Seminar  "Social Work with Families and Children in Italy and in the United States"  
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The contemporary professional roles of social workers in Italy: employment trends…
…where do Italian social workers work?

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Summary

• Italy: some basic information
• Problems (foreign workers, elderly ppl, jail population, family) and solutions:
  – social services: a very brief history of s.s. in Italy
  – social workers in Italy:
    • How many?
    • Male/Female?
    • Where? Regions and 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 (region) 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**: 2,200,00 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)

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<th>Marriage</th>
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Social services in Italy:
a very brief history

- **1861 (unity - Kingdom of Italy)**: independent charity
- **1890 (Crispi act)**: Government controlled charity
- **1977 (DPR 616/77 act)**: Government controlled social services
- **2000 (328/00 act)**: social services network


Social workers - how many?

- **35,754 social workers in Italy (60 in every 100,000 inhabitants)** (source: regional registers - “Albo”; 12.31.08; www.cnosa.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

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
corporate, 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
• .......

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)
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 Minorenne(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], comunità montane {Abruzzo…}, (+ città metropolitane, comunità isole, 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 alcohol 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 (attivita’ per propri associati es. Unione Italiana Ciechi)
  – Organizzazioni non lucrative di utilita’ sociale (ONLUS) – cat. a fini fiscali
N.B.: piccole dimensioni 73 % fondazioni < 10 dipendenti; org. volontariato con media di 39 volontari