Severe poverty and new solutions in homelessness services: the case of Rome

Pascucci, R., fio.PSD
Cortese, C., fio.PSD
Purpose of the paper

- Analyze homelessness and severe deprivation in an urban context
- Observe new policies to tackle homelessness in Italy
Research question

- What are the living conditions of homeless people?

- Which profiles of severe poverty come out from multidimensional poverty?
Methodology

- Multy-method survey
  - Structured interview questionnaire:
    - 442 users in 20 services provide by Caritas of Rome
    - Multidimensional living condition aspects: housing; education; work; health; social support; trigger life events
  - 3 Focus group:
    - Social workers
    - 3 different themes: Education and Work; Family and Social Relationships; Health and Care
Context: Rome

  - 364,362 foreigners – 13% incidence on roman population

- Unemployment rate: 10.8% 2015 (6% 2008) (Istat)

- Evictions: 7,092 on 2016 → 1/276 families (Italy: 1/419 families) (Ministero degli Interni, 2017)

- Homeless people: 7,709 on 2014 (second city after Milan, with 12,004 homeless people) (Istat, 2015)
Spatial concentration of poverty

Reddito Imponibile Medio (Valori in Euro)
- < 20.000
- 20.000 - 25.000
- 25.000 - 30.000
- 30.000 - 35.000
- 35.000 - 40.000
- > 40.000

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Research findings

- Severe material deprivation
  - Economic poverty: 69% of sample without income
  - Housing condition: 40% of sample in shelters and temporary accommodation

- Health and Care
  - Difficulties in caring chronic diseases due to lack of income and informations about public health system
Research findings

- Low level of education
  - Drop – out; High costs for education and training; problems with recognition of educational degree

- Difficulties in entering and remaining in labour market
  - High level of unemployment – 60% of sample
  - Precarious employment and Irregular work
  - Exploitation of migrants and minors
  - Low wage
Research findings

- Fragile family relations
  - Social isolation, rare contacts with family

- Social Support
  - Frequent contacts with services and friends, rare contacts with public social services

- Trigger life events
  - Frequent critic event: Job loss; Migration; Economic problems; Family problems; House loss
# Profiles of extreme poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerable aged people</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 65</td>
<td>Low wage</td>
<td>30 – 64 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low pension</td>
<td>Living with other people and friends</td>
<td>Severe material deprivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House owner</td>
<td>In and out of the labour market</td>
<td>No wage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide range of social support</td>
<td>Economic and material deprivation</td>
<td>Economic help from family and friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple trigger life events</td>
<td>Friends and private provider as social support</td>
<td>Living in shelters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Profiles of extreme poverty

Young migrants

- 19-24 years old
- Asylum seekers, refugees, subsidiary protection status
- Low level of education
- Unemployed or seeking first job
- Living in shelters
- Without income and with debt for journey

Unaccompanied foreign minors

- Extreme poverty and severe multidimensional deprivation
- Without income
- Living in shelter for minors
- Psychological pressure from family
- No chance to work legally
- At risk of exploitation
Evidences

Profiles emerged from the survey in line with Istat survey on homelessness (2011-2014)

Recognition of the diversity of profiles linked to homelessness

Awareness of policy change at national and local level
National level

- Istat surveys on Homelessness in Italy (2011-2014)

- Guidelines to Tackling Homelessness (by Ministry of Labour and Social Affair)

- Anti-poverty Fund - Homeless people included in Minimum Income Scheme

- #HomelessZero (Ministry of Labour and Social Affair and fio.PSD as umbrella organization)
Local level

Rome with other 7 big cities and 15 regional governments participate on Call for proposal for tackling Homelessness

- funded by European Social Fund and FEAD
- fio.PSD as umbrella organization offering support in writing project
Policies in Italy: new direction

- Renovating traditional services and overcoming shelter and emergency system

- Promoting long-term vision – Housing First and Housing Lead programme