

WORLD TB DAY 2014 – STOP TB ITALY



As every year, on the occasion of the World TB Day, Stop TB Italy has organized some events to raise awareness about tuberculosis by informing the general population and health technicians also in cities where the association has not arrived yet.

On the 21st and the 22nd of March 2014, Stop TB Italy has organized the first **Interdisciplinary Conference** entitled "**Tuberculosis and AIDS: two parallel stories**" at the *Palazzo delle Stelline* in Milan in collaboration with the Permanent Training Centre on Tuberculosis. The event saw the participation of about 120 members, including pulmonologists, infectious disease specialists, other specialists and health professionals interested in it.

In the beautiful setting of *Palazzo delle Stelline*, qualified speakers have retraced the common aspects of the two diseases, emphasizing the interdependence that exists between them and the need to address them in an integrated way. Arguments have been developed in-depth about the history of the two diseases, the difference between infection and disease, new diagnostic methods and treatment options.

In summary, an attempt was made to explain how not only through research, but also with social mobilization it has been possible to contain and control the two diseases that, at various times, have represented a health and social world emergency.

Particularly important was the last session, that saw speeches at the highest level on the history of infectious diseases and philosophical understanding of the complexity, included in the program of the conference with the intention of returning to medical science the humanistic component needed for a correct approach to the medical profession.

The success of the initiative will be an incentive to continue the training activity involving more and more different stakeholders and creating a common thought that facilitates interdisciplinary work.

On the evening of Monday 24 March, in the magical scenery of the *Museo Pignatelli* of Naples, held a concert "**The notes of life**", an event organized by Stop TB Italy Onlus to celebrate the World TB Day and its 10 years of activity, health and social commitment.

The large audience has been led in a musical journey able to go from the Opera to the Jazz, through a repertoire created specifically for the occasion: the songs of some of the most important composers that in the course of their life have had to deal with the disease or that simply have told it in notes.

From Chopin, irreparably marked by tuberculosis at the age of 39, to Jimmy Blanton, one of the greatest composers in the history of jazz, died at the age of 23, but also Caruso, Edvard Grieg, Frescobaldi, Bizet, Gershwin and the best known example of Opera marked by the fate of tuberculosis, Verdi's *La Traviata*.

A musical journey made possible thanks to the talent of the Maestro Enrico Fagnoni, one of the top Italian pianist, appreciated in Italy and throughout the world for its excellent virtuosity, discovered as a child prodigy, who performed at the age of 4 in Eurovision with Enrico Simonetti and honoured with several prestigious awards in the course of his career (Virtuoso pianist, Golden Pianist).

The concert saw also the participation of two protagonists of the Italian Opera: the Soprano Francesca Ruospo and the Tenor Domingo Stasi.

The event, patronized by the Medical Association of Naples and the main local institutions (Campania Region, Province and Municipality of Naples), has been characterized by the presence of a large audience, this is the positive sign that the use of culture and music to convey information and messages aimed to support the activities of the association has been one of the best choices.

Always on March 24, young supporters of Stop TB Italy, enthusiastic about the training course on TB for Italian doctors held in February in Senegal, have organized in Turin , Brescia and Ferrara screening of the documentary "**Lutteuses 47**" with the aim to raise awareness among students, interns and doctors on tuberculosis and on the international cooperation project that the association is implementing in support of the national program for the fight against TB in Senegal. The documentary has been very appreciated, both for how it manages to illustrate the project, and for how it expresses the feelings and the colours of the Senegalese culture. Also emerged is the belief that Stop TB Italy can really expand like wildfire across the country.

Finally, the Association has patronized the fifth edition of "**To Be Continued**" sound marathon of 24 hours, with 48 live concerts from 43 different countries, listen in all over the world on March 24 in live streaming via the website of the *Stazione di Topolò* <http://www.stazioneditopolo.it>.

We invite everyone to have a look at the pictures of the events organized for the TB Day 2014 on our [facebook page](#).

In addition, those interested can see the power point presentation of the conference "TB and AIDS: two parallel stories" on the [slide share profile](#).