

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ITALIAN HEALTH SYSTEM: EMERGING NEEDS AND VALUE OF HUMAN CAPITAL

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ABSTRACT: *In the Italian experience the nonprofit system represents a wide and diversified realm. Strongly rooted in the economic, social and political Italian eco-system, nonprofit organizations appear relevant mainly in the health sector, through innovative forms of partnership and co-production of essential and also new services.*

The growing need to limit public expenditure, dramatically present in hospitals and health institutions, leads to the extensive search for effective and innovative channels proving able to satisfy the emerging needs of patients.

The aim of this study is to carry out an analytical and critical exploration of the state of the art of the Italian nonprofit system in the light of the outcomes of Ninth General Census of Industry reported by ISTAT- Italian National Institute of Statistics in 2014.

The results obtained show that the major growth trends related to involvement of nonprofit in health system were recorded between 1991 and 2010. These are the years when the process of downsizing of the general system of public welfare started, along with the earliest attempts to reduce health spending.

These organizations appear to be the effective response to problems which the public sector does not have a strong interest to act for, and they also provide suitable professional profiles for Healthcare.

KEYWORDS: *nonprofit organizations, Italian health system, human capital, professional profile, quality of services.*

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