



Improving the **disability** assessment and social protection system in **ITALY**



Why this project?

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Disability assessment is outdated, with a number of definitions of disability in place all based on a medical concept.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 disability assessment and protection system in Italy, allowing for greater participation and inclusion of people with disabilities.

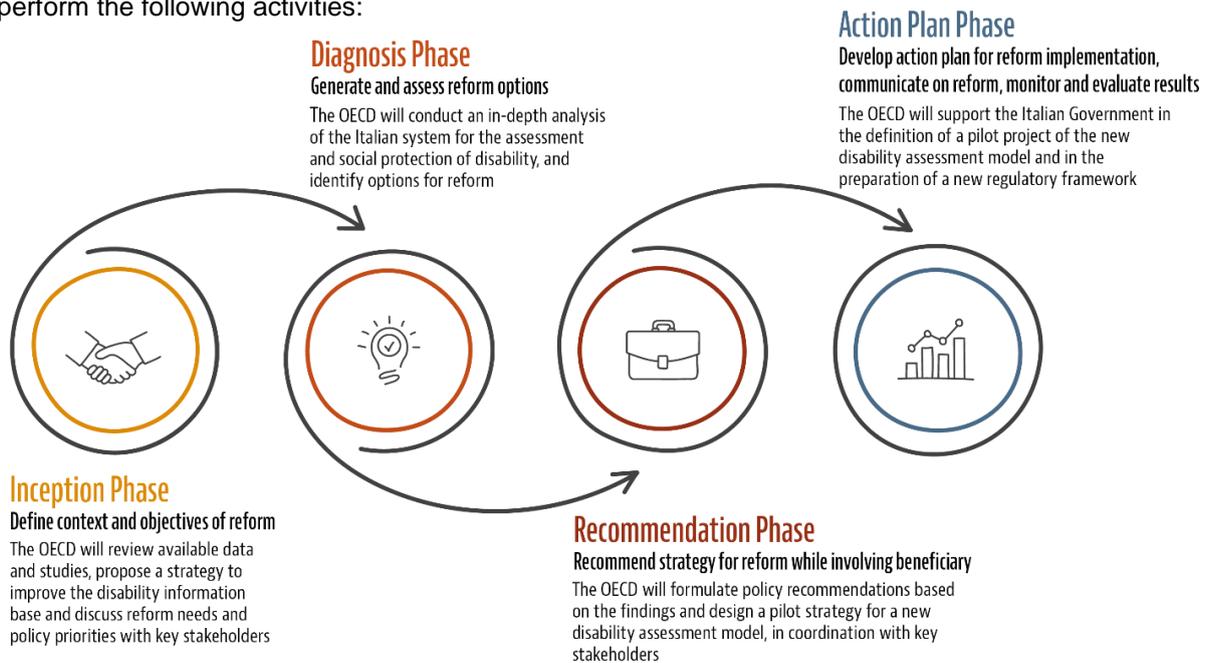


Disability



Project activities

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



CONTACTS

The project is developed by the OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs and the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development. If you are interested to learn more about the project or to get involved, please contact

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This technical support project is funded by the Technical Support Instrument, and implemented in cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM).

The work supports the OECD Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee and the Local Employment and Economic Development (LEED) Programme of work.

About the OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

The 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.

About the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

The OECD Trento Centre for Local Development is an integral part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. 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.

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