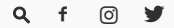


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Censis-Tendercapital Report: 600 thousand new poor people in Italy, in 5 million without regular meals

di Redazione Trieste All News - 1 Dicembre 2020

01.12.2020 – 14.30 – During this pandemic, both the government and Italian citizens had to face numerous challenges, including the fight against social inequalities, the creation of development models to **improve the quality of life**, the need to guarantee and protect health at a regional level and the adoption of an eco-sustainable and effective economy.

These issues are addressed in the second **Censis-Tendercapital report on Good Investments**, in which greater attention is paid to sustainability in particular.

According to the report, **5 million Italians have difficulties in putting decent meals on the table** and **600,000 people have joined the "new" poor**; 7.6 million families have suffered a severe deterioration in their standard of living, as a result of reduced incomes and fixed expenses to be faced; 23.2 million have had to face difficulties due to reduced family incomes; 2 million have already been hard hit in the first wave of the pandemic; 9 million Italians have supplemented their incomes from families or banks.

Today, being without an income is no longer so difficult: **53% of low-income workers fear it**; while **42% of Italians see their jobs at risk**.

The report also highlights the main social differences:

- **The gender gap in women's employment:** during this emergency period, in fact, the employment rate of women has fallen almost twice as much as that of men. In other words, in the second quarter of 2020, the employment rate for women was 48.4% (-2.2% compared to 2019), while that for men reached 66.6% (-1.3%);
- **The generation gap between young and older people:** in addition to the difficulty of integrating young people into the world of work, other phenomena that affect young workers compared to adult workers are atypical contracts and the gig economy, i.e. "earning a living, or supplementing one's income, doing casual work, without a contract, only when required or when one can".
- **The difficulty of accessing the web:** this element automatically creates a condition of social distance. In this regard, it emerges from the report that 40% of households with a low socio-economic level do not have access to the web.

Censis president **Giuseppe De Rita**, moreover, once again raises the alarm by saying that "Italy is a country that has been capitalising for many years, and the country has grown in wealth and this wealth is accumulating and continues to grow, without these resources being adequately

reinvested".

According to this year's data, he pointed out, we will have a family wealth of about **17 thousand billion euros**, a value equivalent to Italy's GDP for the whole year.

According to De Rita, "this attitude of accumulation of wealth by Italians is due to the fact that many public interventions (between incentives for home and various bonuses) have led to an increase in the patrimonial culture".

Unfortunately, this wealth is badly distributed among Italians and remains in the hands of a privileged portion of society.

In this regard, the Chairman said that during this emergency, it was the employees, especially civil servants and employees, who saved the most this year.

"Even with the **Covid-19** and the crisis, the collective asset and savings dimension has been squeezed into the Italian middle class". "Today the Italian middle class must be encouraged to reinvest, to get back into the game, to go abroad or send their children there, and cannot remain anchored to its deep-rooted vocation to "avare de Molière" to accumulate," continued **De Rita**. "And if we continue to accumulate so much, in the end we are only counting coins without creating development".

But what do Italians think? In an interview on the economy and the future, 86% of those interviewed said that, when we come out of the health emergency, we should not let products from countries that do not comply with social and health rules into our country.

82.3% of Italians are also in favour of measures to ensure that plants and companies that produce strategic goods and services remain in Italy; while 50% of people say they are ready to spend their money as consumers or savers on those sectors and companies that respect social sustainability.

On the latter point in particular, 76.4% of Italians think that environmental sustainability measures have penalised low-income people too much: 53.2%, for example, say they are against the introduction of other taxes on cars, motorbikes and boilers that are considered polluting, because in the end, those in worse economic conditions can afford only such products.

On the other hand, **74.6% are against the increase in public transport ticket prices** to finance the purchase of environmentally friendly vehicles; finally, two thirds of Italians argue that social sustainability should be the priority.

In conclusion, Italians expect companies and financial institutions to integrate the criteria of social sustainability into the normality of their business relations and into the daily routine of their activities.

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