The contemporary professional roles of social workers in Italy: employment trends...

...where do Italian social workers work?

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from
Summary

• Italy: some basic information
• Problems (foreign workers, elderly ppl, jail population, family) and solutions:
  – *social workers* in Italy:
    • How many?
    • Male/female?
    • Where? agencies
Italy: some basic information

United in 1861

Population (01.01.08, ISTAT) : 59,619,290 (vs. 303,824,640 in USA)

Italy is divided in 20 regions (regioni) and is further divided in:

- 109 Provinces (province)
- 8,101 Municipalities (comuni)
Problems…and solutions…
same or different?
foreign workers

• 1 out of 4 workers is a *foreigner* in *Australia*
• 1 out of 6 in the *USA*
• 1 out of 9 in the *UK*
• 1 out of 15 in *Italy*

*(source: Barba Navaretti G., Sole 24 Ore, 12.5.09)*
Elderly people

• 35.9 million people were aged 65 and older in the United States, or 12 % of the total population.  

• 11.9 million people were aged 65 and older in Italy, or 20 % of the total population.  
Jail population

- **Italy**: 61,058 people are in jail (100 in every 100,000 inhabitants)
- **USA**: 2,200,000 people are in jail (1,000 in every 100,000 inhabitants)

Fonte: Sole 24 Ore dd. 05.04.09
Families in Italy (2007)
Source: Sole 24 Ore, 15.02.10

• 23,2 families in Italy
• 2,5 members (average)
• 57% families with children
  – 47% with only 1 child
  – 42% with 2 children
  – 11% with more than 2 children
• 20,8% children born from unmarried parents (9,2% in 1999)
## Marriages and divorces (per 1,000 persons) 2008 (Source: Eurostat and CDC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Divorces</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU27</td>
<td>4,87 (2007)</td>
<td>2,0 (2005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>4,12</td>
<td>0,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>6,8</td>
<td>3,6 (2005)</td>
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</tbody>
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Social workers - how many?

• **35.754** social workers in **Italy** (60 in every 100.000 inhabitants) *(source: regional registers - “Albo”; 12.31.08; www.cnoas.it)*

• **595.000** social workers in the **USA** (200 in every 100.000 inhabitants) *(source: US Department of Labour; 01.0106; www.bls.gov)*
Social workers (assistenti sociali) how many?

- 35,754 social workers in the regional registers (“Albo”) (12.31.08) VS.
  - 321,000 doctors
  - 320,000 nurses
  - 134,000 engineers
  - 91,000 surveyors
  - 82,000 lawyers
  - 80,000 architects
  - .......

(information from national/regionals registers)
Female vs. male presence

How many social workers are women in Italy? female presence (“Sole 24 Ore” report - 10.22.07):

• minimum: firemen (0.3%),
• maximum: nursery teachers (99.5%)
• 73.4 social workers are women
Social workers' professional register
(DPR 328/01 act) – art. 21

Section A – “assistente sociale specialista”:
works out and directs programs in the field of welfare and social services
(back office)

Section B – “assistente sociale” (= social worker):
works in all phases of social interventions with the client/user
(front office)
Where do social workers work in Italy?
Almost 9 in every 10 social workers work in (local and national/”federal”) Government agencies.
84.3% of the Italian social workers work in a public body, that is an organization: (“indizi sintomatici”)

- controlled by national/local government
- whose board of directors and/or the top manager is named by the State (or a local government)
- that continuously receives money from the State (or a local government)
- declared “public” by an act
- ........
Public bodies where social workers work: nazional level (6%) 

• Stato
  – Ministero dell’**Interno** ➔ prefettura (109 province) ➔ some actions related with immigration and drug users
  – Ministero della **Giustizia**:  
    • Uffici di Servizio Sociale per Minorenni (USSM): assistenza a **minori** autori di **reato**  
    • Uffici di esecuzione penale esterna (UEPE): assistenza ad **adulti** autori di reato 

• **Istituto Nazionale per l’Assicurazione contro gli Infortuni sul Lavoro (INAIL)**
Public bodies where social workers work: local government (39.5 %)

- **Regioni**
  - funzioni di indirizzo, programmazione, coordinamento e vigilanza (back office MA eccezione in Val D’Aosta)

- **Enti locali**
  - Comuni, province [residuo passato], comunita’ montane [Abruzzo…], (+ citta’ metropolitane, comunita’ isolane, unioni di comuni)

  - N.b. 8.100 **comuni** (2,7 mln ppl Roma vs. 34 ppl Fiera di Primiero PN) → **gestione associata pro** programmare, progettare e realizzare sistema locale dei servizi sociali (ente gestore su territorio corrispondente a distretto sanitario)
Public bodies where social workers work: Servizio Sanitario Nazionale (34.5 %)

- Aziende Sanitarie Locali (ASL) e Aziende Ospedaliere
- Where? mix health and social needs
  - Children and their mothers (aree materno-infantile),
  - Elderly people (Anziani),
  - Disabled persons (handicap),
  - Psychiatric patients (patologie psichiatriche)
  - Drugs and alcool addicted (dipendenze da droga, alcool e farmaci),
  - HIV patients, terminal patient, .... (patologie per infezioni da HIV e patologie in fase terminale, inabilità o disabilità conseguenti a patologie cronico-degenerative)
Public bodies where social workers work: other public bodies (5.2 %)

- Istituzioni Pubbliche di Assistenza e Beneficenza (IPAB)
  - Created by Crispi act in 1890)
  - 4,200 in 1999
  - Rest houses, charities, day nurseries, ….
  - Progressive transformation in…

- Aziende Pubbliche di Servizi alla Persona
  - E.g. in FVG they can be “ente gestore” of a “social district”
Organizzazioni del terzo settore dove ci sono aa.ss. (14,7\%)

• Cooperative (7,2 \%)
  – A: pro assistenza
  – B: vs. emarginazione (lavoro di disabili, tossici, ecc.)

• Fondazioni e associazioni (7,5 \%)
  – Organizzazioni di volontariato
  – Associazioni di promozione sociale (attività per propri assicurati es. Unione Italiana Ciechi)
  – Organizzazioni non lucrative di utilità sociale (ONLUS) – cat. a fini fiscali

N.B.: **piccole dimensioni** 73 \% fondazioni < 10 dipendenti; org. volontariato con media di 39 volontari