

A HIGH DESIRABLE AND FEASIBLE SCENARIO

ITALY

Population ageing as a challenge for a better society

Only five macro policy objectives characterise this scenario for Italy in 2030, a future in which the issue of the growth of the old population plays a key role. The core of the demographic issue concerning ageing is no longer economic sustainability, but rather the fact of positively considering increased longevity and introducing policies to foster the birth of a population in which the various generations collaborate and benefit from a useful exchange. The result of this approach to the future is positive from the viewpoint of the sustainability of the economic and pension system.

According to the future scenario, in the years up to 2030 Italy will start a process of cultural integration between young people and older people, sustained by continuous and intensive communications and relationships. In 2030:

- the over-65s will be an active segment of the Italian population;
- retirement will lose the rigidity characterising the pension system in the 20th century and the early years of the 21st;
- the continuation of paid employment and also volunteer work will be encouraged, in a society increasingly pervaded by technology, also due to the new opportunities provided by technology finally tailored for elderly people, easier and simpler to use and understand;

- technology will prove to be an element of fundamental relevance for the improvement of living conditions for the over-65s who live alone.

The low Italian fertility is no longer considered a critical issue. If, in fact, ageing is considered to be a value to be exploited by society, State measures to foster a recovery of the birth-rate and rebalance the age structure of the population would no longer be a priority. One aspect obviously excludes the other, but perhaps this has never been so clearly indicated

in terms of macro policy objectives.

In this future, households and couples will be free to choose their reproductive pattern. The State will not be concerned with increasing or encouraging a recovery of the birth-rate, but it will just acknowledge the current trends and utilise the positive aspect. Therefore, in this scenario there are no policies and actions directly regarding the family and fertility. There are, on the other hand, actions aimed at fostering and supporting the participation of women and, in particular, of

mothers in the labour market. In a certain sense, the panellists assume the right to have a family and children, and policy actions are limited, above all, to the field of employment. By 2030, work by parents is made easier, and in particular the obstacles now preventing women from accessing the labour market will be removed. Co-optation at work will only be a memory; objective methods of evaluation and new criteria of hiring and promotion sensitive to gender differences must be constantly applied.

The society people dream in 2030 involves a “full sharing of the responsibilities and tasks within the family and in couple relationships”.

Piero Dell'Anno and Antonio Tintori
Istituto di Ricerche sulla Popolazione
e le Politiche Sociali

The preference towards the size of Italian population by 2030

Consensus has been reached amongst the Italian panel on an increase of the population by 2030. The number of inhabitants, according to the wishes of the panellists, are comprised between 57 and 64 millions.

