

GenderWorks

A survey on the Italian NAP: Rapporto nazionale sulle strategie per la protezione sociale e l'inclusione sociale

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The National Report on strategies for social protection and social inclusion (2008-2010) - hereafter NAP - was divided into four parts:

1. Common overview
2. National Action Plan for social inclusion
3. National Strategy For Pensions
4. National strategies for health and health care Long term services

1. Common overview

The first part of the NAP, as the title suggests, describes the current situation in Italy under the different following profiles:

Assessment of the social situation (I)

and overall strategy (II)

under the first profile (I) the findings of the NAP is a first overview on the level of economic growth and employment:

already in the second half of 2007, the global economy after a period of sustained rates of growth has begun, while maintaining a positive trend, to slow its course.

The average global slowdown is a reflection of braking in the developed economies, exacerbated in 2008 and exploded in the month of September with the economic crisis that had the epicenter in the U.S..

The trend in rates of change of employment, however, shows clear signs of slowing, reflecting the growth of the rapidly approaching zero growth. Despite the positive trend of employment, Italy continues to present an employment rate well below the average of EU Countries and still far from the goals of Lisbon in 2007. The employment rate of people between 15 and 64 years stood at 58.7% for Italy, at 65.4% for the average EU and 65.7% for the average of Countries of the Euro. Even considering all of the Countries with similar economic structure to that of Italy, such as the "Mediterranean" (Greece, Portugal and Spain, in addition to), Italy is to record the value in the employment rate more low in all the years between 2000 and 2007.

Much of the southern regions have badly influenced the employment rate which is at 46.5% in the South, while the Northeast and North-West have rates above the European average (67.6% and 66% respectively), to emphasize the continuing (and indeed increasing,

given the evolution of the in recent years) duality of the economy and labour market in Italy.

Employment growth is therefore driven by the performance of central and northern regions and especially involves women: the rate of employment growth was higher for women, although there are signs of a slowdown in the employment dynamics of women more significant than instead registered for the men.

The increased female presence in the Italian labour market, however, is not associated with a position of greater strength: women continue to represent one of the weak labour market, as shown on such a small presence on among the employed (women are only 39.5% of total employed), which is reflected in female employment rates much lower than men's. In 2007, with an employment rate (calculated for the population 15 years and over) of 45.9%, female was only 35%. Furthermore, although unemployment has declined dramatically between 2000 and 2007 and the unemployment rate has fallen to around 6%, the female continues to be significantly higher than that of men, standing in 2007 to 7.9%, or three points more.

under the second profile (II) the findings of the NAP is a first introduction on the strategic objectives:

the continuity of the process of reclassification of public policies that the government wanted to pursue through the Document of Economic and Financial Planning 2009-2013 is based on a robust intervention for the reduction and reorganization of public expenditure: to achieve the overall goal of reducing unnecessary costs, more freedom and development has been described as a real business plan based on modernization and rationalization of the public, focusing solely on leverage public policy areas (infrastructure, telecommunications, etc.).

In particular, in certain critical elements of the characteristics of their social spending, which are upgrading and streamlining the pre-condition for successful implementation of the strategy of the NAP. It is shown here only a factor - however well-known for his composition, which is clearly unbalanced in favour of the pension system equal to 60 percent of social spending, net of education. As is known, in fact, in Italy the most important component of the total expenditure on social protection benefits is the security chapter of the 66.7 per cent.

The incidence of pension expenditure over the GDP now appears above the European average. The trend

over the medium-long term shows a growing - albeit more weakly than in the past - until around 2030, followed by a contraction which brings the ratio of pension expenditure over GDP in 2050 to the level of the current one. To examine the evolution of social security spending remains a priority.

With regard to the system interventions, designed to complement and update the configuration of the pension system, they have to include the following: the minimum age of retirement, although at a more gradual than predicted by the reform of 2004, it was increased more than three years for women (at least 60 years) and more than four years for men (at least 61 years if employees).

The objective is therefore a strong increase in employment rates - especially women, young and over 50 - so getting close to the Lisbon target.

Specifically the fight against social exclusion, the focus is the family that must be protected from the risks of impoverishment: it is then planned to intervene on the side of the income support (especially in the current phase), as well as with measures of relief tax.

The following objectives are cutting the overall strategy: the gender perspective to expand practice opportunities for women in economic and productive contexts in society and institutions: this is a factor of growth and development, the index rate to democracy. The commitment is to address the gap in the different areas of training and work, both as regards access as well as increasing permanent jobs, and the possibility of re-professionalisation of women - who decides to return to employment after years of caring work within the household.

2. National action plan for social inclusion

In the second part of the NAP it is again illustrated an overview of the current forms of poverty, and then a list the activities undertaken under the National Strategic Report 2006-2008: Support for the cost of children, help for pensioners, measures in support of expenditure on housing, tax extraordinary protection, unemployment, services for early childhood, sections spring, families, people with disabilities, social housing, immigrants.

Among the strategic challenges mentioned, there are: extreme poverty, homeless persons, centrality of the family.

In relation to the issue of equal opportunities and employment for women it is emphasized that these goals also contribute to the objectives set by the Lisbon Strategy for the employment of women - 60% target in 2010 - where Italy stands at 46.3 % in 2006. Despite

the improvement in 2006 compared to previous years, registered in terms of increased rate of activity and employment of women, critical nodes that affect the raising of the "core" labour market female Italian still persist.

More specifically, the lines of development of national strategy in terms of gender equality in the workplace include:

- a) to strengthen active labour market policies that increase the employability of women through quality educational offerings in order to acquire useful and responsive skills to address the needs of the labour market.
- b) enhancing the capacity of the job offices in favour of women, and promoting the culture and practice of gender within the job placement offices, both public and private sectors, improving the efficiency of intermediation between supply and demand of work and system of public-private network with a focus on the analysis of the needs of women.
- c) activate support initiatives and measures to promote female entrepreneurship in order to offer women the opportunity to develop entrepreneurship and contribute to economic development and competitiveness. The development of networks among entrepreneurs is emerging as the preferred intervention.

Among the priority objectives:

- A plan for extreme poverties and homeless
- A plan for the support to families
- A plan for the "citizens in growth"
- A plan for the integration of immigrants and 'roma and sinti communities

A renewed governance:

regarding the system of governance, the NAP focuses on the important role which will be played by third sector organizations. A role that can not be limited to activities and equipment which they play, but must also include the consolidation and finalization of virtuous social resources and human capital that they can make to the communities in which there and develop.

3. National strategy for pensions

A substantial part of the NAP is devoted to the pension system and reforms in place and future for the containment of expenditure that is expected to grow, net of indexing, at a rate of 1, 9% in the first five years, and 1, 7% in the second period.

Throughout the all analysis it is absent any reference to gender.

4. National strategies for health and health care long term services

The last part of the NAP is dedicated to health care and long-term care.

Italy is one of the Countries in the world with the highest percentage of elderly in the population. In Europe the first. In the coming years there will be a further increase in the demographic dependency ratio and the index of old age. In 2030 the percentage of over-65 comes to 26.5 and will grow as the population aged over 80 years who now represents 5.3% of the Italian population. Diseases of ageing have increased by 50 percent over the past ten years, and have, depending on how they are prevented and treated, the level and timing of disability.

The consumption of resources, social and health care for people over 75 years is 11 times higher than the age group 25-34 years. The improvement in survival rates for diseases in the past high mortality, are not always linked to healing but is due to the subject "Chronic" requiring continuous and complex care for long periods of time if not for the rest of life. Patients chronically already 25 percent of the population and account for 70 percent of spending.

Alongside this, the change in social structure with a decline in population of age groups that most often are involved in care giving to the oldest, the family, the increase of single households and given the changed role of women in society and make it even more urgent the need to provide to develop a rethink on new tools and models for health care.

This context has important repercussions on health care costs. Differentiation, customization and organization of the welfare response focus on the centrality of the person. A change in perspective is important since the acquisition of knowledge that everyone, by adopting behaviours and healthy lifestyles, is the leading resource for promoting their health and those who are near.

At local level in the last years a profound innovation in primary care has been carried out, confirming the role of care focused on the person and not on disease, capable of taking charge of the city and ensure a complete and close of care as high as possible.

Throughout the all analysis it is absent any reference to gender.

Recommendations

The Italian report is more like an explanatory document than a planning document. With a few exceptions in the chapter on social inclusion, it does not set quantitative targets or indicators and deadlines. Not only that, but at times is repetitive in the data.

The Italian report identifies a practical strategy based on three pillars: improving employment rates for all categories of workers, improvement of the coverage of supplementary pensions, improvement of social security for those who are not covered properly (atypical workers).

Beyond these objectives, much remains vague regarding the strategic objectives in the field of equal opportunities and totally lacking a strategy in this regard.

In details:

1. The data within the "National Report on strategies for social protection and social inclusion" of November 2008 are not very revealing of women condition. There are specific and disaggregated data only in relation to the Italian employment situation, it is necessary therefore to make a collection of such data about the various issues addressed by the Report, particularly with regard to poverty rates of households and of the various age groups of the population.
2. Concerning the question of immigrant women, the Report only pays attention to the issue of employment, but it should first of all provide accurate data on their presence and their condition on Italian soil because, although in quantities equal to that of men, they are still completely invisible.
3. The theme of the risk of "double exclusion" is dealt only about the condition of immigrant women in Italy, who may suffer double discrimination of gender and ethnic-racial, but, the groups at risk of double social exclusion are manifold, just think, for example, to older women and single mothers.
4. The "National Report on strategies for social protection and social inclusion" of November 2008, is entirely lacking regarding some consideration that should be taken into account in the analysis of statistical data and programming of the various policy areas. These considerations are:
 - a) In Italy, life expectancy is 84.1 for women, 78.8 for men and this must be taken in consideration talking about pensions and poverty of older segments of the population, but not only.
 - b) The number of immigrant women in Italy, according to the dossier Caritas-Migrantes 2009, is equal to that of men
 - c) Families with single female parents in Italy are 85.5% of all single-parent families
 - d) The number of women caregivers, within the family scope is much higher than that of men, although the lack of precise data about this issue.
5. Analyzing the data provided from the Report

is evident the entirely absence of a gender mainstreaming analysis, as suggested by the European Union, which recommends the use of statistical indicators and analysis on the issues of gender pay gap, gender budgeting, gender health policy, the risk of poverty according to gender, etc. It is also necessary to carry out research and provide concrete data on gender discrimination in Italy with particular attention to indirect discrimination. To achieve this result, a useful tool could be the principle of gender mainstreaming, which is the proper consideration of the differences between the situations of life, the needs and interests, respectively, of men and women in all programs and economic and social interventions.

6. Regarding the problem of child poverty, which has a minimum relevance within the document, it seems appropriate to reconnect various issues related to it which are now becoming of primary importance: the plight of single parent families and the policies for the reconciliation of life time and work time. It must consider the fact that in the Italian ordinance, as a result of divorce and / or separation (without counting the cases where fathers are absent for quite different reasons), in the vast majority of cases the children are in the care of mothers, which often are unemployed and not always able to enforce their right to food for themselves and their children.

Other times the women, especially if single mothers, are forced to leave their work for the family because they are not supported by appropriate policies and structures for the reconciliation of life time and work time. Both in the case of single-parent families, both in the case of single-families, children are always at risk of poverty.

7. Social policies of recent years are moving in the direction of the home aftercare of sick and elderly people, without taking into account the needs of women which, within the old cultural legacies associated with the division of labour by gender, are entrusted to look after them. It should therefore be necessary to reconcile the right of women to work with the new policy guidelines, through concrete actions aimed at overcoming the old model of "male breadwinner" and the division of labour by gender, through the formal recognition of women as caregivers within household and finally through the implementation of adequate support systems to prevent and combat the onset of disease by stress.
8. Particularly problematic is the lack of statistics in our country on issues concerning violence against women. It is therefore necessary to provide a separate section covering women in situations of danger, not only as victims of trafficking in human beings, but as women victims of violence, especially domestic violence, and recognizing their specific rights: the right not to depend financially by violent partners, health care and free legal aid from the state for victims of domestic violence, the right to receive training and obtain a job, free language courses for foreign women, the right to have free assistance for children, the right to have a house at reasonable prices, access to shelter houses in case of danger, the right for foreign women to remain in the country in case of forced marriages or forced displacement.

