



CON I BAMBINI

ABOUT US



CON I BAMBINI

THE CONTEXT: CHILD EDUCATIONAL POVERTY IN ITALY

In Italy, over 1 million and 400 thousand adolescents, boys and girls live in absolute poverty and another 2.2 million are in relative poverty. In total, **one third of minors in Italy live in poverty.**

The economic crisis has had a strong impact on the living conditions of children and young people.

Economic poverty is closely linked to educational poverty: the two feed each other and are passed down from generation to generation. Child educational poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, the result of the economic, social and family context in which minors live. It is not only linked to poor economic conditions, but also affects the emotional dimension and those of sociality and the ability to relate to the world. It is a phenomenon that, in fact, affects the future of the country and therefore also concerns the more general dimension of development. This is why it is necessary to pay attention to the issue of educational poverty, placing children, boys and girls, at the centre of present and future actions.

In order to do this, it is necessary to start a common path involving all educational agencies of the territory: the school and the family, the institutions and the third sector world. In general, all those who are part of the educational community, including the children themselves, who from recipients of services become protagonists of their own future.

THE ITALIAN FUND TO COMBAT CHILD EDUCATIONAL POVERTY

At the end of April 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Banking Foundations represented by Acri, with the Third Sector and the Italian Government for the management of the Fund to combat child educational poverty, intended "to support experimental interventions aimed at removing economic, social and cultural obstacles that prevent minors from fully enjoying educational processes". **Overall, the Fund has a value of almost 800 million euros.**

The strategic direction choices of the Fund are defined by a special Strategic Direction Committee in which the Foundations, the Government, Third Sector organizations and representatives of INAPP and EIEF - Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance are equally represented.



Photo by
Riccardo
Venturi from
the exhibition
"Child Nation"

THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE “CON I BAMBINI”

Con i Bambini is a non-profit organization founded in June 2016 to implement the programs of the Fund for the fight against child educational poverty and is entirely owned by Fondazione Con il Sud. The principles that inspire the action of Con i Bambini descend directly from the general objectives set by the promoters (Government, Acri, National Third Sector Forum) at the time of the definition of the Fund for the fight against child educational poverty. The Strategic Steering Committee constantly monitors the maintenance of the adherence of the operations of the implementing body to the inspiring principles of the Fund.

The condition of educational poverty has a multidimensional nature and is not only linked to economic conditions, but is also poverty of relationships, isolation, poor health care and poor nutrition, lack of educational opportunities and opportunities for non-formal learning.

Based on this awareness, Con i Bambini aims to support experimental interventions aimed at removing economic, social and cultural obstacles that prevent children and adolescents from fully enjoying educational processes, ensuring that they are guaranteed the opportunity to learn and experiment, discover their own abilities, develop their skills, and broaden their aspirations, also cultivating the emotional, social and ability to relate to the world dimension. The strategy also aims to develop and consolidate educational communities and activate social support networks for minors and their families in the territories, as well as individual care programs for minors in fragile conditions.

In order to achieve the general objectives of the Fund, Con i Bambini establishes a dialogue and collaboration with numerous public and private bodies.

The mission of Con i Bambini, directly linked to the objectives of the Fund, is implemented in an organic sequence of institutional and operational steps:

- preparation of public tenders and initiatives in implementation of the programming defined by the Strategic Steering Committee;
- definition of the evaluation procedures for each of the tenders and initiatives;
- selection of projects to be supported on the basis of the criteria contained in the evaluation procedure;
- technical-financial support and monitoring of the supported projects, in line with the planned objectives;
- evaluation of the impacts that the initiatives, supported with the Fund's resources, produce on the territory

During 2023, the social enterprise Con i Bambini has carefully followed the implementation of 73 interventions and partnerships. At the same time, it has approved contributions for € 39,171,556 and has paid contributions for € 47,662,994 related to projects in progress and awarded in the past years. As an overall, during 2023, it has examined 570 new proposals.

Con i Bambini, from 2016 to 2023, has issued 21 calls for proposals and has so far assigned a total of over 425.44 million euros. It has thus activated approximately 13,394 partnerships that include 9,095 organizations that find themselves working in constant proximity with nearly half a million minors and their families.

To date, Con i Bambini has promoted the following calls and initiatives:

Early Childhood (0-6 years), Adolescence (11-17 years), New Generations (5-14 years), One step forward, Mending dreams, Changing course, With open arms, A possible tomorrow, Not one less (in collaboration with the Lazio Region), Starting from scratch, Call for educational communities, Proximity meeting spaces, School neighbors, Tools for growing (in collaboration with the CDP Foundation), Everyone included, Free to grow, Call for the psychological and social well-being of adolescents, Growing up is a job (in collaboration with JPMorgan and the Con il Sud Foundation).

In October 2021, the initiative “With Afghan children” was promoted, for the educational support and inclusion of minors and families who came to Italy from Afghanistan.

In August 2023, a notice was published by the Municipality of Milan and Con i Bambini for the co-design of interventions on the protagonism of adolescents.

In November 2023, the “Beyond the emergency” initiative was promoted for the co-design of interventions in the areas affected by the flood of May 2023.

In addition to these initiatives, there are the implementation of over 40 project ideas linked to initiatives co-financed with other funding bodies (four editions of the call published to date) and 6 participatory design interventions in the areas of Central Italy affected by the 2016 earthquake.

The element of impact assessment has been introduced in the management of the calls.



“O.L.T.R.E. l’approdo” project selected by Con i Bambini

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Strategic Steering Committee of the Fund, given the experimental nature of the initiative and the heterogeneity of the contexts in which the initiatives are carried out, has considered the development of an impact assessment strategy for projects to be a priority.

Con i Bambini has foreseen the ex-post impact assessment of projects since the first calls for proposals, requiring proponents to develop specific systems to be entrusted to qualified bodies, with recognized and documented skills. This choice, also in reference to the high number of interventions launched in the country, represents an absolute novelty in social planning. The reference principles that will have to guide the evaluation analyses are:

- methodological rigor: clear and contextualized indication of the methodological foundations that guide the evaluation research;
- social impact: evidence of the actual change generated on the recipients with respect to the condition of educational poverty and general outcomes on the territorial communities of reference of the project;
- dissemination and learning: development of observations on the impact generated (lessons learned and recommendations) and their dissemination among the different levels of actors involved in the project.

In consideration of the specific nature of the different projects, social impact assessment can involve various levels, from micro ones, linked to the changes generated on the direct recipients, to macro ones, which affect the systems and communities of reference.

With respect to the calls for proposals aimed at specific areas of child educational poverty, the impact assessment of the projects will be oriented to favor a meta-assessment and not only the assessment of the impact of the individual project.

In addition to the impact assessment, Con i Bambini has planned careful monitoring of the projects since the beginning of its activity. This activity represents a concrete demonstration of attention towards the recipients of the contributions, as well as an act of responsibility and guarantee towards the stakeholders on the correct use of the resources and the achievement of the institutional goals of the Foundation.

The process involves the collection of useful information to understand the progress of the initiatives, to verify the achievement of the expected results, to promote the dissemination of good practices and to intervene in critical cases. In this way, an effective circular process of returning information and data from the monitoring process (in itinere and ex post) to the selection process (ex ante) is guaranteed.

#CONIBAMBINI OBSERVATORY

The #conibambini Observatory was born from the collaboration between Con i Bambini and Openpolis to promote a debate on the condition of minors in Italy, starting from the educational, cultural and social opportunities offered. The main contribution of the Observatory is the creation, in the data journalism mode, of a database that allows social workers, communication, media and PA to analyze these phenomena, no longer and not only in an aggregate way, usually on a national or regional scale, but on a municipal and sub-municipal scale. The Observatory's analyses are developed along five main thematic dimensions: school, culture, social services, sports and digital inequalities.

In 2023, the #conibambini Observatory produced 49 in-depth analyses including national reports, territorial maps and thematic updates. Furthermore, we highlight the collaboration with Acri and the Regional Consultations of the Foundations for the presentation and dissemination of territorial reports, offering institutions, media and public opinion an overall vision of the phenomenon, combining the data with knowledge of the experiences of combating educational poverty in the territory possible thanks to the Fund.

Among the topics addressed: the inclusion of minors with disabilities, the impact of exclusion and educational poverty on youth hardship, minors and sport, the presence of services for minors in Italian municipalities, the gaps in nursery schools in Italy, digital inequalities, the economic consequences of the pandemic on the youngest, the risky behaviors of the youngest, foreign minors in Italy, victims of femicide and gender-based violence.

Weekly updates are published every Tuesday on www.conibambini.org/osservatorio and on conibambini.openpolis.it

PATHS WITH CHILDREN

Percorsiconibambini.it is the portal dedicated to the projects selected within the Fund. A space where the projects tell their stories, sharing experiences, reporting events and activities in the territories, to bring attention to the issue of educational poverty and share good networking practices. Each project has its own blog within the network in which to publish articles, photos, videos and any useful information so that the community is always updated on the initiatives that arise in the territories. Currently, the portal has over 580 blogs and more than 1,341 registered organizations.

CON MAGAZINE

Con Magazine.it is the «participatory» video magazine promoted by Fondazione Con il Sud and Con i Bambini, created with the aim of exploring the social that dialogues with other worlds: school, culture, sports, economy, environment, communication. The magazine is edited by the communication area of the two entities directly involving the communication referents of the projects, to make known and share stories, experiences and models that leverage social cohesion. It expresses a vision of society that leverages the participatory process, through the contribution of experts and attentive observers, but above all giving a voice directly to the protagonists: children, operators, educators, families, institutions, businesses, foundations and third parties

ONLINE CONTEST

Con i Bambini periodically promotes free contests, in which hundreds of children, young people and families have interacted so far for a total of over 2,000 works created. A preview is available on the Con i Bambini website on the "Contest" page.

CHILD NATION – GROWING UP IN ITALY

Child Nation – Growing up in Italy, with over 80 photos by Riccardo Venturi, twice Word Press Photo and a long experience on the theme of childhood, and a documentary by Arianna Massimi, crosses dozens of "educational construction sites", among the over 600 selected throughout Italy and places at the center of the journey the theme of inequalities and marginalization, social exclusion and school dropout with the aim of highlighting the complexity and difficulties, but also the possibilities for renewal and the necessary and possible change of direction through experiments and "educational alliances" between schools, the third sector, institutions and families as happens with the projects described in the exhibition.

The exhibition, promoted and produced by Con i Bambini as part of the Fund, was hosted from October 28, 2022 to February 26, 2023 at the Museum of Rome in Trastevere, then became itinerant in Italy and abroad. To date, the exhibition has stopped in Biella from April 15 to May 14, 2023, in Bergamo from May 25 to June 4, 2023, in Cuneo from July 8 to September 10, 2023, in Turin from June 12 to September 10, 2023 and in Brussels from October 17, 2023 to January 12, 2024 hosted by Philea in the House of Philanthropy.

From the Imagna and Brembana Valleys to Favara and Ragusa, touching the outskirts of large cities, the reportage addresses highly topical issues that have often become real emergencies due to the pandemic and the lockdown. The increase in phenomena linked to eating disorders, xenophobia, drug addiction, social isolation with the phenomenon of hikikomori and needs, the degradation of the suburbs, domestic violence has further highlighted the fragility of our society, highlighting how the issue of marginalization is not an isolated fact but a complex and stratified social phenomenon.



CON I BAMBINI
IMPRESA SOCIALE

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CON I BAMBINI SRL

Non-profit organization founded to implement the programs of the Fund for the fight against child educational poverty. Entirely owned by Fondazione Con il Sud

www.conibambini.org
www.percorsiconibambini.it



Cover photo by Riccardo Venturi from the exhibition "Child Nation. Growing up in Italy"