How the Homeless is felt

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Goals:

Our goal is to analyze the perception of the homeless through online textual data (e.g., online news and comments on social networks).
We aim to outline which issues are most felt by people and to link any differences in perceptions with the different geographical source of the data.

Method and Data:

Computational methodologies and Sentiment Analysis techniques are used to perform a large-scale evaluation of the sentiment expressed by Italian Twitter users.
Thanks to the Twitter API, we could scrape tweets with geolocation metadata. This allowed to understand the differences between Northern, Central and Southern Italy including the islands.
We used ---INSERIRE--- for the Sentiment Analysis, Python code for the bar chart and Voyant Tools for the Wordcloud.
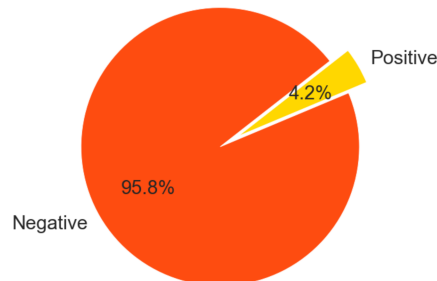
Results:

The wordcloud, pie and bar charts show the results of our research. The sentiment analysis has mainly shifted to the negative side throughout Italy, with no significant differences between the three geographic areas despite a small positive percentage higher in the central area.
In line with the sentiment results, the distribution of keywords by area highlights how the most polite expressions (such as "senza dimora" - homeless) are used almost exclusively in the central area, while words with a negative connotation (such as "barbone" - tramp) prevail in the north, south and islands.
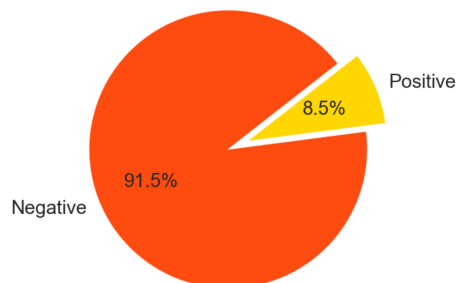The Wordcloud shows the significant and most present terms in the dataset, which can be divided into three broad categories: poverty (euro, work, money, poor, alms), politics (Salvini, mayor, city names) and empathy (life, cold, give, dead, associations).

Sentiment-based Perception for Northern Italy

Positive 4.2%
Negative 95.8%

Sentiment-based Perception for Central Italy

Positive 8.5%
Negative 91.5%

Sentiment-based Perception for Southen Italy and Island

Positive 4.6%
Negative 95.4%

Keyword grouped by Zone