**ITALY**

***Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation***

*Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights*

*Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani*

**ITALY’S CONTRIBUTION**

**TO THE CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON**

**FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**February 2020**

**ITALY’S REMARKS**

**Introduction**

Italian Authorities thank the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and want to provide the following information on the Italian policies and practices on Financing for Development.

**Resources Mobilization & Budgeting**

Concerning social and economic inclusiveness, the most relevant measure in place to combat poverty, social exclusion and inequality in Italy is the so called *Reddito di cittadinanza*. After the experience of the Support for active inclusion (SIA), the further extension of the “experimental social card”, in 2018 entered into force the first national measure against poverty (called REI – minimum income for inclusion) that provided both financial and services support to families in need, covered by the Anti-poverty Fund. Then, Decree Law 4/2019, approved on January 2019, sanctioned the birth of the *Reddito di cittadinanza* (the new minimum income measure in Italy) that substitutes REI as a measure to combat poverty, inequality and social exclusion.  For the first time, with Rei and *Reddito di cittadinanza*, a structural measure to combat poverty - based on the principle of active inclusion - has been introduced at national level, identifying appropriate models of intervention for the most vulnerable population. The benefit is universal and concerns all households that meet the necessary requirements.

The law is aimed at economic support and social inclusion of those exposed to the risk of social and labour marginalization. The provision amounts to 5906,8 million euros for the year 2019, to 7166,9 million euros for the year 2020, to 7391 million euros for the year 2021 and 7245,9 million euros for the year 2022. Starting from April 2019, the law provides for the introduction of the new income measure for individuals and households in conditions of particular economic and social hardship. It provides mechanism that guarantee a minimum level of subsistence, as well as the promotion of conditions that make the right to work and training effective.

The benefit will be between 480 and 9360 euros per year, in consideration of specific parameters, and is provided for a continuous period of no more than 18 months (it can be renewed after a month’s suspension). The work placement is secured by a custom path that will involve activities to serve the community, professional retraining, completion of studies, other commitments to social inclusion and integration in the labour market.

The national programming act for Poverty Fund resources is the national Plan for anti-poverty social interventions and services, approved in May 2017.  The Plan identifies the development of the interventions and services necessary for the implementation of the Rei/Rdc; within this plan there are also some specific interventions and services to combat poverty for the homeless (and, more generally, for those who are in extreme poverty) in which the complexity of the need may be such as to require specific accompanying strategies of intensity and specialization. These interventions are allocated a share of 20 million euros in structural terms, based on the model already agreed at the Unified Conference aimed at promoting housing first policies (Guidelines to combat serious marginalization in Italy approved at the Unified Conference on 5/11/2015, an essential part of the Plan with regard to the planning of services for the homeless).

It should be noted that since the definition of the Partnership Agreement in 2014, the Ministry of labour and social policies has shaped the national policy for homeless and most deprived persons through a complementary use of EU Funds and national funds.

In November 2015 an interinstitutional work carried out in cooperation with NGO and relevant stakeholders brought to the publication of the above mentioned “Guidelines on combating adults heavy marginalisation”. The Guidelines contain the following statements: *Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon; Deprived people are a resource (not only a cost); Housing is a human right*.

In the same Guidelines, are also indicated the following main recommendations:

ensure public governance of the policy concerning homelessness; overcoming fragmentation and sectorial responses; promote, spread and integrate social innovation  in the present system; ensure an integrated strategic model of intervention based on collocation, collaboration, co-operation; promote active inclusion through a multidimensional care planning (taking charge);

shifting to housing led and housing first approaches for the homeless inclusion.

The Guidelines are binding for institutions and stakeholders using public funding from their own budget as well as from EU budget (structural funds for the most part) for the strengthening of social and health services involved in the prevention of homelessness giving uniform instructions to qualify them.

On the issue of vulnerability, the first Plan for non-self-sufficiency (2019 - 2021), has been recently approved. It provides for interventions for social and health integration, the activation or strengthening of support to the non-self-sufficient person and his family, in order to promote autonomy and stay at home. The Plan represents the programming tool of the Fund for non-self-sufficiency. The fund is intended for people who are not self-sufficient, with the aim of defining a care allowance and for autonomy.

Another relevant measure to combat social exclusion and discrimination against individuals at risk of marginalization is Roma, Gipsies and Travelers project for children.

The project for inclusion and integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti (RSC, Roma, Gipsies and Travelers in English) is promoted by the Italian Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs, with the Ministry of Education and the Istituto degli Innocenti. Its first implementation dates back to December 2012. The European and national legal framework of the project lies in the “National Strategy for Inclusion of RSC 2012-2020”, adopted by the Italian Government to put into effect the Communication nr. 173/2011 from the European Commission.

The Project’s purposes are to develop processes of inclusion for RSC children, to reduce their discrimination and to strengthen local communities by creating integration between school, RSC families and children and social services.

The implementation of actions has three core elements: the cooperative learning as an educational strategy;  the empowerment of families towards school and local services; the strengthening of the capacity of the municipality to act through multidisciplinary and multi-level teamwork, and the exchange of expertise and practices at national level.

The inclusion of RSC population is a priority of the PON (National Operational Program) “Inclusion” 2014-2020, that supports the definition of common patterns of intervention for the fight against poverty and that promotes, through coordinated actions and pilot projects, new models of social interventions and integration of people and communities at risk of social exclusion.

Therefore, the prosecution of the implementation of RSC project inside the PON Inclusion 2014-2020 represents a challenge and a scaling up of its relevance and support.

During the period 2017-2019, the aims of the project has been the consolidation of interventions and their progressive self-sufficiency. Therefore, the first year has covered: the starting up of the project’s activities, the strengthening of local governance with the creation of an interinstitutional table and the building of the multidisciplinary team and adoption of a local plan for the inclusion of RSC community.

The school integration and inclusion are pursued through the involvement of groups of teachers in a training pathway for trainers that is scheduled during the project, and that has to be sustainable after the conclusion of the implementation phase.

Final targets of the project are children and adolescents aged from 6 to 14 and their families. Particular attention is given to children aged from 3 to 5 with activities to promote their early schooling education and to adolescents that are attending vocational training and are at risk of school dropping out.

**Conclusions**

Italian Authorities take this opportunity to reiterate their firm willingness to continue cooperating with all relevant UN Special Procedures, mechanisms and bodies.