The multi-agency approach to tackle violence against women: the Anti-Violence Italian Plan 2017-2020

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Multi agency approach: what and when
3 levels: activism, institutions, territorial level
The approach in the Viva Project
The National Plan: strengths, innovations, challenges
Territorial level: implementing and operationalising the Plan
Some evidences from the Viva Project
Strengths and weaknesses of a multi-agency approach
Multi-agency: an approach

Policies’ development (national, regional and local levels)

Effective, comprehensive and coordinated 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, Art. 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

- **1970**: Divorce Law, confirmed by referendum in Family law is reformed
- **1974**: Abortion Law, confirmed by referendum in 1981
- **1977**: Honour crime is abolished
- **1979**: Presentation of the Citizens initiative Law against sexual violence (1996)
- **1981**: "Violare il silenzio" - European conference of women's centre against sexual violence in Venice
- **1990**: National law against sexual violence
- **1996**: First survey on sexual violence Italian National Institute of statistic (ISTAT)
- **1997**: Urban Project: "Anti-violence network among the cities"
- **1998**: Law against violence within family relationships
- **1999**: Setting up the national helpline 1522
- **1999**: First national survey on VAW (ISTAT)
- **2000**: National Law on stalking
- **2001**: First National Plan against violence and stalking
- **2006**: Italy ratifies the Istanbul Convention and Law on Femicide
- **2010**: National minimum standards for of women's centres and shelters
- **2011**: National Extraordinary Action Plan on sexual and gender-based violence
- **2014**: National Strategic Plan on male violence against women
- **2016**: VIVa project + ISTAT research on specialist support services
- **2017**: Publication of "Non una di meno" anti-violence Plan
- **2019**: GREVIO Shadow report

#### ROLE AND PRACTICES OF FEMINIST MOVEMENTS

- **1974**: Feminist and women movements' mobilization after Circeo Massacre
- **1975**: Mobilizations against VAW in Rome (Unione Donne Italiane) and all over the country
- **1978**: Mobilizations against VAW in Rome (Unione Donne Italiane) and all over the country
- **1996**: First national conference of D.i.Re.network anti-violence women's centres
- **1998**: Over 80 anti-violence centres all over the country
- **2002**: "Not in my name" mobilization
- **2010**: 185 anti-violence centres all over the country
- **2011**: Publication of CEDAW shadow report
- **2013**: National minimum standards for of women's centres and shelters
- **2015**: National Extraordinary Action Plan on sexual and gender-based violence
- **2016**: First mobilization against VAW of "Non una di meno"
- **2017**: Publication of "Non una di meno" anti-violence Plan
- **2019**: GREVIO Shadow report
Co-ordinated and multi-agency approach - Institutional level

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

Multi-agency approach

- Health local services and hospitals have to develop protocols with local networks to protect women
- Women’s centres and shelters have to participate in local networks (art. 7)
Italian National Strategies on VAW 2010-2020

- 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

• Specific attention to migrant, refugee and asylum seeker women

• Specific focus on gender-based violence in the workplace
National Plan’s challenges

- The coordination between national, regional and municipal interventions, including the involvement and funding of women’s associations and specialised women services providers, to develop integrated policies;
- The scarcity of financial resources allocated by the competent Ministries for the training of relevant actors can hamper effective prevention and protection from violence as well as punishment of its perpetrators;
- The effective implementation throughout the country of all integrated policies related to prevent violence against women, protect victims and investigate and punish perpetrators;
- The development of measures in consultation with migrant women and their organisations against all forms of violence including forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
2017-2020 NAP and the governance through local networks

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

- To guarantee operational connection and communication between general and specialist services working in the field of prevention, protection and fight male VAW
- To allow for an effective protection of female victims of violence, together with their children
- Respecting their autonomous decisions
2017-2020 NAP & ViVa project: Monitoring, Evaluation and Analysis of actions to combat VAW

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

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)
Draft data from on-going ViVa project

Quantitative study
- 338 anti-violence centres (CNR - Istat survey, 2018)
- 54 treatment programs for perpetrators (CNR survey, 2018)
- 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
Women supported in 2017

Women

54,706 women enter in touch with an anti-violence centre at least once: an average of 172 women per centre

Foreign women

8,711 foreign women started a path to overcome violence within an anti-violence centre: an average of 28 foreign women per centre
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

- 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
- Transversal migrant issue in most of NAP activities

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)

- Not all institutions/agencies may share the same view on VAW (e.g.: securitarian vs gender-based approach)
- The operationalization of the NAP is a slow and complex process (*funding, governance, changes in administrations*)
- Lack of coordination between the 2016 National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking and the National Strategic Plan on male violence against women 2017-2020
Weaknesses/challenges of a multi-agency approach (2)

• 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
UN PROGETTO DI RICERCA
UN SITO WEB
PER COMBATTERE
LA VIOLENZA MASCHILE
CONTRO LE DONNE

PRESENTAZIONE DEL SITO DEL PROGETTO VIVA:
UN’OCCASIONE PER FARE IL PUNTO

27 NOVEMBRE 2019
ore 09.30

PRESSO
Palazzo Merulana
Via Merulana 121, Roma

RSVP
20 novembre entro le ore 18.00
progetto.viva@irpps.cnr.it
A multi-agency approach in the development of anti-violence policies in Italy: national and local perspectives

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Thank you!

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