



The situation of students with Special Educational Needs within an “inner area” of Tuscany (Unione dei Comuni della Val di Bisenzio)

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INTRODUCTION

This research was requested by the administrations of the three municipalities of the Unione dei Comuni della Val di Bisenzio (Vaiano, Vernio and Cantagallo), in the province of Prato, which would have a very high percentage of students with Special Educational Needs in their two Comprehensive Institutes: Lorenzo Bartolini (Vaiano) and Sandro Pertini (Vernio)

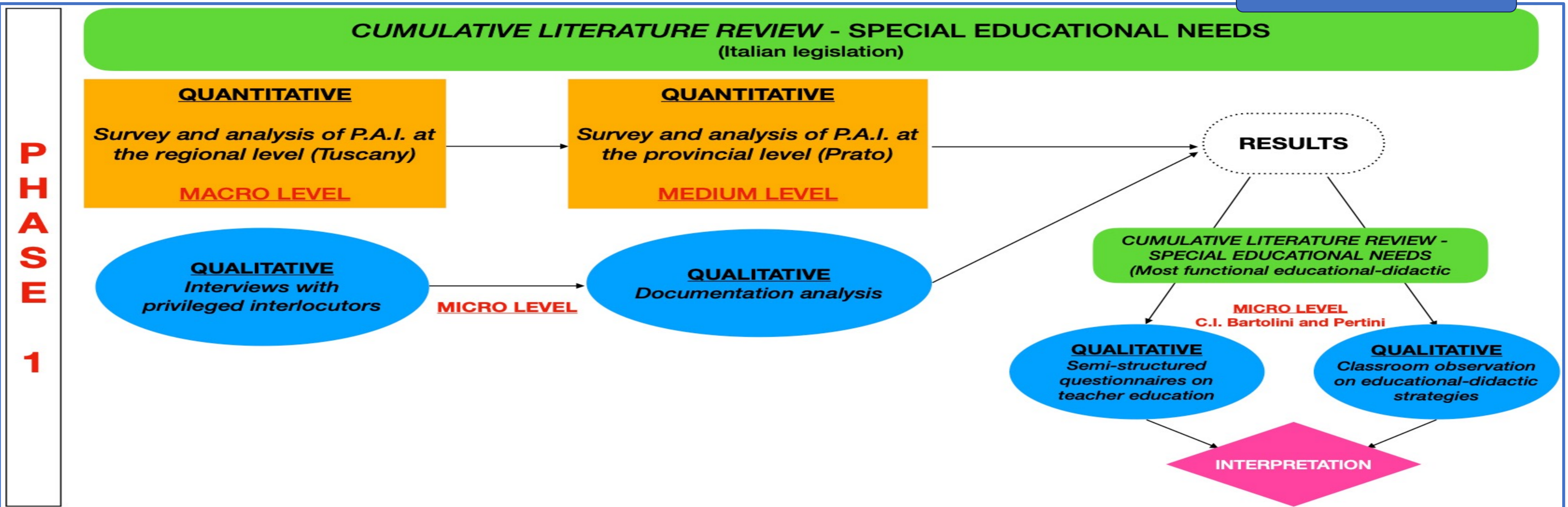
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Is it true that the presence of students with Special Educational Needs in the territories of the Unione dei Comuni della Val di Bisenzio is higher than in other Tuscan provinces?
2. Is it true that, in relation to the presence of Special Educational Needs in the area, educational-didactic project in schools and territorial services within the Unione dei Comuni della Val di Bisenzio are weakly functional?

METHODOLOGY

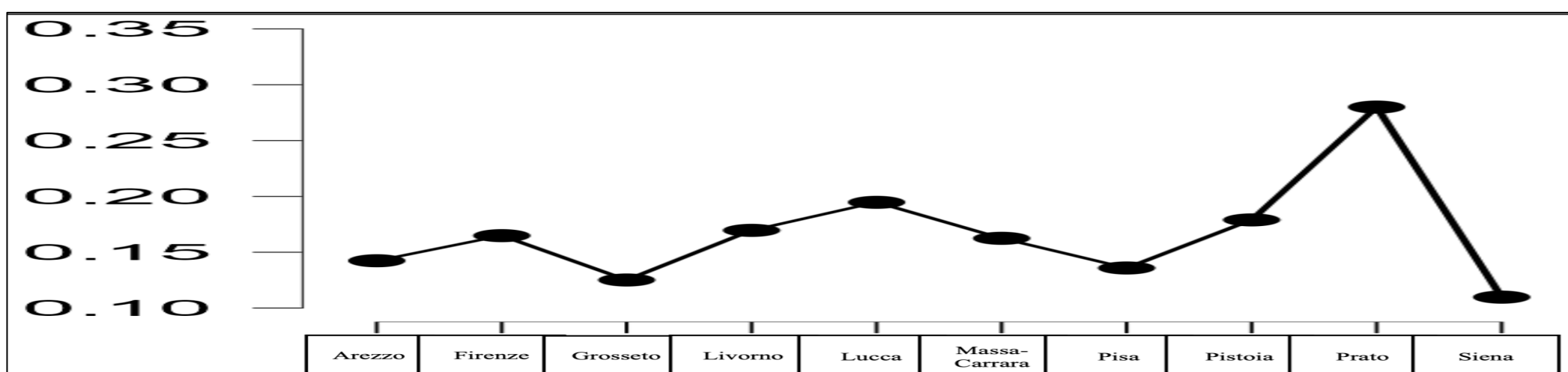
The research combines quantitative and qualitative tools within a theoretical-methodological framework of mixed-methods research. The research design is triangular or parallel convergent

RESEARCH DESIGN

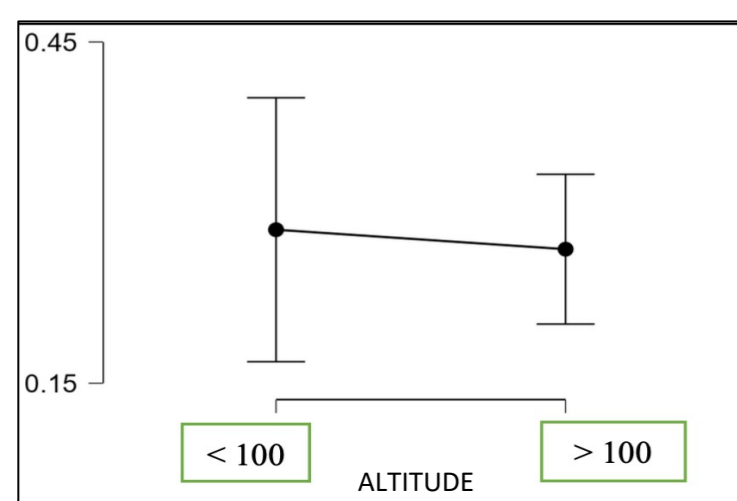


QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

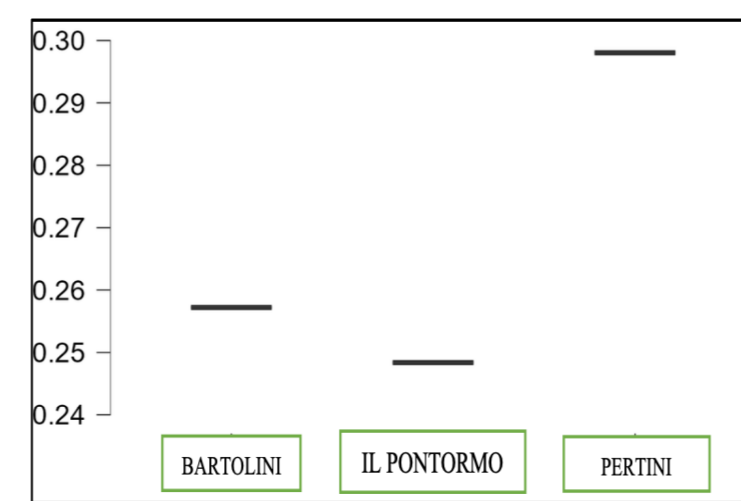
Analysis of the Annual Plans for Inclusivity (s.y. 2021/2022) shows that:



At the **regional level** (191 A.P.I. out of 297 total C.I. analyzed) the province of Prato has a significantly higher percentage of S.E.N. than the other provinces



At the **provincial level**, there is no significant difference between schools in the province of Prato



At the **local level**, among schools located at altitudes more than 100m., C.I. Bartolini and C.I. Pertini have a higher number of S.E.N.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

The three municipalities are classified as **partially or totally mountainous territories, sparsely populated** (with a **high number of foreign residents**) and with population changes between 2011 and 2020 of 0.00% (Cantagallo), 0.4% (Vernio) and 1.6% (Vaiano).

Since 2014, the Unione dei Comuni della Val di Bisenzio has been classified as an **INNER AREA** of Tuscany due to critical issues in healthcare, mobility, economy and education.

Documents in the **official archives** show that:

TERRITORIAL AREA

The area has always been attentive to school and social inclusion: until the early 2000s, with the project **P.I.E.T.R.O. D+D** (Plan of Territorial Educational Interventions for Recovery and Orientation Discomfort+Disability).

In recent years, however, the **Inclusiva-mente** project has been activated, supporting young people (0-14 years old) in conditions of discomfort or social exclusion.

SOCIAL-HEALTH AREA

The services activated are: Home and Territorial Educational Service; Group Educational Service; Follow-up and Accompaniment Meetings and Caregiving Activities.

SCHOLASTIC AREA

C.I. LORENZO BARTOLINI (VAIANO)

- a. Disability Area (18%); b. Specific Developmental Disorder Area (21%); c. Socio-economic-linguistic-cultural Disadvantage Area (61%)

C.I. SANDRO PERTINI (VERNIO)

- a. Disability Area (10%); b. Specific Developmental Disorder Area (20%); c. Socio-economic-linguistic-cultural Disadvantage Area (70%)

RESULTS

The territorial, school and social-health documents analyzed show **different critical aspects**:

- at the **territorial level**, the educational service activated is conducted by volunteers from the National Social Service;
- at the **scholastic level**, both schools show precariousness of teachers and their education;
- at the **social-health level**, the services activated are not enough compared to the needs of younger people.

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