Femicide and violence against women in Italy: How policies and statistics deal with it

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Starting from.....

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

- Chapter II – Integrated policies and data collection
Article 11

Data collection and research

1. For the purpose of the implementation of this Convention, Parties shall undertake to:

   - A. collect **disaggregated** **relevant** statistical data at **regular intervals** on cases of **all forms of violence** covered by the scope of this Convention;
   
   - B. support research in the field of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention in order to study its **root causes** and **effects**, **incidences** and **conviction** rates, as well as the **efficacy of measures** taken to implement this Convention.
2. Parties shall endeavour to conduct **population-based surveys** at **regular intervals** to assess the **prevalence** of and **trends** in all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.

3. Parties shall provide the **group of experts**, as referred to in Article 66 of this Convention, with the information collected pursuant to this article in order to stimulate **international co-operation** and enable **international benchmarking**.

4. Parties shall ensure that the information collected pursuant to this article is **available to the public**.
Some choices are very important

- Definition of VAW
- Gender
- Gender based violence
- Domestic violence versus Intimate partner violence
“violence against women is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”

United Nations, 1993
Violence forms, States must consider in their penal code

- Which forms of violence

- Forced marriages
- Psychological violence
- Stalking
- Physical violence
- Sexual violence, including rape
- Forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced abortion and forced sterilisation
- Sexual harassment
- Aiding or abetting and attempt
Population survey data:

- VAW survey (2006-2014)
- Victimization Survey with a module on sexual harassment and sexual blackmail at work (since 1997-’98) periodically updated

Administrative statistics data:

- police statistics
- proceeding statistics
- court statistics
- prisoners statistics

Are they enough?
What policies need

• Need for good data for good policies

Which kind of data?

• Regular data
• High quality data
• Standardized data
• Speaking data
• Coordinated data
• Comparable data

About prevention, protection, persecution
What we need

A network work

In Partnership with all involved actors

Institutions: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of health, Ministry of Army, Ministry of work and Ministry of Social Politics

ONG: shelters, 1522, VAW services

VAW experts: academic, lawyers

A long and difficult work:
- First of all to share the same language
- And aims …
- Assume a wider view → going out of the little *garden*
The previous steps

- The governamental task force on Violence Against Women …… since 2013
- The subgroup on statistical data of the task force

The Action Plan 2015

La Cabina di Regia

The expert group of the Observatory on VAW ….since 2015
Institutional agreements

Department For Equality opportunity (Presidency of the Ministries Council) and Istat

→ 25 November 2016
→ 24 March 2017

First outcome of the Informative System the 25th of November 2017

Starting from this date….a dynamic system
L'Istituto nazionale di statistica e il Dipartimento delle Pari Opportunità della Presidenza del Consiglio rendono disponibile un quadro informativo integrato sulla violenza contro le donne in Italia.

L'obiettivo è fornire informazioni e indicatori di qualità, che permettano una visione di insieme su questo fenomeno, attraverso l'integrazione di dati provenienti da varie fonti quali Istat, Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità, Ministeri, Regioni, Centri antiviolenza, Case rifugio ed altri servizi come il numero verde 1522. Vengono messi a disposizione documenti sulle politiche italiane ed europee di contrasto alla violenza, sulla prevenzione, su attività formative nelle scuole e presso gli operatori, oltre che report statistici e di analisi.

Il sistema deriva dal Piano Nazionale contro la violenza sulle donne e vuole essere un osservatorio privilegiato per permettere agli organi di governo e a tutti i soggetti pubblici e privati coinvolti nel contrasto alla violenza di genere di monitorare i diversi aspetti del fenomeno e combatterlo con mezzi adeguati al fine di raggiungere gli obiettivi della Convenzione di Istanbul.
IL CONTESTO
Normativa internazionale
Normativa italiana
Politiche
Definizioni e indicatori
Stereotipi

IL FENOMENO
Violenza dentro e fuori la famiglia
Violenza sul luogo di lavoro
Omicidi di donne

LA FUORIUSCITA
Numero verde 1522
Centri antiviolenza e case rifugio
Programmi per gli autori di reato

IL PERCORSO GIUDIZIARIO
Denunce Forze di Polizia
Procedimenti definiti in Procura
Condanne
Detenuti

LA PREVENZIONE
Campagne di sensibilizzazione
Attività istituzionali

ESPERIENZE INTERNAZIONALI
About Homicides of women
Violence against women is widespread, serious, frequent and underreported

31.5% of women aged 16-70.  
20.2% has been victim of physical violence  
21% of sexual violence  
5.4% of the most serious forms of sexual violence such as rape and attempted rape
Interesting and positive changes arise in women awareness and in the decreasing of the less serious forms of violence (sexual harassment, psychological violence..)

- Higher Reporting rates
- Higher % of women seeking for help
- Double % of women consider violence as a crime
- Increasing in police satisfaction

- But increasing in seriousness (injuries, felt life in danger)
- And stability of most serious forms of violence (rapes, attempted rapes, attempted strangulation episodes)
Sexual blackmail at work

Grafico 1 - Donne da 15 a 65 anni che hanno subito ricatti sessuali nel corso della vita e negli ultimi tre anni, per classi di età.

Grafico 2. Donne da 15 a 65 anni che hanno subito ricatti sessuali sul lavoro nel corso degli ultimi 3 anni per esito dell’episodio – Anni 2015-2016 (per 100 vittime)

The integrated system on VAW

Now:

• annual data collection about police statistics, justice statistics about crimes with “gender vocation”

In future:

• Data collected by the relationship between victim and perpetrator and the gender of both in order to identify gender based violence and VAW
• Data from criminal career
• Follow up of judicial proceedings
• Follow-up of the victims in the reporting and judicial itinerary
The integrated system on VAW

- VAW survey → every 4 years
  For prevalence, frequency, severity, causes, risk factors, violence witness, vaw dynamic, consequences...

- Quali-quantitative Survey on gender violence stereotypes
  - On citizens (also on own aggressive behavior)
  - On operators in social/health services

Periodically updated
The integrated system on VAW

• Annual (harmonized) data collection on victims went to shelters, crisis center and VAW services (ONG)
  → continuous flow of data/annual flow…
  → Monitoring the real follow up of the victims

• Data collection from 1522 protection number

• Data from hospitals emergencies, social and health public services
In conclusion

• It’s important to develop and reinforce a deep relationship between **data users** and **data producers**

• It is important the coordination of the National Statistical Office, independent and expert of methodology

• It is essential to work in network side by side
  → **Common proposals to ONG and Institutions**
  → **Common definitions**
  → **Changes in data sets and databases**

• Input to action plans, policies, laws