

bes | 2013

EQUITABLE
AND SUSTAINABLE
WELLBEING IN ITALY
SUMMARY



Preface

In this first Report on “Equitable and Sustainable Well-being” (Benessere Equo e Sostenibile - Bes) the National Council for Economics and Labour (Cnel) and the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) present the results of an inter-institutional initiative of great scientific importance, which places Italy in the forefront of the international panorama for the development of well-being indicators going “beyond GDP”.

In recent years, the debate on how to measure the well-being of individuals and societies has been of primary interest to global public opinion. The crises of the last few years (food, energy and environmental, financial, economic and social) have made clear the urgent need to develop new statistical measures capable of guiding decision-makers in policy making, as well as firms’ and citizens’ individual behaviours. While gross domestic product (GDP) remains undeniably important as a way to measure national economic results, it is essential to complement it with economic, environmental and social indicators able to provide a comprehensive assessment of society’s conditions and progress.

In line with the most advanced experiences that are being developed all over the world, in December 2010 Cnel and Istat committed themselves to provide the society with a measurement tool capable of identifying the underlying elements of well-being in Italy. This result has been achieved through the involvement not only of some of the major experts in the various aspects which contribute to well-being (health, environment, employment, economic conditions, etc.), but also of the Italian society itself, through discussions and exchange of views with thousands of citizens, along with meetings held with institutions, social partners and NGOs. This is why Bes indicators aim at becoming a sort of “Statistical Constitution”, providing a constant and shared point of reference for the Italian society, capable of leading the way to achieve the progress which the society itself is looking for.

The result of this effort is described in this Report, written in a language accessible to everyone, while the body of statistical and methodological information developed during the project is available on www.misuredelbenessere.it. We hope that the Bes 2013 Report will be publicised through the channels dedicated to institutional information and debated in the highest institutional settings, including the recently formed Parliament and its commissions. As it happens in some countries, the reports which accompany new legislation could try to evaluate their impact on the various aspects of Bes.

In 2005, Cnel had already elaborated a project entitled “indicators for sustainable development”, approved during the Council Assembly held on 28 April 2005. Istat, meanwhile, is developing a range of econometric models to be used as policy forecasting and assessment tools capable of including various factors of well-being. However, the set of indicators of Equitable and Sustainable Well-being used in this Report must not be seen as definitive: the experts consulted over these months have already suggested improvements aiming, for example, at providing a more accurate picture of economic, social and environmental sustainability of the country’s current development process. Moreover, initiatives have been launched to extend the availability of indicators to both provincial and metropolitan levels.

Additional proposals will emerge from the practical application of the selected indicators. Therefore, the “Bes 2013” Report is only the first step of a path along which Cnel and Istat engage to continue, aiming at making the country more aware of its strengths and of the issues to overcome in order to improve the quality of life of its present and future citizens, placing this concept at the centre of public policy and individual choices.

Antonio Marzano
President of Cnel

Enrico Giovannini
President of Istat

Equitable and sustainable well-being

What do we mean when we refer to societal well-being? **The concept of well-being changes according to historical periods, places and cultures** and cannot therefore be defined simply according to a theoretical format. Moreover, scientific research in this field shows us that, at the moment, **no single statistical indicator is capable to fully represent a society's state of well-being**, leaving us to refer to a range of measures. This is why the choice of the main dimensions of well-being to which a society should refer, and therefore the indicators chosen to represent them, requires the **direct involvement of the various components of the society**. If well organised, this process provides an important democratic legitimisation for the measures chosen to represent the concept of well-being, something which is essential if they are to be used to identify possible priorities for political action.

Following these considerations and recommendations made at the international level, a process was initiated in Italy to identify a shared measurement of well-being at the national level, to become a reference point for public debate and to be used to guide important democratic choices for the country's future. In order to define the essential elements of well-being in Italy, **Cnel** and **Istat** set up a **"Steering Committee for the measurement of progress in the Italian society"** composed of representatives from social partners and the civil society. Furthermore, Istat established a large and qualified Scientific Commission of experts from the various domains of societal well-being.

This organisational approach stemmed from the consideration that there are two essential elements for measuring progress: the first, strictly political, relates to the contents of the concept of well-being; the second, of a technical-scientific nature, concerns the measurement of the relevant concepts. As a result, Cnel, a constitutional body representing the civil society (its members include representatives from associations, trade unions and the third sector) and Istat, an institution where experts operate in the measurement of the various economic, social and environmental phenomena, have combined their forces to reach a joint definition of a shared set of indicators to be used to define the state and progress of our country.

The concept chosen for this exercise was the one of **"Equitable and Sustainable Well-being"** and the project aimed at analysing the levels, time trends and distribution of its various components, in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses, as well as particular territorial imbalances or advantaged/disadvantaged social groups, considering them from an inter-generational point of view (sustainability).

The result is summarised in this first report on Equitable and Sustainable Well-being in Italy, whose main features are reported below.



People are living longer, but with stronger social inequality

Average lifespan continues to increase, with Italy being one of the countries of Europe with the highest life expectancy. Despite their historical advantage over men in terms of life expectancy (which, however, is decreasing), **women have a disadvantage in terms of the quality of survival**: on average, more than a third of their lives are lived in poor health conditions. The **South is doubly penalised**, with shorter average life expectancy and fewer years lived without health limitations. At the age of 65, women living in this area can count on an average 7.3 years of life without limitations affecting their daily activities, while women of the same age in the North have another 10.4 years ahead of them.

Child **mortality** due to road accidents and tumours, which can be counted under so-called “avoidable causes of death”, is falling in the long term, while the number of deaths due to senile dementia and nervous system diseases is rising. However, the population continues to be threatened by **dangerous behaviours**: obesity is rising (approximately 45% of the adult population is overweight or obese), while smoking, after 10 years, has fallen only slightly, and not among young people (the percentage of smokers over the age of 14 was 23.7% in 2001; ten years later the percentage, which had remained stable since 2004, has fallen by only 1%). Cases of alcohol abuse have also risen among young people. A large percentage of adults have a sedentary lifestyle (approximately 40% do not have any physical activity in their free time); furthermore, in Italy more than 80% of the population consumes less than the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables.

All of these elements represent risk factors not only for the current health of the population, but also and above all for the future, if they continue to be part of the population’s lifestyle. Once again, **people from the South and from the lower social groups continue to be disadvantaged** in all of the areas considered.

Education and training



Delay in comparison with Europe, but slowly improving

Education and well-being go hand in hand, but **despite the improvements of the last decade, Italy is still not able to offer to all young people the chance for an adequate education**. There is a delay in comparison with the European average and a strong territorial gap in all the indicators regarding education, continuing education and skill levels. For example, in Italy the percentage of people aged 30-34 who have a university qualification is of 20.3%, against a European average of 34.6%.

The level of education and skills which young people achieve depends strongly from their social background, socio-economic situation and geographical location. There is a marked gap in literacy and numeracy skills between students in secondary schools and professional training institutes which cannot simply be justified by the different vocation of the institutes: furthermore, the education system is profoundly different between North and South. Family background also strongly affect the results, to the point that children of parents with compulsory education as highest qualification have a drop-out rate of 27.7%, against a rate of 2.9% among children of parents with at least a university degree.

Education and training aims to achieve and maintain adequate knowledge and skills in order to increase people's employability, promote development and reach an adequate lifestyle for the complex society in which we live. In view of this, the **curriculum is not limited to formal education**, but is a constant process which starts before compulsory schooling, with the stimulus received from the home environment during early childhood and in nursery school, and extends beyond secondary school or university with continuing education and cultural participation activities in general. Regarding this process of "lifelong learning", **the situation improved** between 2004 and 2011 **for nearly all the indicators considered, although Italy did not manage to close the gap with the rest of Europe** and continues to display a series of critical issues. In the first place, the economic crisis that has hit young people particularly hard leading to a rise (from 19.5% in 2009 to 22.7% in 2011) in the percentage of NEET, i.e. young people aged 15-29 who are not in employment, education or training. Moreover, there was a clear decrease in the level of cultural participation: in particular, after a period of stability, in 2012 the indicator showed a sharp fall to 32.8% from 37.1% in 2011. **Territorial differences remain strong**: in 2011 the percentage of people between the ages of 25-64 with at least a secondary school diploma was 59% in the North and 48.7% in the South. Similarly, in the South NEETs accounted for 31.9% of the total population in the same age range, twice as in the North (15.4%).

An improvement in the level of education and skills to reduce territorial and social inequalities and guarantee greater opportunities for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds appears, therefore, to be a priority for our country.

Work and life balance



A serious waste of resources, exacerbated by the crisis

All available indicators show a **poor use of human resources in Italy, especially with regard to women and young people employment**. The rate of employment and non-participation in the labour market, already among the worst in the European Union, further deteriorated in recent years due to the economic crisis. The employment rate for the population between the ages 20-64 fell from 63% in 2008 to 61.2% in 2011, while the rate of non-participation in the labour market rose from 15.6% to 17.9%.

Nearly all the indicators for quality of employment also worsened, and not only due to the negative economic situation. While a constant level of short-term employment contracts indicates the continuation of a condition of **labour market instability**, the crisis drastically reduced the chances of stabilisation for temporary contracts, especially among young people (the percentage of those passing from a fixed-term to a permanent contract fell from 25.7% in 2008 to 20.9% in 2011). The share of low-wage workers (10.5%) and not regularly employed (10.3%) remained substantially stable in recent years, although **the percentage of workers who were over-qualified for their activities rose** (21.1% in 2010). Nonetheless, **on overall the Italian workforce has a positive perception of its condition** (average rating: 7.3 out of 10), especially regarding their interest in the work they perform.

Inequalities in the access to employment (territorial, generational and citizenship) also became sharper due to the crisis. The exception was for the employment gap between men and women, as the crisis had a heavier impact on typically male jobs in construction and manufacturing: however, the gender gap remains one of the highest in Europe (the employment rate at 20-64 years is of 72.6% for men and 49.9% for women). After Spain, Italy is the European country with the **highest level of unemployment among young people**, and the only country where an entire macro-region has exceptionally low regular employment opportunities. The various aspects of employment quality also show continuing and conspicuous inequalities to the disadvantage of women, young people and the South.

Moreover, it is interesting to note how the elements which define satisfaction vary between men and women: men rate earnings as the most important aspect, while women are more satisfied by workplace relations, working hours and the distance between home and work. In fact, employment quality for women cannot ignore the difficulties of balancing work and home life. Even if the **asymmetry in family work is slowly diminishing**, the percentage of women with an overload of hours dedicated to work (paid or not) did not fall over time (39.2% in 2008), just as the ratio between the employment rate for women with pre-school age children and for women without children did not increase, remaining stable at 72%. The conditions were worse for women in the South, leading to the supposition that a lack of services contributes to dissatisfaction.

Lastly, regarding **foreign workers**, on the whole the crisis did not heavily penalise their rate of participation in the labour market (which fell to 66.2% in 2011 from 69.8% in 2005), but exclusively affected male employment rates. There was also a marked and growing disadvantage in terms of employment quality in comparison to Italians: the percentage of over-qualified workers was over twice that of Italian workers (42.3% against 19%).

Economic well-being



Social security and family networks have softened the crisis, but deprivation and poverty are on the rise

Italian families have traditionally been characterised by a high tendency to save, widespread home ownership, a limited tendency to incur debts and a less marked unequal distribution of wealth than income levels in comparison with other European countries. Given a welfare system which has always been focused on pensions, families have acted as a buffer protecting society's weaker members (children, young people and the elderly), at times hiding the difficulties faced by young people of both genders and women of all ages in accessing economic independence (especially in the case of significant family workloads for women).

The economic crisis of the last five years is revealing the limitations of this model, accentuating inequality between social classes, profound territorial differences and further reducing the already scarce social mobility. During this period, certain segments of the population and areas of the country were particularly hardly hit by job losses: the percentage of individuals in jobless households passed from 5.1% in 2007 to 7.2% in 2011, with a more accentuated trend among young people under the age of 25 (among whom it rose from 5.4% to 8%) and in the South (increasing from 9.9% to 13.5%). Purchasing power, i.e. the available income of families in real terms, fell by 5% between 2007 and 2011, although this did not translate into a significant rise in poverty and severe deprivation until 2009 (stable at 18.4% and 7% respectively), thanks to the increasing interventions of income support for workers (unemployment benefits and salary integration) and the contribution of family support networks.

In fact, **families softened the effect of the gradual erosion of purchasing power by falling back on their capital, saving less and, in some cases, running into debt** (the percentage of people in families who received financial or other aid from non-cohabiting relatives, friends, institutions or other sources rose from 15.3% in 2010 to 18.8% in 2011, and the percentage of indebted households rose from 2.3% to 6.5% in the first nine months of 2012). As the crisis continued, **the situation deteriorated considerably in 2011**, confirmed by the rise in indicators of material deprivation: serious deprivation rose by 4.2%, increasing from 6.9% to 11.1%, while the risk of poverty calculated by 2010 income rose from 13.6% to 15.1% in Central Italy and from 31% to 34.5% in the South. Moreover, income inequalities rose too: the ratio between the income owned by the top 20% earners and the lowest 20% rose from 5.1 in 2008 to 5.6 in 2011.

Social relationships



Scarce trust in other people, heavy reliance on family networks, strong social networks but only in some areas of the country

In our country, we typically rely on “short” forms of solidarity and “close” ties, in particular family relations. Both in times of hardship and in normal day-to-day activities, **family represents a fundamental network of support**, an important point of reference which - with all the limitations and difficulties imposed by recent social and economic transformations - still appears to function and provide considerable assistance to Italians. In fact, in 2012 36.8% of people over the age of 14 stated that they were very satisfied by family relations; this is in addition to 54.2% who were quite satisfied. However, **the resulting burden of care - especially for women - risks to become excessive, also due to the absence of certain social services.**

A network of relations with non-cohabitant relatives and friends develops around families, **performing a fundamental role in providing assistance** which individuals and families are used to rely on. In 2009, nearly 76% of the population stated that they had relatives, friends or neighbours who they could count on and 30% provided free assistance. Associations and volunteer organisations represent a wealth for our country, which, however, is not distributed over the entire territory and is less present in the South, where the need is greatest: in particular, 13.1% of the population over the age of 14 resident in the North stated that they perform voluntary activities, in comparison with 6% in the South.

In addition to these networks there are “the others”, the society as a whole, to which citizens show profound diffidence. In 2012, only 20% of people over the age of 14 believed that most people are trustworthy, lower than in 2010 (21.7%) and even lower in the South (15.2%). Italy is one of the OECD countries with the lowest levels of trust in others, especially in comparison with countries such as Denmark and Finland, where the percentage of people who trust others reaches 60%.

Therefore, we are living in a society where the presence of social, family and volunteer networks are not enough to guarantee a strong social fabric: in the South, in particular, all forms of social networks appear to be weaker than elsewhere in the country and trust towards others is at its lowest. Moreover, a country with low levels of trust between citizens may find it more difficult to create the conditions for a fully satisfactory economic and social life.

Politics and institutions



Politics is increasingly distant from its citizens

Mistrust of parties, Parliament, regional, provincial and municipal councils and the judicial system: figures show a transversal lack of trust from all segments of the population, all areas of the country and the various social classes. In March 2012, the worst rating for citizens' trust in institutions concerns political parties: the average trust of citizens in political parties, on a scale of 0 to 10, was of just 2.3; this was followed by Parliament (3.6), local authorities (4) and the judicial system (4.4). The only "institutions" which citizens trusted were the fire brigade (8.1) and the police (6.5).

Given this situation, it is hardly surprising that political participation is low and falling. In 2009, for the latest European elections, the participation rate fell to 65.1% (85.7% in 1979). However, we should note that this participation is expressed on several levels: interest in public affairs does not necessarily correspond to supporting politics in a strict sense, but may also involve inquiring or exchanging opinions on political matters. In 2012, **the population over the age of 14 who participates in civil and political life**, i.e. who speaks or finds out about politics at least once a week or had participated online at least once in the last three months, **remained stable at 67%**. In this regard, although the number of **cyber citizens**, i.e. those (especially young people) who find information through the internet, rose (from 12% to 17.4%), a large part of the population still does not participate in politics in any form and the percentage of those who do talk and find out about politics appears to be falling.

While citizens in general appear to be uninterested in politics, women consider it as extraneous to their interests. This is hardly surprising considering that **the number of women elected in parliamentary assemblies and the most important public and private sector decision-making bodies continues to remain very low**. The gender imbalance in Parliament and Regional Councils continues to be particularly marked: in the 2008 elections, the number of women elected in the Parliament accounted for only 20.3% of the total, and the percentage of women in Regional Councils was even lower (12.9% in 2012). In the same way, in spite of the rise due to a recent law, in mid-2012 only 10.6% of the members of the governing boards of companies quoted on the stock exchange were female.

Security



Criminality rates have fallen, but improvement stopped

From the early 1990s onwards, criminality has fallen both for crimes against property and homicides. For homicides, car theft and muggings, there was a net and continuing fall (rates per 100,000 population fell from 2.6 to 0.9 for homicide, from 100.2 to 29.1 for muggings and from 572.6 to 327.3 for car theft). The number of muggings stopped falling in 1998, and the trend continued to vary in the subsequent years. For burglaries, after a significant fall recorded up until the early part of the last decade (from 341 per 100,000 population in 1992 to 296 in 2002), the trend started to rise from 2006 onwards, although varying considerably over time. The fall in robberies stopped as early as 1995 (from 55.9 in 1992 to 50.3 in 1995), when the number began to rise sharply again up until 2007 (86.2). In the following years, however, the trend fell slightly. According to recent data, in 2011 the number of muggings and burglaries appear to be rising once again.

From 2002 to 2009, the sense of insecurity rose among all ages and more sharply among women than men (the percentage of people who feel very or quite safe fell from 64.6% in 2002 to 59.6% in 2009). The population's sense of insecurity is not necessarily a result of the level of criminality, but also relates to the level of decay of the environment in which we live: in 2009, the percentage of citizens who often saw situations of decay in their neighbourhood was of 15.6%. **Women are particularly concerned about the risk of sexual violence**, a fear which is shared by more than half of them (52.1%) and which has been growing sharply since 2002. On the other hand, violence against women is a widespread phenomenon and takes place in a variety of forms (physical, sexual and psychological, inside and outside the family). While men homicides diminish, this is not the case for femicides. Moreover, violence against women is a largely hidden phenomenon.

Subjective well-being



High levels of life satisfaction, though falling in the last year

Italians are generally satisfied with their lives, although the uncertainty of the economic and social situation is having a negative impact on both behaviours and perceptions. In fact, until 2011 nearly half the population over 14 stated high levels of satisfaction for their lives as a whole, indicating a score of between 8 and 10 (on a scale of 0 to 10). However, in 2012 the signs of hardship, crisis and insecurity, already recorded by the traditional economic indicators, have also had a significant impact on the level of overall satisfaction. In fact, the percentage of the population indicating high levels of satisfaction in life in general fell from 45.8% in 2011 to 35.2% in 2012. The gap in subjective well-being on a territorial and social level also rose, along with new differences: satisfaction with life fell more in the South (recorded at 29.5% against 40.6% in the North) and among those with a lower level of education and employment conditions. At the same time, despite the difficult situation, in 2012 a quarter of the population over 14 declared to have expectations of improvement for the future.

Satisfaction regarding the personal economic situation worsened considerably: against a stable 2.5% of those who declared to be very satisfied, in 2012 both the percentage of those who declared little satisfaction and those who declared no satisfaction at all for their personal economic situation rose (respectively, from 36.1% to 38.9% and from 13.4% to 16.8%). Meanwhile, the percentage of those who were quite satisfied fell from 45.9% to 40.3%.

A fundamental aspect of quality of life, leisure, although considered as very satisfactory by a small part of the population (15.6%), did not appear to be involved in the fall in overall life satisfaction recorded in 2012. In fact, in comparison with the previous year, **the number of those stating that they were very satisfied by their free time rose across the whole country**, in particular in the North and South. The positive trend on a national level also applied to other areas of daily life involving relationships with friends and family.

Landscape and cultural heritage



A great wealth not adequately protected

Our country's cultural heritage, the result of a combination of an extraordinary stratification of civilisations and the wealth and diversity of its environments, represents a priceless value for the society. The long and complex history of human settlement in a relatively small and very diverse territory in terms of climate and geo-morphological structure has produced an accumulation of cultural heritage and a mosaic of human environments that is unique for both size and importance, with 47 national sites listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites and a density of cultural assets - monuments, museums, archaeological sites, etc. - of more than 33 per hundred square kilometres.

However, our historical and artistic heritage suffers from **limited economic resources dedicated to the sector** (public spending in Italy on cultural activities is of 0.4% of GDP), **a failure to respect regulations** (more than 15 illegal homes are built for each 100 legally constructed homes) and a lack of precise controls by the authorities: the countryside is threatened by **constant and often uncontrolled urban expansion**, to the point that agricultural areas affected by urban sprawl (in transition from rural to urban) represent 20% of the national territory. This adds to the negative effects of the radical transformation of agriculture, with the **erosion of active agricultural areas due to the discontinuation of certain crops and gradual depopulation**, phenomena which apply to 28.3% of the national territory.

The resulting hardship is felt by a consistent part of the Italian population: **18.3% of citizens are dissatisfied by the landscape where they live and 20.4% are concerned by the impoverishment of natural resources** (15.8% in 1998), alarming signals for what has been known for centuries as "the garden of Europe".

Environment



Some signs of improvement and persisting problems

Our well-being is closely linked to the state of the environment where we live, along with the stability and entity of available natural resources. Therefore, in order to guarantee and increase current and future well-being, it is essential to try and meet human needs by promoting development activities that do not compromise the conditions and balances of natural ecosystems.

In Italy, the signals regarding the quality of the soil and territory are contradictory: in particular, **the amount of urban green spaces and protected areas is increasing** (in comparison with 2000, provincial capitals have 3.1 square metres extra green space per capita), **but hydro-geological degradation still remains a serious risk throughout the national territory**. This adds to the health and environmental risks due to pollution in many areas of our country, which require safety and sanitation operations: there are currently 57 sites of national interest requiring environmental recovery, for a total of 545,000 hectares, the equivalent of 1.8% of the national territory.

Water and air quality are also fundamental aspects for human well-being and health. The use of drinking water, 253 litres per capita every day in 2008, was in line with European average and has remained substantially constant since 1999, although 32% is still lost through inefficiencies in distribution networks. Regarding air pollution, the threshold level of PM10 (atmospheric pollution particulates) was exceeded 54,4 days during 2011 in the major Italian cities. This represents an increase with respect to the 44.6 days of 2010, with negative consequences for human health protection.

The use of energy from renewable sources is increasing, rising from 15.5% of total energy use in 2004 to 22.2% in 2010, above the EU average of 19.9%. Moreover, the use of national material resources fell, although it is too soon to point to a “de-materialisation” trend in the Italian economy. Lastly, **anthropic emissions of climate-altering gases from industrial activities and family uses fell**: from 10 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per capita in 2003-2004 to just over 8 in 2009, although this may also be due to the significant impact of the economic crisis on industrial production levels, and therefore on emissions.

Research and innovation



Companies are more committed to innovation, but the gap with EU average remains

Italy lags considerably behind the most advanced European countries in terms of research and patent registrations, while it is better placed in terms of the propensity to innovation of enterprises. The ratio between research and development (R&D) expenditure and GDP is stable at 1.3%, against a European average of 2% and a target of 3%. More than half of this spending comes from enterprises, although we are still a long way off European targets for private sector spending. The number of patents is also low (73.3 per million population against a European average of 108.6), while high-technology sectors account for 3.3% of overall jobs (3.8% in Europe) and the so-called “knowledge workers” (i.e. graduates or employed in technical-scientific sectors) represent only 13.3% of total jobs (against 18.8% average in the EU). On the other hand, between 2008 and 2010 **54% of Italian enterprises introduced product, process, organisation or marketing innovations**, against an EU average of 49%.

Regarding the spread of technological knowledge, **internet use increased in recent years** to cover 54% of the population aged 16-74, but still remains 16 points below the European average. Furthermore, the technological divide that affects the South, elderly, women and people with a low level of education is still strong and does not show any significant sign of improvement.

Quality of services



Still delays, with significant improvements

The analysis of the range of services typically guaranteed to the members of a modern society such as the Italian one shows a diversified picture. **The quality of social services is not always adequate, although significant progress has been made over time.** For example, waiting lists remain an important obstacle to accessing national health services; on the other hand, the number of elderly people receiving home assistance has doubled in recent years, and many more children were accepted into early childcare structures, although the percentage of children who use these services remains low (14%). The situation in the South remains worse than in the rest of the country.

The level of public utility services, such as gas, electricity and water, improved. The number of families who complains about problems with water distribution fell from 17% in 2004 to 8.9% in 2012: nonetheless, the situation remains critical in Calabria and Sicily, where more than a quarter of the population still suffers from supply interruptions.

Huge steps forward have been made in **waste sorting collection**, which has reached 35.3%, although the country is still a long way from the standards of the best performing EU states: as a result, too much waste (nearly half) is sent to landfill. **Public transport infrastructures have been slightly increased** as well, although without significantly reducing the time spent by people in their daily traveling (76 minutes).

Lastly, figures reveal the **dramatic situation of those living in Italian prisons**, where high levels of overcrowding (139.7 prisoners per every 100 beds) do not allow adequate living conditions for prisoners.



Findings in brief of Bes 2013 report by Cnel and Istat on Equitable and Sustainable Wellbeing in Italy: the most important elements within the twelve domains of citizens' wellbeing and a summarising table of current trends.