

S.A.M.P.L.E.

Small Area Methods for
Poverty and Living condition Estimates

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“Towards the construction of a Permanent Observatory to monitor poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion”



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PROVINCIA DI PISA



Pisa Provincial Social Observatory

Provincial Social Observatory is part of UROPS - Unit of Research Observatory for the social policies. The Social Observatory:

- Realizes an annual updating of the **Social Statistical Base** at municipality level: Demography, Foreign Citizens, Families and Housing, School System, Health Services, Welfare System, Justice, Labour Market, Social Security and Third Sector
- Realizes periodical **surveys** on relevant social issues: poverty and vulnerability, urban security, immigration, intrafamily violence, young people, etc.
- Has developed a **local participatory approach** with the active involvement of third sector organisations and public organisations in all the activities



Indicators for social policies – The Tuscany Regional Network

- The Social Observatory is part of the **Regional Network of Social Observatory** coordinated by the Regional Social Observatory. In this network there are 10 Observatories.
- The Regional Network created a regional common set of more than 250 **indicators** to estimate the health state of local population and to evaluate local social policies realized by the Health's Societies.
- Every indicator is at supra-municipal level and the Social Observatories will realise the **annual updating**.
- This is a first important step for the development of the **“Observation System to monitor poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion”** that is one of the main objectives of Sample Project.



Why Sample Project



We participate to Sample Project...

- To **develop methods** for improving the Province's ability to monitor poverty, vulnerability and living conditions at the small area levels. At present, the best data on the phenomena of poverty are the estimates produced only at regional level by National Statistical Institutes under the coordination of Eurostat
- To give instruments to **policy makers** for the definition and the selection of the best policies to contrast poverty and vulnerability and to prevent the development of this phenomenon
- To potentiate the **role of third sector** in policies against poverty involvement starting on their perception
- To develop a common and **shared poverty knowledge** in our territory
- For comparison and **exchange our practices** with other countries





UROPS activities in Sample Project

Main activities of UROPS in Sample project are:

- Selection of **administrative and third sectors' locally database** available to calculate indicators to monitor social exclusion and poverty and, moreover, useful to define effective local social policies.
- **Contacts** with local and central authorities and institutional agreements for data access and acquisition. Collection and analysis of these databases
- **Involvement of local stakeholders** to achieve their point of view on the relevance of poverty indicators and on the perception of the poverty situation in their territory
- Definition of the **Observation system to monitor poverty, vulnerability, social exclusion and Living Conditions**, a model for monitoring poverty and living condition variables at small area level by means of administrative data and with the involvement of local stakeholders.



Administratives databases

We selected 2 important **local public agencies** for having access to their administrative databases:

- **Provincial Jobcentre**, the office that works in order to ease the meeting between demand and labour supply
- Department of Finance - **Revenue Agency Organisation**, the public organisation that manages tax returns

We gain the access to Provincial Jobcentre database and to individual data of Revenue Agency Organisation



Third sector databases

- In Italy the most important organization who realises actions to contrast poverty is **Caritas**, a catholic association.
- Caritas has more than 200 **counselling centres** in Tuscany and they are part of a Network, called Mirod. This Network, created in 2003, has at first designed an unique database, that contains the materials collected in all Caritas' counselling centres.
- UROPS gained the access to MIROD database and formalised an agreement with Caritas for the involvement of all provincial counselling centres in stakeholders survey and, generally, for the **involvement of Caritas** in the construction of the Observation System to monitor poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion



Stakeholders involvement – The Survey

- After some meetings with key persons we selected a total of **690 local stakeholders**: Health's Societies, Policy makers, Provincial Coordination of Voluntary association, of Social cooperatives and of Social promotion associations, Poverty Associations, Immigrants associations, operators of offices that perform also actions to fight back poverty (house offices, social services, labour unions), parishes, etc.
- We constructed a **questionnaire** that has 4 main objectives:
- **SECTION 1** - Knowing stakeholders' information system and the arrangements for storing and managing information in their possession.
- **SECTION 2** - Achieving stakeholders' point of view on poverty level. The questionnaire contains specific questions about their perception on the extension of poverty and about its changing in time-space (considering current economic crisis). At the beginning of the questionnaire we asked them to self evaluate their knowledge about this phenomenon



Stakeholders involvement – The Survey

- **SECTION 3** Achieving stakeholders' opinion upon the importance and the relevance of main poverty indicators. The questionnaire contains reference, with a simple language, to Laeken indicators and to indicators used in EU-SILC. We asked them to suggest other indicators too.
- **SECTION 4** Involving them in the construction of the Observation System to monitor poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. We asked them their proposal about instruments, activities, strategies, etc.
- We created a system for the **online compilation** of the questionnaires.
- At this moment we have received 97 questionnaires completed and other 110 questionnaires partially completed.



The last section – Proposals

We asked them **their opinion** on these proposals:

- Construction of a Permanent Observatory on poverty that will realise periodical monitoring of stakeholders perception
- Creation of a **web portal** with functions of forum and exchange of informations between poverty operators
- Activities for the **empowerment of stakeholders network** (meeting, training, etc)
- Activities for the empowerment of Caritas' Counselling Centers network at local level

Concerning Web Portal we asked them proposals about:

- The **name**
- The **services**: document sharing, microblogging, thematic groups, friendship like Facebook, etc.)
- The **content**: documents on legislation, local projects, news, planning, etc)
- Their **interest** to participate at the construction of web portal



Conclusion

The **consolidation of project results** and their reproducibility in the future

Thank you for your attention