of problems. The task of a historian is to explain the fact that if science is the mirror of the intellectual and social conditions of the moment, the advances in medicine should not be considered disjointed by the analysis of the context. The persuasive force of technology, constantly updating, is likely to put into the shade the importance of reflections on thinking patterns and on intellectual mechanisms related to scientific theories. Today, history books that have only described the triumphs of medicine continue to appear necessary, but they are less and less useful. A new story has begun and we can not ignore that the development of medicine shows complex features that need to be discussed. The historian of medicine helps to remember that the dominant patterns of illness and the explanations that have been taken to understand the empirical reality and to cure, have not always been adapted to the responsibilities of medicine.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

History of Medicine Institute of which our staff is a part, manages the History of Medicine Museum of La Sapienza organizing visits, meetings, exhibitions and many other activities connected with teaching and disclosure of history of medicine contents. The Museum contains an interesting and important heritage, archaeological finds from the archaic age to the recent anatomical discoveries passing through the history of Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Arabian medicine.

Reasons of involvement in the project

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Maria Caporale is a professor of Human and Bio-legal Sciences, researcher of History of Medicine since 2001 in University La Sapienza. She has a long experience in teaching and research activities and has been collaborating for many years with History of Medicine Institute.