

## **A new international cooperation project between the Municipal AVIS of Castel Maggiore and the Ivory Coast!**

The President Gaetano Battaglia and the volunteers of the Municipal AVIS of Castel Maggiore have launched a new international cooperation project called "Sicurezza delle trasfusioni sanguigne" in collaboration with the National Blood Transfusion Center of Abidjan.

The project involves the dispatch of five automated and comfortable blood collection chairs, departing from the Blood Donation Center in Castel Maggiore and going to the transfusion center in Ivory Coast. The chairs will be placed in the transfusion center of the city of Abidjan, the main urban center, so that Ivorian volunteer donors can donate blood and blood components in total comfort and safety.

<< All the volunteers and friends of AVIS Castel Maggiore have contributed with great enthusiasm to the success of the project >> says President Battaglia << a heartfelt thanks to all those who have allowed us to start and implement this beautiful international project that makes us truly all proud. I thank the volunteers of Castel Maggiore, the Customs Authority, the many friends and professionals who have collaborated with us: from the disassembly of the armchairs to the packaging to finish with their shipment by sea. By sending five sampling chairs, we have brought the values of our local community to the world. We must be proud of our work as volunteers in helping our blood brothers who live in other countries of the world and I hope that other associations will soon follow our example. >>

The armchairs were packed with the precious collaboration of the carpenter Nazareno Coltra, to allow a safe journey, and transported to the port forwarder. The cargo ship will sail from the port of Genoa on Monday 7 June with arrival scheduled for Wednesday 23 June at the port of Abidjan, where the seats will be collected by some officials of the Ministry of Health of the Ivory Coast and then transferred to the main blood transfusion center. urban center of the country.

**AVIS Comunale Castel Maggiore** was founded on 21 March 1962 and has over 750 active donors and volunteers. In 2020, 1200 blood / plasma units were recorded which guaranteed, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the achievement of regional self-sufficiency in Emilia-Romagna. The association headquarters is in via Bondanello 16 / b in Castel Maggiore, where the Donazione Sangue center is located with 4 stations and a refreshment point for breakfast. The center is open for donation every Wednesday, excluding holidays, from 7.00 to 13.00; the secretariat is active in the remaining days.

**The African context.** The Ivory Coast is a presidential republic in Central West Africa and has about 20 million inhabitants. For some years now, the national blood system has been facing a difficult period of shortage of blood supplies, above all linked to the limited possibility of finding suitable technical instruments that allow safety in blood donations and transfusions. The donation of blood and blood components is voluntary and free.

**International cooperation.** << The collaboration project born between AVIS Castel Maggiore and the CNTS of Abidjan is a beautiful sign of friendship between geographically distant peoples but united in the same values: volunteering and solidarity >> says Simon Baraldi, Secretary-General of International Youth Committee within IFBDO/FIODS, International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations. << I congratulate the Municipal AVIS of Castel Maggiore, my friend Gaetano Battaglia and all the other volunteers and professionals who have carried out this wonderful project. It was a pleasure for me to be the "torchbearer" of relations between Italy and the Ivory Coast, for the correspondence between the volunteers of Castel Maggiore and the doctors of Abidjan. With the armchairs donated by AVIS Castel Maggiore, Ivorian friends will finally be able to donate safely and with greater comfort. I hope that other associations will soon choose to follow this beautiful example of altruism and international help. >>

**INFO**

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