

# PrEP in Italy

Advocacy and activism for free and accessible prevention

*AIDS Action Europe Webinar · 2026*



LEGA ITALIANA  
PER LA LOTTA CONTRO  
L'AIDS

**LILA Milano ETS**

Fondazione di Partecipazione

# Where Italy Stands Today

**Oral PrEP formally approved in 2017**



**Reimbursable since April 2023**



**1/3 of all Italian users started PrEP in May 2023**

**Reimbursable = FREE** for people who have an Italian Healthcard

# The Advocacy Timeline

**The start in 2016**

Community & clinicians submit joint technical documents to Italy's national medicines regulatory agency (AIFA)

**2017**

Truvada Oral PrEP approved in Italy, available but costly (~€120/box). No public funding.

**2018**

First formal meeting with AIFA-community-clinicians- gov't alignment. Then: elections, new government, leadership replaced. Progress reset.

**2021**

Protest at ICAR. Sit at Ministry of Health. All major HIV/LGBTQ+ associations united in advocating for reimbursability and better accessibility.

**2020**

COVID. The only places PrEP could be dispensed shut down.

**2019**

Advocacy resumes. Generics appear (~€60/box). First community PrEP access begins in Milan.

**2022**

New documents submitted. Coordinated press releases + national petition launched.

**2023★**

**Oral PrEP becomes free on the public health system. April 2023.**

Latest update...

**March 2026**

Long-acting injectable PrEP (Cabotegravir) approved for reimbursement for key populations.





# MINISTERO DELLA SALUTE



**FERMIAMO  
L'HIV  
PREP PER  
TUTT\***  
#WAD2021 #PREP



**CON LA PREP ANCHE LE DONNE  
POSSONO SCEGLIERE  
AUTONOMAMENTE COME  
PROTEGGERSI**  
#WAD2021 #PREP



**U=U  
PREP  
CONDOM**  
**LIBER\*  
DI GODERE**  
#WAD2021 #PREP



**SE IL CONDOM  
TI DA NOIA,  
PUOI USARE  
LA PREP**  
#WAD2021 #PREP

Italian Health Ministry  
sit-in 2021

# What factors made a difference?

## 01 **Technical preparation**

The Community supported their demands with complete clinical and operational documents. The 2016–17 technical papers gave AIFA a ready-made framework to work with.

## 02 **Maintaining informal relationships**

Even when formal processes stalled, back-channel relationships with governmental agencies' contacts were kept alive. This kept the door open even when external factors such as government changes and COVID brought formal progress to a halt.

## 03 **United, visible action**

The 2021 ICAR protest succeeded because every major association moved together. A fragmented movement would not have had the same impact. Unity was non-negotiable.

# Reimbursement ≠ Access



Prescription restricted to infectious disease specialists only



Free only if dispensed from a hospital pharmacy



PrEP Centres concentrated almost entirely in northern cities



Regions with very low number of PrEP users - especially in the South



Regional cost variations (e.g. follow-up visits free in Lombardy, not in Lazio)



People without an Italian health card cannot benefit from reimbursement



Low awareness - especially among women & heterosexual people

**We still have a long way to go to make PrEP equally accessible to everyone living in Italy!**

# Current Advocacy Priorities



## Expand who can prescribe

A working group has already written to AIFA requesting that oral PrEP be prescribable by GPs and other clinicians — not only infectious disease specialists. This alone would transform access.



## Community-based & territorial delivery

Linking associations and proximity services to the prescription and follow-up pathway. The original PrEP Units model envisioned this — it's still not a reality nationally.

LA

## Long-acting PrEP rollout

Cabotegravir now reimbursable. Rollout requires a capillary national network and inclusive, non-stigmatising criteria.



## New National AIDS Plan

References to PrEP are included. The question is whether they translate into funded, concrete action — especially in southern regions where access is near zero.

# *With Gratitude*

*For their tireless activism*



**Giulio Maria Corbelli**

*1966–2022*



**Massimo Oldrini**

*1963–2025*