

European Network on Age Management

The Italian government has recently passed a national programme aimed at fighting the effects of the international economical and financial crisis. This document takes under consideration the Lisbon strategy and the indications suggested by the European Community's yearly evaluation and points out some themes of interest for the Active Ageing context.

Policy indications from NRP of the Lisbon Strategy for 2008-2010:

- ✓ interventions / measures aimed at empowering the pension system;
- ✓ liberalising the cumulation between work income and pension income (art. 19 DL 112/08 convertito in L. 133/08)

- ✓ Indicating over 50 workers as a priority group for receiving enterprise incentives (L. 247/07);

- ✓ Starting up local level projects designed to promote equal opportunities of job placement and training and testing flexible working patterns; planning redistribution of workloads;

- ✓ Regional authorities pay strong attention to the age management policies with special focus on the development of employability for senior workers. Funds for an amount of 298 MEURO have been issued within the Regional Operational Programmes for the entire period, the interventions have been planned in order to combine aid to workers and support to the enterprises.

National level measures aimed at reducing the effects of the economical crisis:

The scheduled measures aim mainly at **integrating** the worker's income and preserving employment levels of enterprises. Said measures include changes/adjustments in working time.

Concerning training initiatives meant to fight the emergency in employability issues it is recommended to evaluate training needs in order to guarantee an actual enhancement of professional competences of beneficiaries.

Extending income benefits to *non standard* workers, who had been excluded by all previous initiatives and will now receive *una tantum* amount of their yearly income can be considered a remarkable innovation for the Italian social protection system.

The government faced the social-economical emergency caused by financial markets' international crisis according to three strategic lines aimed at supporting the virtuous circle of trust.

1 stability of national finance and of financial intermediaries

2 liquidity (of banks, enterprises and families);

3 employability of people

The government's proposal regarding active defence of jobs can be summarised as follows:

- 1) preserving the highest possible number of job places even at the cost of working time reduction.
- 2) Extending to all employees the income aids and active support of temporary workers having one single employer .
- 3) Extending active support (tutelage) accompanied by a more strict administration of sanctions for lack of responsibility of people who refuse an "adequate" job or training offer.

The guidelines also point out possible mistakes to be avoided while carrying out the actions:

- 1) depriving enterprises of their responsibilities with respect to human resources
- 2) producing a new pool of people entirely depending on social security for whom a reemployment can be difficult even in an after-crisis context.
- 3) Generating a rate of public expenditure which is unsustainable according to the

Some Interventions planned for a senior target group:

- ✓ "Family Bonus ": of 200-1000 € meant to support employees and retired persons with incomes between 15.000 and 22.000 €
- ✓ Social income support: a budget of 1,2 Billion € has been allocated
- ✓ Traders: a monthly indemnity for workers who retire 3 years in advance
- ✓ Journalists: resources have been allocated for retirement in advance.

An additional 8 billion fund to serve purposes of social income support is being issued. The fund is made up of 3 billion euro deriving from national resources and 5 billion euro from the regional structural funds and in these days is under discussion the possibility to increase the total amount.