Family policy, vulnerable families and Covid-19. Suggestions from the reality and experience of the Veneto Region

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Veneto Region - Background

- ✓Population 4,879,133 **persons**;
- ✓2,098,446 **families**;
- ✓**Couples without children**: 43.6% of couples;
- ✓**Couples with children**: 45% have only one child
- ✓61% of **18–34-year-old live in their parents' house**

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Veneto Region - Law

Law no. 20/2020 "**Interventions in support of the family and the birth rate**".

Some **challenging objectives of the law**

1. **Counteracting decreased birth-rate**

- Promoting the establishment of new families
- Remove social, cultural and economic obstacles that obstruct new births
- Promote a culture of childhood through a structured system of services and opportunities for children and the centrality of the family.

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Veneto Region - Law

Others **challenging objectives of the law**

2. Fostering, promoting and supporting families

- Promoting the high value of motherhood and fatherhood
- Encourage the development of solidarity between generations
- Recognition and social enhancement of family networks, inter-family solidarity and self-help among families, family associations;
- Encourage family-work balance in a community welfare perspective

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Veneto Region - Law

The **family policies** adopted by the Veneto Region are based on the assumption of a necessary **integration** between:

- Support policies for new couples
- Employment policies (especially youth employment)
- Policies and services for early childhood

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Veneto Region - Law

Protocols on shared parenthood

Alliance for Families

Family Audit

Family impact assessment

Actions

L. n. 20/2020

Family Factor and «chilcare for free»

Vulnerable families

Family Desk

Family Governance Unit

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Veneto Region - Policy

Alliance for Families:

- ✓ promote in the local community initiatives of policies that are responsive and aware of the family's needs;
- ✓ promote work-life balance
- ✓ develop public-private cooperation to promote and implement **work-life balance** policies, implementing projects to **support workers with family responsibilities**
- ✓ organise **public and private territorial services** and businesses with **family-friendly standards**
- ✓ provide **support, training and information actions for adults with family responsibilities**

Flexible tool that during the covid proved to be useful and **close to the needs of families**

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Veneto Region - Policy

Family impact assessment

- **Monitoring and evaluation** of any initiative - project - intervention related to R.L. 20/2020 (e.g.: Prenatal allowance; Programme of interventions in favour of fragile families; Family desk; Alliances for Families)

- **Family impact assessment**
  Research, monitoring and evaluation of the family impact of initiatives, services and policies for the family
  Orientation of family support strategies: social equity, subsidiarity, adequacy, solidarity

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Italy – Family support during Covid-19

Interventions activated by the State at national level

- ❑ vouchers for the purchase of baby-sitting services
- ❑ extension of the duration of parental leave
- ❑ emergency income for families in difficulty due to the covid emergency.
- ❑ shopping vouchers

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Veneto Region – Family support during Covid-19

- **Plan of economic interventions to support fragile families**
  orphaned minors; large families with 4 or more children; families with triplets; single-parent families
- **Economic support for the newborn**: one-off allowance for newborns in 2020 and 2021
- **Family Desk**: physical desk, app, website, where to find information, orientation for services, request shopping vouchers, request support for the
- **Childcare voucher** combined with the **family factor** trial

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Veneto Region - Policy

Family desk

- During the period of the covid emergency, from the first lockdown until today, the family desk has proved to be a service of great importance in supporting families also in concrete terms with regard to digital procedures, bureaucracy, applications for access to benefits, in particular for vulnerable families who do not have digital skills

- a qualitative and quantitative evaluation was carried out, highlighting the flexibility of the contact point and its capacity to support and accompany vulnerable families in accessing information and services

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P.I.P.P.I. Programme of Interventions for the Prevention of Institutionalisation

- ✓ aimed at preventing minors from being removed from their families
- ✓ intensive, continuous, flexible BUT also structured
- ✓ address to families with problems in assuming parental functions (no abuse-maltreatment)
- ✓ intensive, short/medium-term programme (18/24 months)
- ✓ activates a series of devices
- ✓ assumes maximum collaboration between all the actors involved

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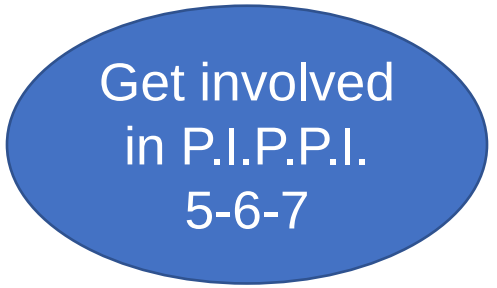
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Italy and Veneto Region

P.I.P.P.I. Programme of Interventions for the Prevention of Institutionalisation

2016-2019:

162 families
162 children
513 professionals



- The Veneto Region has been participating in the program since 2013;
- Annual allocation: € 312.500;
- The programme addresses to families in contexts of vulnerability and promotes social innovation;
- The leading path to prevent poverty and neglect is an early, intensive, multidisciplinary intervention;

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P.I.P.P.I. Programme of Interventions for the Prevention of Institutionalisation

- *Smart welfare* during Covid-19 pandemic;
- During the lockdown many operators looked for innovative ways: they experimented with strategies capable of giving continuity to the accompaniment of families;
- The support of technologies helped the experimentation of new working strategies to ensure new forms of remote presence.

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THANK YOU FOR YOU ATTENTION

MORE INFORMATION AT
https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/sociale/famiglia-minori-giovani-serviziocivile

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