

Research project IZSve 09/14

Microbial hazards, hygienic practices and consumer perception associated to street food vending in Italy

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Street food is increasingly popular across Italy with a boom in fairs and festivals dedicated to this type of cuisine. In each town weekly markets offer the possibility to buy a lot of different types of street food. Despite the popularity of such kind of food, the health risk associated to its consumption has not been specifically investigated. So far, very few is known about the risks associated to this type of food and the respect of food hygiene standards for food street sellers. Moreover, limited knowledge is currently available about the real market related to such type of food at national level. Only few studies, describing data obtained mainly in developing countries where the hygienic conditions as well as the food traditions are quite far from our situation, have been conducted. Thus, the main aims of this project are to collect a detailed list of the different street foods present at local level, to investigate how effectively street foods are currently policed, to clarify the main food safety hazards related to this market, to assess the knowledge of food street sellers about good hygienic practices and finally to get the perception of consumers towards this type of food.