

**DACTIVE** disability and active citizenship  
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# Final Conference

Palazzo Vecchio – Firenze

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*Innovation in the social services in favour of persons with disabilities*

Comune di Firenze - Italy

## Peculiarities of the care path

Complexity and dynamism of the care path for people with disabilities.

Need for continuous redefinition of the objectives to be pursued and services to activate, along a period of life usually very large .

It is necessary to take account of changes in the needs and resources / capabilities of the individual at different stages of his life.

The aim is to make more adequate social and health services in their ability to ensure effective and dynamic phase of taking in charge and a more appropriate offer compared to the needs and their evolution.



It is therefore necessary to have, within the health and social integrated paths, a suitable model for taking in charge, assessment of needs and planning of individual interventions.

At the same time, it is necessary to consolidate and adapt, in terms of greater effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of the offer system (residential care, semi-residential and home care, interventions for independent living, social transport, holidays-vacation, ...), with attention also to policies and interventions for the "During" and the "After" us.



## Opportunity to "govern" the offer of services

A significant part of the offer of services in Florence comes from the initiative of associations and cooperatives (often focussed on families of people with disabilities).

There is therefore a fundamental wealth of frontline operators, including the institutions in charge, which, however, while acting with common objectives, are likely to act in a disconnected way, using different and not shared methods, tools and organizational models.

Opportunities for public institutions to operate a role of "government" of the offer, with the aim to bring it to a "system", while avoiding excessive pervasiveness and by safeguarding everyone's positive features and design capabilities.

## Beyond the mere assistance

The underlying objective must not be reduced to ensure a mere assistance, but must also take into account the improvement of quality of life.

Opportunity to develop, where possible, the ability to self-determination of people with disabilities and their perceived quality of life.

Overcoming a care concept that tends primarily to meet the needs and personal care, as well as unilaterally defined by the services.

Facilitation of the paths for the legal protection and representation.

## Active citizenship

Self-determination as a means of social promotion of disabled persons and therefore of social integration and, basically, autonomy and active citizenship.

Complexity in applying the concept to people with intellectual disabilities, which usually show a decreased ability to be active citizens than people with other disabilities.

We need to act enhancing skills, attitudes and individual knowledge and adapting the environment (physical, social and family) in such a way that it becomes a context that, in addition to providing assistance, facilitate the awareness of being active citizens and provides opportunities to exercise everyone's skills.



There is the risk that sometimes this approach may meet with some resistance in caregivers (especially in the family), with negative effects on the process of autonomy, as they may find some difficulties in acting different roles than mere assistance, in a perspective of “protection” that, however, is likely to become “limitation”.

To promote autonomy, self-determination and active citizenship implies a process of change that involves both the person being cared for, and the people who care assistance (operators, family members, legal representatives, ...), as well as institutions.

## D-Active

In line with this approach, D-Active aims to promote active citizenship and learning of adults with intellectual disabilities, considered at high risk of marginalization.

The development of skills is regarded as indispensable for the exercise of active citizenship → knowledge and awareness of rights and duties, in connection with civic values such as democracy and human rights, equality, participation, collaboration, social cohesion, solidarity, tolerance of diversity and social justice.

Aim to create and test models and applications of multi-dimensional and integrated intervention in education and training for active citizenship, from an instrument previously used in clinical and social context: the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).





The Municipality of Florence has chosen with conviction to be one of the partners involved in the project, in full compliance with the principles and objectives that characterize it.

It has been made available for this purpose the Socio-Educational Day Care Center (CSE) "Il Totem", often committed to innovative projects, as well as our network of relationships in the world of Florentine structures and services for people with disabilities, some of which have decided to be involved (with their operators and their users) in experimental actions.

The project has allowed us to directly experience, in a public structure, evaluation and education methodologies aimed at developing more effective methods and tools designed to help improve the quality of life of users.



Overall number of people directly involved in the project, in its various modules:

- 20 operators of CSE and other centers or associations
- 21 users of the CSE and other centers or associations



The project has allowed us to test systems, methods and tools for the development of skills of operators and to lay the foundations for the construction of a common language.

Opportunity to repeat the project, with the possibility of re-use of methodologies and tools (with the necessary adjustments depending on the context), both by the local health and social services (for example, during the phase of taking in charge and definition of the individual project), and by other centers, operators, services, ..., in order to achieve greater uniformity of approach to the topic, as a partial result of the action of "government" that the institutions can exercise.



**Thanks for your kind attention!**