Teenagers and young adults with cancer in Europe: from national programmes to a European integrated coordinated project


In Italy, the first specific programmes for TYAs arose in paediatric oncology. In 2010, a national Committee on Adolescents was founded by the Associazione Italiana Ematologia Oncologia Pediatrica, with the mission of ensuring that Italian adolescents with cancer have prompt, adequate and equitable access to the best care to optimise their treatment outcome and quality of life (Ferrari et al. 2009, 2012). A formal cooperation was established with the federation of parent organisations. Two TYA units have developed, one arising from a medical oncology and one from a paediatric oncology perspective, with a common denominator of cooperation between paediatric and adult medical oncologists (Ferrari et al. 2009). In 2013, a more ambitious comprehensive national programme was defined and a national broad-based task-force dedicated to adolescents and young adults has developed, as a cooperation between adult and paediatric cooperative groups: SIAMO (Società Italiana Adolescenti Malati Onco-ematologici, www.progettosiamo.it; Ferrari 2014). The newborn association has finally achieved a formal support from national health services and governments.