

Fondo Sociale Europeo Plus 2021/2027

FSE+

Sportello 2025 P.S. 20/24

Sostegno alla realizzazione di dottorati di ricerca

With Decree No. 9526/GRFVG of February 28, 2025, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region published the Notice regarding the submission of operations for Specific Program No. 20/24, which aims to support higher education through the realization of PhD programs.

Specific Programme 20/24, through the funding of doctoral scholarships, contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the Sustainable Smart Specialisation Strategy (S4). It supports the development or strengthening of integration with the regional production system and/or research organisations, through coordination and collaboration mechanisms with regional enterprises or research bodies, or by leveraging the potential for technology transfer of processes, products, applications, or, more broadly, research outcomes.

- Sportello 2025
- Ciclo 41
- CUP J93C25000640008
- Progetto 2025/6525/6

Dottorato in Neural and Cognitive Sciences

"Multilevel Assessment of Narrative Discourse in Patients with Brain Lesions: Recovery Trajectories and Clinical Implications"

Linguistic assessment in patients with brain lesions is crucial for diagnosis and rehabilitation. Traditional procedures, focused on specific aspects (e.g., naming), neglect discursive skills and the interaction between micro- and macrolinguistic levels. Recent studies highlight the utility of narrative speech assessment (e.g., Marini & Meneguzzi, 2025).

The project intends to apply this technique in two studies. The first, longitudinal, will evaluate the interaction between micro- and macrolinguistic skills in a cohort of fluent aphasic patients. In addition to a neuropsychological screening, in the hyperacute phase, their narrative production skills will be examined by analyzing the description of the **Cookie Theft image** presented to patients at 24h (T0), 48h (T1), and 72h (T2) from the ischemic event as part of the National Institute of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS). In the subacute (between 7 and 10 days from the ischemic event, T3) and chronic (>6 months from the ischemic event, T4) phases, their linguistic skills will be assessed by asking them to describe the content of 4 additional visual stimuli.

The second study explores the linguistic characteristics of patients who, after moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI), have not developed any aphasic symptoms. In fact, due to frequent frontal lobe impairment, their speech is often perceived as ineffective and vague even though traditional linguistic assessments fail to intercept the reason. The narratives of both patient groups will be analyzed to evaluate their levels of productivity, lexical, grammatical, and discursive processing.

In this way, it will be possible to obtain information on the recovery trajectories in the aphasic patients recruited for the longitudinal study and the actual linguistic skills of non-aphasic TBI patients. The clinical staff involved will be trained in the correct use of this analysis technique.