



**Journée du 27 octobre 2009 au Comité des Régions
La dimension sociale de la cohésion territoriale**

Social inclusion as an instrument for restoring growth and strengthening cohesion

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In a period of economical crisis, to strengthen our efforts in the field of social inclusion becomes more and more important. The government of the Veneto Region that I represent here, and in particular me, as Regional Minister for the Social Affairs, are very convinced that we must work in general for a better social inclusion but in a particular way considering the most disadvantage categories such as elderly and disable people, immigrants. Furthermore we think that we must more and more pay attention to the new challenges of the modernity, and it is for that reason that we are developing an increasing our sensibility for a new classes of marginalization. We must pay attention to the symptoms of marginalization caused by the economical crisis but also by the new challenges due to the change of our economic and demographic model.

Please permit me to give you just an example of how we are facing the new needs of one category like the elderly people. If we consider that in 2008 the portion of population that were more than 60 years old represented the 20% of the total and that we estimate that in 2050 that portion is going to achieve a 30%, we as region need to prevent this historical change and to increase our services to the elderly people in order to guarantee them a better life and assistance. And I would also like to keep the occasion of speaking here, for underline that not only the Veneto Region should think about that because it is assumed that Europe will be the continent with the most high presence of elderly people.

But let's go back to our experience and in particular what is the Veneto Region trying to do in order to answer to that new challenges.

First of all, we are following the guide lines of the Lisbon agenda: we are programming and implementing our policies considering that kind of previsions as a background and so we are reorganizing the services to that new trends, in particular putting together the polices, the interventions and the choices in the field of health and social affairs. We have decided to consider them as a whole because every choice in the field of health can't be separated by his social relevance and vice versa. Doing so we think that we are and we will be more and more ready to better answer to the needs and particularity of every citizen and that we can better head such challenges. This means also that we are readapting our welfare system to the modernity and we are convinced that the best way of doing so is to de-institutionalize the health cares, both for an opportunity of saving money and also as a way to improve the life quality of the elderly people in their own surroundings or family situation. For example it is nowadays an evidence that a rehabilitation made at home is more effective than the same treatment made at the hospital.

We are also very convinced that for improving the quality and the efficiency of our services we must invest in the personal directly involved in this sector, granting good salaries (in order to avoid the black market of the assistance) and the formation of the operators.

We are also involved as partners in an European project called "Quality care for quality ageing: European indicators for home health care", financed by the FP7 programme 2007-2013. The main objective of it, is the development of a monitoring system of indicators on the quality of the Home Care Services. We are very interested in this project because we expect some guide lines for our services and in particular for our future policies, to know how we should move in the future.



But I also mentioned the new challenges that we must face, so we cannot forget also the new types of marginalization resulting from the marginalization from the new technologies.

We really think that fight the social inequities and marginalization is not only a social duty for the public administration but also a real answer to the economical crisis. All the public administrations must necessary aim to increase their social policies, controlling their budgets.

For this reason the Veneto Region is trying to better focus its policies on this field and we are very determined in continue on our current strategy in order to achieve that goal.

Thanks to our regional programming policy, we consider that we are in the condition of proposing a good response to the necessity to do not limit our efforts in the social policies in such difficult time. We are sure that a better social inclusion is not only possible but necessary, for our population and for our regional cash. That because it's nowadays clear to everybody that the phenomenon of the social exclusion is a brake for the economic recovery.

So in the Veneto Region we based our policy on the sense of solidarity that traditionally correspond to our citizens, and we applied and put into practice the so called principle of "subsidiarity", so much in advance that this principle became relevant also at national level and for the national policy debate.

We decided to address our institutional actions to the real protagonists of our society: the family, the voluntary world and the third sector, as essential actors for the delivery of the social services. Since several years we are trying to do our best in order to help that protagonist of our society to do better and simpler their functions.

And in particular we think that it is necessary to promote the importance of the family as the primary and irreplaceable institution of our society. The family is the first school, the first social subject or our "social safety network" and even the first hospital for everybody. So we must collaborate with them in order to sustain their efforts and to make their life better but not to substitute it. Our motto is: "More family, less public institutions".

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