



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
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# Empowering women: Examining the Role of Local Multi- Agency Integrated Networks in Combating Violence Against Women

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VALUTAZIONE E ANALISI  
DEGLI INTERVENTI DI PREVENZIONE  
E CONTRASTO ALLA VIOLENZA  
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e le Politiche Sociali



*Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri  
Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità*

## Main Goal

Analyzing  
processes of the  
antiviolence  
system in Italy  
and in particular  
its effects on:

- the definitions of **anti-violence system** and **local processes** for implementing economic, employment and housing empowerment measures in the experiences of women survived domestic violence, based on field research conducted in **three Italian regions**;
- multi-actor network processes that underpin **socio-economic empowerment** policies for women exiting violence.



as part of a national project on anti-violence services and policies in Italy at the Council for National Research, aimed at mapping and evaluating the interventions in supporting women in Italy (called ViVa)

# Background

## Women empowerment



### Definition

A **dynamic and ongoing process** that relates women's individual **strengths, skills, and proactive behaviours** to the real (and changing) social and other conditions they face, including the impact of laws and social policies and the possibilities or difficulty they create for transformative social change in the lives of survivors women

*(Magalhães et al. 2019, p. 165)*

### Theoretical reflections have highlighted that

- is a **multidimensional** and **processual** concept;
- should not be understood solely as a theoretical principle, but is an **emancipatory practice** whose action is on multiple levels:
  - institutional/structural (macro);
  - interpersonal/relational and community/territorial (meso);
  - individual/intrapersonal (micro);



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(Magalhães et al. 2019, p. 165)

Dimension of women empowerment: **ECONOMIC, EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING**

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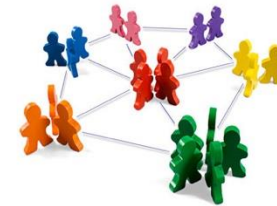
## Background

# Anti-violence system and network



### Definition

Territorial networks for the socio-economic empowerment of women can be seen as a **complex systems of relationships** between local actors (with public and social services, employment services, anti-violence center -Cav, association, cooperatives, businesses, etc.) aimed at responding in a coordinated and systematic manner to women requests and need for the activation of paths to autonorr



### Network for empowerment

is crucial not only for risk management and ensuring women's safety but also for supporting women's empowerment by connecting local resources to help them reclaim their agency. However, literature highlights that different services often adopt conflicting approaches and practices, creating additional barriers for women exiting violence.





## Research design

### Multiple case-studies (Yin, 1994)

#### Focus on

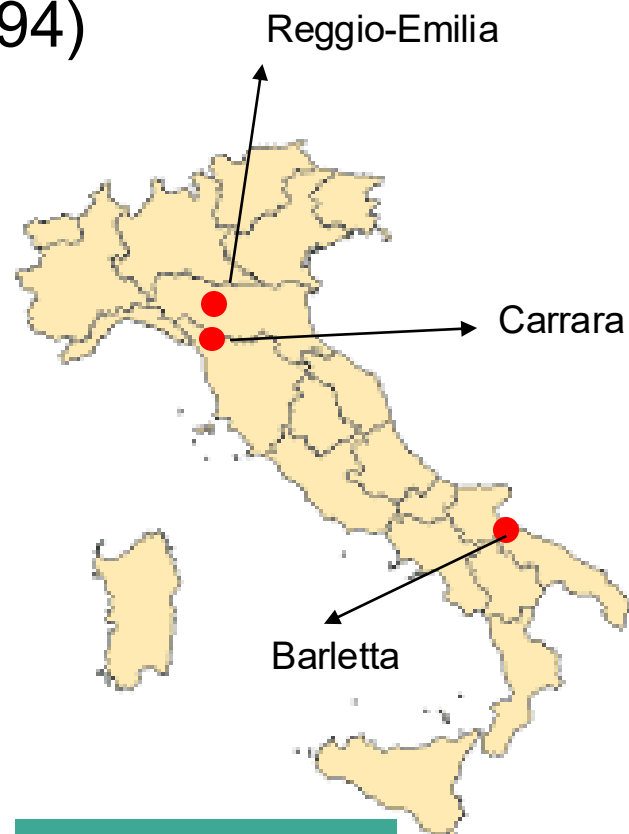
- Local implementation of socio-economic empowerment measures for women exiting domestic violence;
- How local governance and inter-organizational relationships affect women's empowerment → **CASE-STUDIES**

#### Methodology

- Technique of multiple case-studies
- Mix methods approach: **qualitative analysis** (with Software Qualcoder) and **quantitative analysis** (Social Network Analysis, Software:Ucinet and Netdraw)

**Survey strategies** - reconstruction of anti-violence territorial system through

- **conducting in-depth interviews**
- **focus groups** with representatives of public and private organisations
- a **questionnaire**, designed following a network approach



Three italian  
Case-studies



INDAGINI  
DI CAMPO

## Research questions

### Research questions



are empowerment pathways spaces for building territorial networks among specialized services, general services, and private entities?



how is local action organized within intervention areas? Is there a move toward systematizing these policies through inter-organizational agreements (network governance)?

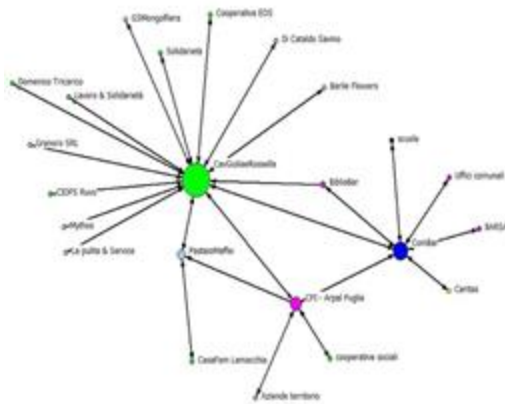


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# Networks for women empowerment

## Quantitative analysis (social network analysis)

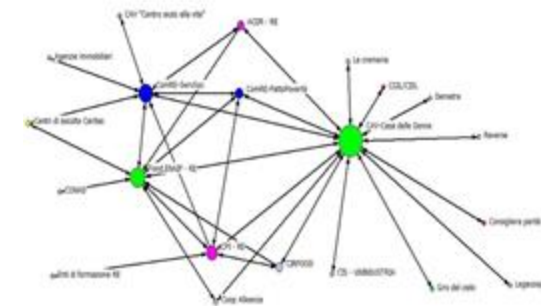
Different network structures depending on the organisational models of each network and on specificities of three territories



Anti-violence network in Barletta city



Anti-violence network in Carrara city



Anti-violence network in Reggio Emilia city

**Color of nodes** describes **type of actor**: public organization (pink); private company (light blue); social and healthcare organization (blue); Third sector and antiviolence center (light green); religious moral organizations (yellow); school/university (black); employer representatives (red); individuals (dark green).

The **layout** intends to express, through size of node's graphic dimension, **degree centrality**, i.e. the centrality that each subject assumes within network with respect to number of incoming and outgoing link.

# The characteristics of networks



Italian-City	Anti-violence network			
	N. Of Nodes	N. of Collaboratio n Link	Network Density	Network Centralization
Barletta	23	48	0.09	0.63
Carrara	40	90	0.06	0.32
Reggio- Emilia	21	61	0.14	0.66

**Network Density Index:** it relates the number of ties to the total number of potential ties in a network, i.e. the ties that would be found if each actor had a relationship with each of the others. Density ranges from a value of “0” - no cohesion - to “1” - everyone is connected to everyone else.

**Network Centralization:** expresses the level to which the network is organised around its central point (node) or not. It ranges from ‘0’ to ‘1’.





## ViewPoint of local stakeholders ...qualitative analysis

Some issues with regard to anti-violence networks working  
in the field of women's empowerment

- **Turnover** of social workers and operators
- Lack of a **formalised network** for empowerment.
- **Weakness of local governance** (lack of planned and intentional policy; the public does not play a “directing” role, intervention logic based on aggregation rather than integration).
- **Tension** between specialised services and general services
- Difficulty in adapting interventions **to complex needs with multiple vulnerabilities.**





## ...in short



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**both analyses (qualitative and quantitative) consider networking as an essential dimension of interventions aimed at women.**



The presence of local networks in the field of anti-violence, and even more so in the field of empowerment, cannot be taken for granted.



Governing and maintaining networks .



The importance of institutional investment.



Definition of shared responsibilities, the stabilization of information flows, and the optimization of resources.



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*Thanks for your attention!*

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