

<i>- 'SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: THE TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES' -</i>	
<u>Organisation / Country:</u>	Social Policy Department, Province of Latina / Italy
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<u>Summary:</u>	<p>The regional context of Latina</p> <p>The Province of Latina is composed of 33 municipalities with Latina as the county town. In 2015, the total population is about 570,000 inhabitants. The province hosts 30 high schools for 26,000 high schools' students aged 14 to 19 years. Among those are 849 high schools' students with disabilities, who can be categorised according to their level of disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 572 students with mild or moderate disability, ▪ 277 students with severe disability. <p>Since 2003, the Province of Latina has developed social policies targeting young people with disabilities or social difficulties. These interventions revolve around different services and user groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions addressed to students with disabilities and with social difficulties, • Actions addressed to people with sensory disabilities (blind and deaf), • School transport services for students with disabilities. <p>A vast majority of schools have contributed to the drafting of project guidelines. The development and implementation of those services have involved a broad range of professional</p>

	<p>groups namely sociologists, professional educators, social workers, educational assistants, artists, and psychologists.</p> <p>Different activities are available in school specifically for students with disabilities and social distress. Pupils can express their interest in taking part by notifying teachers. Some schools also provide specific support through guidance and counselling, job training and traineeship as well as specific resources for young people with different kind of disabilities (newsletter and magazines).</p> <p>There is also a broad range of leisure activities available for students with and without disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on the transition from school to employment, • Relaxation classes, • Emotional control classes, • Multimedia and graphic production, • Psychological advice for students and their family, • Tchoukball and special Olympics (sport activities for people with disabilities), • Self-help groups. <p>Guidelines school year 2012-2013 (<i>guidelines for 2014-2015 are available in Italian</i>):</p> <p>Action 1: For students with severe disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting a greater level of autonomy in accordance with personal abilities in collaboration with the Local Healthcare Unit (ASL). The ASL are responsible for assessing the students' level of disability and establishing targets. They also oversee the work done during the school year with teachers and external professionals. <p>Action 2: For students with mild and moderate disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing together teachers and local social cooperatives to provide services increasing social integration. <p>Action 3: For blind and deaf students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the use of sign language and Braille with external professionals in collaboration with social cooperatives. • Translating educational material in Braille
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic support to go to universities or specific boarding schools designed for blind and deaf students <p>Action 4: For students with disabilities and social problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the transition from school to work <p>Action 5: For students with disabilities or in hardship • Financial support for the transport to go to school.</p>

<u>Issues:</u>	The biggest challenge was the development of effective and collaborative partnerships between public institutions and private organisations, local social cooperatives and external professionals.
<u>Resources:</u>	€1,000,000 funded by the Province of Latina per year and then split between the schools. The amount every school receive depends on the project quality and number of students with disabilities (especially severe ones).
<u>Objectives:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and developing personal talents and skills • Improving quality of life for people with disabilities with complex needs • Achieving holistic integration in schools, the labour market and in modern society • Inspiring other stakeholders to work for the social integration of young people with disabilities • Providing effective responses to support school-to-work transition of students with disabilities and social difficulties
<u>Outcomes:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realising a greater level of autonomy and independence in accordance with personal abilities and social problems • Enhancing personal knowledge and skills that allow students to enter a workplace, • Ensuring equal job opportunities as compared with students without disabilities
<u>Evaluation:</u>	Informal feedback and evaluation surveys among students pointed positively at a level of satisfaction with the services.
<u>Resources:</u>	<i>in Italian only – available upon request:</i> Provincia di Latina (Settore Politiche Sociali): Interventi rivolti agli studenti con disabilita' e in situazione di disagio negli istituti scolastici superiori (linee guida, anno scolastico 2014-2015 - Codice CUP J49D14000150003)