

# Too few Italians get their hearing tested.

The majority of people with hearing loss are not aware of cochlear implants.

Evidence proves that hearing loss is linked to other health conditions:



- Dementia
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Falls
- Heart Disease
- Renal Failure
- Premature Death

However, **45%** of Italians with hearing loss don't believe in a correlation with other health issues.



**35%** of Italian people with hearing loss have a hearing device. This puts Italy in third worst position compared to its European neighbours.

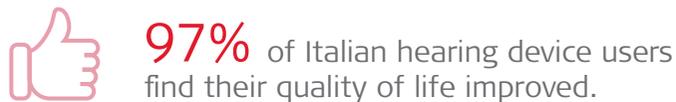
The majority of Italians talks first to their family doctor who usually refer their patients to an Ear, Nose, Throat specialist. However, **one third** of those do not recommend any further action.



# HEARING LOSS IN ITALY



Only **30%** of Italians with hearing loss had a hearing test during the last 5 years. With this, Italy lies below the average compared to the other countries.



Almost **10 out of 10** working hearing aid users state their hearing device is useful for their job.

**57%** of Italian patients with severe to profound hearing loss have never been informed about cochlear implants by a medical professional.



The WHO recommends regular hearing screenings:

- 50+ years > every 5 years
- 65+ years > every 1-3 years



## Policy Recommendations

- Raise awareness of the importance of hearing health, the impact of hearing loss and the benefits of hearing loss treatment among the public and healthcare professionals.
- Promote the need for national hearing health strategies including diagnosis, rehabilitation, service, and maintenance.
- Introduce national Newborn and Over-55 Hearing Screening Programmes.
- Acknowledge access to professional hearing care as a right.
- Promote access to effective treatments including hearing aids, bone conduction devices, and cochlear implants.
- Share best practices among EU Member States.