

Migration history and first episode psychosis: results from EUGEI project- Italy

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The excess of psychosis among migrants and ethnic minorities is a well defined phenomenon in North Europe, while it should be still demonstrated in south Europe. Because of the variation in prevalence and distribution of risk factors in different national contexts, similar studies in different countries are needed to test the hypotheses and to ensure the generalizability of the findings. Moreover, available studies have been mostly focused on risk factors of psychosis during the post migration phase (such as ethnic fragmentation, unemployment, etc) and among well established ethnic minorities (second and further generations of migrants). In Italy, first generation migrants are still the larger component of the ethnic minorities' populations and we can evaluate risk factors of psychosis related to the migration history as whole considered (pre-migration, migration and post migration phases). I will present results on risk factors of psychosis among first generations migrants in the three sites involved in the EU-GEI Project in Italy (Bologna, Palermo and Verona) (European Network of National Schizophrenia Networks Studying Gene Environment Interactions Project EU-GEI European Community's Seventh Framework Program, grant agreement No. HEALTH-F2-2009-241909). Particularly, I will discuss our efforts to understand the role of the migration process characteristics in the development of psychosis.