



40  
anni  
1982-2022





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# VIDAS: ASSISTING TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS SINCE 1982

VIDAS is an independent not-for-profit organization ensuring complete and free social and medical assistance in palliative care to terminally ill patients. The mission is to safeguard terminally ill patients' dignity and defend their right to be nursed even though they cannot recover. VIDAS stands for "Italian Volunteers Assisting Suffering people in their homes" as volunteering plays a central role in the organization.



AROUND **500.000 ADULTS** IN NEED  
OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN ITALY



**COVERAGE RATIO ONLY 23%**



**35.000 CHILDREN** IN NEED OF  
PALLIATIVE CARE IN ITALY



**COVERAGE RATIO ONLY 5%**



# VIDAS: ASSISTING TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS SINCE 1982

VIDAS meets the need of palliative care by providing free social and medical care for up to 250 incurable patients per day, addressing their physical, psychological, social and relational needs, in addition to supporting their families. Assistance is offered every day, 24 hours per day, by 7 social and medical teams at the patients' homes or in VIDAS hospices and day hospices "Casa VIDAS" and "Casa Sollievo Bimbi".

Furthermore, VIDAS supports scientific research, education and awareness in palliative care.



**MORE THAN 39.000 PEOPLE  
HAS BEEN ASSISTED BY VIDAS  
SINCE 1982**

up to  
**250**  
patients per day

**7**  
social and medical teams

**2.382**  
patients assisted in 2021

**188**  
employees

**288**  
volunteers



# THE PROJECTS



# HOME CARE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN



Home care is at the heart of VIDAS model of intervention and is provided to both adults and children affected by incurable diseases. When possible, home care is the preferred assistance setting as it allows the patient to maintain his/her habits and to spend time with family and friends.

Home care is available 365 days a year, 24/24h, including festivities in Milan, Monza and 112 towns in their district. VIDAS palliative care team consists of doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, health workers, physiotherapists, trained volunteers and other healthcare professionals. They arrange a personalised assistance plan for each patient and support the family in this difficult time. A team with specific expertise in pediatric palliative care is in charge of home care for children.

As part of the assistance, VIDAS also provides the patient with free health equipment, such as remote controlled orthopedic bed, anti-decubitus mattresses, easy chairs, electric adjustable wheelchairs, etc.

In 2021:

**2.007**

adults assisted  
at home

**77.480**

days of home care  
for adults

**48**

children assisted  
at home

**8.189**

days of pediatric  
home care



# CASA VIDAS - OUR HOSPICE FOR ADULTS

The hospice "Casa VIDAS" was born in 2006 with the aim of welcoming and assisting patients with incurable diseases who cannot be assisted in their homes because of clinical and/or socio-environmental reasons, or because of loneliness.

The idea behind is that of a house, "Casa", with both private rooms and common spaces. Indeed, patients are welcomed in 20 private rooms where they can bring personal objects to recreate a familiar environment. All rooms are equipped with a private bathroom and a sofa bed so that a family member can stay close day and night.

In common areas, patients can spend time with family members and friends and be engaged in daily activities, such as music therapy and pet therapy. All these activities are essential to boost patients' social life.



## 2006

opening

## 20

private rooms

## +6.000

patients welcomed  
since opening



# CASA SOLLIEVO BIMBI - OUR PEDIATRIC HOSPICE



Unfortunately, not all children can be assisted at home. Over the years, many parents have requested a place suitable for their kids' care needs. In order to answer these needs, in June 2019 VIDAS opened "Casa Sollievo Bimbi", the first pediatric palliative care hospice in Lombardy (the most populated region in Italy) and one of the fews in the whole country. Since its opening it has welcomed 127 children together with their parents and siblings in 6 little apartments, equipped like a home and accessible to family members 24/24h.

**6**

little apartments

**127**

children assisted since  
opening

Casa Sollievo Bimbi has four purposes:

- **Family relief:** the palliative care team takes care of the child while parents can rest and dedicate time to themselves or to their other kids.
- **Training for parents:** the hospice is a bridge between the hospital and home. Here, parents can become familiar to their child's new health condition and learn how to use tools essentials for their survival.
- **Clinical reassessment:** it welcomes children already assisted at home in need of a new clinical-instrumental evaluation.
- **Accompaniment to the end of life:** Casa Sollievo Bimbi welcomes terminally ill children who cannot spend their last days/weeks at home for social or housing reasons.



## CASCINA CASANOVA - "PIU' VITA AGLI ANNI" (MORE LIFE TO THE YEARS)

Over the years, VIDAS has promptly answered to new social needs. The new project, "Più vita agli anni" (More life to the years), has a strong component of social inclusion, sustainability and community involvement.

Demographic changes, such as the ageing of the population, the pandemic and the socio-economic impoverishment strongly affect the need of palliative care today. The current care model needs to adapt to the new context in order to respond to current and future needs and challenges.

For this reason, VIDAS is investing in the renovation of Cascina Casanova, a big farmstead in Milan suburbs, with the aim of building a low-intensity residence for elderly people with severe health, social and housing issues. Cascina Casanova will be able to welcome 56 people in 35 apartments.



The idea behind the project is to offer services and volunteering opportunities to the entire community. In particular, there will be vocationally-oriented courses for young people at risk of social exclusion, who will also be committed in voluntary activities with the elderly hosted in the building. The youths will learn a trade and get the chance to financially support themselves by selling their products in a shop inside the building.

This project will give life to an integrated service for the community where vulnerability will be the starting point to build relationships between people.



# RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

VIDAS Study and Training Center was born in 1999 with the aim of sharing our expertise in palliative care through training courses for social and health operators both from the public and the private sector. It also offers internships to university students in the field of psychology, social services and education, and collaborates with the University of Milan in designing the "Master in palliative care at the end of life".

As part of this commitment, in 2019 VIDAS Research Center begun its activities with the aim of widening the knowledge about the palliative care approach.

Furthermore, since its foundation VIDAS has been committed to raising awareness on important cultural, ethical, social and medical topics through conventions, round tables and publications.

in  
**1999**

Study and Training Center

in  
**2019**

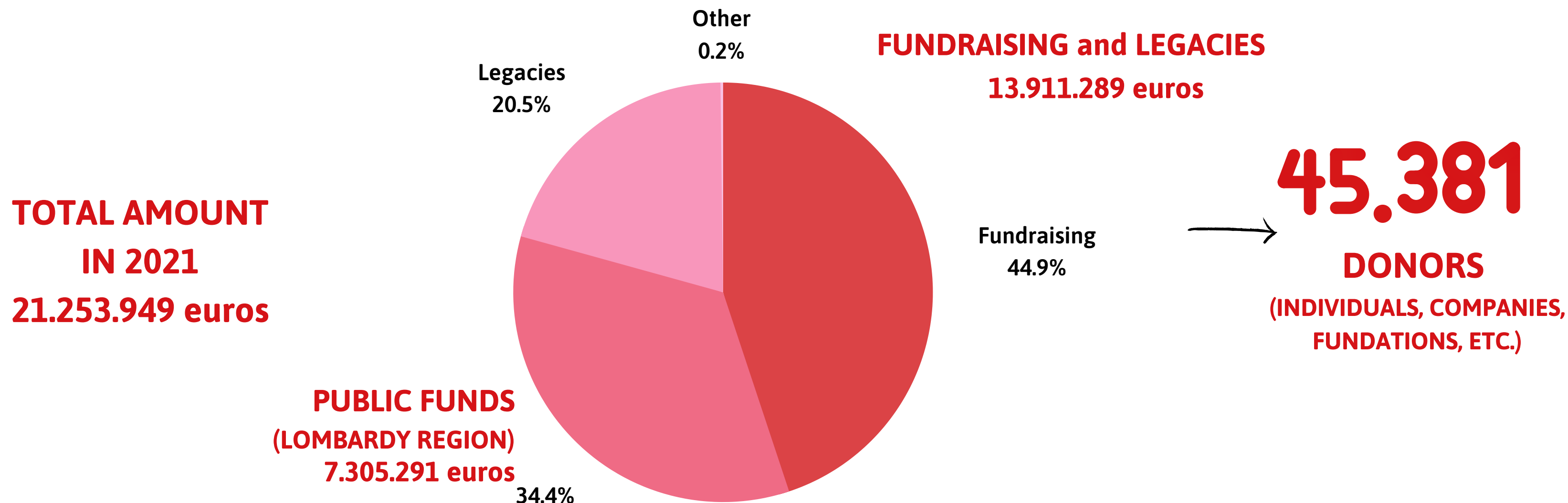
Research Center

Lastly, VIDAS is working on sharing its expertise and providing support (also economical) to other organizations and institutions so that they can replicate VIDAS model in other contexts characterized by insufficient services.



# ECONOMICAL SUSTAINABILITY

VIDAS can rely on a strong network of private donors and institutions which enable the organization to guarantee continuous support to terminally ill patients. VIDAS important work is also accredited by Lombardy Region, which funds many of our activities. However, the biggest part of VIDAS revenue comes from fundraising.





# CONTACTS



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