

EDITORIAL

Assistance, didactics, research: is their integration possible?

As known the role of professional people working in the university world, as Researchers, Associated Professors or Professors, has to fulfill three fundamental duties: health assistance, didactics and research.

It is clear and evident that didactics and health assistance are strictly connected to each other. Infact in the clinical field, teaching can be supported and completed only by the activities related to health assistance meaning clinics.

And what about research? Hereinafter there are some comments follow.

As direct and common experience, the integration among assistance, didactics, and research – in the specific Italian scenario regarding the National Health System Firms integrated with Universities – is certainly a difficult path to be followed, even if necessary.

If we make a detailed analysis of the relations between these two important structures, we know that the financing for the health assistance activities fall in the responsibility of the Region Body, while those for didactics and research are under the responsibility of the University. This explains in a clear and not misunderstandable way the respective participations.

The joint planning of the health assistance activities, research and didactics is based on three articulated points:

- a) the specific aim of the Steering Committee whereas it is evident that the health assistance function responsibility – with some connected education and training activities for the personnel and for the research linked to the Health National System (SSN) – belongs to the General Director, it is also evident that the responsibility of the academic didactics and research belongs to the University. Infact through the University it is necessary to guarantee the integration process among Assistance, Didactics and Research: University has to be in charge of performing the specific function of evaluating the adequacy and the unitariness of the health assistance activities planning, of which it is officially responsible the Regional Health System (SSR) - with the didactics and research activities – both for the part under the responsibility of the Medicine and Surgery Faculty, and for the part under the responsibility of the SSR (Education, Training and Research);
- b) the primary role of the Committee of Directors
it has to be put in the position of performing a fundamental role for the integration in relation to the assigned responsibilities in the field of planning, research and training; from this level it starts the proposal of a Joint and integrated plan for programming the assistance, research and didactics activities to be made official by the Steering Committee; in this di-

rection a strongly innovative solution had to concern the annual planning for budget with the formalization in the budget reports of objectives regarding the assistance, the research and the didactics, and moreover a new approach to the check of results which could help:

- the responsabilization of the operators;
- an integrated view of all the projects and objectives;
- their pianification;

c) Departments with Integrated Activity (DAI)

it is evident that all the topics and roles referred to previous items, will have to be compared with the new Departments (DAI), created for replacing the previous ones, according to the recent ministerial rules.

The sharing between the two firms (SSN Companies integrated with the Universities) of possible profits or losses resulting from the integrated management of the functions will be determined on the basis of the records of the economical factors concretely used in performing the three functions. In other simpler words should the University take care also of the research it will have to do it with

its own resources and in any case having to make itself a compared to the needs of a Hospital University and the rules of a Region. Everything should be performed wishing also that this doesn't limit and would not condition the powers and the operative skills of the health system and above all of the same University.

In Italy we do have 33 Universities which should make exhaustive the work of "research". But all these facilities do really have the means and the resources to fulfill that very important task?

Figure out that would not be the case, instead of losing energy and resources in that sterile way, will not be possible to follow a path for differentiating the objectives and to "make specialized" or "to make excellent" some Universities in the field of research, and some other Universities in the field of other important educational and professionalizing tasks? Everything would be done in relation to the demonstrable attitudes and idoneous abilities of the different universities.

Cordially

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