As defined in Healthy People 2010, **health literacy** is "the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions" (http://www.nih.gov/clearcommunication/healthliteracy.htm). Health literacy plays an active role in health promotion, encouraging patients to understand how to keep in good health condition, thus leading to level any inequality in health care. Therefore, it is necessary to provide the general public with comprehensive high-quality health information, collected in a single access point, and a consistent training pathway.

The Project was set up to implement the spreading of health information through a Web 3.0 user-friendly portal named MEDUSA (MEDicina Utenti SAulte in rete), based on the Medline Plus pattern. In addition, a multimedia training toolkit on medical information searching, to be re-used in local training courses, will grant access to wide-ranging medical information.

**Research Area #1: Data collection, organization and validation**

**WORK IN PROGRESS:**
Selection, collection and organization of existing health information on the web, starting from macro-areas of interest addressed by the National Health Plan of the Ministry of Health (2011-2013), such as cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, obesity, diabetes, infectious diseases and mental health.

**METHODS:**
Implementation of a subject approach for information retrieval through indexing based on the Italian Translation of MEDline/PubMED MeSH Thesaurus (©NLM).

**Research Area #2: Development of the software**

**WORK IN PROGRESS:**
Development of a portal named MEDUSA as the Italian reference point granting easy access to comprehensive and reliable bio-medical information on a range of issues related to general health topics, common diseases, public health hot topics, and specific pathologies.

**METHODS:**
Implementation of a software suitable for a heterogeneous system architecture, based on Semantic web and Open Linked Data sources. Such tool is inspired by NLM (National Library of Medicine) Medline Plus.

**Research Area #3 : Setting up of the training pathway**

**WORK IN PROGRESS:**
Setting up of a training pathway starting from hands-on sessions, to be provided in several cities over the country in the next two years.

**METHODS:**
Implementation of a cascade pattern that combines face-to-face training and hands-on sessions, for which a patient-friendly educational multimedia toolkit on biomedical information is being set up.