ETHIC (Evaluation Tool of Health Information for Consumers) is an instrument designed and developed for the quality assessment of health information materials from a linguistic, textual and documentary point of view. The aim of this project is to provide bio-medical librarians and health information professionals with a tool that could be helpful in:

- directing consumers toward the best information available;
- supporting healthcare professionals in developing health information materials.

In the last years, issues like Patient Information and Health Literacy have become increasingly important. Good information is a fundamental component of the therapeutic process and Health Information issues are of strategic importance especially in social and cultural contexts characterized by low literacy levels of the population, as the Italian one.

**METHODS**

ETHIC could represent an effective tool for bio-medical librarians and health information professionals:

- to assess the quality of information materials to be made available to consumers;
- to support healthcare professionals in drawing up health information materials of increasing quality, suitable and comprehensible for patients and consumers in general;
- to contribute in facilitating knowledge creation;
- to enhance their professionals skills.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The validation procedure is of primary importance to confirm the accuracy of development process and tool itself.

Contact person
Simone COCCHI
Medical Library, IRCCS Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova - Research Hospital
Viale Mürri 9, 42123 Reggio Emilia, Italy
☎ +39 0522 295992 | ☎ +39 0522 296125 | cocchi.simone@asmn.re.it