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Prevention and diagnosis of Illiteracy. A research project in the Campania region of Italy

3-4 minuti

The Second International Adult Literacy Survey (SIALS), which was promoted by the OECD and saw the participation of Italy, showed that about one third of the Italian population ranked in the most unfavourable position – according to the international scale that measures literacy – and that another third only managed to rank in the position immediately above. In particular, the cultural picture of the over-50's, i.e. the section of the population that did not benefit from the boom in schooling after the 1962 lower secondary school reform, turned out to be very negative indeed. To this must be added the fact that in Italy, and above all in the southern regions, illiteracy regression combines with the residual illiteracy of the most underprivileged section of the population.

There is thus enough material to place the issue of the prevention and diagnosis of illiteracy among the priorities of national and local policy aimed at providing all citizens with the necessary conditions for fully and consciously exercising their right to take part in democratic life.

Unfortunately, there appears to be not even the slightest

willingness to proceed in the direction indicated by the policy decisions made at national level. We are a far cry from the sensitivity shown by other governments: as an example, the French government has set up the Agence Nationale de Lutte contre l'Illettrisme, which aims to study the phenomenon in depth and also to devise and implement plans to combat it. All the more reason to therefore appreciate the decision of the department responsible for education and training, employment and social policies, youth policies and immigration issues of the Campania regional government to promote a specific study whose results can provide useful indications for gearing future initiatives in this field.

This booklet illustrates the main lines of the project called *Prevention and Diagnosis of Illiteracy (Predil). A survey of literacy skills in the adult population: methodology and tools.*

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