

FORWORK – Fostering Opportunities of Refugee WORKers

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(Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti)

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Outline

- Introduction:
 - Who we are and what we do
 - Evaluation method
 - What information we use
- Evaluation timeline (and difficulties encountered so far):
 1. Data gathering process
 2. Sample selection
 3. Baseline survey
 4. Use of administrative data
- Preliminary results from the baseline survey

Who we are and what we do

The Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti is a private non-profit research institute promoting applied and policy-oriented research on labour markets, immigration and welfare systems in Europe.

Our role in FORWORK:

- Member of the Restricted Steering Committee, with ANPAL and APL
- Monitoring and impact evaluation
- To this aim:
 1. We collaborate in defining FORWORK beneficiaries and intervention protocol
 2. We collect information for monitoring and evaluation purposes

Staff involved:

Giovanni Abbianti (researcher), Paolo Pinotti (scientific coordinator), Paola Monti (project manager, researcher), Erich Battistin (collaborator, researcher), RAs

Evaluation method

- FORWORK-Italy : impact evaluation using a **counterfactual evaluation method**:
 - We sample two statistically “similar” groups, except for their participation to the program
 - 1200 eligible asylum seekers randomly assigned to treated and control group (600 + 600).
 - The randomization unit is *not* the individual but the managing entity/reception center (for technical and ethical considerations). For example, if a CAS is randomly assigned to the control group, all eligible individual within the CAS will benefit from the intervention
 - We monitor both groups for the duration of the project
 - We compare employment outcomes (and other relevant dimensions) of treated and controls
 - The objective is to establish the *causal effect* of the proposed integration program on the employment probability of asylum seekers
- FORWORK-Albania: qualitative/quantitative assessment of activities
(*more in the afternoon*)

What information we use

In FORWORK-Italy, two data sources:

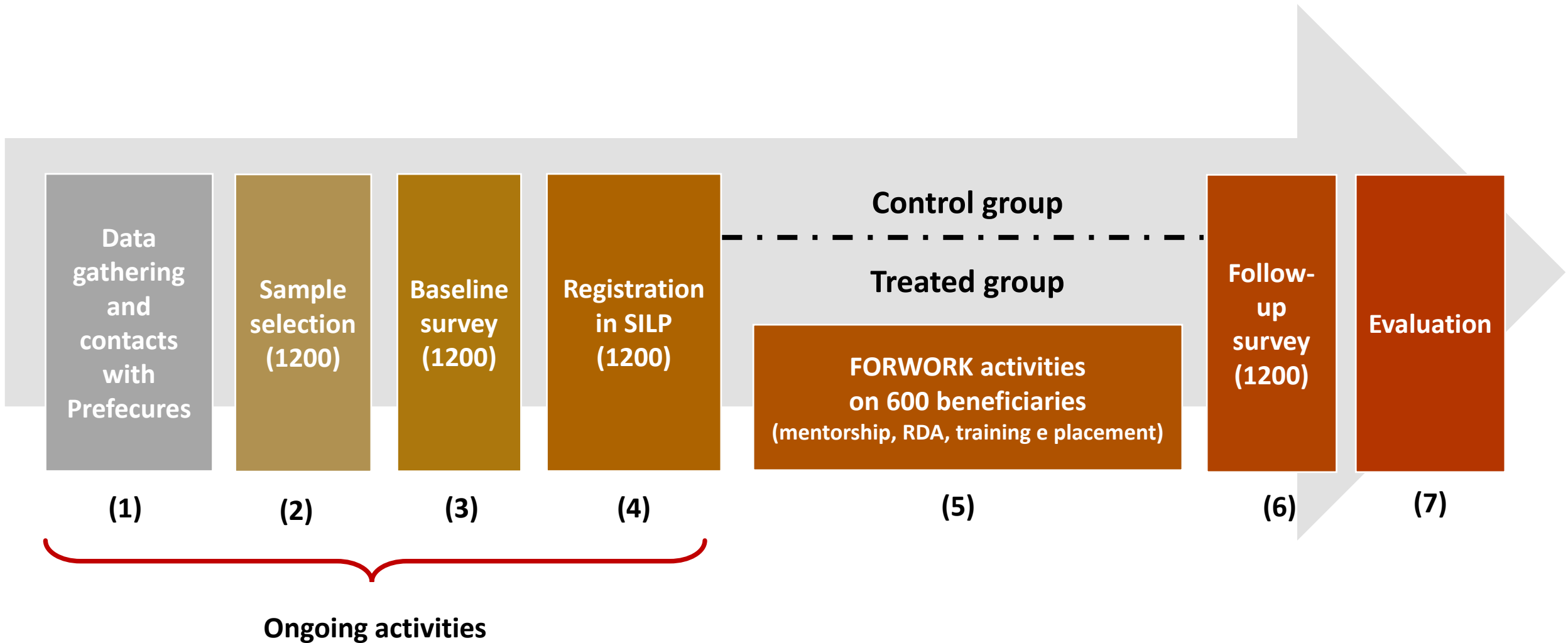
1. Administrative data

- Administrative data on asylum seekers from Prefetures / managing entities
- Data from SILP (Sistema Informativo Lavoro Piemonte): regional labour market information system used by Public Employment Services
- SILP data allow us to track individuals over time, collecting information on their employment status

2. Survey data

- Baseline and follow up surveys
- The baseline survey is currently ongoing (started in May 2019, completion rate 87%)
- It provides information not available in administrative data (such as irregular jobs, past labour market experience, job search effort, etc.)
- Indicators of social integration
- Information on expectations, skills, access to services, additional demographics, personal contacts.

Evaluation timeline



Evaluation timeline

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Data
gathering
and
contacts
with
Prefecures

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1. Data gathering process

- The availability of **data on asylum seekers** is a key element of the project
- We need:
 1. Data on reception centers (location, number of guests, etc.)
 2. Individual data on asylum seekers in reception centers (including names, CAS addresses, demographics, status of the asylum application, fiscal code).
- These data are, in principle, available in the administrative archives of Prefectures
- Since March 2018: the Prefecture of Turin (affiliated entity) coordinated data gathering from other Prefetures, but the process was very slow
 - April 2018: aggregated data on reception centers (CAS) in Piedmont
 - *Anonymous* individual data over a period of 8 months (04/2018-11/2018...)
 - Poor data quality

1. Data gathering process - Problems

1. Lack of common standards in collecting individual data on asylum seekers across Prefectures
 2. High variability of the context
(change in Government, asylum policy and reception system; reduction of arrivals; appointment of a new Prefect in Turin)
 3. Not all Prefectures are equally committed to the project
 4. Privacy issues: Prefectures sent us only *anonymous* data
- Strategy adopted: in January 2019, fRDB decided to collect individual data directly from all managing entities («gestori»). Data collection was authorized on 3 April 2019 in Turin (see the formal communication by the Prefecture of Turin) and later on in other Prefectures. We started collecting data on April 2019, activity that is still ongoing in Alessandria and Novara. This meant contacting 61 «gestori» and asking information about asylum seekers in 202 reception centers

Evaluation timeline

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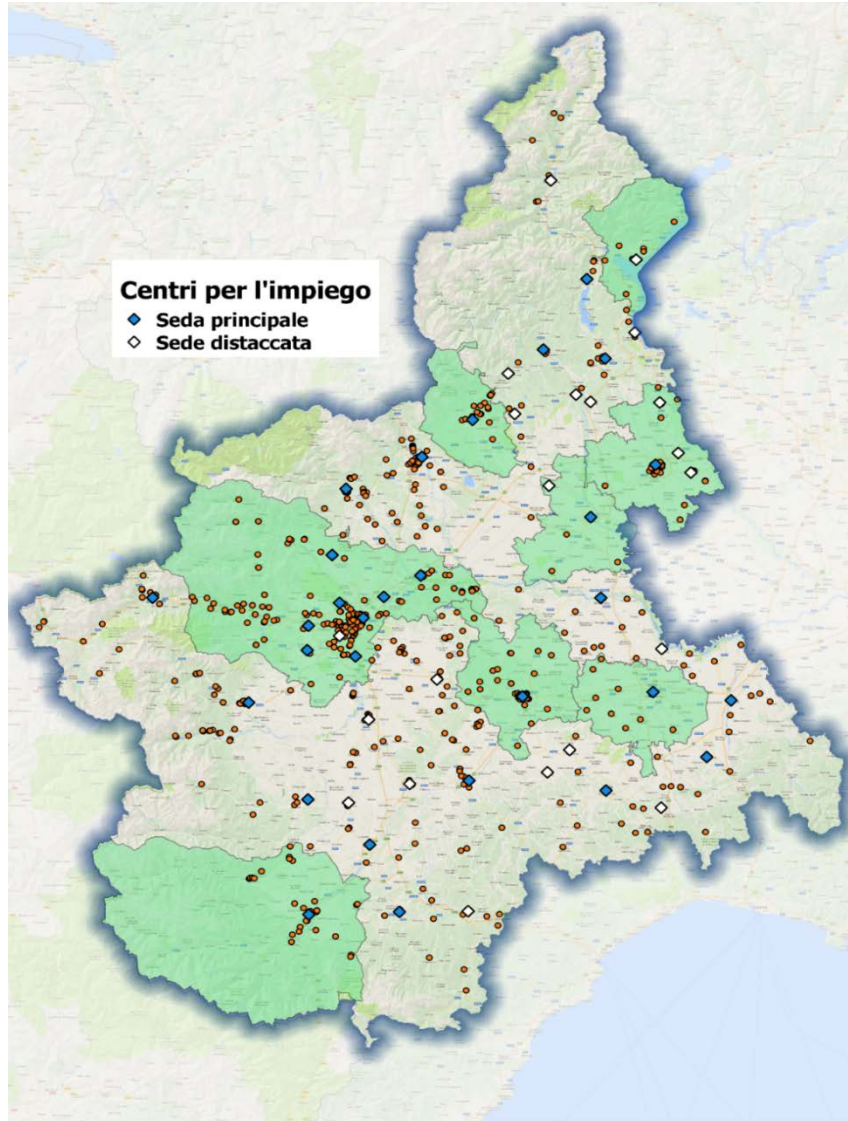
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2. Sample selection

- May-July 2018: collaboration with the Prefecture of Turin, ANPAL and APL in finalising eligibility criteria of FORWORK beneficiaries
- Objective: updating eligibility criteria set in the original proposal
- Final **eligibility criteria for CAS**:
 1. Inside LMAs of 8 capital cities of Piedmont
 2. Less than 30 guests *[original proposal: 20]*
 3. Less than 30 minutes driving distance from the closest PES *[new]*
 4. In municipalities served by public transports *[new]*
- Final **eligibility criteria for individuals**:
 1. Adults (> 18)
 2. Asylum seekers waiting for their first meeting with the territorial commission *[new]*

2. Sample selection



- Significant change in the number of eligible asylum seekers over time in the selected FORWORK areas
- According to our data, in April 2018 we had about 2,000 eligible asylum seekers in 400 CAS, managed by 104 entities
- Real data (collected during the survey) gave a different picture: we currently estimate about 1400 eligible asylum seekers (-30%) in about 260 CAS (-35%), managed by 61 entities

Evaluation timeline



Data gathering and contacts with Prefecures

Sample selection (1200)

Baseline survey (1200)

(1)

(2)

(3)

3. Baseline survey

- Face-to-face online interviews (CAPI), paper questionnaire as backup
- Place of interview: reception center (we scheduled appointments for interviews)
 - Important: we hired 33 freelance interviewers, but field activities have been directly managed by the fRDB staff!
- Duration: 30-40 minutes
- Target: FORWORK sample of 1200 asylum seekers (+ oversample to take into account inevitable attrition)
- Focus: information on labour market and social integration, access to services

3. Baseline survey – A long process

- *June 2018*: review of existing surveys on asylum seekers/refugees
- *July-September 2018*: drafting of questionnaire
- *October-November 2018*: peer review, revisions, translations (ITA, ENG, FRA)
- *November 2018*: pilot survey in Lombardy
- *February-May 2019*: recruitment and training on interviewers
- *April 2019*: authorization of Prefecture of Turin to collect individual data on asylum seekers and carry out interviews (situation still not clear in other Prefectures)
- Gradual start of interviews:
 - May 2019: Turin and Vercelli
 - June 2019: Asti and Verbania
 - July 2019: Cuneo
 - September 2019: Alessandria and Biella
 - Still missing: Novara
- Expected completion: October 2019

3. Baseline survey – Indicators

Guests

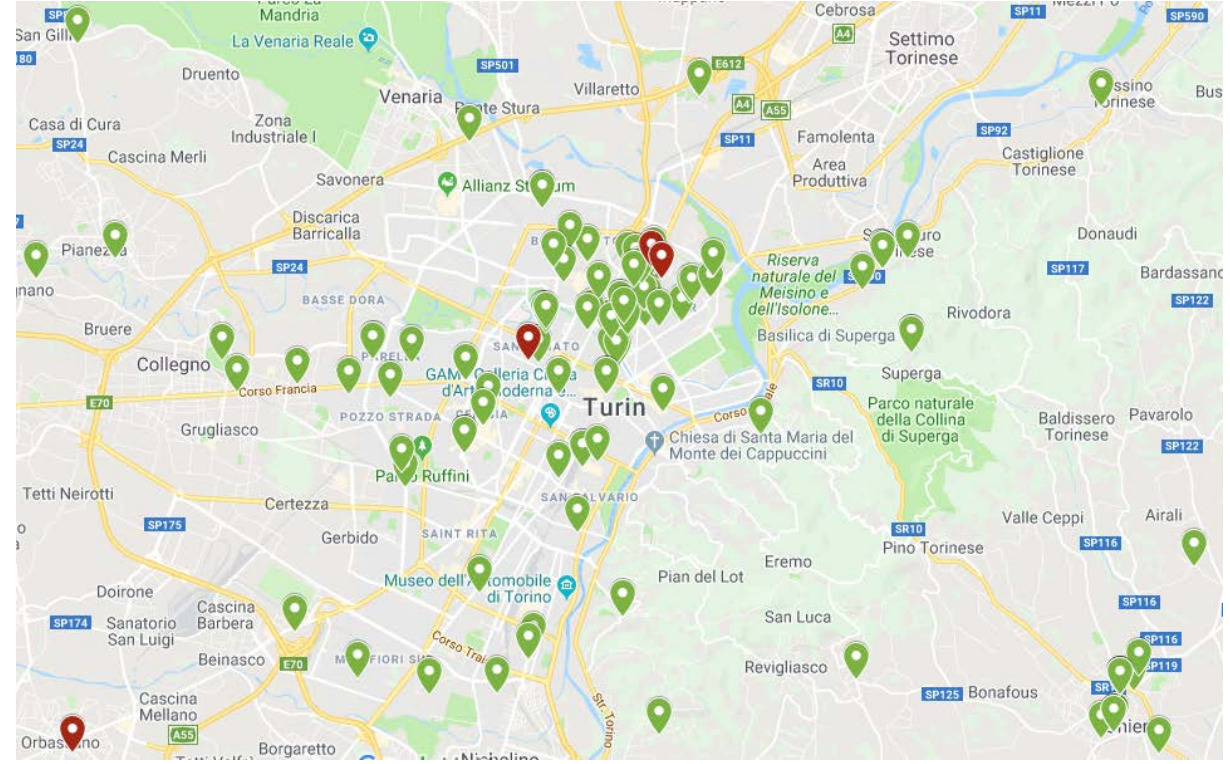
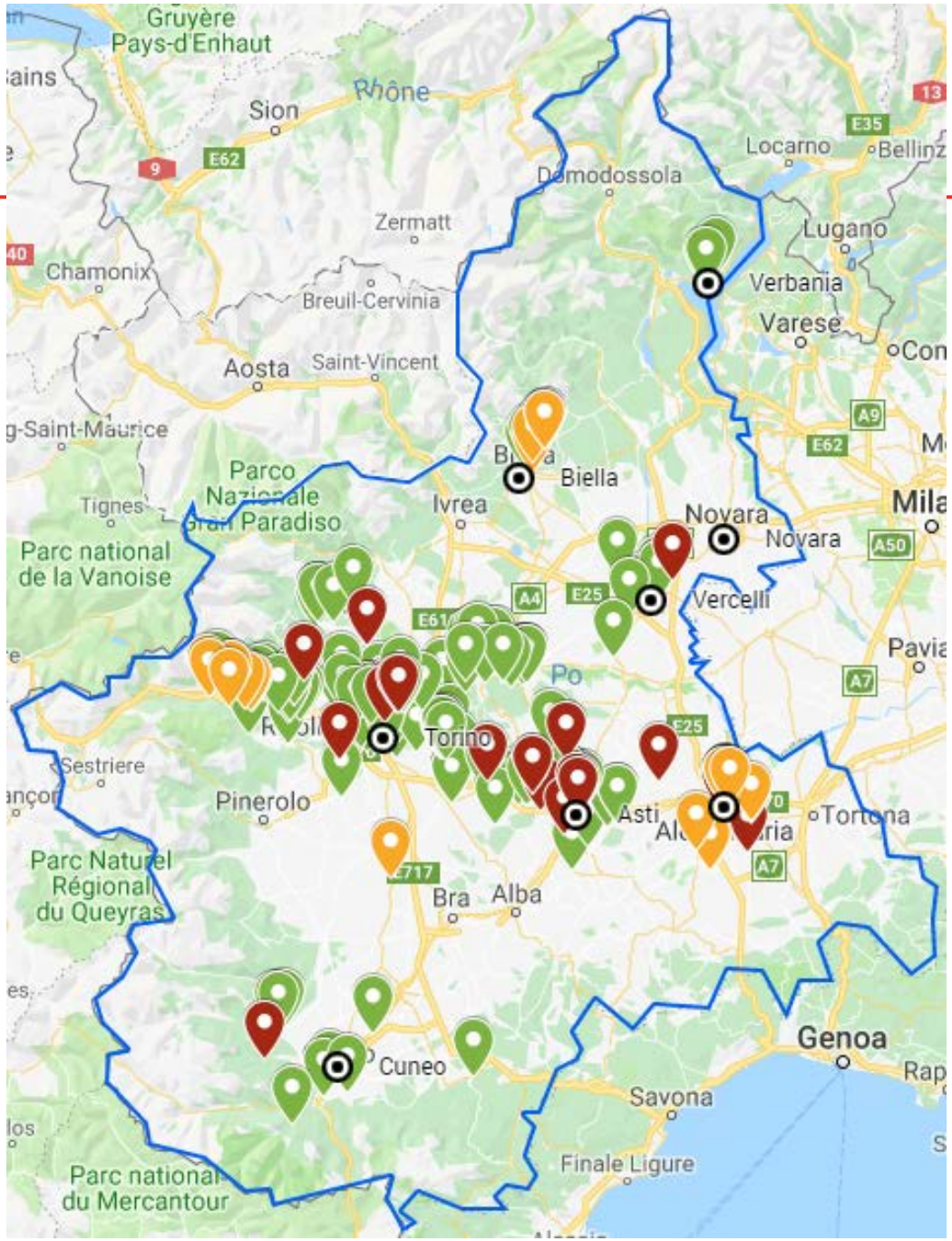
- Data collection from managing entities: **97%** (estimation)
- Completion rate: **89%**
[closed contacts & appointments/total eligibles]
- Response rate: **78%**
[successful interviews/closed contacts]




Managing entities and CAS

- Entities refusing to collaborate: **0**
- CAS completed or with appointment: **91%**
- CAS without an appointment: **9%**

[Last data update: Friday, September 15th]

3. Baseline survey



-  CAS completed
-  CAS with scheduled appointments
-  CAS to be included

Evaluation timeline



4. Registration in SILP

- Use of administrative data
- Match between fRDB sample of asylum seekers and SILP archives
- Matching issues: random errors both in the compilation of our data and in SILP registrations; uncertainty about the quality of information provided
- Matching techniques: exact matching (on fiscal code and individual characteristics) combined with probabilistic match (and manual refining)
- Procedure intentionally designed to allow for potential false negatives
- **80%** matches found

Preliminary results from the survey - 1

Sociodemographics

Sample in line with population statistics

- Very young population (median age: **24**)
- Males: **75%**
- High proportion of people without a formale school degree (**21%**). Only **7%** have a tertiary degree
- **91%** declare to be able to read or write. 6% in Italian only!

Preliminary results from the survey - 2

The case for FORWORK actions

Working condition

- Only **32%** is actually working (**39%** among men; **10%** among women)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of workers have no formal contract

Integration

- **39%** have no contacts outside the reception centre; **30%** have contacts with other foreigners only; **31%** have some contacts with Italians
- **31%** declare to have no Italian person they trust
- **35%** declare they trust nobody in Italy at all (**38%** among women)

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Thanks for the attention!

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