

## Panel 8 – Social care and disabled people: geographical and social boundaries

### *The evolution of social assistance for an independent life of people with disabilities: the Italian case.* (Rosiello Alessia<sup>1</sup>, Francesca Taricone<sup>2</sup>)

#### Introduction and objectives

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), enacted in 2006, represents a binding instrument for all States parties, going beyond the so-called soft law documents published until then<sup>3</sup>, and marks a turning point in the definition of disability policies. It introduces new forms of protection such as accessibility, independent living, personal mobility, rights that belong to the individual as such, regardless of personal condition. (Chiurco, 2013). In particular, in art. 19 the Convention establishes the right of persons with disabilities to live an independent life, ensuring them the possibility of choosing their place of residence, access to home or residential services and other social support services to avoid segregation, the adaptation of social services and structures to their needs. It incorporates years of battles carried out by the movement for independent living<sup>4</sup>, began in the early 70s.

To date, there have been many achievements - just think of inclusive teaching in schools or the evolution of language, as well as the introduction of reasonable accommodation - but there is still a need to persevere to make the cultural transition from a society built for able-bodied people to one who knows how to look at the needs of all citizens, respecting everyone's rights.

The UN Convention brings the person back to the center from different points of view, starting from the language. There are no disabled people but people with disabilities, where the focus is on the person. In line with the social model of disability and with the bio-psycho-social paradigm, disability is no longer a matter of personal health, but it " results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others." It is necessary to insist on the transition from an integrated system, in which the burden of adapting to an already existing system, equipped with pre-established rules, falls on people with disabilities, to an inclusive system, in which society is responsible for changing rules to adapt them to the needs of all community members (Griffo, 2017). It is about acting on all those boundaries and limits that stand between the person with disability and the opportunities for an independent life. It is a question of expanding the spatial and cultural boundaries in the direction already taken of reasonable accommodations, for example, to break down all the architectural, social and cultural barriers that still remain. To accomplish all of this and achieve these objectives, for years now our country has also been focusing on the reorganization of services in order to build an integrated system of social, health and welfare services, to guarantee

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3 E.g. *Dichiarazione sui diritti delle persone con ritardo mentale del 1971; Dichiarazione dei diritti delle persone con disabilità del 1975; Regole per le pari opportunità delle persone disabili adottate dall'Assemblea Generale delle Nazioni Unite nel 1993.*

4 The Independent Living (IL) movement started in the early 70s when some students founded the first Berkeley Center for Independent Living in California. Since they were denied the right to make many of the basic decisions college students took for granted, they asked for some federal funding and started the first Center for Independent Living (CIL), that was focused on assisting people with disabilities to live in the community with whatever supports they needed. [The History of Independent Living Movement - NILP](#)

social and health assistance in a perspective of cooperation and complementarity, as already desired by law 328/2000, which has the merit of having "told the institutions that the social world exists".<sup>5</sup> In Italy, since the 1990s, interventions in the social and work fields for people with disabilities, from Law no. 104/1992 to Law no. 328/2000, passing through the Law n.68/1999, they were real forerunners of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities ratified by Italy with the Law n. 18 of 3 March 2009.

The purpose that binds these first regulatory interventions was to build a "society for all", through the removal of the causes that prevent or limit the access of people with disabilities to different areas of life, and at the same time through the promotion of Independent Living of the same people, as indicated by the UN Convention and the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030.

The objective of this work is to illustrate how Italy, inspired by European guidelines and the legislative and programmatic evolution at national level, defines and organizes the assistance and care systems aimed at people with disabilities with the final objective to promote autonomy and independent living through new ways of offering services, according to the principle of deinstitutionalisation.

In the last decade, in fact, attention to policies in favor of people with disabilities has grown (Cnel 2022), in a process of collaboration with third sector associations which has led to the introduction of important regulatory interventions such as law no. .112/16 on Dopo di Noi and the National Plan of interventions and social services, up to the 2022 budget law - which reopens the question of the essential levels of social services - to the Guidelines on targeted placement, to the PNNA and, following the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) and the enabling law on disability no. 227/2021, the implementing decrees of which will be released shortly. At an operational level, the PNRR was translated into the Operational Plan of the MLPS from which the Notice 1/22 of the MLPS descended, which also directs its attention to the paths of PwD through the M5C2 financing line 1.2 - involving, nowadays, not only the competent Administrations but also the Third Sector and the world of volunteering.

Therefore, the first part of the contribution presents a regulatory survey of the main regulatory and programmatic instruments as the result of a growing attention in the last decade to policies in favor of people with disabilities (CNEL 2022). The second part describes some implementation elements of disability policies, with particular reference to the services and interventions guaranteed to all citizens by virtue of the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, followed by some initial results of the implementation of the PNRR in Italy.

### **Evolution of the regulatory framework**

The Italian legal system provides, in art. 3 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic, a cardinal principle of equality, which is "All citizens have equal social dignity and are equal before the law, without distinction of sex, race, language, religion, of political opinions, of personal and social conditions. It is the duty of the Republic to remove the obstacles of an economic and social nature which, by effectively limiting the freedom and equality of citizens, hinder the full development of the human person...".

Following what is indicated by the art. 3 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic, in February 1992 the legislator adopted an important framework law, Law no. 104 of 5 February 1992 "Framework law for assistance, social integration and the rights of disabled people" amended by Law 21 May 1998, n. 162, as a tool aimed at guaranteeing equal rights and equal support for people with disabilities and their family members. The social and juridical integration promoted by the Law

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<sup>5</sup> Cristiano Gori, redattore sociale, 6 nov. 2020

[https://www.redattoresociale.it/article/focus/venti\\_anni\\_di\\_328\\_gori\\_ha\\_detto\\_alle\\_istituzioni\\_che\\_esiste\\_il\\_mondo\\_del\\_sociale](https://www.redattoresociale.it/article/focus/venti_anni_di_328_gori_ha_detto_alle_istituzioni_che_esiste_il_mondo_del_sociale)

transversely affects every area of society, from the family to the world of work, from transport to infrastructure and again from the health sector to sports, passing through the fundamental area of education, research school, university and work.

Referring to the employment of people with disabilities, a particularly significant and avant-garde legislation with respect to the legal framework of other European countries is the Law of 12 March 1999, n. 68 "Regulations for the right to work of the disabled" which has among its aims the promotion of the insertion and occupational integration of people with disabilities in the world of work through support services and targeted placement. It is important to highlight that the Law n. 68/1999 was elaborated with the involvement of the disabled person, of companies and supported by third party social actors who contribute, each according to their competence, to define and make possible work placement as a right of every person.<sup>6</sup>

A new cultural approach has thus been introduced which no longer sees the person with disability as a subject entitled to a job by virtue of a purely welfare intervention by the State, but which, from a different point of view, identifies in the same person a resource for company and the employer, in full respect of his personality and at the same time trying to enhance his professional skills and the effective usefulness of his work performance within the workplace.

Both the framework law 104/1992 and the law 68/1999 have been forerunners of important principles for the Italian legal system but a decisive turning point comes with the framework law for the creation of the integrated system of social interventions and services, Law 8 November 2000, no. 328.

With this provision, a process of change for social assistance is launched in Italy aimed at the well-being of the person and no longer understood as a "remedial" intervention but as a possible integrated strategy between the different skills, institutions and subjects of the Third sector.<sup>7</sup>

The Law establishes that the planning and organization of the integrated system of social interventions and services is the responsibility of local authorities, the Regions and the State but also of third sector bodies such as voluntary associations, cooperatives, foundations, patronage bodies, etc.

The service delivery system is characterized by the relationship between local authorities and the non-profit sector, which is recognized as having so much an important role that it is called to participate in the co-planning and concerted implementation of services.<sup>8</sup>

Among the provisions indicated by Law 328/2000, it is also stated that the Italian Municipalities are the holders of the administrative functions concerning social interventions at the local level. Municipalities are responsible for carrying out programming and planning actions through the so-called "Zone Plans", that are a concerted tool for programming interventions aimed at enabling social-health integration, in order to give effective responses to local communities.

Within this particularly important regulatory intervention, article 14 of Law 328/2000 must be recalled, which provides for each person, and whoever represents them, the right to write their own personalized life plan, in agreement with the component health and social care for the purpose of full socio-health integration.<sup>9</sup>

It is precisely the reference to the life plan of the disabled person referred to in Law 328/2000 that makes this normative provision anticipate what we currently find in the 2006 UN Convention on the

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<sup>6</sup> Provincia di Mantova - Il collocamento mirato, a cura di Alessandra Bezzecchi

<sup>7</sup> Welforum.it, Legge 328/2000 e politiche per le persone con disabilità, A che punto siamo? Roberto Speziale | 17 novembre 2020

<sup>8</sup> Redattore Sociale, Venti anni di 328. Una legge innovativa, più apprezzata dagli operatori che dalla politica di Daniele Iacopini

<sup>9</sup> Legge 8 novembre 2000, n. 328 "Legge quadro per la realizzazione del sistema integrato di interventi e servizi sociali" - Art. 14 (Progetti individuali per le persone disabili)

Rights of Persons with Disabilities, transposed by Italy with the Law of March 3, 2009 no. 18,<sup>10</sup> whose main purpose is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their intrinsic dignity (art. 1 CRPD ).

The principle of Independent Living (art. 19 CRPD) is one of the fundamental elements on which to build policies and interventions towards the effective social inclusion of the person with disability. The evolution of national and regional legislation leads to the elaboration of the Guidelines for the presentation of experimental projects on independent living and inclusion in society of people with disabilities 2013 and the Guidelines for independent living projects 2018.<sup>11</sup> They constitute useful tools for the Regions to define and implement projects dedicated to Independent Living in which "the multidimensional assessment represents the premise of the personalized project as an integrated action of measures, "support, services, services, transfers capable of supporting the project of life of the person with disabilities and their inclusion, designed with their direct participation or those who represent them, after evaluating their specific situation in terms of body functions and structures, limitations on actions and participation, aspirations, as well as evaluation of the environmental context in its broadest sense". In defining the above projects, therefore, an essential requirement for the request for funding is the presence in the territories involved of services that have a model of accompaniment towards the autonomy of people with disabilities and taking charge of their needs, using of multidimensional assessment methods aimed at developing customized projects.

In this framework focused on guaranteeing autonomy and independent life for people with disabilities, in compliance with the principle of independent living, another important passage is represented by the Law of 22 June 2016, n. 112 "Provisions on assistance in favor of people with serious disabilities without family support". This law introduced specific protections into the Italian legal system for people with serious disabilities without family support.

The aim of the measure is to guarantee maximum autonomy and independence for people with disabilities, allowing them to continue living in contexts as similar as possible to the family home or by initiating processes of deinstitutionalisation.

People with disabilities access the interventions provided for by Law 112/2016, after a multidimensional assessment, carried out by multiprofessional teams according to the principles of bio-psycho-social assessment and in line with the ICF classification system. By ensuring the widest possible participation of the person with disability, the evaluation scope was to define the personalized project that takes into consideration the needs, desires, expectations and interests of the person himself.

This regulatory provision has been extremely important in pursuing the goal of the autonomy of people with disabilities, so much so that it is referred to in the legal provisions linked to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and which specifically refer to the Operational Program of 9 December 2021, of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies for the presentation by the territorial social fields of proposals for joining the projects referred to in mission 5 "inclusion and cohesion", component 2 "social infrastructures, families, communities and the third sector", sub-component 1 "social services, disability and social marginality", - investments 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 (PNRR) and to the Notice n .1/2022 "Proposals of intervention for the social inclusion of fragile and vulnerable subjects" of

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<sup>10</sup> Legge 3 marzo 2009, n. 18 "Ratifica ed esecuzione della Convenzione delle Nazioni Unite sui diritti delle persone con disabilità, con Protocollo opzionale, fatta a New York il 13 dicembre 2006 e istituzione dell'Osservatorio nazionale sulla condizione delle persone con disabilità".

<sup>11</sup> Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, Direzione Generale per la lotta alla povertà "linee guida per la presentazione di progetti sperimentali in materia di vita indipendente ed inclusione nella società delle persone con disabilità, 31 ottobre 2013 e Decreto Direttoriale n. 669 del 28 dicembre 2018 del Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, Direzione Generale per la lotta alla povertà "linee di indirizzo per progetti di vita indipendente".

the Directorate General for the fight against poverty of the MLPS.

These last regulatory provisions identify the essential elements on which to present proposals for intervention by the Social Territorial Areas in order to encourage the social inclusion activities of certain categories of fragile and vulnerable subjects such as families and children, non self-sufficient elderly people, disabled and homeless people.

Specifically, the interventions of Investment line 1.2 "Autonomy paths for people with disabilities", recalling the fundamental principles of Law 112/2016 as mentioned above, respond to the general objective of accelerating the de-institutionalization process by providing social services and community and home health care for people with disabilities, in order to improve their independence and offer them opportunities to access the world of work, including through information technology.

### **The Essential Levels of Social Services**

The attention towards the disabled and its assistance needs, therefore, has certainly increased in recent years, with the consequent activation of paths to support autonomy, in support or in replacement of the family.

Therefore, social assistance (as well as health care) represents an essential element to answer the needs of people with disabilities, through the provision of services understood as essential levels which, for the sphere of disability, pending their identification and definition, are referred to as service objectives.

The essential performance levels (LEP), whose conceptual references are found in art. 117 of the Constitution and, in the most recent legislation, starting from law 328/2000,<sup>12</sup> "constitute the nucleus of services to be provided evenly throughout the country in order to guarantee the protection of civil and social rights in the various macro-areas defined by the law (health, school, assistance, transport, etc.) for all citizens regardless of the region of residence" (Pesaresi, 2023).

The same law, in art. 22, identifies a series of interventions that "constitute the essential level of social benefits that can be provided in the form of goods and services according to the characteristics and requirements established by national, regional and zonal planning" (law 328/2000) but the path of definition It is still in progress. The actions also include "interventions for the full integration of disabled people pursuant to article 14 [...]" (letter f)).<sup>13</sup>

Social assistance and social services work together with the health service, to support the person with disability in all spheres of life and ensuring them accompaniment and assistance for an independent living.

The first LEPs saw the light with the REI in 2017 but specifically concerned the social discomfort linked to poverty (from the SIA, to the REI, to the RdC and to follow). After 20 years of waiting and a first intervention through the 2021 budget law (Law 178/2020) which introduces as an essential level a minimum ratio between social workers and resident population equal to 1:5000 (Social plan page 9), it is comes to the law n. 234 of 2021 (2022 budget law) which addresses the issue of essential levels and identifies some important LEPs in terms of social assistance, dedicating paragraphs 159 to 171 of article 1 entirely to these services.

In particular, paragraph 159 defines the essential levels of social services (LEPS) as "the

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<sup>12</sup> All'art. 22, la legge 328/2000 indica gli interventi che "costituiscono il livello essenziale delle prestazioni sociali erogabili sotto forma di beni e servizi secondo le caratteristiche ed i requisiti fissati dalla pianificazione nazionale, regionale e zonale [...]", tra cui "interventi per la piena integrazione delle persone disabili ai sensi dell'articolo 14; realizzazione [...] dei centri socio-riabilitativi e delle comunità-alloggio di cui all'articolo 10 della citata legge n. 104 del 1992, e dei servizi di comunità e di accoglienza per quelli privi di sostegno familiare, nonché erogazione delle prestazioni di sostituzione temporanea delle famiglie."

<sup>13</sup> The equivalent levels for health (LEA) were born in 1978 with the establishment of the National Health System.

interventions, services, activities and integrated services that the Republic ensures universally throughout the national territory to guarantee quality of life, equal opportunities, non-discrimination, prevention, elimination or reduction of conditions of disadvantage and vulnerability". It is also established that the LEPS are implemented by the territorial districts (ATS).

Law 234 identifies the LEPS for non-self-sufficiency, while in the field of disability, only a few service objectives have been identified until now. Essential levels of the services need to be identified also through the implementing decrees of the enabling law on disability.

In fact, the determination of the LEPS has so far concerned areas not strictly focused on disability and, pending the completion of the process of defining the LEPS, Law 112/2016 has already identified service objectives for the services to be provided to persons with disabilities. (Court of Auditors, p. 26). Relevant, in this regard, is above all the paragraph 170 of the l. 234/2021 where it defines some LEPS, including the "projects for the after us and for independent life".

Remaining within the scope of the provision of active services, the social assistance currently dedicated to people with disabilities concerns home and residential services, to promote the integration and inclusion of people starting from the principle of deinstitutionalisation. The use of these dedicated services, in fact, is essential to implement the implementation of the UN Convention.

These are daytime and residential services, supported by personal or home assistance provided at a local level. In the guidelines for independent living of 2018, indications are provided for the preparation of projects to be admitted to financing on the basis of the provisions of art. 19 of the UN Convention in order to guarantee autonomy to people with disabilities also through support for permanence in their own homes or cohousing experiences.

At this point it is necessary to specify that many services in Italy are provided by the Third sector, which also operates under a voluntary scheme in the area, providing a real social service to people, and considerably supporting, sometimes substitutively, the intervention of the State, alongside the unavoidable work of care and assistance also provided by families.

The existing services, however, claim the need to be consolidated, even going beyond the regulatory provisions of the UN Convention (Bollani, 2022), to guarantee the principles of the UN Convention itself on independent life and ensure their implementation.

The experiences made in the territories that have experimented with practices of integration and inclusion of people with disabilities, at various levels (social, scholastic, work), also in the perspective of mutual interdependence can be a starting point, while waiting for the regulations to formalize and define the paths or interventions. Often innovative experiences in which, for example, we worked "no longer and not only to enable people and family members, but also to enable the community and its different life contexts to be more accessible, inclusive and suitable for all" (Bollani, welforum 2023).

In the next paragraph, we will go into the merits of the actions introduced by the Italian government to promote the independent life of people with disabilities.

### **Services and tools to support people with disabilities**

Law 328/2000 and its subsequent amendments have highlighted the importance of integrating social, health and labor services in favor of people with disabilities, as illustrated in the paragraph dedicated to the evolution of national legislation in Italy. The recent Guidelines on targeted placement<sup>14</sup> adopted to give useful indications for achieving an effective inclusion of people with disabilities both in terms of access and permanence in the labor market, have highlighted how important it is to promote integrated networks in the activation pathways of the disabled person

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<sup>14</sup> Decreto Ministeriale n. 43 del 11 marzo 2022 "Linee guida in materia di collocamento mirato delle persone con disabilità"

through operational cooperation between the various local public services that operate in the fields of labour, health and social care, education and training.

In the path outlined by the Guidelines, attention is placed on the need to build, within each service for targeted placement, an integrated network in which social, health, educational and training services of the territory participate, thus referring to a model of collaboration between services for custom design. It is a question of arranging an overall path that starts from reception at the employment service up to insertion in the workplace, passing through the construction of a personalized project which, both in the elaboration and implementation phases, sees the involvement of multiple actors and a network between different territorial interlocutors.

Therefore, the strengthening of the services passes through the promotion of an integrated network according to a multidimensional approach which foresees, in order to facilitate the employment inclusion of people with disabilities, the adoption "of technical and support tools which allow to adequately evaluate people with disabilities in their working capacity and to place them in the right place, through job analysis, forms of support, positive actions and solutions to problems associated with the environments, tools and interpersonal relationships in the daily places of work and report" (art. 2 L.68/1999).

The link between social assistance and the principle of independent living is also evident in the PNRR, which provides for measures divided into regulatory reforms and economic investments, with implementation times scheduled in quarters, from 2021 to 2026. Among the reforms, it is also announced the framework law on disability, with the aim of fully implementing the principles of the 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by Italy in 2009. In this regard, elements such as the deinstitutionalisation and autonomy of persons with disabilities are recognized as the foundations of the new legal act (PNRR). To achieve these objectives, "the strengthening and qualification of social services by the Social Territorial Areas, the simplification of access to social and health services, the revision of the procedures for ascertaining disabilities, the promotion of independent living projects, the promotion of multidimensional evaluation units in the territories, capable of defining individual and customized projects pursuant to art. 14 Law n. 328/00 and law 112/2016", thus confirming the addresses indicated in the Convention.

It should therefore be noted that the disability reform was initiated by law no. 227 of 22 December 2021, according to PNRR. In the law, particular attention is given to the principle of deinstitutionalisation and to the promotion of the autonomy of people with disabilities.

In 2023, the first of the implementing decrees was also launched which translate the regulatory act at an operational level, and intervenes in particular on the accessibility of services. The decree is intended "to guarantee the uniformity of the protection of workers with disabilities throughout the country and the accessibility to the services provided by the public administrations for the purpose of their full inclusion"<sup>15</sup>. In this regard, a qualified figure in the public administrations is imagined, responsible for the strategic planning of full accessibility for people with disabilities. Finally, there is the possibility of collective action against public administrations in cases of non-implementation or violation of the essential levels for social inclusion and accessibility of people with disabilities or of the envisaged obligations.

Among the measures of the PNRR, Mission 5 "Inclusion and cohesion" is dedicated to social inclusion; component 2 "social infrastructures, families, communities and the third sector" enhances the "social" dimension of policies and affects the most fragile people, in their individual, family and social dimension, to ensure them the recovery of maximum autonomy.

Within sub-component 1 "social services, disabilities and social marginalization", specific lines of intervention are envisaged for the disabled and non self-sufficient elderly people, aimed at

<sup>15</sup> Comunicato stampa del Consiglio dei Ministri n.32 [Comunicato stampa del Consiglio dei Ministri n. 32 | www.governo.it](https://www.governo.it/it/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-32)

preventing institutionalization through housing solutions and innovative instrumental equipment, with the guarantee of ancillary services, mainly linked to home care, which ensure continuity of assistance, according to a model of social-health care in collaboration with the interventions to strengthen health assistance and the territorial health network envisaged by Mission 6 Health.

In particular, investment line 1.2 aims to accelerate the deinstitutionalisation process, providing community and home social and health services, with effective and personalized social assistance, focused on the specific needs of disabled and vulnerable people and their families, at the to improve the independence of people with disabilities.

Operationally, the PNRR translates into Notice 1/2022, adopted with Decree no. 5 of 15 February 2022 of the General Director for the battle against poverty and for social planning - Ministry of Labor and Social Policies,<sup>16</sup> for the purpose of presenting proposals for intervention by the Social Territorial Areas to be financed under the National Plan of Recovery and Resilience (PNRR) funded by the European Union - Next generation Eu.

The Public Notice 1/2022 wanted to support social inclusion activities and projects focused on certain categories of fragile and vulnerable subjects such as families and children, non self-sufficient elderly people and people with disabilities. The planned interventions concerned the strengthening of services to support families in difficulty; housing solutions and innovative instrumental equipment aimed at elderly people to guarantee them an autonomous and independent life; home social welfare services to promote deinstitutionalisation; forms of support for social workers to counter the phenomenon of burnout; both temporary and permanent social housing initiatives.

Consistent with what the PNRR envisages within the M5C2, sub-component 1, but also with the measures envisaged with the Dopo di Noi Fund and with the National Fund for non-self-sufficiency, the Notice contemplates investment line 1.2 dedicated to "Autonomy paths for people with disabilities" and promotes the presentation of projects by local areas in favor of deinstitutionalization. In particular, interventions must guarantee the offer of "community and home social and health services to people with disabilities, in order to improve their independence and offer them access opportunities to the world of work, including through information technology".

The Notice provides for 3 areas of intervention that each project must present for its beneficiaries: definition and activation of the individualized project; construction of homes in which elements such as adaptation of spaces, home automation and remote assistance are central to support the cohabitation of groups of people with disabilities to also guarantee housing autonomy; development of digital skills to support access to employment.

The same notice also provides for interventions, in another specific line of action, to support non self-sufficient elderly people's autonomy and their deinstitutionalisation, also through the strengthening of social services, with specific attention to home care .

Notice 1/2022 provided for the presentation of project proposals until last summer, with a reopening of the terms last autumn. In particular, line 1.2 envisaged a national target to be achieved by December 2022, equal to 500 projects launched by 500 territorial areas. The target has been achieved, even if to date, following renunciations by the ATS due to difficulties encountered in the implementation phase of the project starting from the signing of the Agreement, the tender was reopened in May 2023.

Each project could be financed with a maximum of 715,000 euros for 12 beneficiaries, for a

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<sup>16</sup> Decreto Direttoriale n. 5 del 15 febbraio 2022 " Avviso pubblico 1/2022 per la presentazione di Proposte di intervento da parte degli Ambiti Sociali Territoriali da finanziare nell'ambito del Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR), Missione 5 "Inclusione e coesione", Componente 2 "Infrastrutture sociali, famiglie, comunità e terzo settore", Sottocomponente 1 "Servizi sociali, disabilità e marginalità sociale", Investimento 1.1 - Sostegno alle persone vulnerabili e prevenzione dell'istituzionalizzazione degli anziani non autosufficienti, Investimento 1.2 - Percorsi di autonomia per persone con disabilità, Investimento 1.3 - Housing temporaneo e stazioni di posta, finanziato dall'Unione europea – Next generation Eu.

maximum of 6 people per apartment. The tender has been opened for 700 interventions with a total expected funding of 500 million euros.

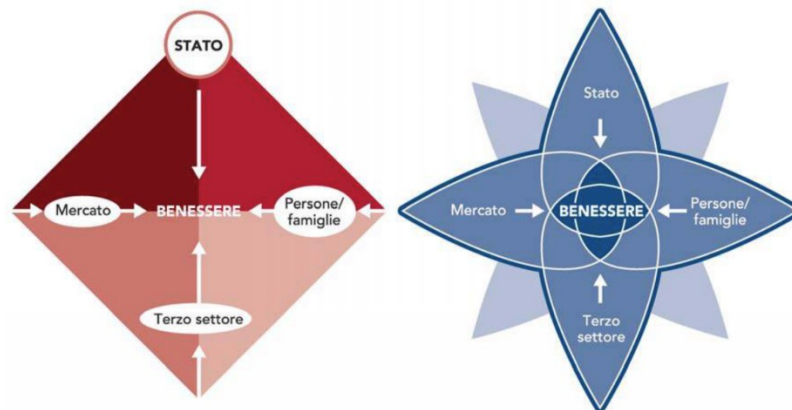
## CONCLUSIONS

The road traveled by Italy, which began even before the UN convention but formalized with this and subsequent laws, is characterized by the goal of "bringing the person back to the centre, in his unity, and its needs, overcoming the categorical perspective focused on the classification and reduction of people in need to the element that can most characterize their fragility, be it the disability, immigration, age or whatever. [...] The starting point of every social intervention lays on three pillars: everyone's right to a dignified life, attention to the family context, enhancement and care of the context".

The approach to the person envisages a process of taking charge based on access, multidimensional assessment, taking charge and construction of a personalized project, necessary to guarantee social-work inclusion and an independent life for the person with disability. Synergy and collaboration between the actors, therefore, become essential elements to guarantee the realization of the paths of autonomy.

In fact, we are moving more and more towards a welfare system which goal is ensuring the well-being of people and refers to a new balance between the actors who make up the so-called "welfare diamond": from a system based on collaboration between the state, family, market, third sector in the construction of a stability to guarantee people's well-being (Maino et al. 2019; Saraceno, 2013), an increasingly interconnected interaction is affirmed between the actors themselves, modifying the figure of the diamond with the points towards a field of overlapping and interconnected spheres (Maino et al. 2019).

Fig 1 - Dal "diamante" al "fiore" del welfare



Fonte: Maino et al. 2019.

In this scenario, the standardization of minimum and essential levels of services in the social sphere represents a way of guaranteeing everyone the same rights, through social assistance - but also health or education - to which the State contributes but also the other subjects necessary to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the system, i.e. the family and the third sector.

Therefore, we are waiting for the Italian government to address the topic of defining LEPS, with specific reference to those aimed at disability, aware that the way for this definition has already been indicated in law n. 234/2021 (2022 budget law), where it is envisaged that the LEPS in the other social sectors identified by art. 22 of law 328/00, and in the awareness that it is necessary to

consolidate the network of services.

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