An impact evaluation of the first Italian income support measure: the Inclusion Income (ReI)

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The topic of measures to fight against poverty in Italy is one of the most debated and under the attention of political decision-makers, researchers, and insiders. After the Inclusion Income (ReI) and the Citizenship Income (RdC), a new path opens with the introduction of several new measures of active inclusion. Through a multiple-year research projects, Inapp had collected information on implementation and impact of income support measures. The analysis of the data collected allow to understand the evolutionary dynamics of the process of alternation of interventions and measures. The findings are useful to help answering to open questions and to propose reflections and recommendations to policy makers.

Relying on the innovative and unique dataset on beneficiaries of income support measures in Italy, we aim to assess the impact of the policy on family's deprivation and monthly income. The survey sample is based on beneficiaries of the first income support measures adopted in 2017 in Italy, namely Inclusion income (ReI). However, the administrative data that INPS provided to Inapp, also allowed us to analyse the Reddito di Cittadinanza (RdC). In fact, a large part of our sample has entered RdC after ReI or became RdC beneficiaries from being part of the control group. Adopting a counterfactual framework, we analysed the impact on material deprivation and family monthly income of ReI in 2019, when the RdC had not had is effect yet and before the covid pandemic. We, then, analyse the effect of both policies in 2021. Moreover, we focus on both policy tools, the economic benefit and the family project aim at the social reinsertion of beneficiaries. We control for individual and regional variables.

Our results confirm an impact of the policy on the expected outcomes, and we also found a greater impact of the policy on those beneficiaries that has also benefitted from the personal project.