

Autonomous Province of Trento
Office for development and innovation of social policies -
social inclusion of Roma and Sinti

The Autonomous Province of Trento is one of two provinces of the Trentino-Alto Adige Region, situated in the north east of Italy.

The area of the Province of Trento is 6207.12 KMQ, is mostly mountainous and the population is of 537,416 inhabitants.

In implementation of the Provincial Law n. 12/97 "Measures to promote the integration of Sinti and Roma groups living in the province of Trento" the Division for Social Policies of the Province of Trento, works on several fronts for social inclusion of Sinti and Roma:

- mapping of possible activities/marketable skills on the labour market;
- employment of disadvantaged groups, including the Sinti, through instruments triggered by the Employment Agency;
- integration of social housing (public housing, micro-areas)
- projects for cultural promotion;
- project activities for collecting iron and metal waste

Considering the complexity and difficulties in implementing specific projects aimed at these people, one of our objective is to support interventions aimed at the use of administrative measures already provided for disadvantaged groups, such as scholarships for learning a marketable profession, establishment of service cooperatives, or inclusion in project of community service or, better yet, in worker cooperatives type B.

Social cooperatives type B perform production activities targeting work placement of the so-called disadvantaged with physical, psychological or social problems, single mothers, former prisoners, former drug addicts, etc.

Social cooperatives type B can carry out any kind of business activities -agricultural, industrial, craft, trade and services activities - but they have to allocate part of the jobs they create (at least 30%) to disadvantaged people, otherwise excluded from the Labour Market.

We focus in particular on "Iron Project", which has just taken off in Trentino (May 2015), by the work of the no-profit voluntary association "AIZO Sinti and Roma", section of Trentino Alto Adige, the "Consorzio Equo scs", Diocesan Tridentine Caritas: the project promotes concrete actions through social inclusion work in order to promote conditions of the most vulnerable sections of the population and allow them to be integrated fully. It creates opportunities of social integration for any autonomous worker - small quantity iron picker - who is in distress and requests it.

This project has a high value for social integration: it highlights how the work is a key element for social inclusion, engaging in a regularized activity 2 people per truck, representing two families in need. This will create opportunities for regular self employment, whereas before the work was carried out in an irregular manner.

"Consorzio equo snc" is committed to support, during the initial period, the new members of the Iron Project through the processing of documents, reading of administrative acts, help them meet the obligations connected with self-employed activities. They also monitor the work commitment of the members and their ability to then be able to make an assessment for other and different

work opportunities.

The cost of each "unit" of this project is € 3,000.00, of which:
€ 2.000,00 for the purchase of the truck used for collecting iron
€ 800,000 for enrollment as a member of the subject to the Consortium
€ 200,00 for possible membership of the 2nd passenger.

Another objective is a project being developed to support the health of mother and child and the prevention of abandonment of children, identifying strategies of cultural involvement of women Sinti and their traditions. This also includes provision of training in linguistic-cultural mediation, in order to activate and bring out the enormous potential in terms of human resources represented by women. We are aware of the cultural obstacles to be faced in this area, but we are equally aware that the involvement and activation of female resources in any society, is an important step for the development of civil and social renewal of a people.

For the success of the above mentioned activities, however, we must act on the side of social and cultural promotion, which in turn can not be separated from social housing and economic interventions.

Health of the woman and the unborn child

The project involves, through operators of family counseling and operators who are in contact with Sinti (educators, volunteers), a group of young women who are pregnant or turn to clinics for contraception or gynecological health checks.

The project consists of a "birth path", with special attention to pregnancies of alone young women, with family and economic problems, with the main objective of parental fragility prevention. The family counseling are the most popular access points for assistance to pregnancy in the public structure and thus can intercept in advance signals of family difficulties and hardships on children.

Each woman will have the opportunity to informative talks with consequent evaluation by health workers of any level of risk or parental fragility and possible referral to other appropriate community services. She will be accompanied during pregnancy by a team of social-health workers: midwife, nurse, gynecologist, social worker.

If the risk is "low", midwife and gynecologist will be the reference persons throughout pregnancy and childbirth, while the social worker will intervene only in case of severity and risk for the child. The woman and her family will be followed even after the birth of her son, until the completion of the first year of the child's life and if necessary can also be accompanied by educators at home that support parenthood and encourage engagement with the health system (any pediatrician or territorial health authority).

Additional services offered at the clinics

- Support of breastfeeding and weaning of the unborn;
- Prevention of postpartum depression and abandonment of children;
- Application of Law 194/78, for voluntary interruption of pregnancy (IVG);
- Support to immigrant women or homeless and their children;
- Consulting and accompaniments for contraception especially aimed at young people;
- Emergency contraception after sexual relations at risk of pregnancy;
- Basic course in preparation for the birth to new parents.