



IPS Inserimenti Lavorativi Orientati al Nuovo



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

ITALY

Country pitch

6th Meeting of the European Learning Collaborative on IPS
Rotterdam, 23-24 September 2026

It all began with EQOLISE...

Articles

The effectiveness of supported employment for people with severe mental illness: a randomised controlled trial

Tom Burns, Jocelyn Catty, Thomas Becker, Robert E Drake, Angelo Fioritti, Martin Knapp, Christoph Lauber, Wulf Rössler, Toma Tomov, Jooske van Busschbach, Sarah White, Durk Wiersma, for the EQOLISE Group*

Summary

Lancet 2007; 370: 1146–52

See [Comment](#) page 1108

*Collaborators listed in full at end of article

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Background The value of the individual placement and support (IPS) programme in helping people with severe mental illness gain open employment is unknown in Europe. Our aim was to assess the effectiveness of IPS, and to examine whether its effect is modified by local labour markets and welfare systems.

Methods 312 patients with severe mental illness were randomly assigned in six European centres to receive IPS (n=156) or vocational services (n=156). Patients were followed up for 18 months. The primary outcome was the difference between the proportions of people entering competitive employment in the two groups. The heterogeneity of IPS effectiveness was explored with prospective meta-analyses to establish the effect of local welfare systems and labour markets. Analysis was by intention to treat. This study is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, with the number NCT00461318.

Findings IPS was more effective than vocational services for every vocational outcome, with 85 (55%) patients assigned to IPS working for at least 1 day compared with 43 (28%) patients assigned to vocational services (difference 26·9%, 95% CI 16·4–37·4). Patients assigned to vocational services were significantly more likely to drop out of the service and to be readmitted to hospital than were those assigned to IPS (drop-out 70 [45%] vs 20 [13%]; difference –32·1% [95% CI –41·5 to –22·7]; readmission 42 [31%] vs 28 [20%]; difference –11·2% [–21·5 to –0·90]). Local unemployment rates accounted for a substantial amount of the heterogeneity in IPS effectiveness.

Interpretation Our demonstration of the effectiveness of IPS in widely differing labour market and welfare contexts confirms this service to be an effective approach for vocational rehabilitation in mental health that deserves investment and further investigation.

Train & Place / IPS ratio - Bologna

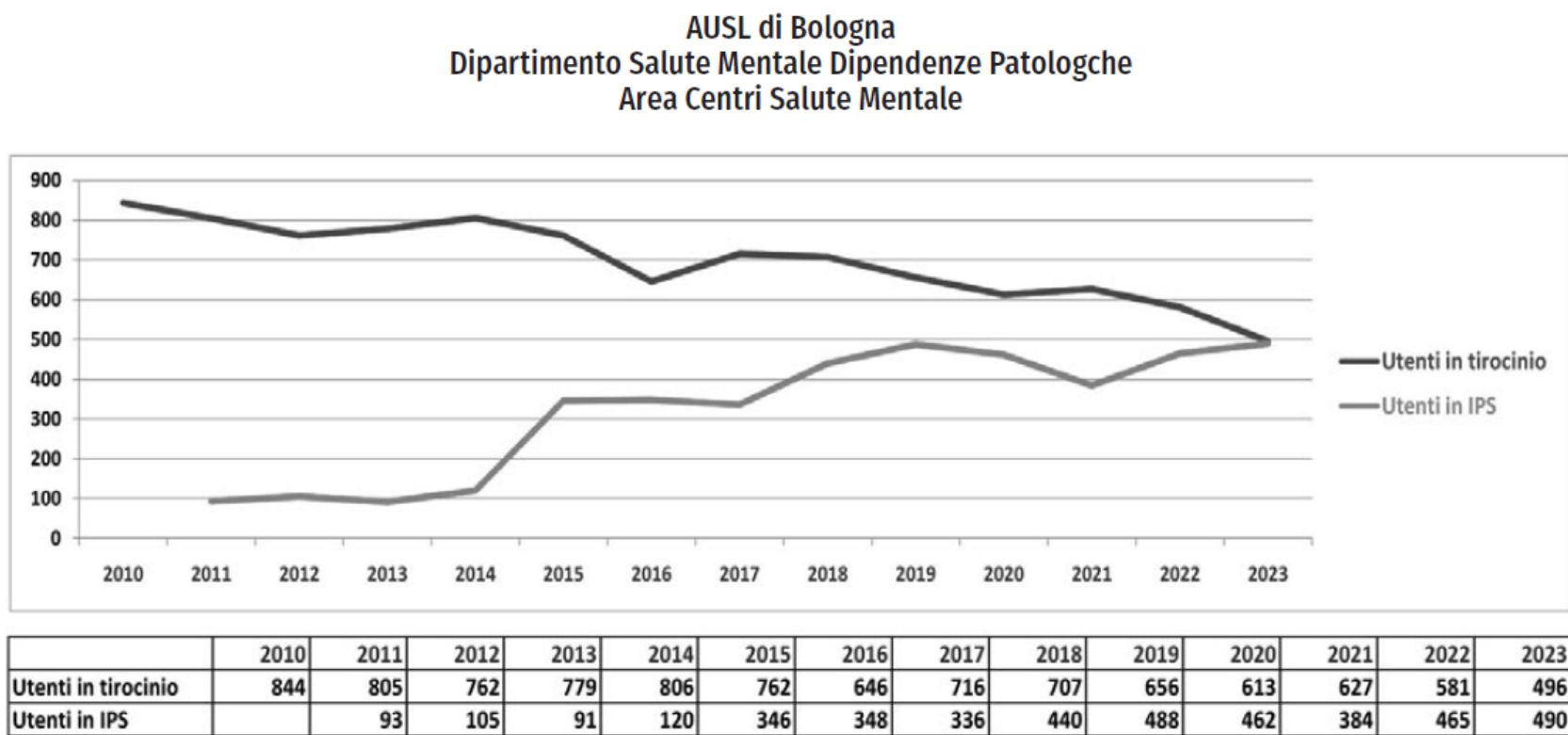


Fig. 1 - Dati utenti in IPS e utenti in tirocinio, anni 2010-2023. Fonte: DSM-DP AUSL di Bologna.

Development of IPS in Italy - I

- 2003 – Launch of the EQOLISE Project in Rimini
- 2010 – TIPS Project: extension of IPS to all Mental Health Departments in the Emilia-Romagna Region (4,5 milion inhab.)
- 2010 - currently: development of programs in Mental Health Departments in 4 regions (Lombardy, Veneto, Piedmont, Friuli; 20 milion inhab.)
- 2014 – Emilia-Romagna joins the International Learning Collaborative coordinated by Dartmouth

Development of IPS in Italy - II

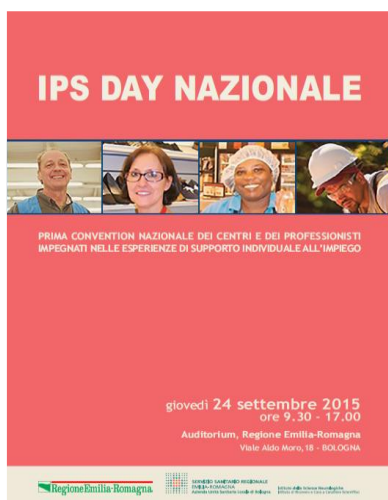
- 2016 – IPSILON Association: IPS – Inserimenti Lavorativi Orientati al Nuovo
- 2025 – More than 1,000 clients receiving IPS services in Emilia-Romagna; more than 4,000 in Italy over the last seven years
- Beyond Mental Health Services:
 - Addiction Services (SerD)
 - Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry (NPIA)
 - Intellectual Disabilities and Autism
 - Long-term Unemployed People (Insieme per il Lavoro)



www-ipsilonitalia.org

- ✓ 160 members
- ✓ Scientific and Technical Committee
 - ✓ Training and Methodology
 - ✓ Quality and Research
 - ✓ International Relations (European Network, Global Network)
- ✓ Activities
 - ✓ IPS Day
 - ✓ Training Courses
 - ✓ Quality Assurance
 - ✓ Collaboration with the University of Bologna

IPS Days

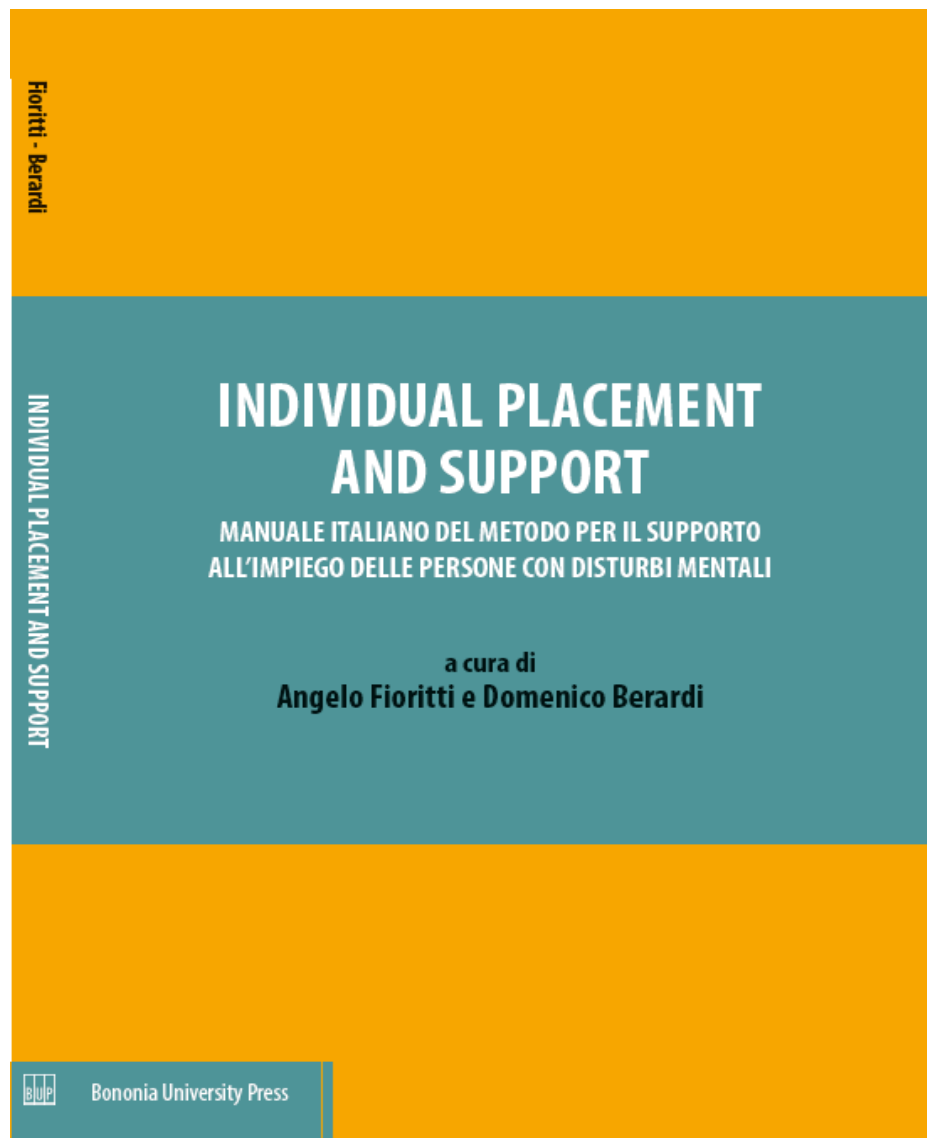


2023 - Il lavoro che vogliamo - Rimini
2024 - Il senso del lavoro - Mestre
2025 - Lavoro/dialogo - Torino
2026 - Il lavoro che connette - Latisana (UD)

*“Il lavoro non è solo un diritto:
è uno strumento di emancipazione, salute e dignità”.*

Rimini, Third EU IPS Meeting, 19-20 Oct 2023





2017

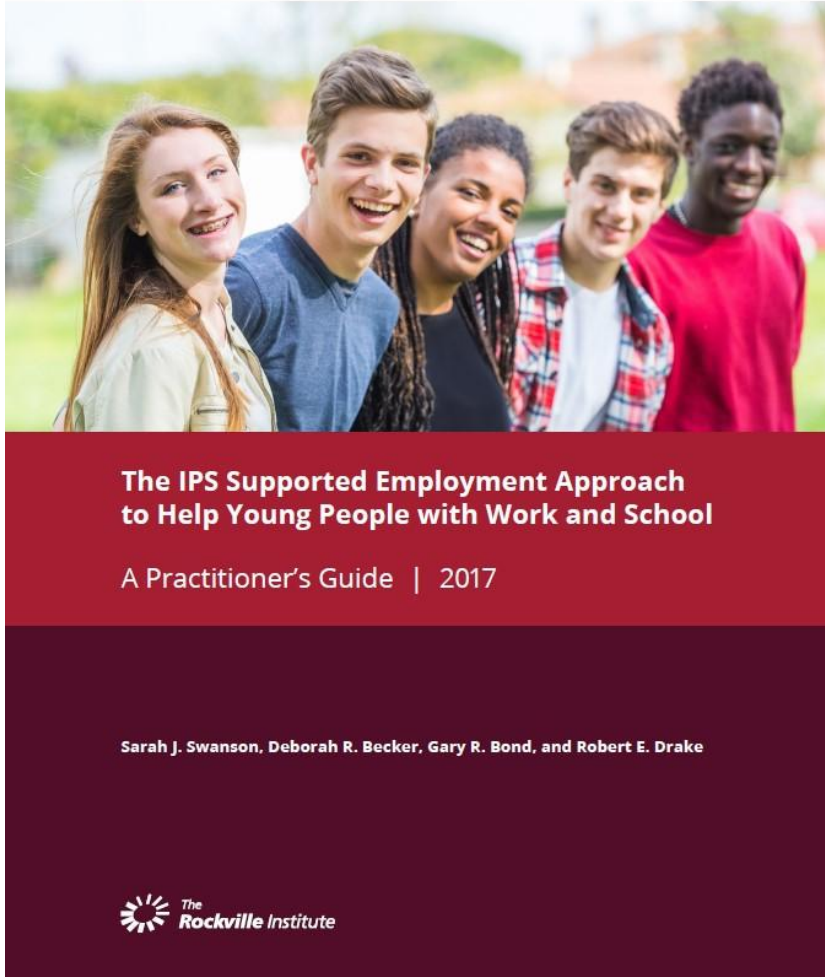


2025

IPS – Beyond Mental Health Services

- War Veterans (USA)
- People with Paraplegia (USA)
- Young People in Difficult Transition (USA, UK, Norway)
- Homeless People (France)
- Former Prisoners (USA, Australia)
- Common Mental Health Conditions (UK)
- **Public Employment Services (USA, Italy)**
- **People with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism (Italy)**
- **Migrants (UK, Italy)**
- **Addictions (UK, Italy)**

Giovani – IPS Young

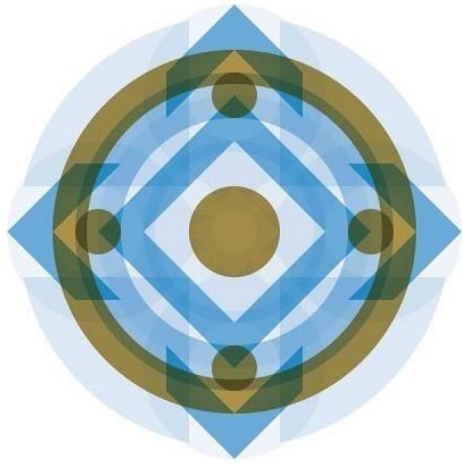


- **Ravenna – Bologna**

- Support in completing educational pathways
- Career guidance
- Employment support
- Reduced caseload
- High availability and flexibility

IPS - social and employment services

Insieme per il Lavoro (IxL) - Together for Work



Insieme per il lavoro
è Bologna

- IxL was established in 2017
- Municipality of Bologna and the Archdiocese
- Individual Placement and Support model
- 6 of the 8 IPS principles
- 2020 – IPS pilot implementation
- 2024 – launch of an integrated model for health, social and employment services

Intellectual disability and autism

- Piacenza – Rimini
 - Mediation and tutoring
 - On-field training

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Network of services facilitating
and supporting job placement for people
with autism spectrum disorders.
The experience of the ASL Piacenza,
Italy

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Individual Placement and Support in Europe

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Topic: Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is a psychosocial intervention with a considerable body of evidence for its effectiveness in helping people with severe psychiatric disorders to obtain and maintain competitive jobs. In the last decades several European studies have replicated earlier American outcomes, generating widespread interest about its implementation in Europe. **Purpose:** This article describes and compares details about achievements and challenges of IPS in 4 European countries: the United Kingdom, Italy, The Netherlands, and Spain. **Sources Used:** This description draws from published and nonpublished material about policy, development of services, and services evaluation. **Results:** In the United Kingdom and in The Netherlands, empirical studies exploring the consistency of results over time and the effectiveness of IPS adaptations to local needs and special population are in course. In the United Kingdom, IPS has become national policy, as well as in some regions of Italy and Spain. Training is quite extensive in the United Kingdom and in The Netherlands, developing well in Italy and Spain. Implementation seems to be less straightforward, mostly because of deeply rooted cultural values regarding both work and mental health care. Strong local leadership is still required. In all countries contingencies related to the current economic crisis seems to have increased interest in IPS. **Conclusions and Implications for Practice:** With the converging forces of strong local leadership, rapid economic changes, and slow cultural shifts, IPS may soon become a priority intervention in Europe for ensuring that people living with serious mental illnesses are able to obtain competitive employment.

Keywords: individual placement and support, implementation, research, Europe, mental health services

Research

Community Mental Health Journal
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-020-00603-w>

ORIGINAL PAPER



Implementation of Individual Placement and Support in Italy: The Reggio Emilia Experience

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Abstract

Individual placement and support (IPS) is an evidence-based intervention helping people with mental illness to obtain competitive jobs. In the last decade, European mental health leaders were interested on its implementation. Aim of the study was to assess the IPS feasibility in Italian patients with moderate-to-severe mental illness. To date, no evaluation of IPS has been conducted exclusively in Italy. Participants (n = 95) were clients of community mental health centers of the Reggio Emilia Department of Mental Health. In addition to drop-out rates, we calculated job acquisition, job duration, and total hours per week worked. A crude competitive employment rate of 41.1% and a crude drop-out rate of 30.5% were found over 42-month follow-up period. Using a Kaplan–Meyer survival analysis, the cumulative employment rate increased up to 44% at 12 months and 61% both at 24 and 42 months. This study documents the feasibility of an implementation strategy for introducing the IPS model in the public mental health care system in Italy.

Keywords Supported employment · Individual placement and support · Psychiatric rehabilitation · Mental health services · Outcomes · Implementation



Longitudinal Outcomes of Individual Placement and Support for Patients With Severe Mental Illness in Italy

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IPS in Italy today

- Methodology with twenty years of experience
- Thousands of users treated
- Hundreds of trained professionals
- Consistent results over time
- Continued quality improvement (fidelity)
- High user satisfaction
- Relatively easy to apply and integrate into DSM activities
- Economic sustainability
- Interesting extensions to other sectors (autism, physical disability, addictions)
- Full consistency with regional social and health plans



**Thank you
for your attention**