



TRANSATLANTIC FORUM ON INCLUSIVE EARLY YEARS

INVESTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN FROM MIGRANT AND LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Coordinated by



in collaboration with
Fondazione Zancan onlus
Centro Studi e Ricerca sociale



One year of initiatives for children

**Tfey in Italy
2013**

“TFIEY represents an important opportunity for discussing about the existing situation but also for making contributions in terms of innovation, at a time when the great difficulties we are experiencing may lead to think the opposite. The economic crisis could lead us to leave early childhood in a chronic gap of social and institutional care. This would mean that *life is not growing*. Children have a great potential that should not be ignored and discouraged given that they represent the future of our society. [...] We tried to connect the living conditions of children and their parents, with their needs and the services provided, taking into account the available resources. All these pieces of information can help to build a better future for children and growing their life. That's why we called the series *Investing in childhood for growing life*”.

Source: Fondazione Zancan and Compagnia di San Paolo, Italian TFIEY library, Quaderno Tfiy n. 1, 2013, Children in poverty: needs and services, n. 1, p.3

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In Italy the project is promoted and supported by



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What does TFIEY in Italy aim to?

Tfey Italian activities aim at increasing awareness that investing in Early Childhood and specifically in children of poor and migrant families should be at the top of the agenda of Italian policy and decision makers.

TFIEY Italian activities also envisage to improve the national debate and competences on Early Childhood issues and diffuse information and documentation on the theme, also through the dissemination of material and recommendations emerging from the international TFIEY fora.

How is Tfey organised?

Tfey in Italy is organised in three levels: international, national and local level. Each level implies specific activities aiming to reach the widest audience (policy makers, researchers, professionals and managers, advocacy groups...).

Who is involved?

Italian activities are coordinated by Compagnia di San Paolo (Turin) with the scientific support of Fondazione Zancan (Padua). In 2014 Compagnia di San Paolo and Fondazione Zancan will extend the national partnership also to Fondazione Cariplo (Milan) and Fondazione Cariparo (Padua).

How can documentation be accessed?

All publications are available on-line from the website of Compagnia di San Paolo and Fondazione Zancan. Websites are www.compagniadisanpaolo.it and www.fondazionezancan.it

How many people have been involved up to now?

Several levels of involvement are planned. Taking into consideration people attending the national seminars, the annual public conference and the local activities, more than 300 people (professionals, public authorities representatives, policy and decision makers, academics) actively participated in the Italian Tfey activities during 2013.

At least another 300 operators and professionals indirectly benefitted from the programme through the documents and publications elaborated by the initiative and disseminated through several professional networks dealing with the same issues.

In the following section, the international, national and local levels are described.

Figures from Italy

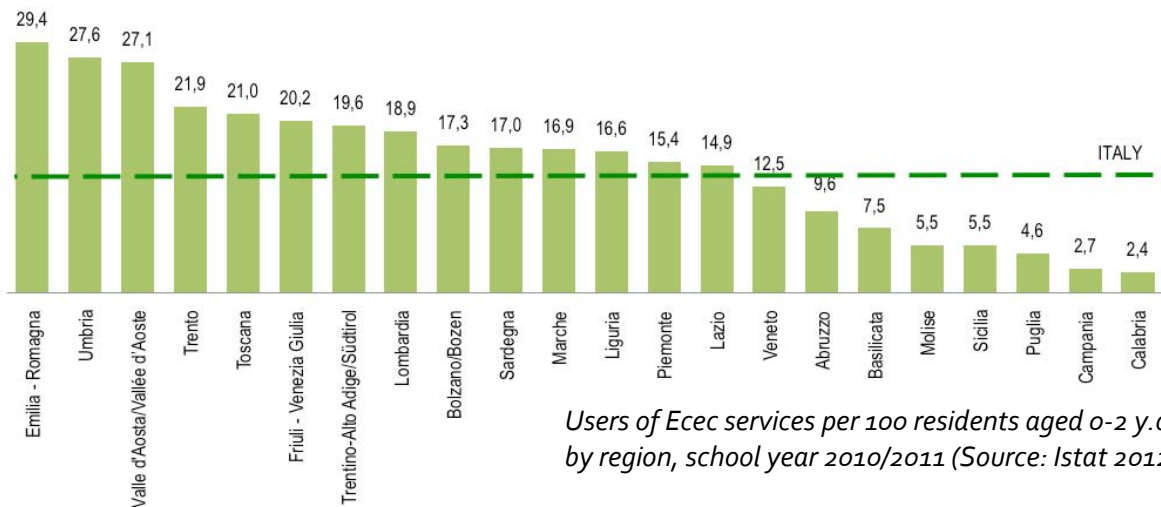
Italian figures substantially differ from region to region and within areas of the same region as well. Data collected in every region demonstrate unjustified differences in the organization of services, in resources allocation, in fair distribution of interventions, in respect of needs affecting native and immigrant children. They all have human needs, which cannot be subordinated to the availability and discretion of resources.

Source: Services for children: economic and professional resources, n. 2, p. 5

In 2012, 1.1 Million children and young people in Italy were living in absolute poverty. They numbered 720,000 in 2011*

Large differences exist among Italian regions. The share of children and young people in relative poverty ranged from 5,5% in Veneto to 42,3% in Sicily in 2011**

The share of children 0-6 y.o. at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Italy (31,9% in 2012) is substantially higher than the Eu average (26%)°



14% of children 0-2 y.o. attended Ecec services in 2010/2011. The share greatly varied across Italian regions, ranging from 2.4% in Calabria to 29,4% in Emilia-Romagna (see figure above) **

The share of social protection expenditure devoted to family/children benefits is considerably lower in Italy (4,6% in 2010) than on average in the Eu (8%)°

Source: * Istat 2013 - ** Istat 2012 - ° Database Eurostat 2013

The international level

The *international level* includes all activities related to the documentation of the Italian situation in conjunction to the international forum. In the occasion of each forum (Ghent and New York), two publications were prepared on the following themes:

n. 1 - Children in poverty: needs and services

n. 2 - Services for children: economic and professional resources

The publications consider the main sources of data and aim to present the Italian state of the art on each of the fora topic. Both publications are part of the series called "*Investing in childhood for growing life*". A longer version in Italian is published and distributed on-line.

In order to facilitate dissemination, a selection of papers from the Ghent Forum has been organised: *Selected Papers* n. 1 is on-line.

At international level also the *recommendations* produced during the two national seminars have been translated into English and distributed at the international fora.

The national level

The *national level* aims to promote Italian debate in regard to the themes of the international fora. A group of experts from different fields (social, health, educational) and different levels (researchers, politicians, professionals and managers of the public services, third sector providers, advocacy organisations...) are invited to give their point of view in relation to the specific topic. Presentations and discussions aim to prepare the background for defining the recommendations. Papers presented at each seminar are gathered in a series called "*Shared ideas*" and distributed on-line.

National seminar 1:

"L'accesso ai servizi per l'infanzia – Access to services for young children"
(Turin, January 10-11 2013)

Participants: 30

Output:

Shared ideas n. 1: "L'accesso ai servizi per l'infanzia – Accesso to services for young children" (in Italian)

Investing in childhood for growing life n. 1: "Bambini poveri: chi sono, cosa chiedono, cosa ricevono – Children in poverty: needs and services" (in Italian)

Recommendations on "Access to services for young children"

National seminar 2:

“Servizi per la prima infanzia: risorse professionali ed economiche – Services for young children: professional and economic resources” (Padua, May 21-22 2013)

Participants: 32

Output:

Shared ideas n. 2: “Servizi per l’infanzia: risorse e professionalità – Services for young children: resources and professionals” (in Italian)

Investing in childhood for growing life n. 2: “Servizi per la prima infanzia: risorse professionali ed economiche – Services for young children: professional and economic resources” (in Italian)

Recommendations on “professional and economic resources”

National conference 2013: “Investire nell’infanzia è coltivare la vita – Investing in childhood is growing life” (Turin, December 9 2013)

Activities of each year are closed by a national conference aiming at disseminating the results and the recommendations produced in the national seminars. The national conference was held on December 9 in Turin. In preparing the conference, the coordinator issued a “call for innovation” looking for innovative experiences in this field in Italy: 44 experiences were submitted and among them the scientific committee, composed of representatives from foundations, universities and research centres, selected 4 experiences for their characteristics of innovation, transferability, flexibility and sustainability. These experiences were presented at the conference.

Among speakers, we asked Ankie Vandekerckhove from the Centre for Innovation in the Early Years (VBJK) in Belgium to present the Tfiy project and some initiatives from abroad.

Participants: 200

Output:

Booklet with presentations

Booklet with the 44 experiences

The local level

A very important component of our activities aims at involving local stakeholders in understanding the meaning of Tfiey. For this reason, a group of private and public entities, already active in Early Childhood issues also in co-operation with Compagnia di San Paolo from the Piedmont region, was invited to debate around the theme of poverty and possible solutions.

The main goal was to share and discuss approaches and practices trying to develop a common guideline for working on this field.

This group of professionals met several times in 2013:

- project presentation meetings,
- meeting for analysing early childhood poverty on the basis of the experiences of each participating organisation presenting and discussing specific activities and initiatives,
- meeting to debate on the subjects of accessibility, competences of professionals and evaluation in early childhood. Themes: access, evaluation, training.

A final meeting to share a common position and documents emerging from the work of previous meeting working groups is scheduled in 2014.

Participants: 50

Output:

Booklet with description of each organisation and their experiences

Dissemination

The 2013 Report on poverty and social exclusion, titled "*Rigenerare capacità e risorse - Rebuilding capabilities and resources. Fight against poverty: 2013 Report*", edited every year by Fondazione Zancan, devoted a 50-page session to child poverty and to strategies for contrasting it, with specific attention to the Tfiey documents and recommendations. The Report highlights that it is constitutionally necessary to conceive the welfare system in "generative" terms, that is as an investment. This implies that human and economic resources represent the condition for promoting the shared responsibility of institutions, social groups and users in pursuing goals of individual, social and solidarity development. In this sense the Report proposes that social rights are conceived as "conditional" rights, i.e. not simply related to the available economic resources, but also to their ability to generate positive effects for the benefit of everyone, children and families.

Tfiey Library

Series "Investire nell'infanzia è coltivare la vita – Investing in childhood is growing life"

Quaderno TFIEY 1: Bambini poveri: chi sono, cosa chiedono, cosa ricevono - Children in poverty: needs and services (2013)

Quaderno TFIEY 2: Servizi per l'infanzia: risorse e professionalità - Services for children: economic and professional resources (2013)

Quaderno TFIEY 3: Orientarsi nei servizi per l'infanzia - Mapping services for children (2014)

Series "TFIEY Selected Papers"

Selected Papers 1/2013: Quality Early Childhood Services for All: Addressing Disparities in Access for Children from Migrant and Low-Income Families

Series "Idee condivise – Shared Ideas"

Idee condivise 1: L'accesso ai servizi per l'infanzia – Access to services for young children" (2013)

Idee condivise 2: Servizi per l'infanzia: risorse professionali ed economiche - Services for young children: resources and professionals (2013)

Idee condivise 3: I genitori negli spazi di vita dell'infanzia - Parents in the life space of children (2014)

Percorsi di approfondimento locale – Local Pathways

2013: Piedmont – Preliminary Papers

2013: Piedmont – Repertoire of experiences

Website:

www.fondazionezancan.it

www.compagniadisanpaolo.it