

COUNTRY PROFILE

ITALY



GENERAL COUNTRY DATA

Capital	Rome
Official Language	Italian
Area	301,336 km ²
Population	59,870,000
GDP Per Capita (US\$)	\$35,289.40
Time Zone	CET UTC+1
Currency	Euro (EUR)



NATIONAL REGULATORY INSTITUTIONS

AGENAS: Since 2008, Continuing Medical Education has been overseen by the *Agenzia nazionale per i servizi sanitari regionali* (Agency of regional and national health structures) and the Italian Ministry of Health. Together, they set the standards for CME accreditation of events and providers. While sponsorship is allowed, full disclosure of such sponsorship must be made.

FARMINDUSTRIA: The Italian association of pharmaceutical industries represents over 200 member companies both domestic and foreign operating in Italy. All member companies of Farmindustria are required to abide by their Code of Professional Conduct, last updated February of 2012. This Code only applies to the member companies of Farmindustria and is not legally binding. They are a member of the EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations) and the IFPMA (International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations).

PHARMA CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of Professional Conduct, Farmindustria, 2014¹

General Guidelines: *The following guidelines are applicable to international, national and regional meetings. Local scientific meetings have a separate set of guidelines that are also noted below.*

DESTINATION/VENUE: Should never be chosen for its touristic capabilities. Further, events cannot take place in coastal resorts from December 1st to March 31st or from July 1st to August 31st for mountainous resorts (3.8). Must be appropriate in content, logistically and organizationally for the scientific event and whose main intent is a scientific program that qualifies as an expert meeting. An investigation must be made and sent to the Supervisory Committee proving the above (3.5).

CLASS OF SERVICE: Only economy-class air travel for travel within Italy or abroad. Business class can be offered only to speakers and moderators for international flights lasting longer than 6 consecutive hours. (3.3)

ACCOMMODATIONS: 4-stars or less (3.3)

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Rail in any class except Executive is allowed (3.3)

LENGTH OF STAY: Hospitality cannot be extended beyond a 12-hour time period before and after the event (3.12).

MEALS: Social dinners for participants are acceptable and are to be included in the registration fee of the conference (3.14). 60 Euro per meal per participant for each day of the congress is allowed (3.16).

HOSPITALITY: Hospitality costs can only be extended for CME events held in Italy for general practitioners, hospital pharmacists, pharmacists of the territory and nurses (3.13). Limited to travel, accommodation, and registration fees (3.16).

SPONSORSHIP: Healthcare professionals cannot be sponsored more than twice a year to attend a company laboratory visit unless they are speakers or moderators (3.3). At least 10% of sponsored healthcare professionals must be under the age of 40 (3.11).

OTHER: Events that will be participated by a majority of Italian physicians may only be organized by Italian companies (3.4). Non-CME events in Italy must last for at least or more than 6 hours per day (3.15). Hospitality cannot be extended to those accompanying healthcare professionals (3.14).

Local Scientific Meetings: These meetings can only be sponsored by pharmaceutical companies if they quality for CME credits and must be held in venues that can ensure scientific value of the event such as hospitals, universities, scientific foundations. If the event is set to last for less than 6 hours, a coffee break is appropriate; where the event will take over 6 hours, a small meal is acceptable. (3.9)

DISCLOSURE OF TRANSFERS OF VALUE:

Pharmaceutical companies must disclose transfers of value to healthcare professionals and healthcare organizations on an annual basis and published on the company's website. All data must be kept for at least 3 years (5.1). The first reporting period is 2015 and will be made available in 2016 (5.3).

CME/CPD SYSTEM

Agenzia Nazionale per i Servizi Sanitari Regionali (AGENAS)²

MANDATORY OR VOLUNTARY: Mandatory

TYPE OF CREDIT: Credit hours

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 150 credit hours every 3 years

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY: AGENAS

ONLINE CME: Yes

PROVIDERS/SINGLE EVENT: Providers

SPONSORS: Disclosure, unrestricted educational grants

SANCTIONS/INCENTIVES: Not defined for healthcare professionals, suspension for providers

HEALTH AUTHORITIES

AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER I SERVIZI SANITARI REGIONALI (AGENAS)

<http://www.agenas.it/> • +39 (06) 42749600 • agenas@pec.agenas.it

FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE DEGLI ORDINI DEI MEDICI CHIRURGHI E ODONTOIATRI

www.fnomceo.it • +39 (06) 36203221 • estero@fnomceo.it

FEDERAZIONE DELLE SOCIETA MEDICO

<http://www.fism.it/> • +39 (02) 54121092 • segreteria@fism.it

FARMINDUSTRIA

<http://www.farmindustria.it> • +39 (06) 675801

¹ Farmindustria. Section 3: Scientific Congresses, Meetings and Conventions. Section 4: Relations Between the Industry and the Scientific and Health Worlds. Code of Professional Conduct. February 22, 2012. <http://www.farmindustria.it/pubblico/02cofain.pdf>

² Agenzia Nazionale per i Servizi Sanitari Regionali. Continuing Medical Education. <http://ape.agenas.it/professionisti/formazione.aspx>