

# Improving the disability assessment and social protection system in Italy: findings, recommendations and the way forward

OECD Report Launch and Project Closing

29 November 2023 | Online

## AGENDA



# ■ The Project

## ■ Disability reform is now a top priority for the Government of Italy

Fragmented legislation affects Italy's ability to recognise functioning capacities of persons with disabilities, to provide adequate support and to develop effective inclusive policies across sectors, such as in labour market, education, health and social policies. Various attempts undertaken in the past decade to fix these problems have been unsuccessful. In the absence of up-to-date national reference legislation, regions have adopted their own approaches, further contributing to large differences across the country.

Disability assessment is outdated, with a number of definitions of disability in place all based on a medical concept. Through the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified in 2009, Italy is expected to align its definition of disability to ICF standards and harmonise the assessment across systems and regions. The fragmentation of disability assessment is mirrored in a complex and equally fragmented system of social protection for persons with disabilities, with a large number of different tax deductions and welfare benefits, depending on the type and degree of disability and the region in which people live.

This system fragmentation results in considerable inequalities across types of disabilities and regions, with inadequately low benefits in some and undesirable duplication of entitlements in other cases.

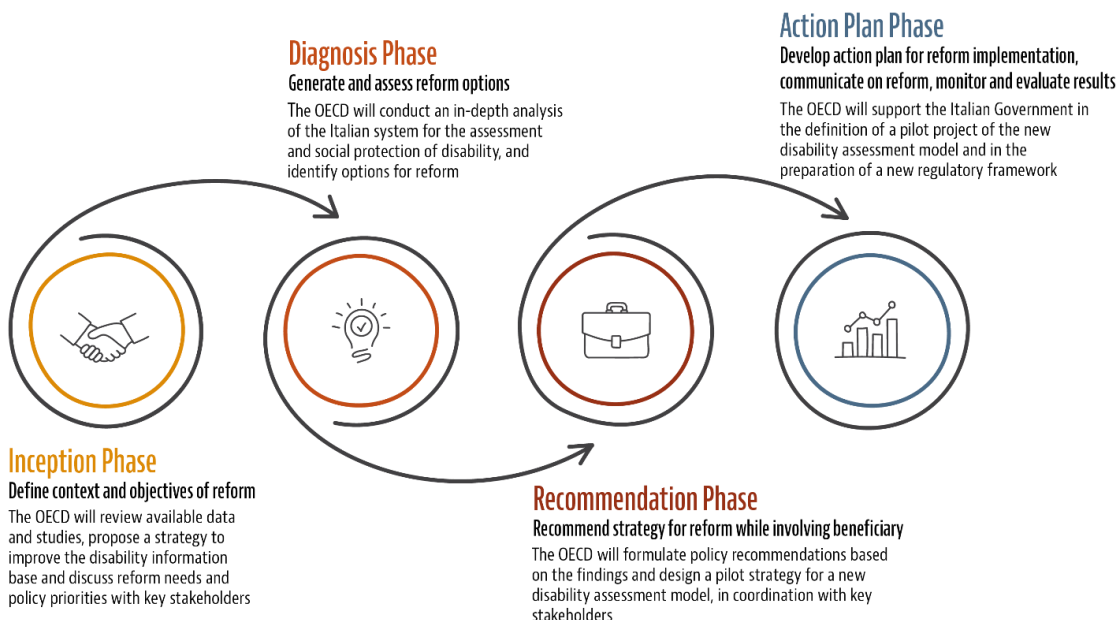
Also for these reasons, disability reform is now a priority for the Italian Government, which has obtained the technical support of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support together with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to:

- improve the legal definition of disability so as to comply with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF);
- increase the capacity of social assistance to reduce poverty and ensure adequate standards of living for people with disabilities.

The overall objective of this project is therefore to support Italy in the design, development and implementation of reforms that will increase the adequacy of the disability assessment and protection system in Italy, allowing for greater participation and inclusion of people with disabilities.

## ■ Project activities

In order to produce the aforementioned outputs, the OECD will develop the project in 4 phases and perform the following activities



## ■ Who we are

The **OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (ELS)** leads the OECD's work on employment, social policies, international migration and health. The Directorate oversees OECD work on interrelated policy areas that help countries boost employment and skills, and improve social welfare and health. [www.oecd.org/els](http://www.oecd.org/els)

The **OECD Trento Centre for Local Development** is an integral part of the OECD and its Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE). The Trento Centre uses a holistic “from data to practice” approach to policies for sustainable development to offer local policy analysis, advice and capacity building activities for improved policy implementation for people, firms and places. [www.trento.oecd.org](http://www.trento.oecd.org)

The **Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)** coordinates and provides tailor-made technical support to EU Member States, in cooperation with the relevant Commission services. The support is primarily provided through the Technical Support Instrument (TSI). The goal is to support Member States' efforts to design and implement resilience-enhancing reforms, thereby contributing to the EU's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, improving the quality of

public services and getting back on the path of sustainable and inclusive growth.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/structural-reform-support\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/structural-reform-support_en)

The **Department for policies in support of people with disabilities** is the ministerial unit in charge of promoting and coordinating the action of the Italian Government in the field of disability. In particular, its tasks relate to policies for the protection of the rights of people with disabilities and their social inclusion, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

<https://disabilita.governo.it/it/lufficio/>

## ■ Contacts

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Wednesday  
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Link to connect online: [https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Kx5QQ7ohRhiGvrix31yF9w](https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kx5QQ7ohRhiGvrix31yF9w)

### Part 1: Two-year project final report: main findings and recommendations

Moderator: *Alessandra Proto*, Head, Trento Centre for Local Development, OECD

#### 16.00-16.20 ○ Opening remarks

*Raluca Painter*, Head of Labour Market, Education, Health and Social Services Unit, DG REFORM, European Commission

*Antonio Caponetto*, Head, Department for Disability, Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy

*Mark Keese*, Head of Division, Skills and Employability Division, OECD

*Karen Maguire*, Head of Division, Local Employment and Economic Development Programme, OECD

#### 16.20-16.45 ○ Report main findings and policy recommendations

*Christopher Prinz*, Senior Economist, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

16.45-17.05 Q&A

### Part 2: The ongoing reform and the way forward

Moderator: *Mattia Corbetta*, Policy Analyst, Trento Centre for Local Development, OECD

#### 17.05-17.20 ○ The ongoing reform: developments and relevance of the TSI project

*Antonio Caponetto*, Head, Department for Disability, Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy

#### 17.20-17.40 ○ Project findings and the ongoing reform from a regional perspective

*Marika Batzella*, Head, Office for Integrated Care Services, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy

*Roberto Pallanch*, Head, Office for Integrated Care Services, Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy

*Paolo Pelizza*, Head of Medical Office, Brescia Local Health Authority, Lombardy, Italy

*Alessio Sullo*, Co-ordinator, Medical and Legal Income Support Benefits, INPS Avellino, Campania, Italy

#### 17.40-17.50 ○ Project findings and the ongoing reform from a civil society perspective

*Silvia Cutrera*, Vice-president, FISH

*Nazaro Pagano*, President, FAND

*Domenico Sabia*, Consultant, FAND

#### 17.50-18.00 ○ Conclusions and next steps

*Rima Joujou-Deljic*, Policy Officer at Labour Market, Education, Health and Social Services Unit, DG REFORM, European Commission



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## INFORMATION

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*Ufficio per le politiche in favore  
delle persone con disabilità*



Funded by  
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