



Gender mainstreaming in statistics, in policies: the case of Italy

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Gender issue as our priority

Gender issue → one of the most important topic in Istat, at least in social statistics

This means:

- To have disaggregated data by gender
 - To give correct courageous interpreting analysis
but also
 - To give the light to some issues essential to address gender equality
as discrimination, gender stereotypes and violence against women are
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Since early 90s

Istat developed gender statistics

- Set of indicators to measure gender equality
- Alongside to the most traditional areas, important to highlight gender differences
 - as work, education, pay gap, health, time use, spare time

Then we introduced some important topics generally neglected in statistics.



In the last decade

Istat surveyed new areas

→ as violence against women

→ gender discrimination

→ gender stereotypes

Important topics to complete the
framework on gender equality
measurement



Need for a new and more complex approach

But it is not enough.... To give impulse to gender statistics

Also very good indicators that describe the situation are not enough.

We need to establish a synergy between the Government, the Department of Equal Opportunity, Istat and the ministries or other institutions involved and ONG involved too to address the topic and achieve gender equality.

We know policies need to be based on data, but political are not used to do it.

We have to increase awareness on data importance and data use. Only working at the political level, we can be really propulsive in promoting gender equality.



Need for a new and more complex approach

This new approach takes the first steps working on the networking method.

This is a step by step process based on the interaction between all the actors involved

(interactive network between Public Institutions, political Agencies, ONG and researchers)

In this way → the Development of gender statistics must be placed side by side with the awareness increasing of policy makers.

In Italy we are working in this way and we are having good results.



A good issue is that gender statistics in Istat is directly in charge in the Director Office of social statistics. It is certainly an help



Experience from VAW topic

The framework: A new attention on VAW by the public, the media and the political scenario

The political side: The Italian government assumed gender violence as an important issue of gender equality where to invest

First steps:

The ratification on the Istanbul Convention to eradicate and combat VAW

The establishment of a task force to address consciously the topic, who put in network agencies

Experience of data fragmentary

Data on VAW measures are fragmented


- Different experiences at regional level
 - Violence against women observatories in some regions, good isolated experiences
- Just single experiences
 - Every shelter and VAW service has its statistical data collection, some really advanced, some rudimentary
- Short view
 - Only some hospitals and health services collect data on VAW
- Unawareness of data importance
 - No correct identification of the problem in justice and police statistics

What policies do not need

Compresence of excellence and disregarding towards data

- Too much emphasis to individual sensitivity on the topic
- No follow up of victims
- No common background in collecting data
- No evidence of the most important data
- No guarantee for periodicity, rigorous methodology, high standard quality information
- No coordination

... everyone moves without a direction



**Even if aware of problems
Istat could not change alone the situation
We needed an institutional
Designation**

**The Government – Department For Equality
opportunity made it
(the decision survived even if different
legislature)**

A new policy approach: attention to the importance of data

- Data are recognized as an essential tool for gender equality policy planning
- Need for good data for good policies

Which kind of data?

- Regular data
 - High quality data
 - Standardized data
 - Speaking data
 - Coordinated data
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The government decisions

- Task force establishment on VAW measurement
- The aim of the task force is to identify data useful to design adequate policies:
 - To eradicate and combat VAW violence
 - To protect victims
 - To help victims in escaping from violence and cope with suffered violence
 - Help in care, help the re-integration

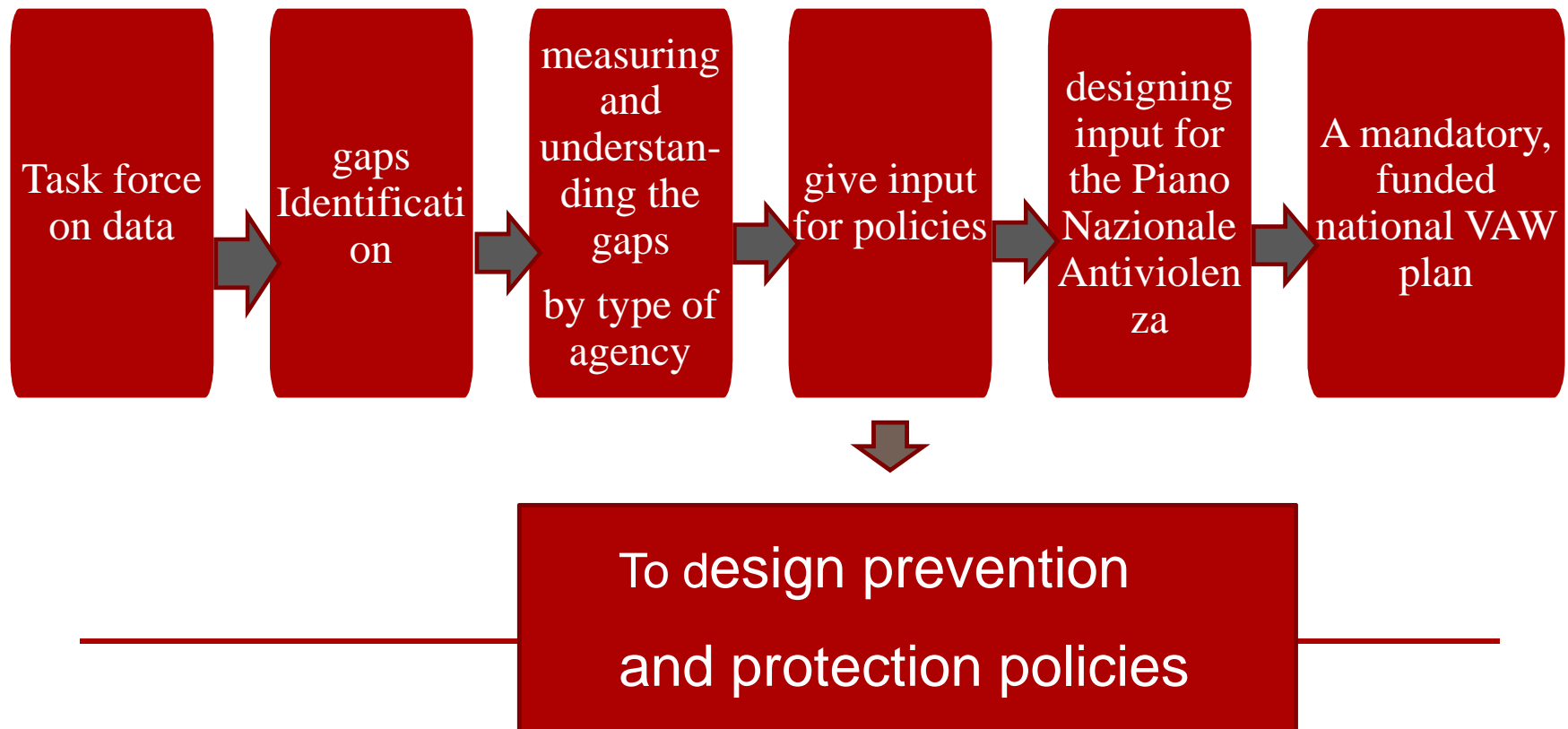
More concretely data were essential to:

- Measure the volume of VAW
- Understanding causes
- Monitor VAW
- Monitor the Victims protection

Coordinated by Istat → Because independent and *super partes*

Government Designation

The steps



A network work

In Partnership with all involved actors

Institutions: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of health, Ministry of Army, Ministry of work and Ministry of Social Politics

ONG: shelters, 1522, VAW services

VAW experts: academic, lawyers

A long and difficult work:

- First of all to share the same language
- And aims ...
- Assume a wider view → going out of the little *garden*
→ *Less corporatism*

Identifying the gaps

- Analysis of the real situation of data on abused women and the protection system
- Looking at Identifying the gaps

What there is **versus** what there is not

- Which periodicity?
 - Which best practices?
 - Experiences on the territory
 - Topic representativeness
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Identifying solutions

- Need for data able to represent the problem
- Looking at possible solutions for each agency (ONG included) and their feasibility
- Establishing measures to address the VAW topic for:
 - Measuring VAW and gender's stereotypes
 - Monitoring VAW and victims protection system
 - Measure and monitor all justice aspects

The adopted measures become part of the VAW Action Plan that is approved by the government

From simple technical measures → political input → adopted and funded by the government



The task force proposal

An Informative system on VAW

- Developed and managed by Istat, in coordination with the VAW network
 - A Comprehensive tool
 - Periodically updated
 - Storage for data (micro, macro and metadata), and analysis reports
 - Build on several sources:
 - Population surveys, Administrative data, Shelters and ONG data
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The task force proposal

- VAW survey → *every 4 years*
For prevalence, frequency, severity, causes, risk factors, violence witness, vaw dynamic, consequences...
- Quali-quantitative Survey on gender violence stereotypes
 - On citizens (also on own aggressive behavior)
 - On operators in social/health services

Periodically updated

The task force proposal

- Annual (harmonized) data collection on victims went to shelters, crisis center and VAW services (ONG)
 - continuous flow of data
 - Monitoring the real follow up of the victims
- Data collection from 1522 protection number
- Data from hospitals emergencies, social and health public services

**Looking at actions
effectiveness**

The task force proposal

- Annual data collection about police statistics, justice statistics
- Essential the relationship between victim and perpetrator in order to identify the gender violence and VAW
- Data from criminal career
- Follow up of judicial proceedings
- Follow-up of the victims in the reporting and judicial itinerary

**Looking at actions
effectiveness**

In conclusion..... About the task force

- Istat coordination and suggestions
- Working side by side
 - Common proposals to ONG and Institutions
 - Common definitions
 - Changes in data sets and databases
- Input in the action plan
- Public fundings for every institution

**This is the product of Long interaction between
Istat director office and the DPO**

In conclusion.....

- It's important to develop and reinforce a deep relationship between data users and data producers.
- Example on VAW coordination is a very good example of good practices in gender equality
- Constant network work is essential to understand the emerging needs, find measurement solutions, translate them in political input, that will be funded

This is a only way to have a successful approach on gender equality measurement
