A multi-agency approach in the development of anti-violence policies in Italy: national and local perspectives

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Multi-agency: an approach

Policies' development (national, regional and local levels)

Effective, comprehensive and co-ordinated policies encompassing all relevant measures to prevent and combat VAW, offering a holistic response to VAW (IC, Art. 7 – par. 1)

Support-services' development in the framework of local networks

Co-ordinated measures implemented by way of effective co-operation among all relevant actors playing a role in preventing and combating VAW (IC: Article 7, par. 2)

To what extent has a multi-agency approach been adopted in the development of VAW policies in Italy? A first assessment

Activism level

- The role of women's and feminist movements in the development of policies and practices in the country

Institutional level

- Strategic National Plan (2017-2020)
- Agreement on women's centres & shelters standards (2014)
- Guidelines on sexual violence for the health sector (2017)

Territorial networks level

- Evidence from on-going VIVA project

The role of women and feminist movements in Italy

THE ITALIAN ROUTE OF WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL		ROLE AND PRACTICES OF FEMINIST MOVEMENTS
		Late sixties and all along the '70's: mobilization, reflections and publications by Italian feminist movements on reproductive health, sexuality, vaw and gender roles
1970: Divorce Law, confirmed by referendum in	**1974**	
Family law is reformed	**1975**	Feminist and women movements' mobilization after Circeo Massacre
	1977	Mobilizations against VAW in Rome (Unione Donne Italiane) and all over the country
Abortion Law, confirmed by referendum in 1981	**1978**	
	1979	Presentation of the Citizens initiative Law against sexual violence (1996)
Honour crime is abolished	**1981**	
	1986	"Violare il silenzio" - European conference of women's centre against sexual violence in Venice
	1990	**21 anti-violence centres all over the country**
National law against sexual violence	**1996**	First national conference of D.i.Re.network anti-violence women's centres
First survey on sexual violence Italian National institute of statistic (ISTAT)	**1997**	
Urban Project: "Anti-violence network among the cities"	**1998**	
	2000	**Over 80 anti-violence centres all over the country**
Law against violence within family relationships	**2001**	
Setting up the national helpline 1522	**2006**	
First national survey on VAW (ISTAT)		
	2007	"Not in my name" mobilization
National Law on stalking	**2009**	
First National Plan against violence and stalking	**2010**	**185 anti-violence centres all over the country**
	2011	Publication of CEDAW shadow report
Italy ratifies of the Istanbul Convention and Law on Femicide	**2013**	
National minimum standards for of women's centres and shelters	**2014**	
National Extraordinary Action Plan on sexual and gender-based violence	**2015**	
	2016	First mobilization against VAW of "Non una di meno"
National Strategic Plan on male violence against women	**2017**	**Publication of "Non una di meno" anti-violence Plan**
ViVa project + ISTAT research on specialist support services		CEDAW shadow report (Lavori in corsa network)
		338 anti-violence centres all over the country
	2019	Publication of GREVIO shadow report

Co-ordinated and multi-agency approach - Institutional level

Italian National Strategic Plan (2017-2020) ➡ Multi-agency approach

Guidelines on sexual violence for the health sector (2017) ➡ Health local services and hospitals have to develop protocols with local networks to protect women

Italian Agreement on women's centres and shelters standards (2014) ➡ Women's centres and shelters have to participate in local networks (art. 7)

Italian National Strategies on VAW 2010-2020

National Plan against violence and stalking (2010)	→	Extraordinary National Action Plan on VAW 2015-2017	→	**National Strategic Plan on male violence against women 2017-2020** 23 November 2017

- First Plan drafted following **a participative methodology**: stakeholders (national, regional and local administrations), relevant NGOs, women's centres and shelters, labour unions, ISTAT and CNR
- It defines the whole strategy to prevent and combat male violence against women and domestic violence in Italy, **in line with the Istanbul Convention**

2017-2020 Plan – what is new

- Structural interventions:

  - ✓ Mapping all specialist and general services operating at national level

  - ✓ Monitoring and assessment alongside the implementation

  - ✓ From strategic to operational: an institutional involvement

- **Recognition of women's centres and shelters' role**

- Recognition of **multi-agency approach** in supporting and protecting women victims through **local networks**

2017-2020 NAP and the governance trough local networks

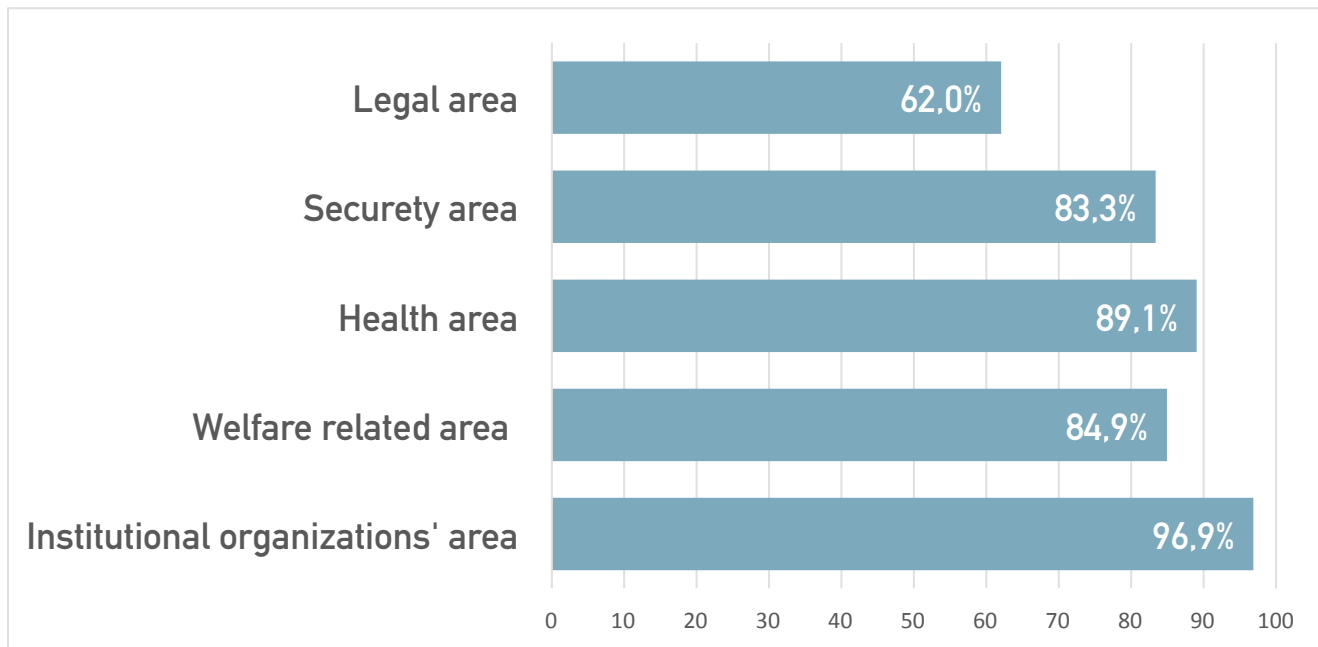The level of local governance lies on the "territorial anti-violence networks":

o To guarantee **operational connection** and **communication** between **general and specialist services** working in the field of prevention, protection and fight male VAW

o To allow for an **effective protection** of female victims of violence, together with their children

o **Respecting their autonomous decisions**

Anti-violence centres, shelters, local social and healthcare services/system, police, local municipalities, law enforcement and judiciary system, labour services

Presence of actors, per area of interventions, in the 192 anti-violence territorial networks mapped in 2018

ViVa mapping 2018

2017-2020 NAP & ViVa project: Monitoring, Evaluation and Analysis of actions to combat VAW

2

areas of work

4

objectives

6

working package

1° WORK AREA: Mapping support services for women victims of violence and Treatment programmes for Perpetrators

WP1
Rilevazione dei soggetti territoriali specialistici

WP2
strumenti di monitoraggio

WP3
analisi campionaria

2° WORK AREA: Supporting policies to prevent and fight VAW, through:- ex-ante and in itinere analyses of the national plan on VAW (2017–2020)
- ex post evaluation of the previous national plan (2015-17)

WP4
piano strategico 2017-2020

WP5
piano strategico 2015-2017

WP6
piano strategico 2017-2020

Territorial anti-violence networks in Italy: draft data from on-going ViVa project

Quantitative study

> **338** anti-violence centres (CNR - Istat survey, 2017)
>
> **54** treatment programs for perpetrators (CNR survey, 2017)
>
> **192 territorial anti-violence networks** mapped (CNR survey, 2018)

Qualitative study (on-going)

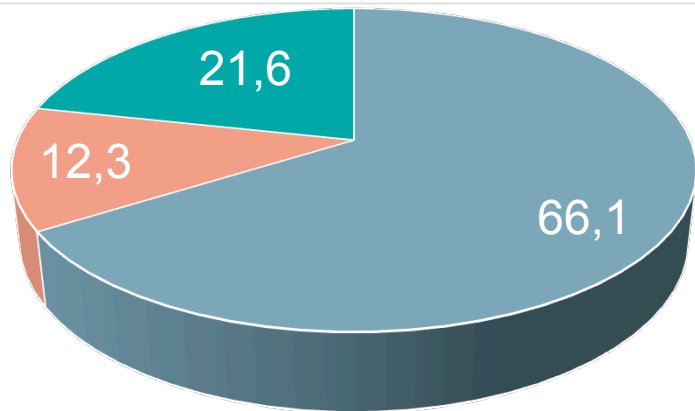> **In-depth interviews** with 35 anti-violence centres, 5 shelters, 6 perpetrators programmes
>
> 5 **focus groups** with general services
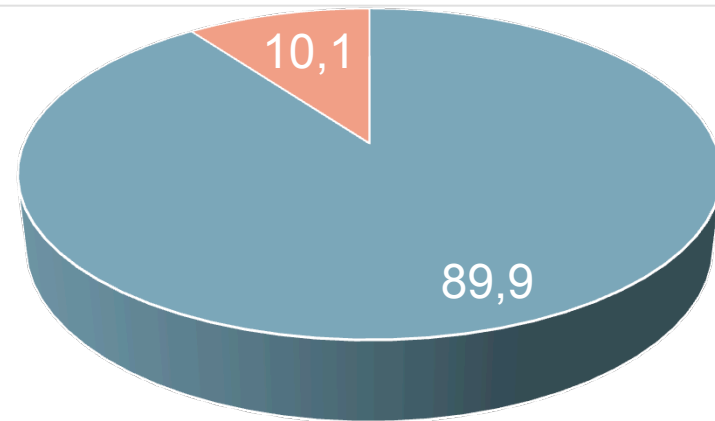
Documents analysis (on-going)

> **Network's protocols** collected through anti-violence centers

Involvement of anti-violence centres in territorial networks

Left chart:
- 66,1
- 12,3
- 21,6

Legend:
- Antiviolence centres in netwoks coordinated by public territorial instituion
- Antiviolence centres in netwoks coordinated by other subjects
- Antiviolence centres which DO NOT partecipate to antiviolence networks

Right chart:
- 10,1
- 89,9

Legend:
- Antiviolence centres collaborating with other antiviolence centres or shelters
- Antiviolence centres DO NOT collaborate with other antiviolence centres or shelters

CNR & ISTAT surveys 2018

Territorial anti-violence networks in the experience of antiviolence centres

From informal to formal networks

and

Women's centre's role

"*The network started informally in 2011*, there was a responsive territory. *Then it got formalized in 2014*, thanks to a regional project. For us it is rather easy to speak with institutions, no matter what the political party is. It is true that bureaucracy has complex and long procedures, but our collaboration is positive.

At the operative level, we are the coordinators. The municipality has a political role. The network, for us, is a system of mutual support both for the women and for the actors involved. *I really feel that the centre is not by itself, but it is part of a system of services that works*." Anti-violence women's centre North-A, 2019

Territorial anti-violence networks in Italy: challenges emerging from data

Political vs operative levels

"***Communications between technical and political levels sometimes do not coincide***: *it is challenging to bring content from the technical to the political level.* ***There is a gap***, *which could be draining. Moreover, sometimes we see that* ***there is inadequate communication within administrations***: *operators risk of not knowing procedures properly*". Anti-violence centre North B, 2019.

Bureaucracy vs women's needs

"*Being part of a local network is helpful (…) If the networks aims at offering opportunities to women, sharing good practices is meaningful. However, if we just sign protocols that are too strict, bureaucratization is a risk.* ***Today, compared to the past, there is a more bureaucratic logic, which is too top down***. *The network and the resources are at the core of the intervention:* ***women come after***." Anti-violence centre North C, 2019

Preliminary conclusions

- **A multi agency approach** resulted crucial both in the definition and in the implementation of a NAP, within **different levels of administrations and local networks**

- **Different administrations play different roles** in the development of anti-violence policies in the country

- The analysis shows the specific characteristics of local networks in Italy and highlights **strengths and weaknesses** of a multi-agency and participatory approach

Strengths of a multi-agency approach

Policies' development (national, regional and local levels)

- Recognition of women's centres role (at the national, regional and local levels)
- Feminist contributions to VAW policies, mainstreaming a gender approach, with women at the core of interventions
- Different administrations sharing commitments in protecting and supporting women

Support-services' development through local networks

- Holistic response to women subjected to violence
- Anti-violence centres call institutions to their roles and responsibilities
- Different institutions may speak the "same language"
- Women re-victimization can be avoided
- Formalised networks through protocols may avoid gaps in the systems, procedures and operators turn-over

Weaknesses/challenges of a multi-agency approach (1)

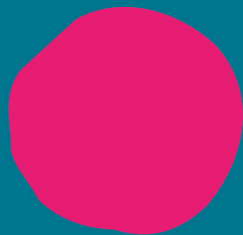**Policies' development (national, regional and local levels)**

- Not all institutions/agencies may share the same view on VAW

- The operationalization of the NAP is a slow and complex process *(funding, governance, changes in administrations)*

Weaknesses/challenges of a multi-agency approach (2)

Support - services' development through local networks

- Difficulties in coordinating different bodies/institutions
- Risk of lack of operationalization of local networks' agreements
- Risk of excessive bureaucratization: women's needs and choices may not be at the centre of the multi-agency approach
- Political and operational levels within local networks may clash on timing, approaches and procedures

Thank you!

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PROGETTO DI MONITORAGGIO,
VALUTAZIONE E ANALISI
DEGLI INTERVENTI DI PREVENZIONE
E CONTRASTO ALLA VIOLENZA
CONTRO LE DONNE

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e le Politiche Sociali

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