

Carers Policies in Italy: An Analytical Overview.

Preliminary results from a study.

Georgia Casanova*, Cristina Calvi*, Giovanni Lamura*, Federico Sofritti*^

***INRCA IRCCS - National Institute of Health and Sciences on Ageing (Italy)**

^University of Macerata (Italy)

**Eurocarers
Research Working Group Meeting
2024
Gran Canaria, 11/11/2024**

Contents

1. The project:

- a) partners and aims;
- b) methods;

2. Results:

- a) international recommendations on Informal Care (IC) of frail older people: a taxonomy;
- b) Gap analysis between existing (regional) policies and international recommendations: an example;

3. Concluding remarks

1a. The national project for participatory promotion of multi-level policies to support informal carers of frail older persons (2022-2025)

- ✓ **INVOLVED PARTNERS:** Department for Family Policies of Presidency of Council of Ministers (DFP), National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing (INRCA IRCCS), National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP);
- ✓ **AIMS:**
 - analyze the state of the art of policies on IC in Italian regions;
 - formulate recommendations for the improvement, coordination and integration of informal caregiving policies and services;
 - set up a national network of stakeholders (institutional, civil society and experts) working in this field.

Methods

- ✓ participatory construction of research design and tools;
- ✓ analysis and systematization of international recommendations in the field of support policies for informal caregivers of frail older people;
- ✓ mapping of existing regional laws and policies focused on IC through:
 - ✓ structured interviews with regional officials;
 - ✓ documental analysis.
 - ✓ summaries by comparative tables

2. Results

Focus on:

example of gap analysis between existing (regional) policies and international recommendations, by selecting two regions (Abruzzo and Lombardy) as case studies.

Gap analysis between existing (regional) policies and international recommendations [I]

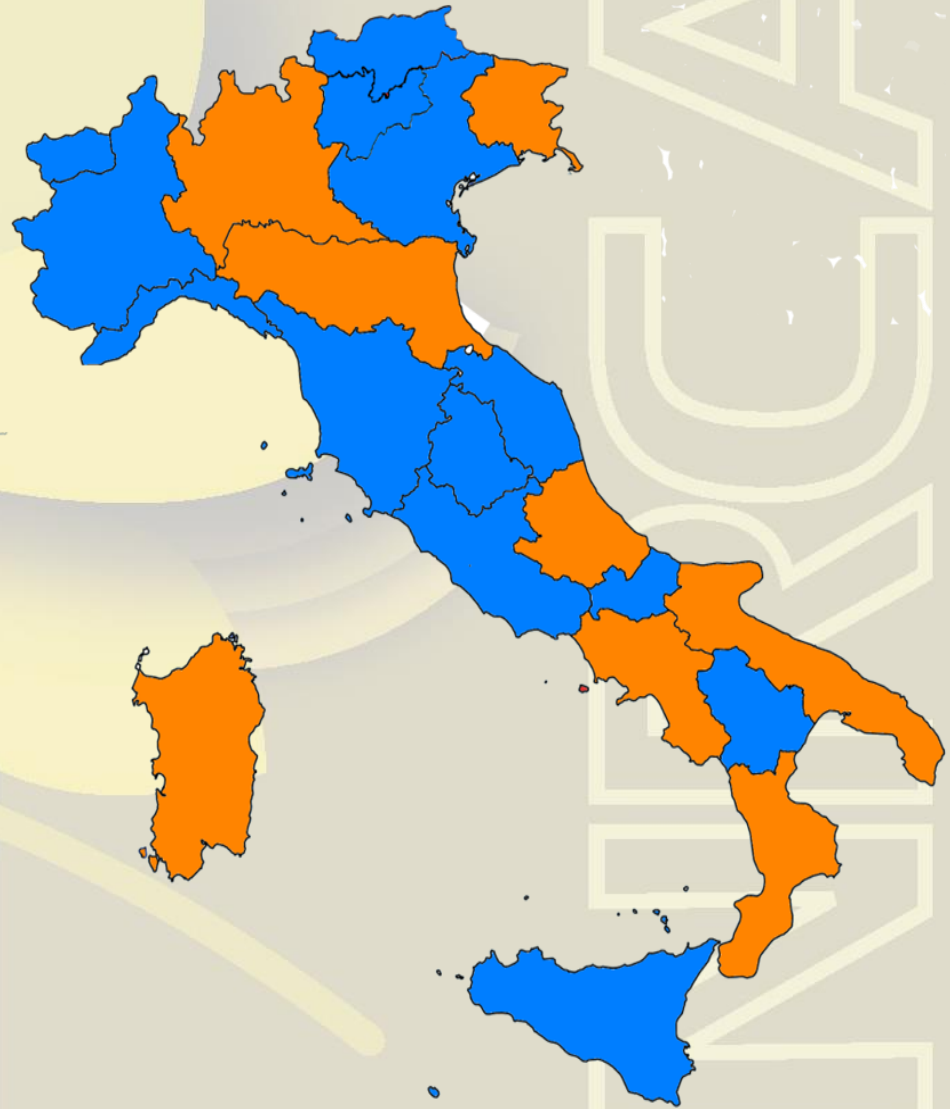
- ✓ all Italian regions (n.19) and autonomous provinces (n.2) were considered;
- ✓ attention:
 - some regions (n.8) have a regional law dedicated to informal caregivers (IC) in addition to other regional regulations that also deal with IC;
 - the majority of regions do not have a regional law dedicated to informal caregivers, but can rely on other regional regulations that also deal with IC.



Regions and Autonomous Provinces **without** a specific law on IC



Regions and Autonomous Provinces **with** a specific law on IC



An example of gap analysis

- ✓ two Italian Regions (case studies): Lombardy and Abruzzo;
- ✓ in both Regions, there is a regional law on informal caregiving.

Gap analysis: an example

2. Measures and support services	Gap analysis between regional policies & international recommendations on informal care	
Access to care services	LOMBARDY	ABRUZZO
Integration between formal and informal care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ measures for orientation and information on access to services ▪ Piano di Assistenza Individuale (PAI); ▪ training programmes for health and social workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ measures for orientation and information on access to services ▪ Piano Personalizzato di Assistenza (PPA);
Caregiver needs assessment	----	----
Information on informal care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ third-sector actions to organise information campaigns and to raise public awareness of informal care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social and health services promote information actions about care needs and needed treatments ▪ Local health authorities, Districts, Municipalities and the Region promote information and initiatives
Training (including lifelong learning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ training courses; ad hoc training courses for familiar carers for job placement and reintegration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ad hoc training provided by Municipalities and health authorities; ▪ Formal recognition of skills
Monetary benefits	----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘assegno di cura’; ▪ Economic support for home adaptation

2. Measures and support services (cont.)	Gap analysis between regional policies and international recommendations on informal care	
	LOMBARDY	ABRUZZO
Care-work reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ initiatives and measures (not specified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of agreements with employer associations and projects with companies to foster hourly flexibility
Pension provision	----	----
Respite and caregiver health and wellbeing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ relief interventions (planned or activated in the emergency phase); ▪ psychological support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ relief interventions (planned or activated in the emergency phase) promoted by Municipalities and local health authorities
Home-based services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home-based medical examinations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home-based medical examinations
Semi-residential services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ regional welfare for dependent and disabled persons 	----
Residential services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ regional welfare for dependent and disabled persons 	----
Community services in general (e.g. transport, canteens, day care centres)	----	----
Private carers	----	----
Services for specific groups (e.g. caregivers of persons with cognitive impairments and young caregivers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ recognition of educational credits; ▪ orientation for young familiar carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monetary benefits for family caregivers of minors
Improvement of housing quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic support for home adaptation and removal of architectural barriers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic support for home adaptation.

Gap analysis: an example

EXISTING GAPS BETWEEN ITALIAN REGIONAL POLICIES AND INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON INFORMAL CARE

LOMBARDY

ABRUZZO

Measures and support services

Caregiver needs assessment

Caregiver needs assessment

Monetary benefits

Pension provision

Pension provision

Semi-residential services

Residential services

Community services

Private carers

Private carers

3. Concluding remarks [1]

From a national perspective

1. fragmentation of policy interventions in Italian regions;
2. inequalities between northern and southern Italy in terms of effective care policies emerge.

3. Concluding remarks [2]

From a general perspective

1. importance of gap analysis between current policies and international recommendations to identify benchmarking patterns for future policy orientations and development paths in different national contexts;
2. relevance of bottom-up and participatory methodological approach (engagement of key stakeholders).

3. Concluding remarks [3]

3. The report on Italian Informal care policies and local laws is in progress. It will soon be available on the Department for Family Policies of the Presidency of Council of Ministers (DFP) website.

4. The main results will be helpful to address the national and regional future policies.

Stay tuned!



Thank you for listening!

g.casanova@inrca.it

INRCA