

D2.1. NATIONAL REPORT ON POLICIES THAT PROMOTE GENDER EMPOWERMENT

**RETHINKING INCLUSION AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT: A
PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH**



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1. GENERAL CONTEXT

Before going into detail on the individual aspects of the policies that promote gender empowerment it is necessary to make some general remarks on the specific situation in Italy. Italy is organized into 20 regions. These in turn are subdivided into 107 provinces. Five of the twenty regions have a special statute and are also called autonomous regions, which means that they have greater decision-making powers accompanied by different taxation policies. For the present research project, the reality of the autonomous region of Trentino-South Tyrol is of particular relevance and even more concretely the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol. The autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol is the most northerly province in Italy, where the Romanic and Germanic cultures meet. 69.4% of the population belongs to the German language group, 26.1% to the Italian language group, and 4.5% to the Ladin language group. The autonomy statute of the province of Bozen – South Tyrol regulates the competencies in legislation. Thus, state competence lies with the subjects of immigration, defence, police, justice, and finance. The autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol has primary jurisdiction over the following subjects: culture, professional education, kindergartens, schools, social policy, roads, housing, public transport, tourism, commerce, crafts, industry, agriculture, civil protection, and nature parks. Despite the primary competence in these areas, the legislation of the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol is always guided by EU directives, the Italian constitution, and state-determined minimum standards for the individual areas. (Autonome Provinz Bozen - Südtirol, 2017)

Italy's social policy can be described as decentralized and therefore heterogeneous. The 320/00 bill strengthened the regional and provincial competencies and decentralized social policy decisions. This has the advantage that each region, province, and municipality, in addition to the national minimum standards, can make targeted offers tailored to local needs. At the same time, the picture of social services today is sometimes fragmented and can vary considerably from region to region. Furthermore, there are frequent changes in government in Italy. Since 2010 until today, there have been 8 different governments in Italy, which have also set different priorities about their women's and migration policies and consequently led to a noticeable diversity of political decisions.

A special situation can be seen in the autonomous region of Trentino-South Tyrol, which in turn is divided into two autonomous provinces, Trento and Bozen - South Tyrol. Since in the present research project the CSO partner is located in the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol, the socio-political situation of the province Bozen - South Tyrol is of particular relevance. Due to the status of an autonomous province, Bozen - South Tyrol has far-reaching competencies in social policy and has regulated social services with the 13/91 provincial bill, thus anticipating the state 320/00 bill in terms of content. The central programming instrument in the social sector for the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol is the

Provincial Social Plan, which contains the guidelines and priorities for the long-term development of services and benefits. For this report, we decided, on the one hand, to summarize the overarching national policies that set the minimum standards and then focus specifically on the provincial context. Yet, when it comes to migration policies, we will address those from a national-historical perspective.

1.1 Definition of Gender Empowerment and Inclusion

In the summer of 2021, the Ministry of Equal Opportunities presented a national strategic plan for the period 2021-2026 to promote equal opportunities and empower women. The National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2026, which is inspired by the European Union's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, with a long-term perspective, represents the outline of values, and the direction of the policies to be implemented in terms of gender equality. There are five priorities: Work, Income, Skills, Time, and Power. The goal is to gain 5 points in the ranking of the EIGE Gender Equality Index.

With a focus on the situation in the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol the Provincial Act 5/10 *"Equal opportunities and promotion of women of the province of South Tyrol and amendments to existing provisions"* pursues the goal of promoting equality between women and men in all areas, eliminating existing disadvantages and improving the balance of family and work for women and men. This bill requires a gender equality plan with a 5-year duration, in which all future measures that serve gender equality are recorded. It also stipulates the need for continuous statistical recording, provides for the underrepresented gender to be given priority in the professional context in the case of equal qualifications, and obliges the state administration to offer flexible working time models that serve the reconciliation of family and work. At the same time, the necessity of gender-equitable formulations is also stated, which were subsequently formulated in detail in the document "Guidelines for gender-equitable language" of 2021. In addition, all bodies within the provincial government must have a balanced gender ratio. The provincial bill also attempts to influence the private sector by creating economic incentives for private companies and promoting female entrepreneurship. The 5/10 bill also establishes the Provincial Advisory Council for Equal Opportunities for Women, which consists of 15 women from different sectors and serves for the duration of the legislative term¹. The Provincial Advisory Council is assisted by the Women's Office to implement its program of activities.

¹ At the moment, the provincial Advisory Council for Equal Opportunities is composed as follows: political representatives of the SVP Women's Movement, Team Köllensperger, the Green Party, the partito democratico, the State Councillor for Equal Opportunities and the Equal Opportunities Councillor, representatives of various women's organizations: Women's Museum Meran, Women's Shelter Meran, Zontaclub Bozen, Frauen helfen Frauen Bozen, Women in KVV, Catholic Women's Movement, South Tyrolean Peasant Women's Movement, FIDAPA (Italian federation women arts, profession and business). Plattform Single Parents and the SGB/CISL labour union.

2. LABOUR MARKET POLICY (WAGES)

Article 37 of the Italian Constitution states the principle of equal pay regardless of gender. The article particularly emphasizes the role of women, who are understood as workers of equal value and therefore to be paid equally. At the same time, this article also lays the basis for specific laws on the reconciliation of family and work and maternity protection, reflecting also the traditional gender distribution of roles by stating: "*The working woman has the same rights and, for equal work, the same wages as the worker. Working conditions must allow the fulfilment of her essential family function and ensure special appropriate protection for the mother and child.*" (Constitution of Italy, 1947). For men, for example, there is no comparable reference to their essential functions in the family.

These general principles of equality enshrined in the Constitution are further elaborated by Legislative Decree 198/06. Thus, this law establishes the prohibition of discrimination between women and men; the composition, functions, and terms of office of the Advisory Council for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men; the composition, functions, and terms of office of the National Committee for the Implementation of the Principles of Equality of Workers; the composition, functions, and terms of office of the Commission of Inquiry into the Elimination of Discrimination; the activities of the Committee for Female Entrepreneurship; the functions and terms of office of the national and regional equality councils.

At the same time, Italy faces major challenges regarding female unemployment. As stated in the gender budget of the state general accounting office (2021), only 49% of women in Italy are employed. This means that every second woman is unemployed. This puts Italy in second-to-last place in Europe. This is the worst figure since 2013 and shows how the corona pandemic has primarily pushed women to give up their jobs to meet the increased demands within the family. On the other hand, women, migrants and young were the first to lose their jobs because they were disproportionately often in precarious employment (ISTAT, 2020). Further, the gender budget of the state (2021) evidences that in 2020 no woman in Italy was CEO in one of the large publicly listed companies that trade on the Italian Exchange.

Regarding female unemployment, there is a strong North-South divide in Italy. While in the north 59.2% of women are employed, in the south, it is only 33%. With the national recovery and resilience plan (PNRR) Italy is setting an important course to counteract this situation. Companies are obliged to allocate 30% of their jobs to women and people under 36 to receive state subsidies. Italy has set itself the goal of increasing the employment rate of women by 4% in the three years 2024-2026. (Caputo, 2022). In this respect, it is interesting to note that Italy, although it largely excludes women from the labour market and thus also foregoes great potential, nevertheless belongs to the G7 countries, as the 7 most important industrialized nations worldwide.

Interesting differences in the national situation can be seen within the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol. Female employment reaches a rate of 69.9%, the highest quarterly value of the last 5 years (ASTAT, 2023). This large difference underlines the previously mentioned North-South divide and shows higher possibilities of reconciliation of family and work in Bozen - South Tyrol, which, apart from cultural aspects, is also related to the possibilities of childcare.

The Legislative Decree 198/06 and 11/20 Provincial bill provide for the role of the Equality Councillor², who informs and advises employees who experience discrimination at work on the grounds of their gender. This makes it one of the three institutions promoting equality for women, along with the Provincial Advisory Council for Equal Opportunities and the Women's Office. The 04/21 Provincial bill on "Prevention and Dealing with Mobbing, Straining and Violence at the Workplace" also established the Anti-Mobbing Service, which is also based at the Equal Opportunities Councillor.

3. EDUCATION POLICY

The Italian education and training system is organized based on the principles of subsidiarity and autonomy of educational institutions. The State has exclusive legislative competence for the general rules on education and for determining the essential levels of services that must be guaranteed throughout the national territory. Compulsory education lasts 10 years, from 6 to 16 years of age, and includes the eight years of the first cycle of education and the first two years of the second cycle (Law 296/06). The school system can be described as inclusive, integrating all children regardless of their origin and/or physical/mental disabilities. Children with special learning needs are assigned specialists to provide them with targeted support. The hours the specialist supports the child in class are determined by a diagnostic procedure of the specific services, i.e. psychological service. The principle applies that all children should be taught in the same class and that separate teaching can only take place in exceptional cases. The secondary school choice is also based on the child's interest and not on grades. The prerequisite for the secondary school choice is a positive result during the first compulsory cycle, but there are no further exclusion criteria for the second cycle of education. Exceptions are a few schools that offer specific entrance examinations to determine the necessary previous knowledge, e.g. high schools with a focus on sports or music.

The education system is organized as follows:

From 0 to six years: a non-compulsory system divided into:

² For further information: <https://www.gleichstellungsraetin-bz.org/default.asp>

- Day-care services provided by local authorities for children between three and thirty-six months;
- Kindergarten run by the state, local authorities, other public bodies or private individuals for children between three and six years.

The first compulsory cycle of education, with a total duration of eight years, is divided into:

- primary school, lasting five years, for pupils aged 6 to 11 years;
- secondary school, lasting three years, for pupils aged 11 to 14;

The second (semi-compulsory) cycle of education is divided into two different ways chosen by the pupil and his/her family:

- Secondary school, lasting five years. Different school types with different subjects: high schools with thematic subjects, technical and professional institutes for students between 14 and 19 years.
- Three/four-year professional education and training courses (similar to German vocational training).

Tertiary education is offered by universities, institutions of higher education in art, music and dance (AFAM) and technical institutes of higher education (ITS) with different types of courses (MIUR, 2023).

The autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol has a special situation with the school system because each of the three linguistic groups has its offer. This is reflected at the provincial level through the three different school administrations, and it has very concrete consequences for the pupils. In Bozen - South Tyrol there are German-language schools where Italian is taught as a second language, there are Italian-language schools where German is taught as a second language, and there are Ladin-language schools that represent an integrated system where subjects are taught in German and Italian and where the Ladin language is also taught. This leads to very different language competencies among the inhabitants of the province of Bozen - South Tyrol and might be deemed critical for the peaceful coexistence of the language groups. Namely, it is important to mention in this context that the annexation of South Tyrol to Italy in 1920 cannot be described as a peaceful transition. Rather, it should be emphasized that the South Tyroleans were forced in various ways by the Italian government of the time under Mussolini to give up their language, to Italianise their proper names, place names were translated arbitrarily, and all in all, they found themselves in a situation where their culture was systematically tried to be eradicated. This led to a multitude of disputes, conflicts and struggles until South Tyrol increasingly gained its competencies via the autonomy statute, which is also currently being continuously expanded, and was then officially designated as the autonomous province of Bozen – South Tyrol. In this respect, the historical necessity of separate German, Italian and Ladin schools can be understood, and at the same

time, also necessary to shed light on the resulting consequences and the current challenges to an increasingly diverse society.

It is becoming apparent that it is not always possible for schools to adhere to these frameworks. Pupils increasingly come from families with different cultural backgrounds. In the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol, currently, there are heated discussions in schools and at the political level. In recent years, German-speaking schools have been increasingly called upon to accept children who do not have sufficient competencies in German. This refers to children with a migratory background as well as children from Italian-speaking families. The reasons why families choose German schools for their children are manifold and can also be quite different from family to family, but often the decision to enrol children in German-language schools correlates with the observed everyday reality in Bozen - South Tyrol. Thus, in most areas of the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol, a very good competence in the German language is more important than that in Italian. Therefore, it remains to be seen what decisions the provincial government will make in the coming months to find solutions to the current challenges.

When it comes to pupils with a migratory background, schools are open to all children, including those whose parents do not have a valid residence permit. The schools must also accept the entry of new children during the school year. In 2010, the government stipulated that no more than 30% of the pupils in a class should have a migratory background and that the 50% limit must not be exceeded. Targeted language courses are also offered for foreign children whose language skills are not sufficient for school entry (Portale Immigrazione, 2023)

4. HEALTH POLICY

Article 32 of the Italian Constitution defines health as a right for everyone. The National Health Service (SSN) is a system of institutions and services aimed at guaranteeing universal access to the equitable provision of health services to all citizens on equal terms.

The fundamental principles of the National Health Service are:

- **universality** means the extension of health services to the entire population since health is understood both as an individual good and as a community resource. Services are provided throughout the territory by local health authorities, hospital authorities, and private facilities affiliated with the SSN. All guarantee, in a uniform manner, the Essential Levels of Care (LEA) to the population.

- **Equality.** Citizens must have access to SSN services without any distinction of individual, social, and economic conditions. Citizens, who do not belong to exempt categories, are required to pay a co-payment that varies for each service provided by the LEA.
- **Equity.** All citizens must be guaranteed equal access to equal health needs.
- **Centrality of the person,** a principle which translates into a series of people's rights such as the freedom to choose the place of treatment, the right to be informed about the illness, the right to be informed about the treatment and to oppose or give consent, the patient's right to "be taken care of" by the doctor or the healthcare team throughout the treatment process, the right to confidentiality (salute.gov.it)

Concerning migrants, the following access regulations apply in Italy:

- regardless of residence status, the moment when a person with a migrant background requests medical care and is linguistically unable to describe his or her health situation, a cultural mediator is placed at his or her side.
- All foreign persons who have a regular residence permit are obliged to register with the national health system. After presenting the residence permit or the proof that a residence permit has been applied for, the person receives the health card.
- All persons who are in the country without regular residence status are granted urgent or otherwise essential medical care. The health personnel are not obliged to report the irregularly staying person.
- About the situation of women, it can be stated that services for pregnant women are also defined as essential services. At the same time, migrant pregnant women receive a residence permit for medical reasons and may not be expelled for the period of pregnancy until the child is 6 months old. Migrant women who have survived gender-based violence also have the right to a residence permit on humanitarian grounds, but it should be noted that the survivor must have filed a complaint and there must also be sufficient evidence documenting the violence experienced.

There are significant gender gaps measured through various health indicators. In Italy, life expectancy at birth in 2019 was 81 years for men and 85.3 for women, but the difference in favour of women has been decreasing over the last decade. If in terms of sheer quantity women's structural advantage, when trying to take into account the quality of life, the situation seems to be reversed. Healthy life expectancy at birth, i.e. the average number of years at birth that an individual can expect to live in good health if, in the course of his or her future existence, he or she were exposed to the risks of disease and death observed in the year of birth, is for men 59.8 years in 2019, while for women it is about 57.6 years. Men also have

a greater life expectancy without activity limitations at age 65 (10 years for men and 9.8 years for women in 2018). The mental health index also indicates an unfavourable condition for women (in 2019, it is 70.3 for men and 66.6 for women) indicating that women's advantage in terms of quantity of life (which has decreased over the years anyway) becomes a disadvantage when considering also the subjective perception or health conditions (Ministry of economy and finance, 2021a).

5. FAMILY POLICY

Italy's family policy has been facing major challenges for decades. In summary, Italy has a negative record of births in 2022 (Istat, 2023), with 6.8 births per 1,000 inhabitants it is at the bottom of the birth rates compared to the other EU countries (Statista, 2023). It can be stated that there are various reasons for this significant decline in births, and a complete picture of the complexity of the situation could only be given when viewed together. At the same time, the family policies of the last decades also bear part of the responsibility. This report will briefly outline the current family policies and also look at the major differences with the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol, which consequently also allow conclusions to be drawn about the relatively high birth rate in Bozen - South Tyrol. The autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol differs significantly from the national situation and has the highest birth rate in Italy at 9.2 births per 1.000 inhabitants (ISTAT, 2023).

At first glance the correlation between the high birth rate in the province of Bozen - South Tyrol and the high employment rate of women (cf. chapter 2) becomes evident. It is sufficiently well known that this is not a coincidence, but rather that economic independence and security for women are crucial factors why women decide to have children or forego having children if the necessary framework conditions are lacking. Parallel to this, the issue of work-family conciliation policies is also central to a woman's decision to have children. Thus, a well-developed network of affordable, high-quality, flexible, and sufficiently available childcare facilities (daycare facilities, kindergartens, schools, all-day schools, afternoon care, homework help, holiday offers, etc.) is a central factor for positive social growth.

At a national level, Italy made 2022 the Family Act (32/22 bill), a targeted effort to counteract this and has committed itself to take measures in the coming years to support parenthood and the social and educational function of families, counteracting the birth rate, enhancing the harmonious growth of girls, boys, and young people, and favouring the work-family reconciliation, particularly for women. In concrete terms, the bill provides for:

- establish a universal monthly allowance for each dependent child until adulthood, with no age limit for children with disabilities;

- strengthen family support policies for educational and school expenses, and for sports and cultural activities;
- reform parental leave, with the extension to all professional categories and mandatory and structural paternity leave;
- introduce incentives for women's work, from deductions for care services to the promotion of flexible work;
- ensure the prominence of young people under 35, promoting their financial autonomy with support for university expenses and for renting their first home. (Dipartimento per le politiche della famiglia, 2023)

These measures taken at the national level represent an important step towards supporting families in Italy, especially the “assegno unico”, which was introduced directly with the Family Act, and which, despite some criticism, contributes significantly to strengthening families financially.

As for the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol, the regional family bonus can also be mentioned as an important element of support for families. The Family Agency South Tyrol summarises the various support options for families and provides an overview not only of financial support, but also of childcare options, contact points for families, and much more. (Südtiroler Landesverwaltung, 2023). All in all, it can be said that one of the goals of the provincial government is to take responsibility for families and to reduce the overload produced by the still dominant "nuclear family" system. This is achieved through continuous contact with families, e.g. through letters to parents, Bookstart for babies, etc., as well as through the implementation of the Early childhood intervention system (Frühe Hilfen), which provides preventive and targeted support for vulnerable families.

5.1 Abortion

In Italy today, women can request the voluntary interruption of pregnancy within the first 90 days of gestation for health, economic, social or family reasons. Since 1978, this intervention has been regulated by Law 194/78, which clearly describes the procedures to be followed when requesting the termination of pregnancy:

- examination of possible solutions to the proposed problems
- help in removing the causes that would lead to termination of pregnancy
- certification
- invitation to abort for seven days in the absence of urgency, both within and beyond the first 90 days of pregnancy.

The ISS surveillance system annually collects aggregated regional data on conscientious objection - an option given to healthcare personnel to refuse to carry out voluntary pregnancy interruptions. In 2020, the share of conscientious objection was high, especially among gynaecologists: 64.6% compared to 67.0% in the previous year. Among anaesthetists, the percentage of objectors is lower, with a national value of 44.6% (43.5% in 2019). Even lower, compared to doctors and anaesthetists, is the percentage of non-medical personnel objecting in 2020, at 36.2% (37.6% in 2019). (Ministry of Health, 2020).

As reported by the association D.i.Re (2016) practising abortion has therefore become for Italian women an osculated course against time, with the possibility of travelling up to 800 kilometres to find a public facility where they can have an abortion. For this reason, Italy has already been condemned for some time by the European Court of Human Rights for its failure to fully implement law 194 *Norme per la tutela sociale della maternità e sull'interruzione volontaria della gravidanza*, a law that was created in 1978 to allow even the poorest women to be admitted to a public health facility and have an abortion without running risks.

6. GENDER REPRESENTATION IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL ELITES

In terms of women's participation in economic, political, and administrative decision-making processes, Italy has made progress in recent years, particularly, with the election in 2019 of the first woman president of the Constitutional Court and the presence of women among Italians elected to the European Parliament (41.1 % in 2019) and to the national Parliament (amounting to 36.1 % in the Chamber of Deputies and 35.3 % in the Senate); in the boards of directors (BoDs) of listed and controlled companies representation of women has grown, and progress in Italy is greater than in other countries (36.4 % in the Chamber of Deputies and 35.3 % in the Senate) (Ministry of Economy and Finance, 2021a). Since 2022, Italy has, for the first time, a female prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, and at the same time, the government is still very male-dominated. Currently, 6 out of 26 ministers are female, compared to 8 out of 23 ministers in the previous government.

Legislation in Italy and other European and non-European countries have introduced or are in the process of introducing gender balance rules in the top bodies of the most important companies in the economy, including companies listed on regulated markets. In Italy, these rules were first enacted with Act 120 of 2011 (the so-called Golfo Mosca law), which imposed gender balance in the administration and control bodies of listed and publicly controlled companies. The quota initially imposed was 1/3 of the members; subsequently, for listed companies only, it was increased to 2/5 by the 2020 Budget Law (l. 160 of 2019) and, recently, Article 6 of l. 162 of 2021 extended the new provisions to the Boards of Directors of publicly

controlled companies. Where companies are in default, there is a double warning mechanism, a call for compliance, and, where the breach persists, the disqualification of all elected directors. (Dip. per le pari opportunità, 2023)

Regarding the specific political situation of the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol, there are currently 13 female mayors in Bozen - South Tyrol, which is only 11 % of all 116 municipalities. In the municipal councils, 26.2 % of the councillors are women. In 2020, a research team from Eurac Research conducted a representative survey to find out what voters think about the issue of women in provincial municipal politics. Based on this study, a guideline for action has now been developed on behalf of the Provincial Advisory Council for Equal Opportunities. It contains measures to strengthen the presence of women in provincial municipal politics (Beirat für Chancengleichheit, 2022).

7. MIGRATION AND MINORITY POLICY

From the time of its unity up to periods not too distant in time, Italy has experienced one of the most significant outgoing migratory phenomena of the modern age: it is estimated that between 1876 and 1976 they left, especially towards other European states and the Americas, about 24 million Italians. It is therefore no coincidence that Italy is historically considered a country of emigrants, and it was considered such, wrongly, until relatively recent times. If during the 1960s the emigration of Italians abroad was still a non-negligible factor, it was precisely in that period that the first settlements of foreign workers began in Italy, attracted by the well-being achieved with the economic boom. The Italian political system, guilty of delay, became aware of the immigration phenomenon only towards the beginning of the 80s, however, nothing moved at the legislative level until the Foschi law of 1986.

Until 1986, in contradiction with the provisions dictated by art. 10, paragraph 2 of the Constitution, the state-regulated the influx of foreign citizens according to the TU of the Public Security Laws of 1931. Apart from various decrees (ex. 1964 Ministry of Labour on the employment of foreign subordinate workers), this law regulated migration issues up until the sector until the n. 943/1986 that introduced major novelties, like, for instance, a law on family reunification, declaring full (formal) equality between Italian and foreign workers. The 943/1986 was accompanied by a large amnesty involving over 100,000 immigrants.

The Martelli law (n. 39/1990) attempted to answer the ever-greater contradictions of Italian migration policy: endowed with a certain degree of coherence, but also created to respond to emergency contingencies, it represents the basis of the current legislation on the matter. On the one hand, it envisages a preventive mechanism, implemented through the first example of quantitative programming

of the so-called immigrant entry flows established to fulfil the needs of the Italian labour market. On the other, however, it entails also a repressive response which regulated, for the first time in Italy, the procedure for the expulsion of socially dangerous foreigners and illegal immigrants. This law produced another amnesty.

Compared to the previous provisions, the Martelli law is characterized by setting restrictive entry conditions also because Italy had to meet the requests from other EU states which, by the simultaneous accession of Italy to the Schengen treaty, feared a large influx of foreign workers into their territory. The procedure for the expulsion of foreign citizens, which is used not only in terms of repression of the behaviour of individual foreigners but also as a tool to combat irregular immigration, becomes a widespread and easy practice implemented in the form of an administrative decree.

As a result of the above, paired with the collapse of the Soviet Union, symbolized, in the Italian case, by the continuous Albanian arrivals on the Apulian coast, a significant change takes place in the perception of migratory flows: many of the subsequent policies are conditioned by the emergence in the public opinion of a negative orientation towards immigrants. In 1992 a new law on citizenship raised to 10 years of continuous legal residence, the request for foreigners' naturalization.

In the early nineties, Italy is struggling with sea arrivals: in 1995 the no. 563/1995, the so-called Puglia law, decreed the opening, for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997, of reception centres along the Apulian coast: this law was extended from time to time and still today constitutes the foundations of the Italian first reception system.

The 1998 Turco-Napolitano law was the first Italian systematic immigration law not approved in emergency circumstances. A major innovation introduced by this law was the (numerical) expansion and better definition of the programming of migratory flows, which was integrated into national foreign policy through a system of privileged quotas in favour of countries that collaborated in the repatriation of immigrants expelled from Italy. The Turco-Napolitano law operated both in terms of work and social integration, as well as strengthening the expulsion mechanisms. It introduced the possibility to enter the country for a job search, it broached a residence card to stabilize long-term residents and it extended basic health care also to illegal immigrants. It is during that period that temporary stay and assistance centres (CPT) were envisaged, created to detain and identify (illegal) immigrants and possibly expel them. The detention in these centres, imposed by administrative means, was foreseen for a maximum of 30 days, and has been the subject of many criticisms over the years for the discretion with which the police forces are responsible for making use of them, but also due to the severe restriction of fundamental rights which derives from the prolonged detention in these centres.

In the following years, immigration grew further, also due to the entry of new states into the European Union, and consequently also the number of those entitled to transit and stay in Italy; the increase in immigration made the political debate on these issues even more heated, and the relevant legislation followed these contrasts. This season was inaugurated by the law n. 189 of 2002 (Bossi-Fini), which significantly modified the Turco – Napolitano law in a restrictive sense for non-EU citizens interested in emigrating to Italy. The new law acted on the side of the checks of those already residing in Italy, shortening the duration of residence permits from 3 to 2 years, giving more weight to the role of the CPTs and to accompaniment to the border, introducing fingerprinting for all foreigners and the crime of illegal stay; and also on new income, eliminating the sponsor system introduced by the previous law and creating a single procedure, based on the residence contract, which made it much more difficult for the non-EU citizen to come to work legally in Italy. This law was accompanied by a gigantic amnesty, the most massive in European history, involving over 650,000 individuals.

In the meantime, the transposition of Community legislation (in particular see the files on directives 2004/83/EC, 2003/109/EC 2003/86/EC) intervened to modify the system again, carrying out an initial harmonization with the other European countries before the advent of a new centre-right government further tightened the legislation through the so-called security package, launched by then-Interior Minister Maroni; it consists of three main legislative instruments:

- the law n. 125/2008, which introduces new types of crime for illegal immigrants and anyone who favours their illegal stay on Italian territory (including employers who hire them illegally), the new aggravating circumstance of illegal immigration for criminal offences, the 'increased penalties for those who declare false personal data and the expulsion of EU or non-EU citizens affected by prison sentences of more than 2 years
- the legislative decree n. 160/2008, containing rules which restrict the possibility of family reunification by limiting the number of family members who can be reunited and raising the level of income necessary to access this right
- the law n. 94/2009 provides for various elements in the field of public safety, the most important of which are the introduction of the crime of illegal entry and stay, the increase in penalties for the crime of aiding and abetting illegal immigration, a further lengthening of the maximum detention times, up to 6 months, in the CPT (renamed CIE, Identification and Expulsion Centres), the introduction of new economic level restrictions and not only for entry, family reunification and renewal of the permit of stay, including the infamous integration agreement and the points-based residence permit.

This approach, probably the most restrictive ever seen in Italy, was partially mitigated in the following period by the implementing decrees of the European directives which in the meantime had been approved: in particular, the rules concerning expulsions and detention were partially modified by the entry into force of the Returns Directive, those on entry, stay and circulation by directives 2009/50/EC, 2009/52/EC, 2004/38/EC and, above all, the procedures and reception directives.

More recently, the parliament has adopted some important measures. The bill n. 46 of 2017, which provides for rules aimed at accelerating proceedings in the field of international protection and combating illegal immigration: in particular, 26 specialized courts in the field of immigration have been established by expanding the competencies of the already existing courts of appeal (which will have to deal, among other things, with the numerous cases of contestation of the provisions of the Territorial Commissions); streamlined procedures are envisaged for the recognition of international protection and the expulsion of illegal immigrants, largely based on talks with the Territorial Commissions and the raising of the maximum period of detention of migrants within the centres in charge. The rules in question do not apply to unaccompanied minors, for whom a separate regulation has been approved (Law No. 47 of 2017) with measures aimed at guaranteeing better protection. Furthermore, the new law on citizenship is under discussion.

The great ferment on immigration policies that have been experienced in Italy in the last twenty years, and the polarization that has arisen between the various political parties in this period, reveals the difficulties of a country in managing one of the most disruptive aspects of globalization: Italy has found itself managing the passage, even psychological, from being a country of emigrants to a country of immigration. It saw its immigrant population go from a few hundred thousand at the time of the fall of the Berlin wall to an abundant million in 1998, and well over 5 million today (if we only consider the numbers of regulars). The risk is that such a rapid transition will lead to a closure of the country towards this phenomenon, and consequently to a drastic restriction of the rights of migrants, and the legislation produced in the last 20 years is proof of this.

7.1. Special issues regarding migrant women

7.1.1. DOMESTIC WORKERS

In 2021 Italy was the EU Member State with the highest proportion of people aged 80 and over (7.6%, EU 6%), and in Italy, the domestic work sector is known to have a very large use of foreign labour (around 70% of all those employed in the branch) and is the prerogative of an overwhelming majority of women (almost 90% of those employed). To cover the family care and domestic assistance needs in Italy we would need up to 23,000 non-EU workers a year to be hired in the roles of domestic helpers and

caregivers, about 68,000 in the three years 2023-2025. At the same time, it must be taken into account that regular migration in the domestic sector in Italy was closed in 2011, 12 years ago. The study estimates, in the median hypothesis, that 1,328,000 people needed foreign personnel for family assistance in 2022: about 651,000 caregivers and over 677,000 domestic helpers and babysitters. Taking into account the projected increase in the elderly population, it is estimated that this number will grow to 1,402,000 in 2025, of whom 687,000 will need carers and 715,000 domestic helpers and others. This lack of regulation encourages illegal migration and undeclared work. Already twice, in 2002 and 2012, a form of amnesty was therefore carried out, which enabled several hundred thousand care workers from abroad to regulate their residence status and thus also their employment relationship. (Assindatcolf, Censis, 2022)

7.1.2. SEX TRAFFICKING, PROSTITUTION, AND MODERN SLAVERY

The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020, drawn up by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Control, also sheds light on the main purposes that feed the market in human beings: sexual exploitation occupies first place, with almost 77% incidence among women.

Even Italy is not exempt: data speak of over 2,000 victims of trafficking and exploitation in our country. Prostitution and trafficking in women are closely linked and constitute a significant and submerged problem. Prostitution in Italy is not an offence. Prostitution, however, becomes illegal when sexual intercourse with the chosen professional is consummated in a public place or a place open to the public: this circumstance triggers the administrative offence of public indecency.

On the other hand, the following prostitution-related conduct constitutes an offence:

- the exploitation of prostitution.
- aiding and abetting prostitution.
- the establishment of a meeting house called a brothel, in which prostitution is practised.

According to the findings of Save the Children's report 'Little Invisible Slaves', in 2019 the National Anti-Trafficking System came to have 2,033 people in its care, of whom 86% (1,762) are women and girls. Sexual exploitation remains by far the most widespread form (84.5%). There are 161 minors, 95% of whom are females, almost all between 15 and 17 years of age. In terms of nationality, 78.6% of the victims are of Nigerian origin, representing the largest group. This is followed by groups from Romania (2.2%), Bangladesh (2%), Ivory Coast (1.9%) and Morocco (1.5%). Between 2014 and 2016, the number of Nigerian girls arriving by sea grew exponentially (+600%). The Department of equal opportunities established an Anti-Trafficking Hotline (800-290-290) which is a free, 24-hour service. Survivors can call

anonymously, and the possibility is given to get in touch with specialised multilingual experts. (Save the Children, 2020).

8. OTHER IMPORTANT POLICY AREAS – IF RELEVANT TO THE NATIONAL OR LOCAL CONTEXT

8.1. Policies to prevent and combat gender-based violence against women.

Gender-based violence against women is also an important issue regarding equal opportunities. Italy was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and has taken many important steps to protect women from gender-based violence since its entry into force on 1 August 2014 (Council of Europe, 2011). At the same time, we are still confronted with high numbers of cases. We can state that every third of women in Italy experience violence once in their life, 31.5% (Istat, 2014). In most cases, it is the partner or ex-partner. As the records show, in Italy every 2-3 days a woman is a victim of femicide, in 2022 there were 120 women. As an investigation into the murders of women in 2014 shows, the authorities are usually aware of the women's living situations but still fail to protect the women's lives (Iacona, 2015). As the WAVE report shows, among other offers, there are contact points for women in Italy where they can get counselling, there are women's shelters, and a national free emergency number (Wave, 2021). Regarding the national emergency number, it is relevant to state that emergency calls during the COVID-19 pandemic have increased by 79,5% (Istat, 2021). At the same time, in Italy still, 59% of the required beds in women's shelters are missing to meet the required EU standard (Wave, 2021).

Regarding the legal context: gender-based violence against women is a criminal offence that is prosecuted by the authorities. There are several possibilities to expel the perpetrator from the place of residence, either through civil expulsion or via the application of Art. 333 by the juvenile court (if minors are involved and the perpetrator is classified as a parent in danger, a possibility that is rarely applied) or criminal expulsion and/or prohibition of approach if the woman decides to file a criminal complaint. At the same time, every woman affected by violence is entitled to financial support through the “reddito di libertà” – a monthly income given for max. one year to women who survived gender-based violence to guarantee economic independence and promote emancipation and autonomy. Migrant women have the right to a humanitarian residence permit for one year if they file a criminal complaint. In addition, every woman has

the possibility of free legal assistance, regardless of her income, if she wishes to join as a joint plaintiff in the criminal proceedings. The situation becomes more complex regarding minors, as in Italy shared custody remains in force even in cases of domestic violence. This means that the father/perpetrator retains all parental rights, which means that parenting, both in terms of decisions affecting the minors and in terms of contact & meetings with the minors, paves the way for post-separation-abuse. The main women's organisations in Italy which are involved to protect women from gender-based violence are D.i.Re www.direcontrolaviolenza.it and non una di meno <https://nonunadimeno.wordpress.com>

Bozen - South Tyrol also has a network of 5 women's shelter services and, had been for a long time the only province in Italy that had also created a legal basis for the establishment of women's shelter services with law. 6/89. In addition to the state support, women in Bozen - South Tyrol who survived gender-based violence can decide whether they want to get the *reddito di libertà* or the *social minimum income* to secure themselves financially. Every woman who lives in a women's shelter is entitled to the social minimum income. The admission requirements, which are explained in the following section, only apply to them after they have moved out.

8.2. Social financial support

In 2019 (d.l. 4/19) Italy introduced *Citizenship Income* as an active labour policy measure to combat poverty, inequality, and social exclusion. It is economic support to supplement family incomes. As established by DL 4/2019, citizens can apply for it from 6 March 2019, obliging themselves to follow a personalised path of employment and social inclusion.

Entitled for the benefits are:

- Italian or European Union citizens.
- third-country national in possession of an EU long-term residence permit, or stateless person in possession of a similar permit.
- third-country national who is a family member of an Italian or EU citizen - as identified by Article 2, par. 1, letter b) of Legislative Decree n 30 of 6 February 2007 - holder of the right to reside or the right of permanent residence.
- holder of international protection.

It is also necessary to be resident in Italy for at least 10 years, the last two of which must be continuous.

The Italian government is currently revising the provisions of the *Citizenship Income*, which will not only change its name to MIA, *Social Inclusion Measure*, but will also include several cuts and restrictions. The cuts are related to the amounts paid and the restrictions relating to the more rigid access requirements

result in fewer citizens being eligible for financial assistance. Overall, it remains to be seen how exactly this reform will be implemented and what consequences it will have for the population and especially for women, at a time when, due to high inflation among other things, the financial challenges for citizens are increasing. Contemporaneously, the figures on poverty in Italy in 2022 also show that through the interplay of various state interventions, in particular, the *Assegno Unico* (cf. Chapter 5), the poverty risk could be reduced from 18.6% to 16.8% (Istat, 2022, Caritas, 2022).

In the autonomous province of Bozen – South Tyrol, the situation is a bit different as financial social assistance was introduced by provincial law 69/1973. The following persons are entitled to the benefits of financial social assistance, the so-called *Social Minimum Income*, if they have had their permanent residence in the province Bozen - South Tyrol for at least twelve months continuously before submitting any application:

- Italian citizens,
- citizens of EU member states,
- third-country nationals who are holders of a long-term EU residence permit issued in Italy,
- persons with refugee status,
- persons with subsidiary protection status.

The following persons are also entitled to financial social assistance benefits after five years of permanent residence and interrupted residence in South Tyrol, provided they are legal residents in the national territory:

- Third-country nationals,
- stateless persons.

Since 2019, all citizens in need, in the autonomous province of Bolzano-South Tyrol can choose whether they want to apply for the *Social Minimum Income*, as well as other supportive benefits such as the contribution to rent and ancillary housing costs from the province or to apply for the state support, i.e. the *Citizenship Income*.

9. ROLE AND POSITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN GENDER EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSION

In Italy, the Third Sector is a rapidly expanding. It is a highly competitive labour sector if compared to the public sector, also thanks to the use of volunteers and forms of flexibility in labour management, along with a more agile and streamlined bureaucratic structures that allow for greater and more profitable contact with their territory of action. It is characterized by social cooperatives, associations, foundations and voluntary organizations operating mainly in the social sector, especially in health, educational, recreational and environment. In recent years, the Italian Third Sector has been the protagonist of a wide-ranging reform (Decreets 117/2017 and 112/2017), which introduced the Code of the Third Sector, redefining and reorganizing the sector's regulatory framework, and the Single National Registry of the Third Sector (RUNTS) at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, managed and updated at the regional level (EURISPES).

In the mid-1990s, there were about 580,000 people employed in the third sector in Italy, while today there are an estimated 1.14 million paid workers working in the Third Sector and 5.5 million volunteers. Moreover, the tertiary sector alone manages to meet the needs of more than 1/3 of the Italian population. The Italian social economy is worth about 80 billion euros in terms of economic value, and, with these numbers, it represents about 5 percent of national GDP (Srm, 2020). According to ISTAT surveys, as of 2020, there would be nearly 364,000 non-profit organizations in Italy. The Third Sector territorial social organizations and networks contribute to a positive and balanced social growth, complementing the initiatives of public structures according to the principle of subsidiarity. The sports sector accounts for 33.1 percent; followed by cultural and artistic activities (16.9 percent), recreation and socialization (13.6 percent), social assistance and civil protection (9.5 percent) (EURISPES).

Relative to the issue of gender empowerment, the Italian Third Sector is among the most virtuous work areas, showing an important female component in social organizations: more than 1.8 million volunteers are women (38 percent); 636,171 are female workers, more than twice as many as male workers (313,830). The areas with the highest female presence are social assistance, civil protection, social cooperation and health care, where the percentage exceeds 70 percent (FORUM TERZO SETTORE).

An even better figure is found in NGOs, where the percentage of women in leadership and presidency positions in Italian NGOs is well above 30 percent. In fact, in 30.9 percent of cases women can be found at the top of the work hierarchy. A similar figure applies to top managers and/or general secretaries: the percentage of positions held by women stands at 33.7 percent while that of men is 66.3 percent. More

generally, of the 20,127 human resources employed by NGOs in international cooperation, 46 percent are women 54 percent are men (OPEN COOPERATION).

Although a Third Sector census data were collected in Bolzano - South Tyrol in 2022, the data have not yet been released. As of 2015, there were 5,340 active non-profit institutions in Bolzano - South Tyrol in which 8,063 employees and 156,476 volunteers work. With a ratio of 30 volunteers per 100 inhabitants, the province of Bolzano - South Tyrol emerges as the area with the highest volunteer-to-inhabitant ratio nationwide. Updates to 2016, derived from registers and other statistical and administrative sources, confirm the expanding trend of the third sector: non-profit institutions grew by 0.5 percent and employees increased by 4.2 percent compared to 2015 (ASTAT 2019).

Through the latest surveys carried out by a research organization (EURAC) to support the drafting of the Provincial Social Plan, it appears that the area of social inclusion targets various groups, like, for example, homeless people, Sinti and Roma, and refugees. In this respect, there are numerous services involved in the Bolzano - South Tyrolean province including: Social Integration Service; Public Social Service; Anti-Violence Training; Judicial Authority; Social Housing Institute; Economic Support; Private Social Services; Family Counselors; Health Services; Training Institutions; Women's House Service; ALBA Project (anti-trafficking).

Major associations and civil society organizations operating in Bolzano - South Tyrol include: La Strada/Der Weg, with services like Young Mothers, Project Alba, assisted residences, YOU desk; Caritas with Casa Margaret, Migrantes, Freinademetz, Cultural Consultation Desk; Volontarius with the ESF project Equal and Unequal; Dorea Association - Binario 1, with a range of residential projects for women or families with migration background; Donne Nissà with the WE desk for empowerment and integration of women with migratory background; Liscià - women telling stories about women; GEA - Women's House, with the anti-violence centres circuit and the Together project; House of sheltered housing; UISP - sports for all, with the Active women project; Centaurus Association - Spiq Intersectional Queer desk, for young target with female focus; Kaleidoskopio, "Empowerment for women and families," desk for skills strengthening and personal empowerment; Counseling, maternity help, baby food parcels and clothing, small baby furniture; Life Help Center, for assistance in pregnancy and for new mothers, financial help and hospitality if needed; Frauen Helfen Frauen, offering talks, legal advice, accompaniment, personal, phone or email.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Bolzano - South Tyrol shows a negative trend: in the decade 2008-2018, the share of the population affected by this problem grew in South Tyrol by 1.1%. Efforts for social inclusion not only affect women in violent situations but all vulnerable groups, including women who have been trafficked or have a migrant or refugee background.

Supporting these groups of people, sees the interaction of a whole range of projects, like, for example, Housing First, a set of services and measures organized according to a multilevel model: 1) Street work: street outreach and mobile clinic; 2) Emergency shelter; 3) Level I shelter: night, day and counselling centre; 4) Residential care (Level I and II): residential facilities, high autonomy residences, housing training; 5) Economic support: allowance for small personal expenses, specific benefits.

All areas of social inclusion intervention have in common that social services are varied and very diverse among themselves. Because of this complexity, it is very difficult to determine the exact target users. Much of the orientation in Bolzano – South Tyrol, is based on the fact that, when it comes to violence, it is omnipresent among the diverse social strata³. It is therefore advisable to focus on social inclusion of women in difficult situations, no matter their origin, educational background or economic situation.

Closely related to the issue of violence against women is that of human trafficking, often linked to sexual exploitation and (forced) prostitution. Studies show that at least one in ten prostitutes needs counselling and support for the purpose of professional and personal reorientation. Migrant women are particularly in need of protection, especially if they live in legal uncertainty and in precarious and exploitative conditions. This issue is also relevant to Bolzano - South Tyrol and must be addressed proactively in order to ensure social inclusion.

10. SUMMARY

In summary, it can be said that Italy is facing several challenges regarding the situation of women and migration. As explained at the beginning, in recent years Italy set the goal of creating a gender-equal society. Various laws have been passed, bodies have been created and private and public institutions have been set up to deal specifically with the situation of women as well as with the situation of migrants.

One focus is clearly on the topic of work, active participation in the labour market, training opportunities, and the targeted promotion of women in those areas in which they are underrepresented e.g. STEM areas, and financial independence.

A further important aspect is family policy and, more specifically, motherhood. Whether it is a matter of breaking down traditional role models, increasing the birth rate, enabling motherhood and parental leave, providing suitable childcare facilities, or the need for a more flexible family policy, at the social level the

³ This issue was discussed in the study "Lebenssituation, Sicherheit und Gesundheit von Frauen in Deutschland" commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Family, Elderly, Women and Youth. From the more than 10,000 women interviewed, it appears that severe abuse and violence in relationships affects all social and ethnic groups, education and age groups indiscriminately.

focus is clearly on family policy. In this context, it may be critically noted that Italy, although officially declared a secular state, is strongly influenced by Catholicism, especially concerning family policy. Due to its proximity to the Vatican State and the fact that Catholicism is the most widespread religion it leads, among other things, to particular hurdles for family models outside the norm of the nuclear family concerning their recognition and/or equality.

Italy has a universal health care system that provides basic services to everyone regardless of origin, gender, class or other characteristics. There is a special focus on pregnant women and mothers, who are offered targeted services and the possibility for migrant pregnant women to obtain a temporary residence permit in addition to basic health care.

The education system, which guarantees children access to schooling regardless of their parents' residence status, is similarly universal. The school system is predominantly publicly organised and enables every child to receive a solid basic education. Another special aspect, compared to some other EU countries, is that the education system is not particularly strongly oriented towards the merit principle, but puts the interests of the pupil in the first place. This means that even though there is a certain pressure to perform in schools through the grading system, it is still possible for everyone who has completed compulsory schooling to freely choose a secondary school according to his or her interests, without the final grade being a decisive criterion.

At the political level and in the decision-making processes, Italy has also taken important steps towards a greater gender balance, both through a quota system and through the targeted promotion of female entrepreneurship.

Regardless of the large number of interventions for a more gender-egalitarian society that have been made in recent years, Italy is still confronted with various challenges. As mentioned at the beginning, these challenges are reflected on the one hand by a partially fragmented system of offers, which, as the focus on the autonomous province of Bozen - South Tyrol has shown, could result in significant differences from the national system. This partially fragmented system for certain provinces produced several benefits, allowing them to take targeted, context-specific interventions and support services. At the same time, other provinces in Italy are confronted with special challenges due to their specific starting point, characterized among other things by experiences of organized crime, a divided society and consequently reduced social cohesion, which also hurts the realization of context-specific services.

Particularly relevant for the present research is further the focus on migration. As shown in Chapter 7 Italy is a relatively young destination country and at the same time very much required to react to the large migration movements and especially the streams of refugees across the Mediterranean. For years, the Mediterranean has increasingly become a death zone for migrants and a lucrative business for people

smugglers. Italy's politicians are trying to find solutions in various ways and due to the high fluctuation of governments, the measures taken about migration are changing significantly. It is appropriate to take into account the gender-specific aspects and challenges of migration. Migrant women are confronted with special challenges that result from their gender and their origin. The issues of forced marriage, sex trafficking, prostitution, modern slavery, and domestic workers are mostly associated with female migration. The explanations show the importance of the theoretical concept of situated intersectionality since it is important to analyze the entanglements between gender and origin more precisely to understand the situation of female migrants.

All in all, it can be said that the Care crisis has not stopped in Italy. The patriarchal social system produces various needs and, as Biesecker and Winterfeld aptly point out, these crises are all based on the underlying care crisis: *„The phenomena associated with the social crisis (e.g., lack of provision and care, welfare state crisis, the problem of overwork and low paid, flexible and reproductive work, child poverty) are phenomena of the capitalist appropriation of reproductive work as well as the political shaping of public infrastructures. In principle, the social and the ecological crisis are both crises of the regenerative sphere.“* (Biesecker & Winterfeld 2018: 4)

This underlying crisis of care has a disproportionate impact on the lives of women and female migrants because they are still given the main responsibility for care work. In this respect, we can summarise that:

- On the one hand, access to the labour market should be made easier for women and staying in the labour market (e.g. through permanent employment) should be encouraged. On the other hand, the traditional bourgeois image of women, the dependent housewife and mother within the unquestioned nuclear family, is cemented in that, for example, the government is discussing a marriage bonus for young couples to increase the birth rate, whilst a deep reflection of the connections between few births and high unemployment among women is missing. This was exemplified also by fertility day 2016, where the former health minister Lorenzin was pictured on large posters with an hourglass in the hand under the slogan "Beauty knows no age, fertility does."
- On the one hand, migration is becoming increasingly regulated, and, on the other hand, there is a high demand for foreign nursing staff - who are primarily female - to fill the large gaps in care. Women in Italy are still the ones who are responsible for and who bear the main burden of care work. Those who are financially better off can outsource some of the care work for the younger and older generation. However, this outsourcing happens at the expense of other women who are financially worse off. Migration flows are forced so that women in Italy can participate in the labour market and other women from poorer EU countries or third countries can raise the children of Italian women or care for the older generation of Italians, whilst the care work for their children

is shifted to the grandparents in the home country. The migrant women concerned often find themselves in a situation of exploitative employment, where they do undeclared work for low wages, without insurance and do not have regular residence status. Moreover, this in turn leads to a great division in the families in the caregivers' countries of origin, thus it would be too simplistic to see it as a solution to the care crisis.

- On the one hand, measures are taken to curb systematic gender-based violence against women, women's protection facilities are set up, migrant women are given special opportunities to find a way out of violence and, on the other hand, the numbers of violence against women and femicide are confirmed from year to year.

In this respect, it should be emphasised how important it is to understand measures to strengthen family, work, health, education, decision-making processes and migration as interconnected and as a system not limited to a singular national context.

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

ISTAT	Istituto Nazionale di Statistica National Institute of Statistics
ASTAT	Istituto Provinciale di Statistica Amt für Statistik
EURAC	European Reserch Institute, Bolzano

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