

Long Abstract – Monographic Section

Rethinking Welfare to prevent and combat gender-based violence: challenges and opportunities for an integrated system

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Geographies of anti-violence networks: challenges in governance and center/periphery conflicts.

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The paper analyses the governance of gender-based violence (GBV) policies in Italy, framing anti-violence provision as a “network of networks” in which public institutions and third-sector actors interact across levels of government.

The first part of the paper, using a comparative document analysis of regional laws and plans, develops a five-cluster typology of regional governance – integrated, misaligned, emerging, experimental and fragmented – based on formalisation, continuity of commitment and coordination capacity. The comparison shows how these arrangements shape service coherence and contributes to territorial disparities and “grey areas”.

The second part focuses on Piedmont, classified as integrated, through qualitative research with practitioners from anti-violence centres, help desks and shelters.

Eight focus groups (with 48 participants) reveal centre/periphery tensions that are both geographic (Turin versus provincial, inner and mountain areas) and institutional (accredited organisations versus long-standing local actors without formal recognition).

Findings indicate that accreditation rules and procedural standardisation – while intended to ensure quality and accountability – can raise entry barriers, marginalise local expertise and generate “Turin-centrism”, while excluded actors are still mobilised to cover gaps without adequate resources.

The article concludes by proposing some policy recommendations, in particular: mixed coordination forums with rotating, decentralised meetings; co-design of operational tools and data collection; mapping/registries that make non-accredited provision visible for monitoring and capacity building without reinforcing hierarchies.

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