

## Prosthetics cluster in Bologna

### Specialist fields

- Production and appliance of **custom made artificial limbs**
- **Technical orthopaedics** (prosthesis, orthosis, aids)
- **Orthopaedic-traumatological surgery**
- **Rehabilitation** of disabled patients and their **reintegration** into society and the work place
- **Research** in the field of **prosthetics, domotics, and rehabilitation** aids

### Historical background

The prosthetics and rehabilitation cluster grew up around three institutes of national and international fame: the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institutes, the INAIL Prosthesis Centre in Vigoroso di Budrio and the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Workshops (now Rizzoli Ortopedia S.p.A.). These three centres of excellence have brought to the territory of Bologna a wealth of know-how, medical expertise, professional skills and research capabilities with decades of experience.

### Characteristics

⇒ **Nationally and internationally renowned clinics and health centres:** *Istituti Ortopedici Rizzoli (IRCCS), Centro Protesi INAIL in Vigoroso di Budrio, Montecatone Rehabilitation Institute spa, Azienda Ospedaliero – Universitaria Sant'Orsola – Malpigli, l'Ospedale Maggiore.* They offer:

- **highly specialised services;**
- **assistance to patients from all over Italy and abroad;**
- collaboration in important **research projects;**
- **a complete service from hospitalisation to rehabilitation and reintegration**

The territory is also home to *Isokinetic*, a private centre specialising in sport traumatology and rehabilitation;

> **Each year Bologna welcomes over 10,000 patients**, who come for treatment in one of the health centres specialising in orthopaedics and rehabilitation, or for adjustments to an aid by one of the centres specialising in the manufacture of orthoprosthetic products.

⇒ **Companies involved in the manufacture of orthotic aids and artificial limbs**, mostly specialising in adaptation and customisation, as well as companies manufacturing and selling orthopaedic aids: Arte Ortopedica, Rizzoli Ortopedia, Ottobock Italia, SAMO, MTO, RTM, Citieffe, Technipro, ASOR;

⇒ The **University of Bologna**, which plays a vital role both in training and in research. The Istituti Ortopedici Rizzoli also house the University of Bologna's Orthopaedics Clinic. The University offers a three-year course in Orthopaedic Techniques aimed at forming orthopaedic technicians;

⇒ Research centres set up within the sphere of the regional high-tech network: **STARTER** (rehabilitation technology) and **MATMEC** (materials for mechanical design), both in coordination with the University of Bologna;

- ⇒ With effect from March 2005, the Manufacturing and Health Councils set up the provincial prosthetic advisory board.