

The Lombardy Region's role in supporting individual life projects for persons with disabilities

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Lombardy Region's actions in support of individual life project

- **One of the first Italian region** to approve a law which establishes the **right to independent living** (r.l. 25/2022) and **support for family caregivers** (r.l. 23/2022)
- Main areas of intervention:
 - **Promotion of an integrated system of services** to reconnect existing offerings with the plans and lives of people with disabilities, including newly established **Independent Living Centers**, in order to implement the provisions of the newly enacted Italian disability reform (Legislative Decree 62/2024)
 - **Strengthening of the coordination between social, healthcare and socio-healthcare interventions**, even through updating requirements for Social Offer Units
 - **Creation of autonomy pathways to facilitating the daily life of disabled individuals**, thereby overcoming any barrier in their access to school, job market and accommodation, and valorization of the entire family starting from caregivers

Promotion of an integrated system of services

- The reform under Legislative Decree 62/2024 poses a challenge to the entire governance system as it represents a **cultural change** (marking the transition from an individual services approach vs the construction of a life project made up of economic and non-economic resources, both public and private), an **organizational change** (requiring a rethinking of governance) and **strategic change**
- The regional government resolution 4140/2025 provides the first operational guidelines for the two-year testing of the model launched in the province of Brescia (January 2025/December 2026), that will allow the development of the life project definition process and the project implementation model
- The model is based on a **constant connection between social and health policies** to guarantee **integrated care pathways**, involving and leveraging institutional and non-institutional resources
- A new ESF+ measure is being introduced to strengthen local disability services supporting this process

Updating requirements for Social Offer Units

The Lombardy Region is undertaking a **thorough review of its service network**, fostering a diversified, modular offering based on individualized planning of responses to changing needs and in respect of the individual's life cycle

Elements of innovation:

- **Multidimensional assessment** as a criterion for appropriate access
- **Flexible organizational services** for greater alignment with life paths and the introduction of flexible management models for individual and/or small group projects
- **Connection with the local context** maximizing the service network's ability to be a "resource" even for those who are not service users
- **Integration with the social and health care network**, based on modularity and continuity of services, including the possibility of providing health and social care services within the service network according on specific agreements

Creation of autonomy pathways

- **School autonomy and facilitation of daily life:** funding of Individual Plans for students with sensory disabilities, which include the provision of communication assistants and tools and technologies to promote student communication and participation; grants for the purchase of technologically advanced devices; funding for projects to promote LIS (Sign Language)
- **Independent living:** funding for projects that support independent living with a focus on personal assistance, home automation and social inclusion, as well as family emancipation (PRO.VI. (FNA), Dopo di Noi, PNRR, r.l. 25/2022 funds)
- **Employment and social inclusion:** alongside specific job placement tools (targeted placement), funding for social interventions addressing the prerequisites for accessing these tools (<https://shorturl.at/5wD0B>)
- **Home maintenance:** enhanced home care (monthly contributions for regularly employed staff and/or for the recognition of family caregiver care work) plus supplementary social interventions (socialization support, caregiver relief through training and emergency support, etc.)
- Contributions for the **construction and renovation of inclusive playgrounds** and promotion of **accessible tourism** in the Milan-Cortina area and in the provinces of Sondrio and Pavia (STAI 2)

Focus: call for proposals to foster employment and social inclusion of people with disabilities

First edition 2023-2025: **57 projects funded** for **€10.5 million** in grants awarded (ESF+ RP, ESO 4.8 action h.1)

Co-construction of the initiative through consultation with social partners

3066 recipients reached as of November 26, 2025, including people with uncertified disabilities, of whom 40.2% were women

1492 recipients (48.6%) over 25 years of age

1054 people were inactive at the start of the project (neither employed nor seeking employment)

196 recipients had other vulnerabilities in addition to their disability

A specific evaluation of training and employment outcomes will be launched

Second edition 2026-2029: **78 projects under evaluation** for **over €20 million** in grants requested