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ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Bridging Health, Care, and Tech Innovation in Europe's Longevity Transition

A path to person-centered systems

Marco Albertini

A Joint Webinar Laurel-COMFORTage Community Forum – From fragmentation to integration: Social and health care models for dementia and frailty

February 27th, 2026

The status quo

o Where we are

- “ageing from the top” (*longevity*) + “ageing from the bottom” (*fertility*)
- [increased intergenerational geographical mobility; increasing women’s participation to paid LM; depletion of “care drain flows”; constraints to further expansion of public spending on health and LTC systems]

=> Increasing LTC demand & decreasing (formal and informal) LTC resources

=> *Alzheimer and (diagnosed+early phases) dementia patients, 2M*

⇒ **Actual institutional and informal settings & mixes are not sustainable**

⇒ **“More of the same” approach is not sufficient**

The status quo

- Most of previous research, policy interventions and instruments are focused on
 - care-receivers
 - medical interventions
 - labour (capital) intensive interventions
 - a “family-by-default” approach + (limited) cash-for-care
 - little (if any) integration of academia/policy/ngo stakeholders/private companies

Spoke 5 – Age-It approach:

o We focus on

- **caregivers'** (social, mental and physical) wellbeing, skills => productivity

=> improvement of sustainability and quality of care provided and care receivers' wellbeing

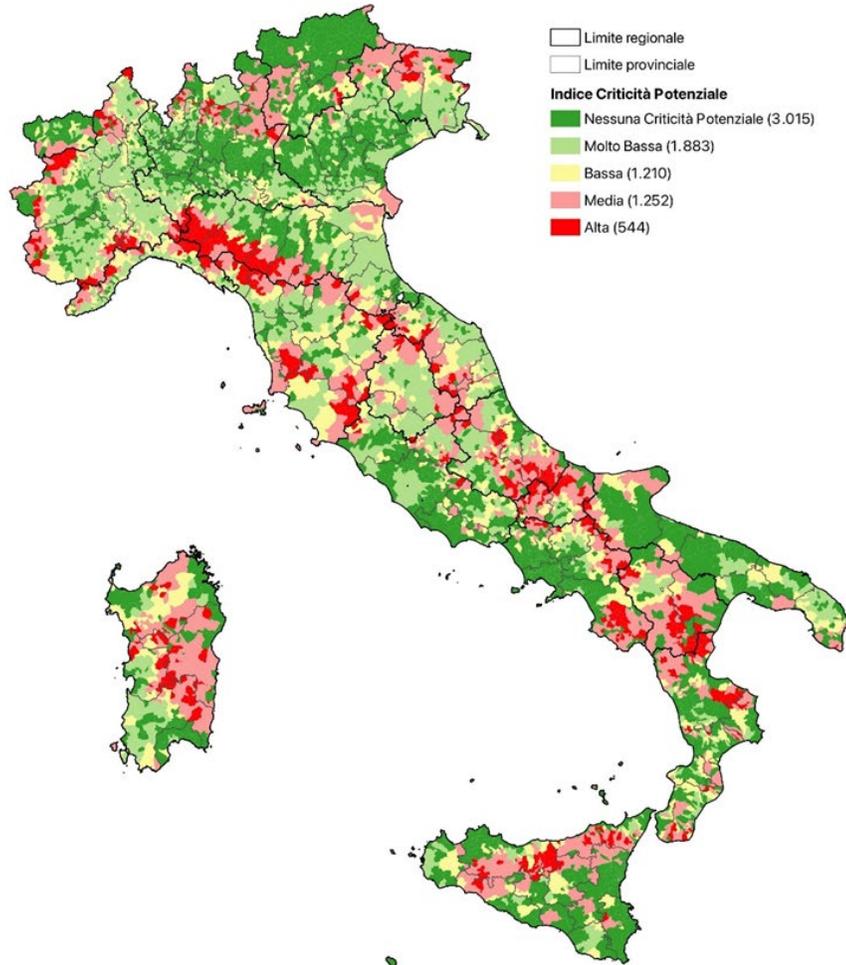
- interventions integrating social, psychological, educational, medical & policy approaches + trans-disciplinarity
- leveraging multi-actors coordination, multi-domain integration, **large scale technologically assisted interventions**

=> Data from surveys, institutional repositories and registers, surveys, wearables, sensors, and agent based models

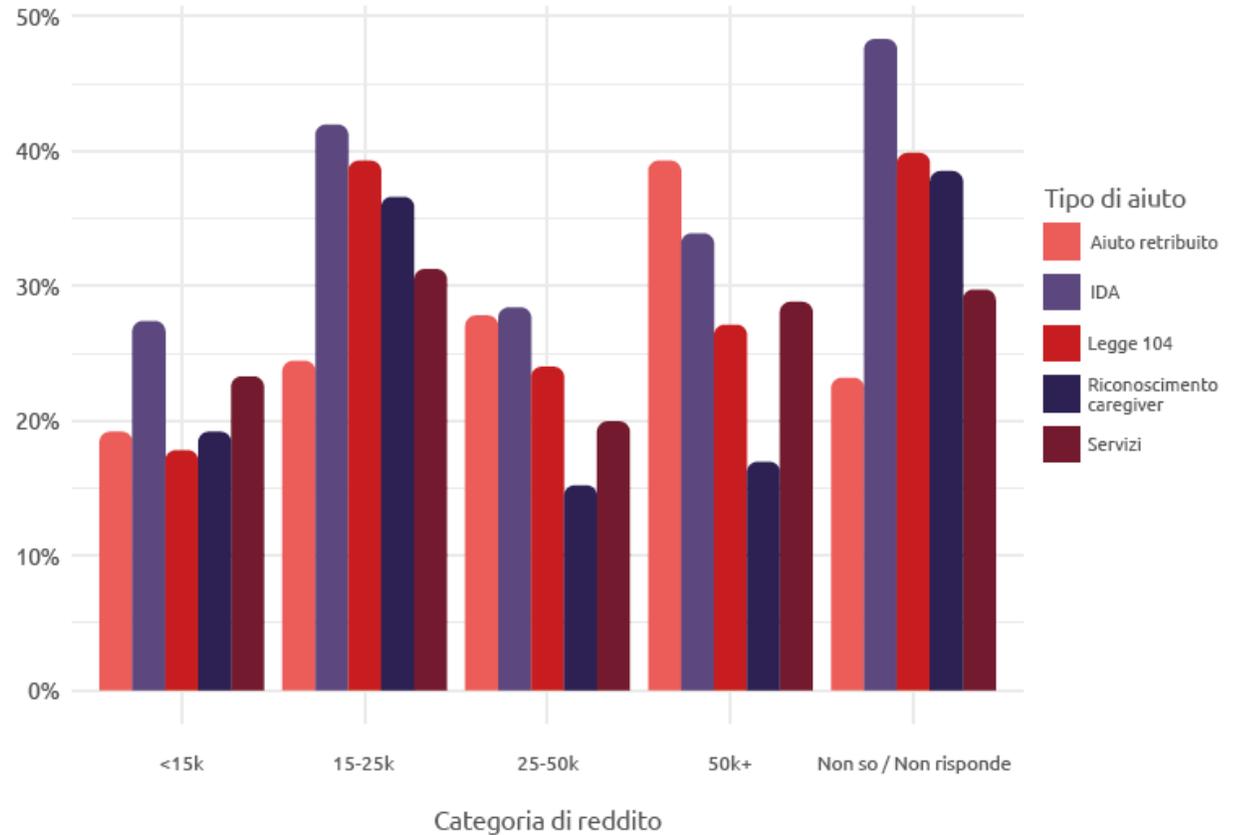
Spoke 5 – Age-It approach:

- **Mapping** demographic institutional and individual contexts and conditions
- **Monitoring** caregivers social-psychological- physical well-being
- **Training & informing** caregivers
- **Supporting policy making** (e.g., optimizing services location via walkability indexes)
- **Increasing social awareness** (relevance and salience)
- **Promoting institutional learning** (public, private and NGO)

Mapping – mapping LCT risks & resources



Utilizzo di aiuti formali per reddito su campione caregiver residenti ER 50+

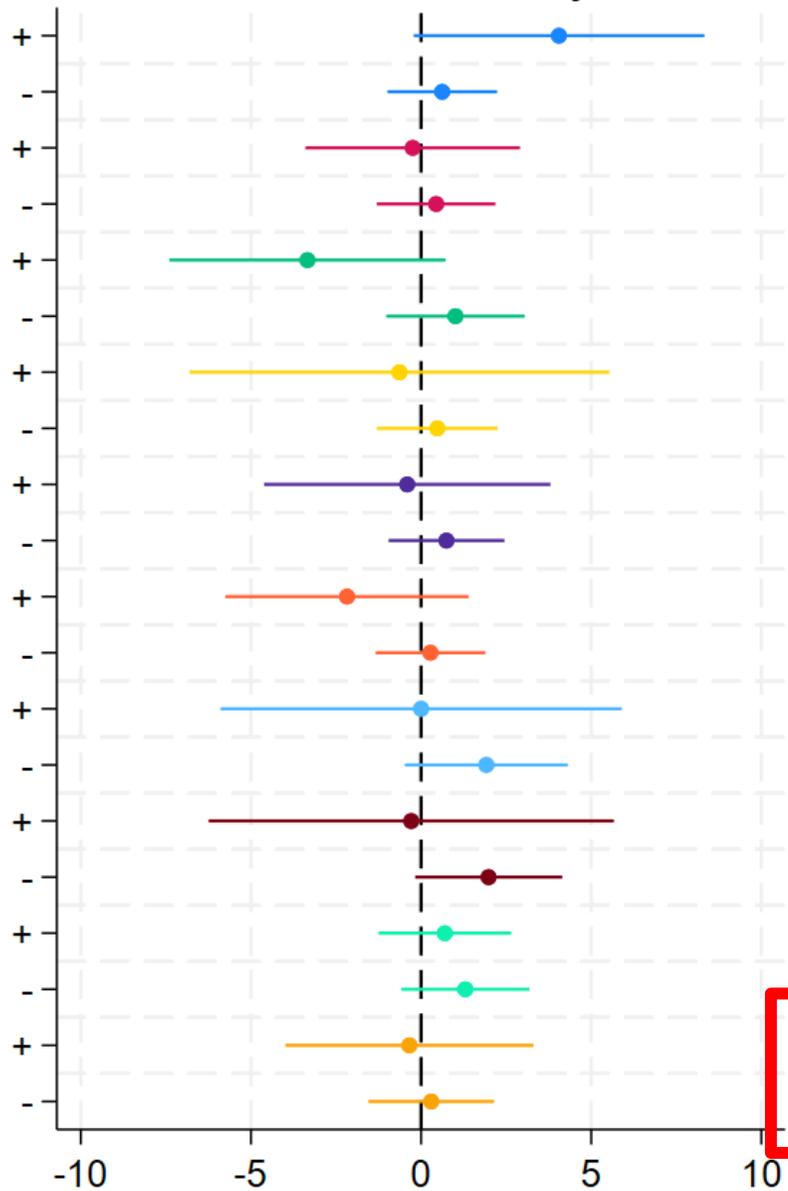


Monitoring caregivers (Dementia/Alzheimer)

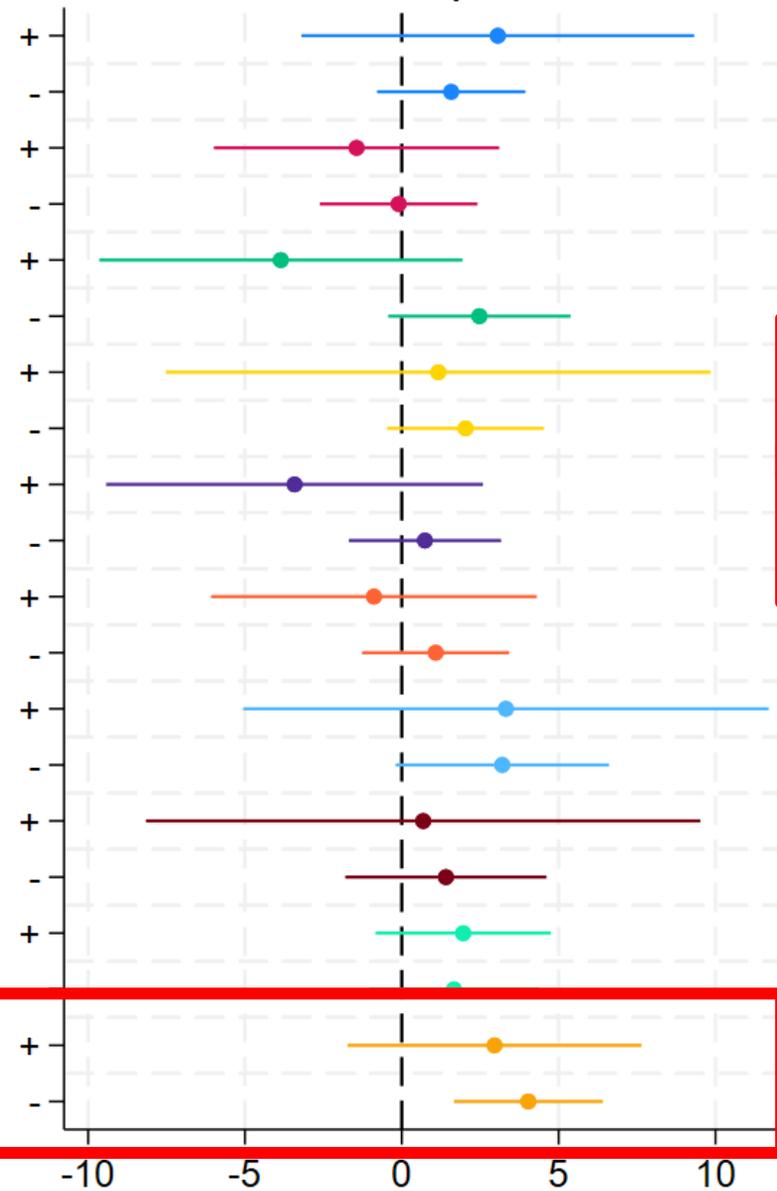
ICare.IT =>

- A sensor-agnostic web-app monitoring informal caregivers' psychological, physical, and social well-being
- Subjectively assess care burden, quality of life, sleep quality, functional status, and well-being of family caregivers of PLwD → online questionnaire
- Objectively assess physical activity, sleep, and heart rate in family caregivers of PLwD → wearable sensors
- Identify the training, support, and care **needs** of family caregivers of people with dementia

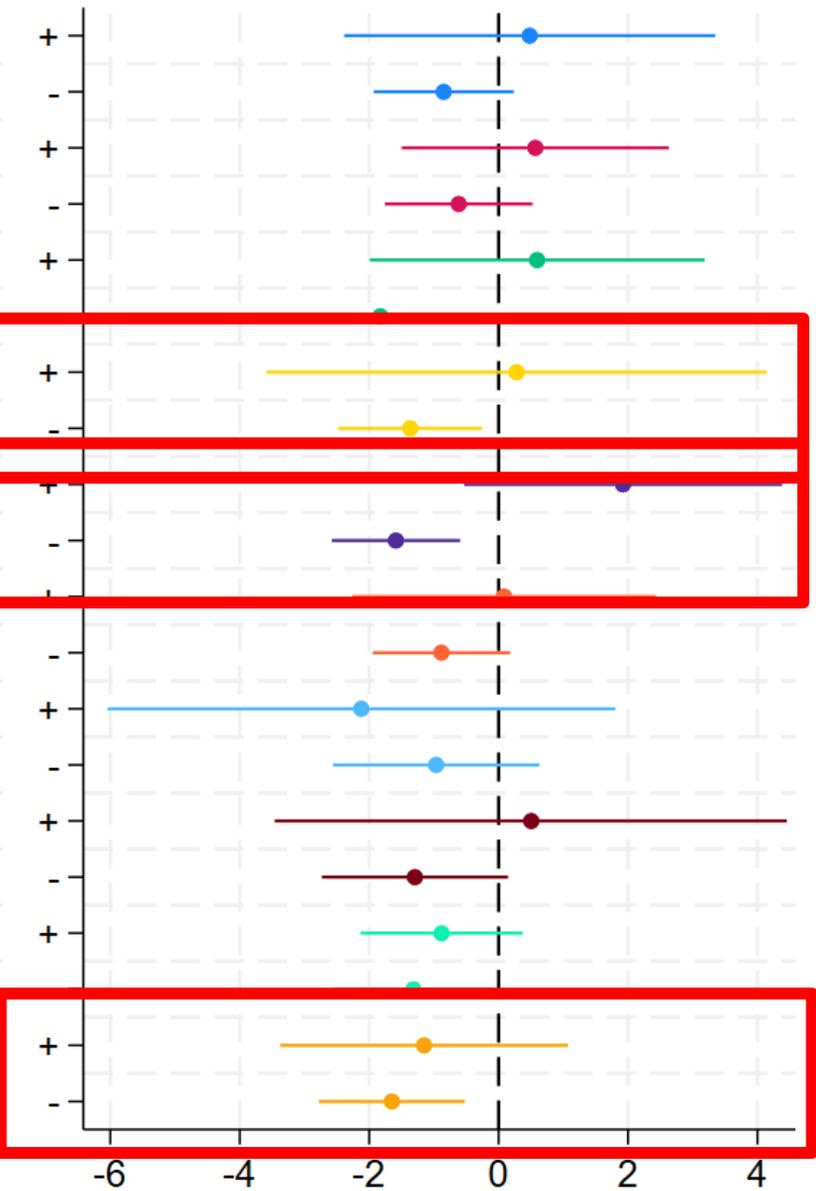
HADS: Anxiety



HADS: Depression



Life Satisfaction



Reference: Freq. stayed the same after caregiving

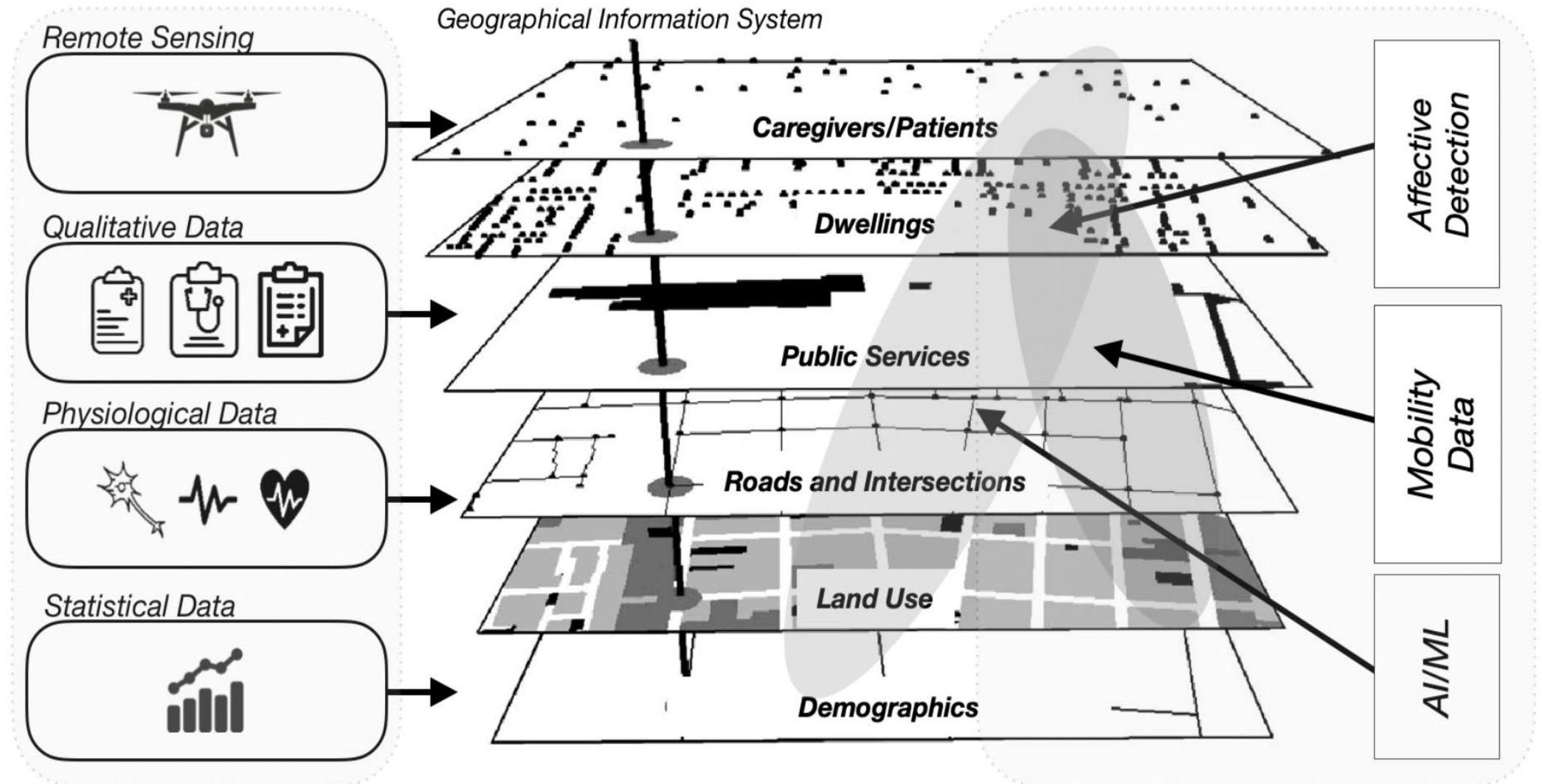


Training and informing caregivers

- Education & information platforms – location specific - providing basic support. Enhanced with the utilization of chatbots
 - ◻ <https://fairskills.it/it/dashboard>
 - ◻ <https://demo.youbify.youbiquo.eu/chat/aP2GYBwdtjr4UVeo>
 - ◻ Integrating local-specific information on available public support services and measures and NGOs activities

=> Integrating monitoring web-apps with information + educational platforms

Supporting policy making in changing built environment



Supporting policy making in changing built environment

- o improving walkability – modulating/attenuating limitations with daily living activities



Increasing social awareness

- Creating a public, national archive of caregivers' biographies via in-person interviews and qualitative self-interviews (audio or video) + sociodemographic data
- The archive will
 - Make available a large repository of qualitative interviews to scholars of caregiving
 - Give a "voice and face" to the *very different* dimensions of caregiving
- Data collection ongoing: 200+ (only in Italian): <https://site.unibo.it/alma-aging/it/storie-di-cura>



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Thank you for your attention

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