

Special Olympics Family Leadership and Support



**Family Program Example
Special Olympics Italy**

Special Olympics vision

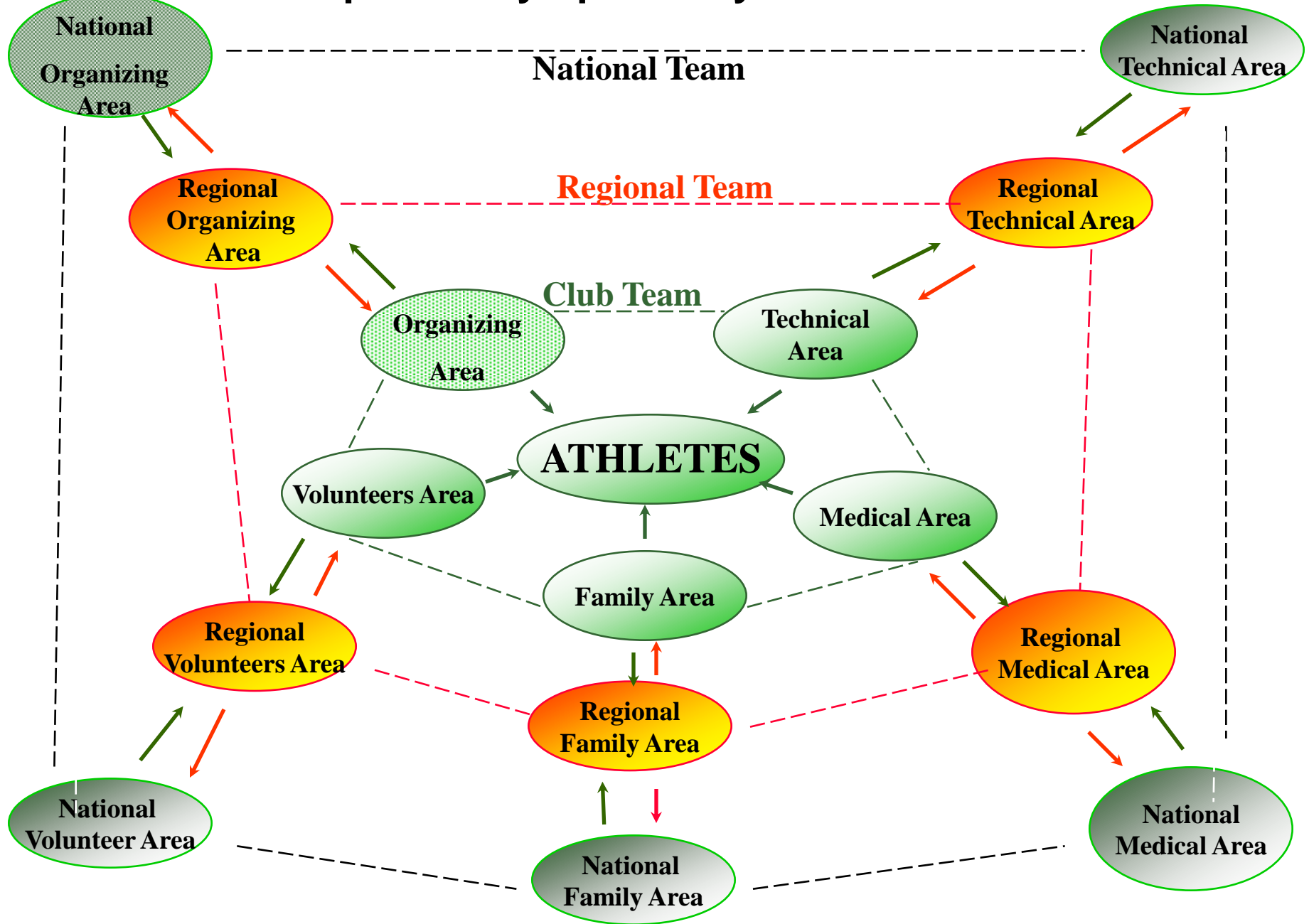


The new strategic plan...

Families are asked to become

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Special Olympics Italy - Structure



Family Program Italy

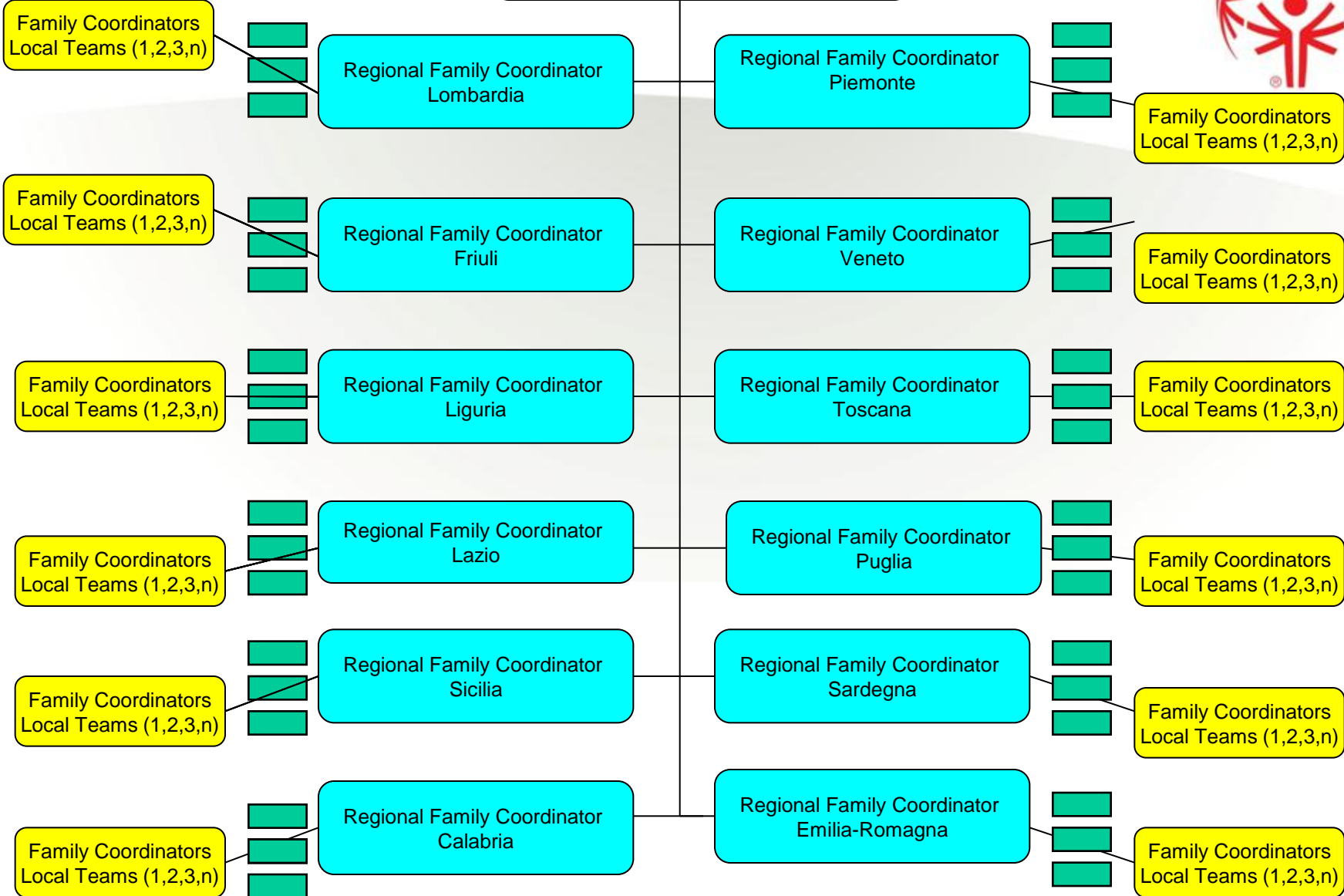


Family
Program in
Italy is based
on a pyramidal
structure and organization

Family Program Italy - Organization Chart



National Coordinator



Family Program Italy



- ❖ The National Coordinator is constantly in direct contact with 16 Regional Family Coordinators (18 forecasted for the end of 2012)
- ❖ Each Regional Coordinator is in touch with every single Team Family Coordinator (about 200 at present) directly or through local coordinators
- ❖ National Coordinator too, of course, is periodically in contact with Team Family Coordinators, in order to maintain the “sense” of membership to the Organization, to communicate relevant information (i.e. National Games, Family Campus, National initiatives etc)

Family Program Italy

Main Activities



- Twice a year a meeting is held with all Regional Family Coordinators to communicate the program of the year, the targets, to share experiences, verify the results.
- Periodically, each Regional or Local Coordinator meets the Team Family Coordinators for the same reasons, to organize local fund raising, events, to verify the initiatives etc.
- During National Games (sometimes during Regional Games too) a convention regarding relevant themes (Laws, Health, Working World, Sexuality, Social Integration etc) is organized for family members

Family Program Italy

Main Activities



- Once a year a National Family Campus is organized to bring 45/50 families together for one week from all Italian regions.
- A communications program based on Newsletter, SMS and email messages is active to reach the maximum number of people to increase the link and the sense of membership to Special Olympics
- Training seminars and meetings (leadership, communication, vision of Special Olympics)

Family Program Italy

Main Targets



- ***National, Regional and Local Family Programs have these main targets:***
 - Organization of events (meetings, conventions, parties)
 - Meetings with new Teams to let people know our “philosophy”, organization, thoughts
 - Fund raising (not centralized: each Team or Regional organization has to find its own funds for single events)
 - Recruitment of new family members and family volunteers
 - Contacts with Local Institutions, media, association for people with intellectual disabilities, schools



Best Practices

- Family Campus (National, Regional, Local)
- Communications program
- Social networks
- Ongoing involvement of Family Members

Family Program Italy

New initiatives



- Wider involvement of siblings
- Expansion of the YAP
- Development of culture of disability
- Events with families without intellectual disabilities

Three essential items



- Organization
- Communication
- Passion

Thanks !



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