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**Title:** “The school of health”, a multi-area approach for smoking prevention at school. I. methodological setting

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**Body:** Introduction. Environmental and individual factors influence tobacco use and school is a fundamental setting to prevent tobacco use. Research data suggest that multicomponent school based interventions may be effective. Aim. To investigate the impact of a multi-area intervention with practical experiences on smoking perception and behavior. Methods. 277 adolescents aged 13-17 attending 12 classes of Lombardy high schools participated to a 6-months intervention in 2011-12. Students took part to laboratories on tobacco use and healthy food choices. During lifestyle laboratory, students were given information about tobacco use, peer pressure, smoking risks, and refusal skills. During scientific laboratory real time measurement of deposition in the lungs of tobacco-derived fine particles, and measurement of passive smoking were carried out. Questionnaires on smoking and eating behavior were collected. Levels of carbon monoxide were also measured before and after the intervention. Students built up an educational website ([www.lascuoladellasalute.it](http://www.lascuoladellasalute.it)), a Youtube channel and a Facebook page. Outdoor smoking pollution in parks was carried out, and the results were presented in a press conference. The preliminary results of the project were presented by the students to a wide audience of students of other schools. Teachers and school administrators were involved to contribute a smoke-free school. Conclusions. Preliminary impact evaluation of the intervention showed encouraging results (see the accompanying abstract).