This workshop aims to bring together a small group of researchers from around Europe who share interests in the capabilities approach and its developing applications to the field of health. Though this is still an emerging area of study, recent papers, conferences and funded research programmes suggest there is considerable scope for new perspectives and collaborative work bridging two larger research areas. On the one hand, the capabilities approach has proposed novel foundations for welfare economics, which have already shaped theory and policy in the human development field, and its emphasis on human potential makes it particularly suitable for issues and problems in which health can have profound implications for human functioning, in all life domains, through physical, social and mental mechanisms. From the other side, health economics and policy research are areas where methods and tools for developing new empirical measures of human welfare are used widely and could be of considerable value to capabilities researchers interested in a range of measurement issues from multi-dimensionality through autonomy and capacities to health inequalities and their impacts. There are already a number of papers that use the capabilities framework to frame and investigate issues to do with ageing, disability, health production, quality of life of measurement, access to health-care and connections between health and poverty. We hope this forum will help researchers develop a sense of the field as it develops and identify opportunities for future work and collaboration.

The workshop is open to a restricted number of invited participants, and a small group of people interested to join the workshop and participate to the discussion. Since only a limited number of places will be available, anyone who wishes to attend the event without presenting a paper should contact Anna-Sophia Schenk (anna.schenk@iussspavia.it) as soon as possible. Support in finding accommodation in Pavia can be provided.