REGIONE DEL VENETO

YEAR 17-SEPTEMBER 2017

STATISTICHE FLASH

UNDERSTANDING VENETO IN FIGURES AND DIAGRAMS

The time we are living in is prompting some significant issues that need to be mitigated or even resolved. The financial crisis has intensified the imbalance in redistribution of wealth and resources, widening the social gap and losing sight of equality and social justice as fundamental principles for sustainable development.

According to the latest Oxfam report1, inequality is increasingly present, to such an extent that 1% of the world population has more net wealth than the remaining 99%. To address this, the UN has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a global action plan for people, the planet and prosperity. According to the Agenda, each country will have to "empower and promote social, economic and political inclusion of all" and "adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality". The 17 Sustainable Development Goals set outline the global guidelines for the next 15 years in order to meet the needs of today's generations without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs. These are common goals that concern all countries and all individuals: no one is excluded, nor should be left behind on the necessary path to bringing the world on track to sustainability".

SOCIAL JUSTICE: A PLEDGE THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

But which States keep social justice and the rights of the people at the heart of their policies? The Social Justice Index2 tries to answer this question for Europe: the most attentive countries are the Scandinavian ones and Denmark, and results are also good for the Netherlands, Austria and Germany. Italy ranks towards the bottom (24th out of 28), along with other countries that have suffered the most from the effects of the financial crisis. Results relating to equal access to education and poverty prevention were not satisfactory, and even more critical were the areas of labour market participation and intergenerational justice, for which our country ranks second to last. This is the picture of a society in general difficulty, divided by generation and where social justice fails due to increasing inequality between generations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE? LACKING IN ITALY

Social justice in 2016 ...

... and position of Italy in Europe in the various areas

[1] Oxfam is an international confederation of non-governmental organisations that are dedicated to the reduction of global poverty through humanitarian aid and development projects.

[2] The social justice index consists of six areas: poverty prevention, equality in education, access to the labour market, social cohesion and non-discrimination, health, intergenerational justice. The higher the scores, the better the social justice.

Source: Processing by Statistics Office of Veneto Region on Bertelsmann Stiftung and Oxfam data

WEB Flash

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- Foreign residents by citizenship - Year 2016
- Report 2017 - Veneto tells its story, Veneto compares

http://www.regione.veneto.it/web/statistica

Italy is suffering from a longer and deeper recession, and signs of recovery have only recently appeared. However, these signs of recovery are not yet evident in the weakest areas of the population. In 2014, the average annual income of Italian households, including imputed rent, was € 35,017, which has remained steady since 2013 and put an end to the decline that recorded since 2009. Additionally, unequal income distribution has been slightly decreased compared to the previous year, although the figures remain among the highest in Europe. The situation in Veneto is better: families earn more (an average € 38.075 a year), and there is less inequality. Nevertheless, inequality remains a worrying problem when you think that the richest 20% of families accumulate over 4 times the income of the poorest 20% of families (5.9 times in Italy).

SIGNS OF RECOVERY BUT STILL TOO MUCH INEQUALITY

Poverty is the most extreme effect of income inequality. In Veneto, people at risk of poverty or social exclusion1 were approximately 828,000 p in 2015, equal to 16.8% of the population (Italy 28.7% and EU 23.7%). Those most at risk are children and young people, people with a low level of education, people who live alone (especially the elderly), and families with three or more children. Poverty is associated with unemployment, although nowadays not even having a job completely protects people from marginalization (8% of employed are a risk).

The danger is having to not only give up extras, but also food or adequate housing and, in some cases, healthcare. The financial difficulties of families, associated with austerity policies and welfare cuts, raise concerns for future right to health, especially for the weakest people. According to a Eurostat survey, Italy is one of the countries with the highest percentage of unmet healthcare needs because the treatments are considered too expensive. In Veneto in 2015, more than 315 thousand people (+ 69 thousand compared to 2009) mainly gave up dental treatments, but also gave up other specialist visits; their number equals 7.6% of the national population (11.5% in Italy). Obviously, difficulties are greater for those at risk of poverty or social exclusion (almost three times more than those with more resources).

INEQUALITY IN ITALY, A LITTLE PROGRESS BUT NOT ENOUGH ...

Ratio between income of the richest 20% of families and income of the poorest 20% - Year 2014

... MORE COMMITMENT TO COMBAT POVERTY

Percentage of people in conditions of poverty or social exclusion - Year 2015

WHO IS MOST AT RISK

Percentage of people in conditions of poverty or social exclusion in Veneto by some characteristic - Year 2015

DISPENSING WITH THE INDISPENSABLE

Percentage of people in Veneto who give up treatment because too expensive - Year 2015

[1] Those experiencing at least one of the three following conditions are at risk of poverty or social exclusion:
- Poverty risk: living in households with an income below the poverty line (60% of the average equivalent national available income).
- Serious deprivation: making at least four sacrifices from paying the rent, mortgage or bills; adequately heating; unexpected expenses; eating meat or protein regularly; going on holiday at least a week a year; paying for the TV, washing machine, car, telephone.
- Low labour intensity: those under the age of 60 living in families with very low work intensity, where adults work less than 20% of their potential.

Source: processing by Statistics Office of Regione Veneto on Eurostat and Istat data

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LESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

The future of a country depends on its ability to safeguard the young, and trying to stop disadvantage and poverty from being passed between generations. Unfortunately, a comparison of European countries shows Italy's inability to guarantee adequate opportunities for the new generations. Weaknesses in family policies, lack of adequate support, both in terms of income support and of available services, in particular do not help families with children. In Italy in 2015,1 in 3 minors were at risk of poverty or social exclusion (27% in the EU); poverty was less common in Veneto (18%), but still affects almost 148 thousand children and teenagers under the age of 18, that is 21% more than in 2009. Living in social exclusion from childhood is an uphill battle with repercussions on the long run and often throughout the individual's entire lifetime, and leads to accumulation of disadvantages, vulnerabilities and denied rights; fewer opportunities in terms of social and educational training can hinder young people from achieving their potential, exposing them even more to the risk of living in poverty as adults.

The percentage of young people who live in housing that was inadequate because of overcrowding and serious structural problems was 17%; two years before it was 12%. In addition to this are the hardships that most directly affect children and that, although apparently of minor importance, are not trivial or negligible. Almost 16% of children under 16 in Veneto cannot even have a week-long holiday away from home each year because their family cannot afford it, 6% cannot go on school trips or participate in extracurricular activities, and 3% have no toys or cannot invite friends over to celebrate their birthday or just to have a snack together. Sometimes families find it impossible to buy new clothes and shoes for their children (8%).

Families with children are more likely to be in absolute poverty, in other words, they can not afford goods and services considered essential for the minimum acceptable standard of living. In 2015, absolute poverty affected about 4% of families in Veneto and almost 6% of families with children. The problem is worse on a national level, where these figures rise to 6.1% and 9.3% respectively.

FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNGER GENERATIONS

Index of opportunities for children and teenagers1 - Year 2016

MINORS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY

Percentage of minors at risk of poverty or social exclusion

SACRIFICING FROM CHILDHOOD

Deprivation for minors in families

Percentage of children and young people 9 under 16 years of age:	Veneto 2013	Veneto 2015	Italy 2013	Italy 2015
In severe housing deprivation	12.0	17.1	13.0	14.3
Facing at least one deprivation, including:	20.2	21.2	37.6	31.7
a holiday away from home for at least a week	15.8	15.8	29.3	25.9
new clothes or at least two pairs of shoes	7.1	7.8	12.2	10.2
extracurricular activities or school trips	7.4	6.1	18.3	17.3
games, parties with friends	6.1	3.2	16.2	13.7

IF DIFFICULTIES INCREASE

Percentage of families in absolute poverty

[1] The indicator takes into account the number of minors at risk of poverty or social exclusion; the influence of the socio-economic background on success in education; of school drop-outs and NEET (young people who do not work or study).

Source: processing by Statistics Office of Regione Veneto on Eurostat, Istat and Bertelsmann Stiftung data

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NOT A COUNTRY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The new generations continue to be the most penalised and are suffering the most from the heavy repercussions from the crisis. Their chances of social success have definitely reduced and the majority feel marginalised and excluded from economic and social life. For the first time in history, young people today are poorer than their fathers were at the same age. At the national level, millennial families have a 26.5% lower income than their peers of twenty-five years ago. Young adults are the most exposed to the threat of poverty or social exclusion: for them the risk increased from 13.5% in 2009 to 18.4% in 2015, while the total population increased by two percentage points, reaching at 16.8%. For Italy, where the problem was already widespread among young people in 2009, poverty has increased from 27% to 35.4%. It is no coincidence, therefore, that only 39% of young Italians aged 25-34 feel optimistic about the future, well below the European average (62%) and down from 2007 (46%). 41% of them would like to study or work in another European country, against an EU average of 32%. However, what prompts young people to look abroad for new opportunities are not the hardships and difficulties of everyday life, but is the lack of prospects for improving their condition.

Work is the area in which young Italians feel particularly disheartened. After all, they are the most penalised by a precarious market poor in opportunities, as shown by the increase in the unemployment rate among 15-34 year-olds, which has more than doubled in the last ten years (in Veneto from 6% in 2006 to 12.6 % in 2016). In the last year, however, there have been encouraging signs of more employment for young people of this age (unemployment was 13.3% in 2015).

As a result of greater economic difficulties, less young people manage to gain their independence and move out or start a family: in Veneto there are 127 thousand "young1" families, 25% less than only 6 years before. Among young families, 76% say that they struggle to make ends meet and 50% are not able to cope with an unexpected expense of about 800 euros. These figures have increased compared to pre-crisis levels and are greater than in other types of families.

A COUNTRY AT RISK OF LOSING THE FUTURE

What do our young people think? Percentage of young people who ...

Indicators of poverty in young and other families[1]

	Veneto		Italia	
	2009	2015	2009	2015
Not able to cope with an unexpected expense of 750-800 euros with own resources (%)				
Young families	39.1	49.5	42.6	46.5
Other families	25.7	33.9	32.4	39.6
Difficulty making ends meet (%)				
Young families	70.9	75.6	77.8	77.0
Other families	68.2	67.7	72.9	73.0

[1]"young" families include persons and single parents under 35, as well as couples where the head of the family is less than 35 years old.

Source: Processing by Statistics Office of Regione Veneto on Censis, Eurobarometer, Eurofound and Istat data

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