

Improving anti violence interventions in Italy: the role of ViVa project



MAURA MISITI, PIETRO DEMURTAS, MARTA PIETROBELLI
IRPPS-CNR, ITALY
VIVA PROJECT

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Outline

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Policies against violence in Italy: the Italian way

Public opinion awareness on sexual violence:

- Tv and newspaper coverage
- The Circeo Massacre (1975)
- Trial for Rape (1979)

Process/development of **policies against gender-based violence**: main steps

- 1970: Divorce Law
- 1975: Family law is reformed
- 1979: Citizens initiative Law against sexual violence, adopted only in 1996 - no longer considered as a crime against morals, but against individuals
- 1981: honor crime is abolished

- Key role of **feminist movements and practices** in the 70s
- Specificity of anti-violence women's centres/shelters in the 80s:
 - Attention on domestic and intimate partner violence
 - Pioneers of social change in the understanding and treatment of domestic violence

Main Anti-violence steps in ITALY: 1988 - 2017

1988-89

- First women's center
- First regional law on violence against women (Provincia autonoma di Bolzano)

1996

- National law against sexual violence (n. 66/1996)
- First national conference of anti-violence women's centres

1997-98

- Directive Prodi – Finocchiaro (7/3/1997): GBV as a priority action for Government
- Urban Project: "Anti-violence network among the cities"
- First survey on sexual violence (ISTAT)

2001

- Law against violence within family relationships (n. 154/2001)
- Over 70s women's centres all over the country

2006

- Setting up the National helpline – 1522
- First comprehensive national survey on violence against women (ISTAT)

2009-10

- National Law on stalking (n. 38/2009)
- First National Plan against violence and stalking (2010)

Main anti-violence steps in ITALY: 1988 - 2017

2013

- Ratification of the Istanbul Convention (Law n. 77/2013)
- Law on "Femicide" (n. 119/2013):
 - Need of a new Plan (art.5)
 - Money allocated for women's centers and shelters (art. 5bis)
 - New aggravating factors in support of victims
- First Decree to allocate money for women's centers and shelters through regional governments (DPCM 2013-2014)

2014

- *State-Regions Agreement*: setting minimum standards of women's centres and shelters
- Second National survey on violence against women (ISTAT)

2015-16

- National extraordinary action plan on sexual and gender-based violence 2015-2017
- Second Decree to allocate resources for women's centers and shelters through regional governments
- National Tender (promoted by the Department of Equal Opportunities) to support women's centers, shelters and NGOs directly

2017

- National strategic plan 2017-2020
- Third Decree to allocate resources for women's centres and shelters through regional governments
- National Tender (promoted by the Department of Equal Opportunities) to support women's centres, shelters and perpetrators treatment programs

The Italian National Plans

First National Plan against violence and stalking (**11 November 2010**)

- Women's centers and shelters are recognized, but no resources are explicitly allocated
- Recognition of the role of regional governments and local administration, but lack of provisions to adopt regional laws/plans and on how to implement the local support-services system

Extraordinary National Action Plan (NAP) on VAW 2015-2017 (**7 July 2015**)

- D.l. n. 93/3 and the conversion law n. 119/13 introduces the Extraordinary National Action Plan (NAP) on VAW coordinated by the Department for Equal Opportunities
- Multilevel governance: Central Governing body, setting up of a National Observatory on male violence
- Introduction of a funding mechanism for shelters and women's centers (artt. 5 and 5bis)
- The planned actions were generic and lacking in concreteness. They were not systemic, nor organic; evaluation was lacking, as well as adequate funding to guarantee prevention and protection of women, and the punishment of the perpetrators of violence against women. Transparency was also missing on the part of Regions in relation to how they used the funding from the central government, which was to be destined to policies of protection and prevention of VAW

National Strategic Plan on male violence against women 2017-2020 (23 November 2017)

It defines the whole strategy to prevent and combat male violence against women and domestic violence in Italy, in line with the Istanbul Convention

Three + one routes of intervention

1) Prevention: awareness programs and campaigns to let the public understand socio-cultural causes and consequences of male violence against women:

- Improve the school system
- Train professionals working in the public and private spheres
- Attention on perpetrators
- Make the media system aware of risk of gender stereotypes and sexism
- Prevention of all form of violence also against migrant, refugee and asylum seeker women

3) Prosecution: avoid women re-victimization and guarantee fair justice

2) Protection and support of women victims of violence and their children, through women's centres and shelters:

- Economic reintegration and housing independence programs
- Strengthening the national helpline (1522)
- Guidelines for the health sector on sexual and domestic violence

4) Cross "service" route Integrated policies

- Support in the implementation and application of the National Plan
- Integrated and multilevel governance
- Evaluation and monitoring of the national Plan (ViVa Project)
- Setting up the information system

National Strategic Plan 2017-2020: what is new

- ▶ **Participative Methodology:** with the main stakeholders (national, regional and local administrations, relevant NGOs, women's centres and shelters, labour unions, ISTAT and CNR) to define the National Plan
- ▶ **Resources** allocated: euro **20 million**
- ▶ **Male violence** as a social and cultural issue, **grounded in gender hierarchies, power relations and inequalities**
- ▶ **Structural intervention:**
 - ▶ Transparent mechanism for managing the resources allocated
 - ▶ Financial commitment of the actors involved
 - ▶ Collection of administrative data on violence
 - ▶ Mapping all specialist and general services operating at national level
 - ▶ Monitoring and assessment alongside the implementation
- ▶ Recognition of women's centres and shelters role
- ▶ Specific attention to **migrant, refugee and asylum seeker women**
- ▶ Specific focus on **gender-based violence in the workplace**

Guidelines on sexual violence for the Health sector: ***'Path for women subjected to violence'*** (for the national health service and the regional level)

Recommendations for the care of women *subjected to sexual violence* starting from triage to their accompaniment/guidance to specialist and general services for a personalised project to escape from the experience of violence:

At the hospital

- ▶ Yellow tag
- ▶ Training of the triage professionals
- ▶ Reception
- ▶ How to carry out diagnostic visit

At the local level

- ▶ Provision of adequate early referral centres, easily accessible and in sufficient number, for victims of rape and sexual violence (art. 25 of the IC) in the Essential Levels of Care (LEA)

PROBLEMS/WEAKNESSES TO BE ADDRESSED

- ▶ Misrecognition of the violence
- ▶ Weak relationships and poor knowledge of the local service-system for victims' support
 - ▶ Of the anti-violence networks
 - ▶ Of the local women's centres and shelters
- ▶ Undervaluation of the severity of VIOLENCE's consequences

See next slide

What happens to victims when first aid is needed (ISTAT,2014)

Medical care

Not needed	54,9
Medical care needed but not received	15,9
At Emergency Room	14,2
In a Hospital Department	6,2
At home	3,4
Hospitalised	19%

Reception

- Pretend nothing happened **33,6**
- Deep examination **17,2**

Address

- To a women's Centre **3,3**
- To Police to reporting **31,2**
- Don't know/don't remember **11,5**

The role of ViVa project in the NAP framework

Project Timeframe: December 2017 - December 2020

- ▶ In 2017 CNR-IRPPS and the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Italian Government signed a partnership agreement on “Monitoring, assessing and analyse activities provided in the NAP, according to the commitments undertaken by Italy following the ratification of the Istanbul Convention

The ViVa Project main aims:

1) Mapping the specialised and general services to support women victims of violence

- ▶ Identification of the specialist and general services to support victims of gender-based violence operating in Italy
- ▶ Quali-quantitative monitoring of the system of support for victims of gender-based violence
- ▶ In-depth analysis on the functioning of a sample of specialist and general services
- ▶ Contribution to the operational implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2017–2020

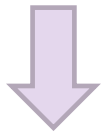
2) Assessment of the implementation processes, achievements and results of the NAP(2015-17) and the achievements of the new NAP (2017–2020)

- ▶ Ex-ante evaluation of the National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2017–2020.
- ▶ Assessment of the achievements and results of the interventions implemented in the Extraordinary Action Plan 2015-2017 against sexual and gender violence

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- First comprehensive study on the existing support-services system in the country
- First evaluation of a National Plan on GBV
- Monitoring instruments/guidelines for national and regional administrations



Improvement and Integration of gender-based violence policies at central and local levels

Technical and scientific support to the Department of Equal Opportunities in the development of gender-based violence policies

Weaknesses

- Impossibility in reaching out all support-services in the country, given the diverse nature of such services
- Difficulties in gathering documentation in order to evaluate the National Plan
- Difficulties in gathering information from regional and local administrations



Complex relationship between Government, Regional governments, local administrations, women's centres and shelters

Expected results

1st aim

- Comprehensive **mapping of specialist and general services** to support victims of gender-based violence operating in Italy: women's centres, shelters, perpetrators' programs and general support services
- **Comparative analysis on selected services** among women's centres, shelters and programs for perpetrators on their functioning
- **Comparative analysis on European best practices and experiences** in tackling gender-based violence
- Analysis on **minimum standards** for support-services, shared with the main stakeholders (mainly women's centres/shelters and government)
- Analysis of **legislation and plans adopted at the regional level**
- **Guidelines on monitoring procedures and instruments** for interested/selected institutions, shared with the main stakeholders

2nd aim

- Report on the **activities implemented** by national and local administrations as well as the **index systems used**
- **Evaluative analysis** on the adoption and implementation of the **Guidelines on sexual violence for the health sector**
- Report on the **achievements and results** of the interventions implemented in the **Extraordinary Action Plan 2015-2017** against sexual and gender violence
- **Ex ante evaluation** of the **National Strategic Plan 2017-2020**
- **Ongoing evaluation** on the application of the **National Strategic Plan 2017-2020**
- **Analysis on the results** achieved in the implementation of the **National Plan 2017-2020**



Thank you

Maura Misiti, Pietro Demurtas and Marta Pietrobelli

progetto.viva@irpps.cnr.it