"Addressing mental health and psychosocial support needs
of children and youth in Italy"

Project objective

The TSI will contribute in supporting the wide range of activities in which the Ministry of Health is committed in promoting mental health among children and adolescents
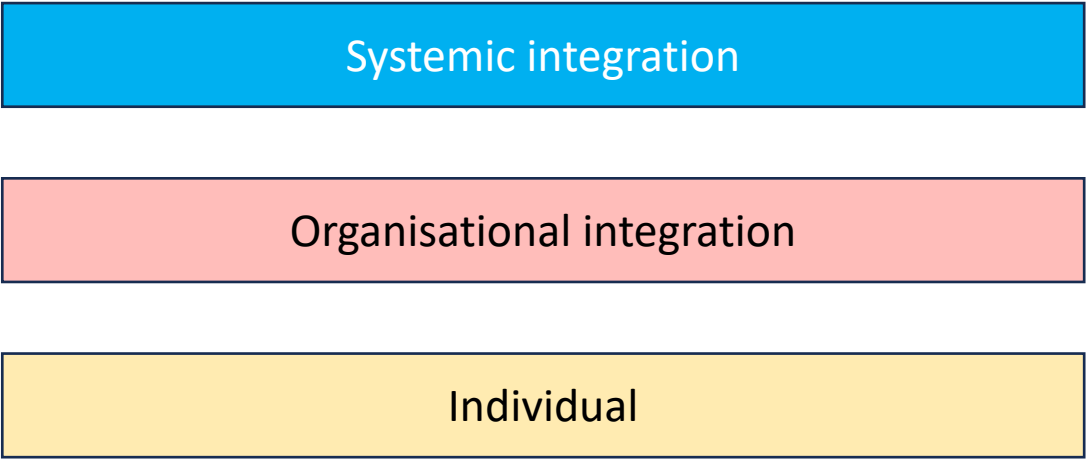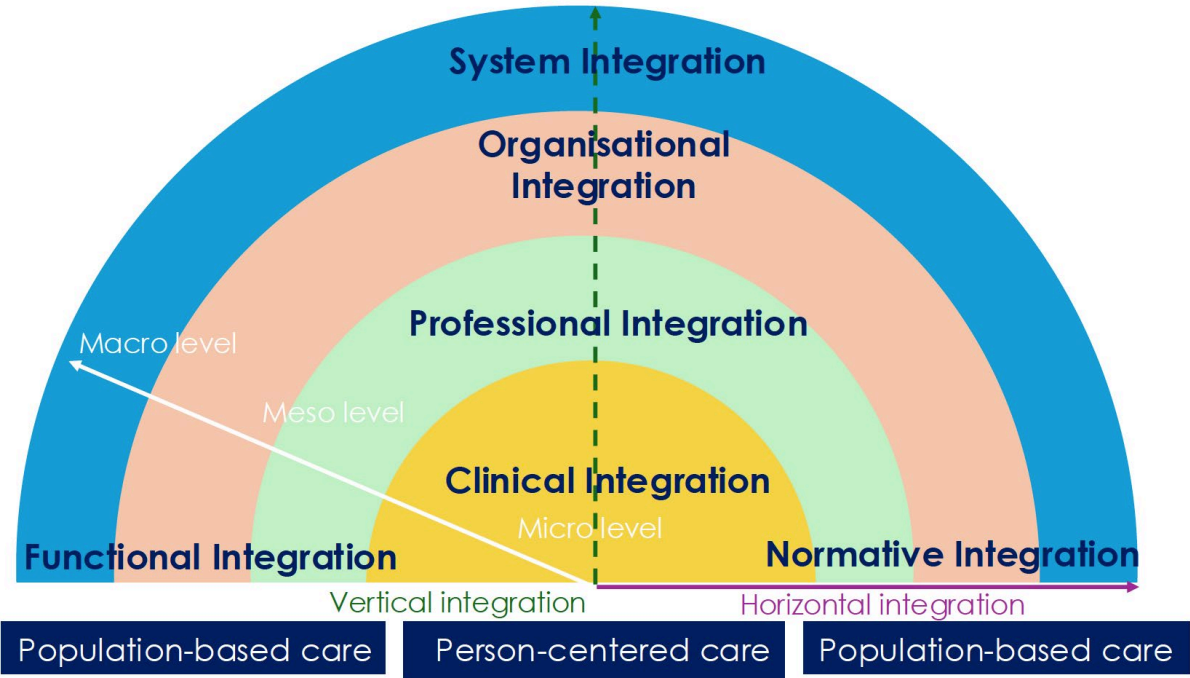
Strengthen the capacity for prevention and promotion of mental health and psycho-social well-being in Italy and to provide the necessary support to children and the most vulnerable adolescents.
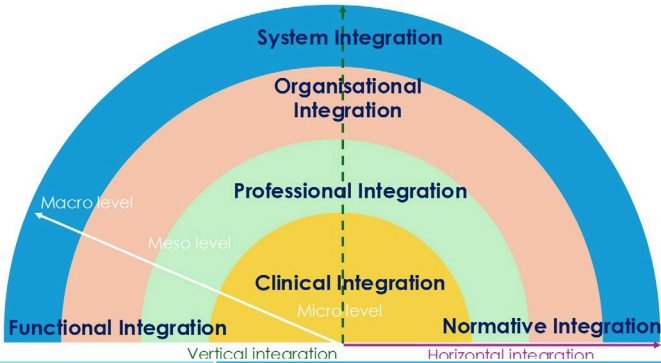
Key Milestones

Literature review	Framework Analysis		
Multiregional Assessment	Desk Research	Interviews with 14 regions	Mapping of MHPSS services and integration	51 Best Practices
Use Cases in Local Districts	Inverviews and study visits in 4 local districts	how integration has been established	Lessons learnt and Guidelines
Workshops with Local Districts	Discuss and test the lessons leant with local stakeholders	how integration has been established	Reccommendations
Capacity Building Workshops	Discuss and test the lessons leant with local stakeholders		Reccommendations
Final Conclusions and Reccomendations			

Key Findings

Literature review → Framework Analysis

System Integration

Organisational Integration

Professional Integration

Macro level

Meso level

Clinical Integration

Micro level

Functional Integration

Normative Integration

Vertical integration — Horizontal integration

Population-based care | Person-centered care | Population-based care

Systemic integration

Organisational integration

Individual

Barriers and Facilitators

Università Bocconi

CERGAS
Centre for Research on Health
and Social Care Management

Key Findings

Systemic integration		

Factor	Barrier Description	Facilitator Description
Cross-sector Collaboration	Lack of inter-organizational collaboration models; inadequate connection to community supports	Network partner collaboration
Information sharing	Poor communication systems between providers	Shared Electronic Health Record (EHR) and electronic referral orderset
Care pathways	No organized process for transition from pediatric to adult care	Improving continuity of care and transitions in care
Digital transformation	Lack of digital literacy	Positive attitudes towards using digital mental health services
Logistics	Transportation challenges	
Service availability	Fewer/lack available services compared to need	Flexible or responsive services
Policy and regulations	State licensing laws (impacting college-age youth)	
Funding	Poor reimbursement rates for mental health care	

Key Findings
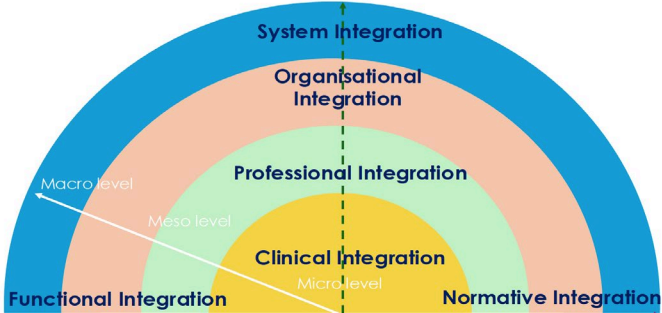
Organisational integration		
Factor	**Barrier**	**Facilitator**
Organizational Culture	Incompatibility with current systems and workflows	Positive workplace culture; Community enthusiasm and support
Leadership		Strong leadership; Support from senior school leaders
Resource allocation	Time commitment; Sustainable funding challenges	Collaborative funding models
Workforce	Workforce recruitment; workflow challenges	Training of service providers ; Ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and improvement

Individual		
Youth engagement		Youth and family engagement; Empowering youth
Attitude/stigma	Initial reluctance to pursue active treatment	Previous mental health treatment experience

Multiregional Assessment

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○  Multiregional   ⟶   Desk Research      Interviews with 14      Mapping of MHPSS         51 Best
   Assessment                              regions                 services and integration  Practices
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Documentary review ⟶

Abruzzo	Molise
Aosta Valley	Piemonte
PA Bolzano	Puglia
Basilicata	Sardegna
Campania	Sicilia
Calabria	Toscana
Emilia-Romagna	PA Trento
Friuli Venezia Giulia	Umbria
Lazio	Veneto
Liguria	
Lombardia	
Marche	

N = 12 Interviews with regional contact for MH

Aosta Valley	Sardinia
PA Bolzano	Sicily
Emilia-Romagna	Tuscany
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Veneto
Lazio	
Liguria	
Lombardy	
Piedmont	

N = 5 Interviews with District Directors

Lazio

Emilia-Romagna

Piemonte

Veneto

Collection of Best Practices

The Practices collected have been grouped in the following 6 categories:

Prevention and psychological support in schools

Digitization and innovation in services

Specialized psychosocial support

Support for vulnerable groups

Special projects and innovative programs

Prevention and awareness in the community

unicef
per ogni bambino

Nuovi percorsi

Buone pratiche di supporto psicosociale e
salute mentale per adolescenti e giovani
migranti e rifugiati in Italia

Conclusions

❖ Uneven landscape of MHPSS integration across Italy

❖ Clinical and organizational integration quite advanced, innovative models of care coordination and inter-institutional collaboration in place

❖ Deeper levels of integration (functional, system, and normative) remain less developed

[R6] "The Region offers many services with high-value expertise. However, while some sectors advance in an integrated manner, in others we still find great difficulties. *The key to success is developing structural integration models, avoiding extemporaneous solutions linked to individual projects.*"

Next steps

Identification of 3 Case Studies
Identify, through workshops with stakeholders, key factors that contributed to the program's success, the structural elements and the contingent elements

Identification of interested health districts

- Assess what can be adapted to the local context (barriers? Lack of resources?)
- Identify the implementation process (points of actions), including the indicators for the measurements (more coverage, more efficient protocols, more effective communication)

Recommendations for effective implementation

Workshop

Emerging integration pathways
Stefania Boscato - Ministry of Labour and social affairs

In Italy, valuable initiatives are building collaborations between healthcare, education, and social services.

Several regions are:

✓ Developing concrete integration pathways

✓ Strengthening intersectoral cooperation

✓ Experimenting with community-based and adolescent-centered models

Integration is an evolving process: many territories are already taking concrete and significant steps in this direction.

The challenge remains in standardizing these approaches across regions while respecting local contexts and needs

Why integration matters:

- Forms of distress must be interpreted through multiple lenses
- Single-sector interventions often fail to address root causes
- Prevention and promotion require multi-level collaboration

- **Our goal: Build sustainable integration public models rather than temporary project-based solutions**

From isolated excellence to systemic change
Giuseppe Salamina, Ministry of Health
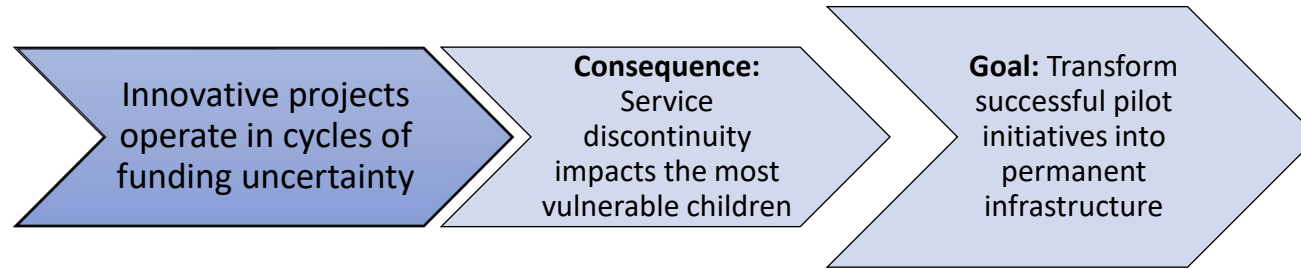
Beyond Fragmented Innovation: The Path Forward

- TSI Project identified numerous excellent practices across Italy
- However, some of these initiatives remain fragile and unevenly distributed

Key Challenges:

- Geographic disparities in service availability and quality
- Dependence on individual champions rather than institutional structures
- Limited knowledge sharing between successful programs
- Frequent reinvention rather than adaptation of proven models

Building sustainable systems for children's wellbeing

From Project-Based to Systemic Solutions

Innovative projects operate in cycles of funding uncertainty

Consequence: Service discontinuity impacts the most vulnerable children

Goal: Transform successful pilot initiatives into permanent infrastructure

Pathway to Sustainability:

1. Secure long-term funding mechanisms beyond project cycles
2. Integrate successful models into regional and national policies
3. Develop standardized frameworks while allowing for local adaptation
4. Invest in workforce stability and professional development
5. Establish evaluation systems to demonstrate impact and value

Supporting the transition from promising pilots to sustainable systems for all Italian children and adolescents

Thank you!