

# Severe poverty and new solutions in homelessness services: the case of Rome

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# Purpose of the paper

- To analyze homelessness and severe deprivation in an urban context
- To observe new policies to tackle homelessness in Italy

# Research question

- What are the living conditions of homeless people?
- Which profiles of severe poverty come out from multidimensional poverty?

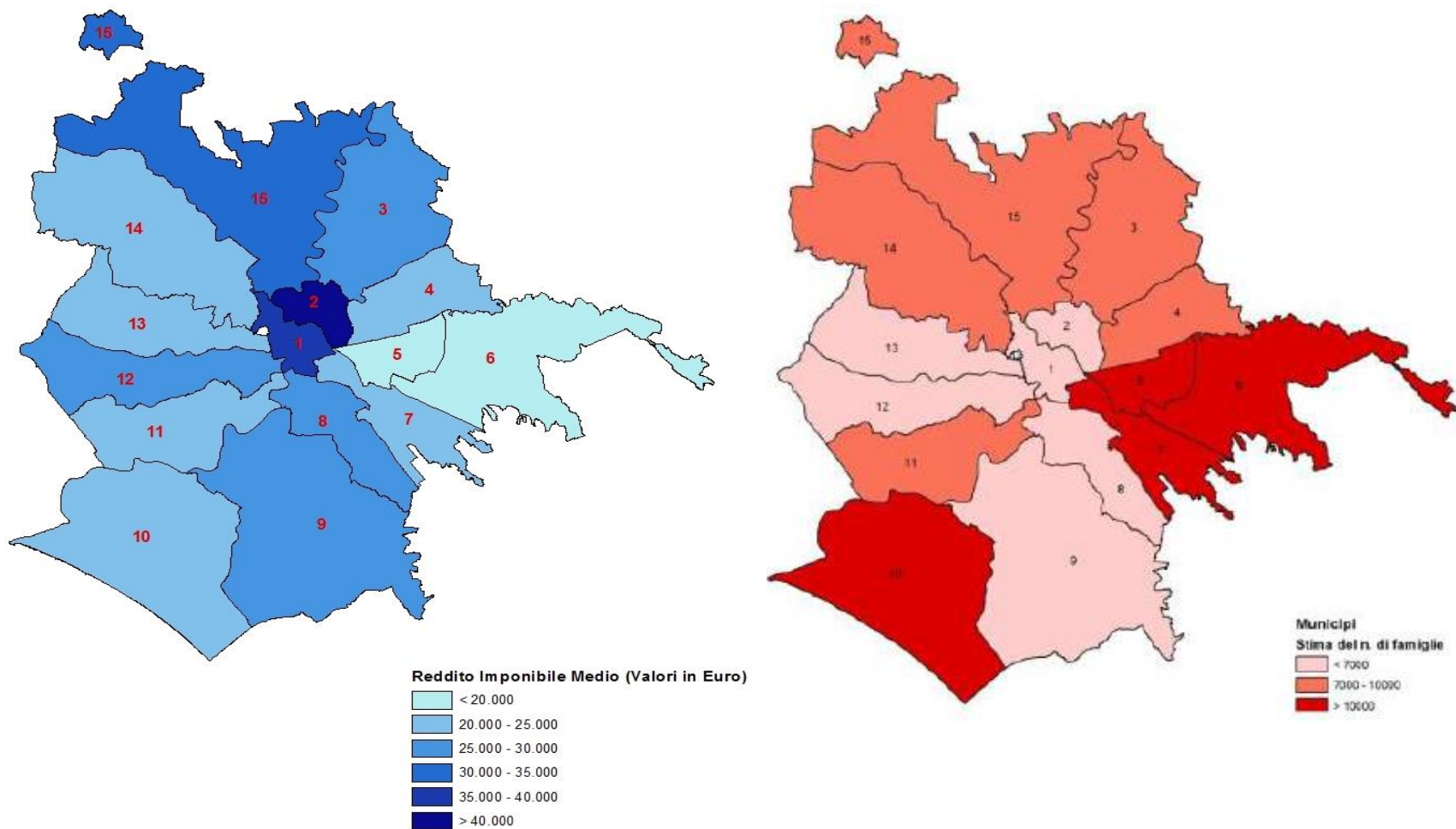
# Methodology

- Multy-method survey
  - Structured interview questionnaire:
    - 442 users in 20 services provide by Caritas of Rome
    - Mutidimensional living condition aspects: housing; education; work; health; social support; trigger life events
  - 3 Focus group:
    - Social workers
    - 3 different themes: Education and Work; Family and Social Relationships; Health and Care

# Context: Rome

- 2.868.347 inhabitants – Rome Municipality, 2015
  - 364.362 foreigners – 13% incidence on roman population
- Unemployment rate: 10,8% 2015 (6% 2008) (Istat)
- Evictions: 7.092 on 2016 → 1/276 families (Italy: 1/419 families) (Ministero degli Interni, 2017)
- Homeless people: 7.709 on 2014 (second city after Milan, with 12.004 homeless people) (Istat, 2015)

# Spatial concentration of poverty



# Research findings

- Severe material deprivation
  - Economic poverty: 69% of sample without income
  - Housing condition: 40% of sample in shelters and temporary accommodations
- Health and Care
  - Difficulties in caring chronic diseases due to lack of income and informations about public health system

# Research findings

- Low level of education
  - Drop – out; High costs for education and training; problems with recognition of educational degree
  
- Difficulties in entering and remaining in labour market
  - High level of unemployment – 60% of sample
  - Precarious employment and Irregular work
  - Exploitation of migrants and minors
  - Low wage



# Research findings

## ■ Fragile family relations

- Social isolation, rare contacts with family

## ■ Social Support

- Frequent contacts with services and friends, rare contacts with public social services

## ■ Trigger life events

- Frequent critic event: Job loss ; Migration; Economic problems; Family problems; House loss

# Profiles of extreme poverty

## Vulnerable aged people

- Over 65
- Low pension
- House owner
- Wide range of social support
- Multiple trigger life events

## Workers

- Low wage
- Living with other people and friends
- In and out of the labour market
- Economic and material deprivation
- Friends and private provider as social support

## Unemployed

- 30 – 64 years old
- Severe material deprivation
- No wage
- Economic help from family and friends
- Living in shelters
- Main problem in access to labour market

# Profiles of extreme poverty

## Young migrants

- 19-24 years old
- Asylum seekers, refugees, subsidiary protection status
- Low level of education
- Unemployed or seeking first job
- Living in shelters
- Without income and with debt for journey

## Unaccompanied foreign minors

- Extreme poverty and severe multidimensional deprivation
- Without income
- Living in shelter for minors
- Psychological pressure from family
- No chance to work legally
- At risk of exploitation

# Evidences

Profiles emerged from the survey in line with Istat survey on homelessness (2011-2014)



Recognition of the diversity of profiles linked to homelessness



Awareness of policy change at national and local level

# National level

- ❑ Istat survey on Homelessness in Italy (2011-2014)
- ❑ Guidelines to Tackling Homelessness (by Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
- ❑ Anti-poverty Plan (homelessness included)
- ❑ *#HomelessZero* (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and fio.PSD as umbrella organization)

# Local level

Rome with other 7 big cities and 15 regional governments participate on

*Call for proposal for tackling Homelessness*

- funded by European Social Fund and FEAD
- fio.PSD as umbrella organization offering support in writing project

# Policies in Italy: new direction

- Renovating traditional services and overcoming shelter and emergency system
- Promoting long-term vision – Housing First and Housing Lead programme