

COUNTRY REPORT ITALY

Research on good practices to foster participation and inclusion
of TNCs in receiving countries



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Introduction and the national context

The use of labels to refer to migrants in Italy has changed over the years. Whilst there was an initial division between those who were referred to as foreigners (*stranieri* - basically western and affluent) and those who were identified as immigrants (*immigrati* - every other migrant – often accompanied by the word *extracomunitario*, that is, non-EU).

Now, the term *immigrato* ‘has introduced in the common language as the most popular and least problematic generic describer.’¹ When it comes to refugees, the Italian language has two different words to refer to them: *profugo* and *rifugiato*. The *Enciclopedia Treccani* defines the differences between both terms as follows:

- a *rifugiato* is the individual who has left their country for the reasonable fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality or political affiliation and has applied for asylum and refuge in a foreign state;
- a *profugo* is an individual who for various reasons (war, poverty, hunger, natural disasters, etc) has left their country but is not in a position to request international protection².

Only the label *rifugiato* indicates the protection accorded to an individual in international law since the Geneva Convention of 1951. In practice, Italian newspapers normally use *profugo* and *rifugiato* as equivalent, although the condition of *rifugiato* needs to be recognised by a state and has legal consequences, whereas an individual can be a *profugo* without any third-party recognition. For this reason, the European Commission decided to create a common vocabulary allowing a better understanding and comparability of migration and asylum phenomena. The European Migration Network (EMN)³ plays a significant role as a reliable source of such information across a wide range of contemporary topics. The EMN Glossary helps to facilitate coherent discussions across all of these actors by presenting information on specific topics. Moreover, the term ‘third country’ is used in the Treaties, where it means a country that is not a member of the Union. This meaning is derived from ‘third country’ in the sense of one not party to an agreement between two other countries. Even more generally, the term is used to denote a country other than two specific countries referred to, e.g. in the context of trade relations. This ambiguity is also compounded by the fact that the term is often incorrectly interpreted to mean ‘third-world country’⁴. In Italy, a migrant can’t define him/herself as a TCN. They so often refer themselves as refugees. When they arrive, especially whom arrive by boat landing, nowadays

¹ <http://www.unhcr.org/56bb369c9.pdf>

² <http://www.unhcr.org/56bb369c9.pdf>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/docs/emn-glossary-en-version.pdf

⁴ <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/observatories/eurwork/industrial-relations-dictionary/third-country-nationals>

they are defined as asylum seeker. Not all of them get the international protection thus assuming the status of refugee but frequently they get a peculiar Italian form of protection called Humanitarian protection. No terminology till now have been defined to indicate who is granted for humanitarian protection. This type of permit only lasts two years and gives less rights.

- *Reflexion on how did the narrative on migration/inclusion/human rights changed within the last years? Can you talk about the changing the focus from humanitarian to security discourse and what does it mean for the migrant themselves, their (self) organisation and active participation into the society?*

Debate over terminology is not a question of political correctness, as it is sometimes characterised. It has real implications for migrants. Many people, including some members of the general public, journalists and government officials, reduce the entire body of migrants to only two categories: those who are 'legal' and those who are 'illegal', calling them *clandestini*. In order to analyse the impact immigration has on Italian society, it is important to analyse the way it portrays by the Italian media. Read through the eyes of Italian media, indeed, the tone of the information flow is often more useful to the political debate than to supporting understanding of what happens. Often the ideological point of view leaves out, or even contradicts, the clarity of the numbers. Analysis of how media cover the migration story is highly reliable in Italy because it is home to *Carta di Roma* (Charter of Rome, 2008) one of Europe's leading specialist media monitoring groups which is focused on the migration story and which came into being after a scandal over media discrimination⁵. Indeed, in January 2008, the UNHCR condemned media reports saying: "Strong and rather unexpected evidence of xenophobic sentiments emerged, as did a media system ready to act as the sounding board for the worst manifestations of hate."⁶ The Italian journalists' union, working with the national editors' association, academics, press employers, media experts and the UNHCR, prepared a draft a code of conduct which conclusion was the adoption of the Charter of Rome.

In particular, the code says Italian journalists must:

- Use appropriate language, stick to the facts and avoid terms that inflame the situation;
- Avoid spreading inaccurate, simplified or distorted information;
- Protect asylum seekers, refugees, or victims of trafficking and migrants who choose to speak with media by protecting their identity;

⁵ Azouz Marzouk was widely depicted by media as a monster, with press and television interviews featuring aggressive criticism of the Tunisian immigrant community. It was then revealed that he was in Tunisia at the time of the attack. Subsequently, two neighbours confessed to the murders and were prosecuted (2006)

⁶ <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2007/2/45df04ea4/italian-media-heeds-unhcr-call-set-code-conduct-refugee-issues.html>

- Use reliable and expert sources so people get clear, comprehensive analyses of the issues⁷

One of the main concerns for the Charter of Rome has been to work on the language of newspapers. The alarmist tone adopted by the main newspapers regarding migrants is seen as counterproductive for the purpose of a constructive debate on integration. The use of words such as “irregular” or “immigrants” entices racial hatred, according to the Charter, especially when they serve the purpose to give visibility to articles that cast a shadow on refugees. The journey of migrants too often becomes “an invasion” in newspapers and the political debate used sentences like “problem of national interest” to describe it. Also, there is a lot of reporting on the request for “security” to face what is considered by the press, a “problem”⁸. The problem of terminology is also found in online sources. A post on Google Trends up until 2015 noted the use of the terms “clandestines” and “migrants” in searches with a substantial humanisation of the terminology. Limiting to the Italian media outlets which are gathered by Google News, a comparison of researches on the words “refugees”, “clandestines”, “extra communitarians” and “migrants” shows the confirmation of this last description for all of 2016 (exceptions only in June and November). And in the presentation of Carta di Roma Observatory, La Repubblica wrote that there are “... more moderate tones by 20 per cent in the media (TV and newspapers) but racism explodes on social media”⁹. Also the social media have a key role in the building of the narrative on migrations. In this case not only it’s very difficult to impose a ‘code of conduct’ but the users of the social media contribute to the building of a collective imagination which is very often characterized in a racist and aggressive way. One of the key issues in media coverage has been the need to give voice to the opinions of migrants themselves. In Italy there are some participatory journalistic projects that involve readers in a chorus of storytelling on migration in our society. One is Migranti by Valigia Blu¹⁰, a constructive journalism project which has produced storytelling on migrants in the media; another is Open Migration¹¹, created by the Italian Coalition on Freedom and Civil Rights. Instead of embracing the complexity by accepting – and ruling on – the new reality of migration and the variety of the individuals involved, European policymakers and national politicians, together with media professionals, have privileged the opposite direction, considering all individuals on the move as migrants, thus promoting further confusion. The result is the production of more and more distortions in the perception and understanding of the phenomenon.

⁷ <http://ethicaljournalisminitiative.org/assets/docs/068/223/47dfc44-3c9f7df.pdf>

⁸ <https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/resources/publications/media-mediterranean-migration/italy>

⁹ Chapter of the Study “How does the media on both sides of the Mediterranean report on migration?” carried out and prepared by the Ethical Journalism Network and commissioned in the framework of EUROMED Migration IV – a project, financed by the European Union and implemented by ICMPD. © European Union, 2017.)

¹⁰ <https://www.valigiablu.it/tag/migranti/>

¹¹ <http://openmigration.org/en>

Due to this simultaneous involvement in both the country of origin as with the country of settlement, migrants organize themselves in such a way that they can contribute to both societies. Migrants often establish their own, ethnic or locality-based networks in countries of settlement. These networks are called Diaspora organizations or migrant organizations. In this way Diaspora organizations can be important partners for both governmental as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Diaspora organizations can provide NGOs with knowledge about countries in which NGOs are participating (Bakker, n.d, p. 9). But also government institutions could profit from Diaspora knowledge when implementing development or community policies (Bakker, n.d, p. 8). There are ongoing initiatives, in different ways, to encourage the collaboration between Diaspora initiatives and external parties like governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Aid organizations (Sinatti et al., 2010, p. 31).

In general it can be said that Diaspora organizations believe they can acknowledge problems and issues among migrants or within the country of origin faster due to the direct contact they maintain and their position within such a community.¹² In Italy, the mapping of migrant citizens' associations was developed in 2014 (last version 2016) by IDOS- Study and Research Centre in the framework of the project "IN.CO.NT.RO". The project was promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy - the Directorate *General for Immigration and Integration Policies* and co-founded by the *European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals*. The main goal of the mapping is to integrate and make available the data about migrants' associations based in Italy, through a database that can be always updated and increased. At present time, 2.114 associations are mapped in the database¹³ . In 2017, the first Diaspora Summit was organized by Working Group 4 "Migration and Development" of the National Council for Development Cooperation. The intention of the National Diaspora Summit for Italian Cooperation has been to discuss the various issues that limit participation and gather and offer the recommendations made by diasporas to give substance to the innovations identified in the law ¹⁴. Law 125/2014 contains a number of innovations, including the involvement of diasporas in Italian development cooperation. For the first time, cooperation planning identifies the topic of migration and development as a priority. Meanwhile, new engagement opportunities were born in Italy during the last years, made by youth generations of migrants, that on one hand, they need to develop new skills (ICT) and technical competences and the other hand to encouraging and creating more solid relations with NGOs, in order to support certain development cooperation activities.

Indeed, after the summit it emerged some recommendations on the types of tender and initiative to support participation by diasporas in partnerships with NGO and other actors:

¹² <http://theses.uibn.ru.nl/bitstream/handle/123456789/2788/2014%20Schopen.pdf?sequence=1>

¹³ <http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Areetematiche/Paesicomunitari-e-associazioniMigranti/Pagine/Mappatura-associazioni-EN.aspx>

¹⁴ <https://www.aics.gov.it/2018/22060/>

- vocational training: to strengthen and build the cultural, social and technical skills of members of diaspora associations;
- volunteering centres could also play an important role in both continuing education and in facilitating access to information and creating linking platforms among associations;
- simplification of the language, forms and information and reporting of calls for tender to create a consultancy desk for associations that would have the task of assisting them with access to calls for tender and preparing projects;
- the creation of specific calls for tender dedicated to immigrant associations, in which they can participate, alone or in local networks, not only as partners but also as leaders greater involvement on the part of migrant associations should be encouraged, from drafting the project to performance and reporting.

Social, political, and cultural context of the country

Since its unification in the 19th century, Italy has been a country of emigration, with millions of Italians migrating to the Americas and elsewhere in Europe for economic and political reasons. The migration history is characterized by Italian mobility from poorer areas in the country's South to its wealthier North¹⁵.

During the 1980s, immigrants started coming from the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. During the 90s thousands of people fleeing Albania reached Italy on overcrowded boats, and media reports of these events generated both solidarity and fear among Italians. In the 1990s and early 2000s, the immigrant population increased rapidly. Between 2010 and 2013, fallout from the international economic crisis pushed immigration to the background in Italian politics¹⁶. As a peninsula in the middle of the Mediterranean, Italy represents a logical passage for maritime arrivals who intend to move onward to reunite with relatives or find work in Germany, Sweden, and other Northern European countries.

The Italian government has carried out several initiatives for handling arrivals by sea and managing the reception and assistance of asylum seekers. After 366 migrants died in a shipwreck near the Italian island of Lampedusa in October 2013, the government launched Mare Nostrum, a humanitarian and military operation to rescue ships carrying asylum seekers. Mare Nostrum was ended in November 2014 and replaced by Operation Triton, led by the EU border control agency Frontex. While Triton had a narrower mandate and less funding than Mare Nostrum, the

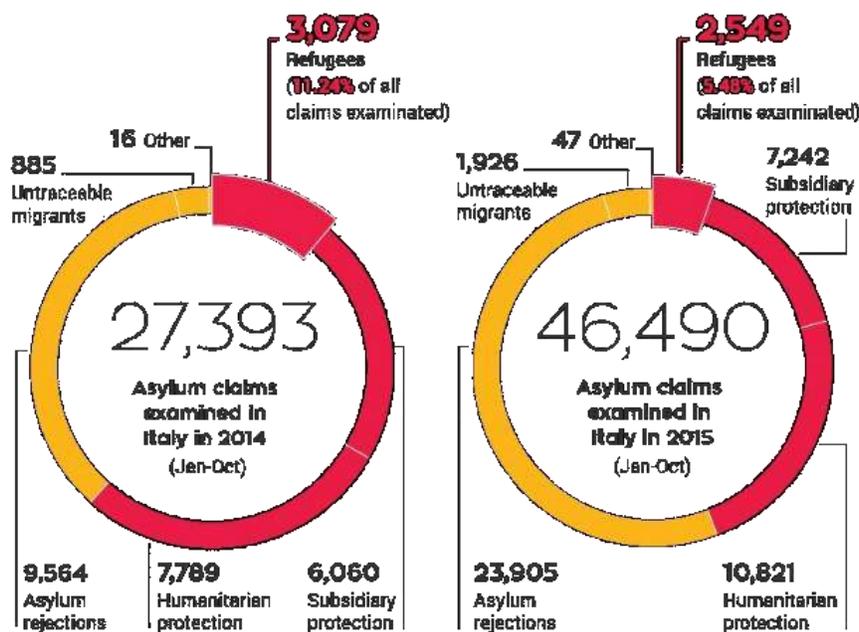
¹⁵ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/emigration-asylum-destination-italy-navigates-shifting-migration-tides>

¹⁶ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/emigration-asylum-destination-italy-navigates-shifting-migration-tides>

Italian government, which had long asked for a more supportive EU approach to the maritime arrivals, viewed the change in responsibility as a success¹⁷.

In an attempt to stem rising migrant flows, the Italian government introduced in July last year the controversial code of conduct for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that carry out search and rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea. With EU support, Italy also gave equipment and training to Libyan coast guard aimed at strengthening their capacity to intercept migrants before they are rescued by NGO vessels. Under the code, NGO ships will no longer be allowed to transfer refugees to other ships. Instead, they will have to bring rescued migrants into port themselves, thereby limiting their operations¹⁸. The code has been criticised by NGOs, rights groups and the United Nations who say it risks further endangering lives in the Mediterranean. Five out of the eight NGOs, including Doctors Without Borders, Sea Watch, SOS MEDITERRANEE, Sea Eye, Jugend Rettet, the Lifeboat Foundation and the Boat Refugee Foundation, refused to sign. Only three — Save the Children, MOAS (Migrant Offshore Aid Station) and Proactiva Open Arms — accepted to do so.

The real number of refugees arriving in Italy



Source: Ministry of Interior

openmigration.org

<http://openmigration.org/en/infographics/#italy>

¹⁷ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/emigration-asylum-destination-italy-navigates-shifting-migration-tides>

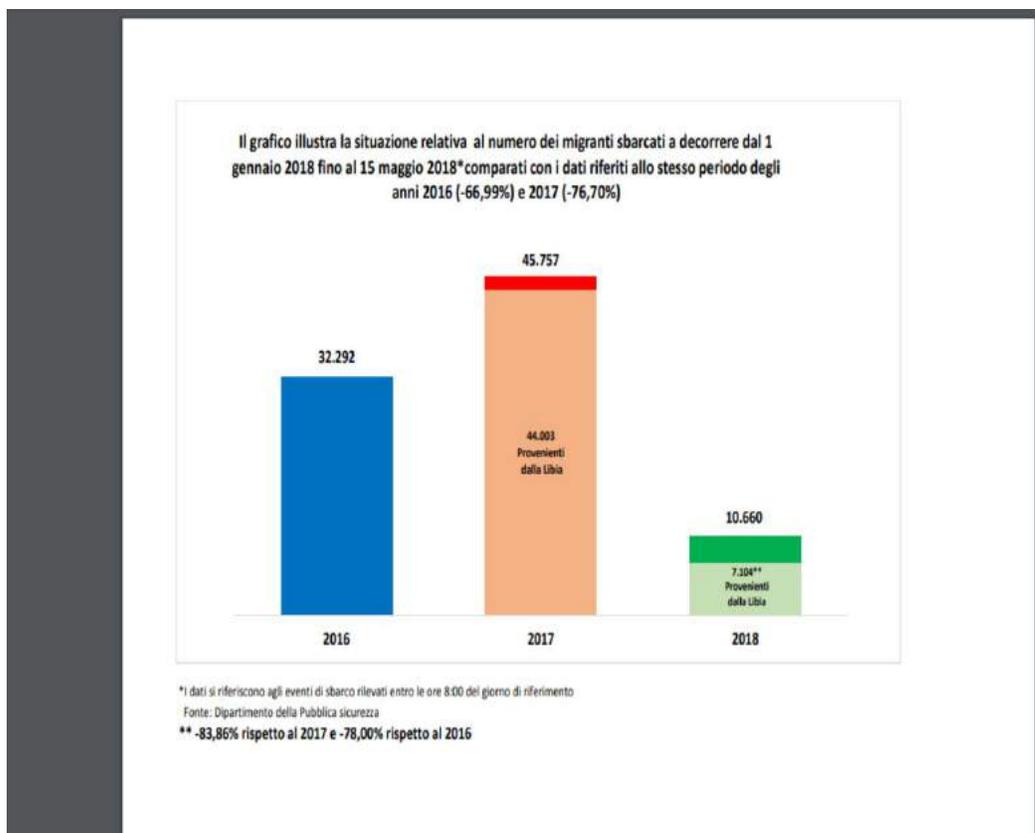
¹⁸

<https://www.avvenire.it/c/attualita/Documents/Codice%20ONG%20migranti%2028%20luglio%202017%20EN.pdf>

Italy has played an outsized role in the current European migration crisis, receiving more than 335,000 irregular arrivals via the Mediterranean during 2015-16. Since the collapse or destabilization of authoritarian regimes in North Africa and the Middle East following the Arab Spring in 2011, growing numbers of people fleeing civil war and instability have departed for Europe, a phenomenon that came to a head in 2015 and 2016 as EU countries were overwhelmed by the scale of new arrivals. Italy, Greece, and the Balkan countries have represented the first destinations for these asylum seekers, and under European asylum regulations, must provide them with reception and assistance.¹⁹

At the start of 2016, slightly more than 5 million foreign citizens legally resided in Italy, comprising about 9 percent of the population of 60.6 million people.

The Italian governments, during the last year, have asked the European Union and other Member States for greater cooperation and solidarity in reception and care for asylum seekers and in the meanwhile they have enforced stricter measures for controlling irregular flows and have clashed with Brussels and individual Member States.



http://www.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/cruscotto_giornaliero_15-05-2018.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/emigration-asylum-destination-italy-navigates-shifting-migration-tides>

The Minniti Decree, approved in April 2017, aims to speed up the application process for asylum seekers and to distinguish them from unauthorized immigrants. The decree bars rejected asylum seekers from a second appeal and took steps to increase the number of detention centers and introduce voluntary work for asylum seekers.²⁰

This graphic shows the number of migrants arrived from January to 15 May 2018 in Italy: 10.660 people (7.104 arriving from Lybia).

Institutional structure of the country

The basis of the Italian legislation on migration is the TU 286/1998. After its approval it became impossible to arrive in Italy, a part from the family reunion. The Italian reception system has been reformed several times, most recently in April 2017 (COM 2017 (1882)). In general, asylum seekers go through a 3 forms of reception system:

- 1) first assistance facilities (so called CPSA) and hotspots;
- 2) reception facilities including first reception centres, CARAs (centres for the accommodation of asylum seekers) and CAS (temporary centres for emergency reception) now both incorporated into regional hubs;
- 3) SPRAR centres (System of Protection for Applicants and Beneficiaries of International Protection) that are run by the National Association of Italian Municipalities.²¹

The international resettlement programme called “Humanitarian corridors” - signed in 2015 between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Interior, the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Evangelic Churches Federation and the Waldensian church in Italy- guaranteed regular entries through legislative instruments which 522 asylum seekers, mainly Syrians from Lebanon, were transferred to Italy in 2016. The programme targets about 1,000 people including mainly vulnerable cases, Syrians and Eritrean nationals, potential asylum seekers, residents in transit countries or bordering conflict countries.

During 2016, the Parliament discussed a bill to modify some parts of the Legislative Decree n. 286/1998 regarding the protection measures for unaccompanied minors. The bill, approved at the end of March 2017, aims at reinforcing the protection of unaccompanied minors by specifically introducing:

- a) the prohibition of rejecting unaccompanied children at the national borders;
- b) procedures for the acceleration of identification of unaccompanied children;

²⁰ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/emigration-asylum-destination-italy-navigates-shifting-migration-tides>

²¹ https://www.ies.be/files/IES_Policy_Brief_2017-3_EU_hotspots_relocation_and_absconded_migrants_in_Italy.pdf

- c) the guarantee of medical assistance;
- d) the establishment of a roster for voluntary guardians for UAMs.

With the new regulation (Zampa Law²²), the legal representative of the reception centre –first or second- where one resides can subside as a guardian and initiate the claim for asylum or international protection. Also with the new law, people from the civil society can apply to become “volunteer guardians”, selected and trained by the Regional Ombudsperson for Children.

Italy adopted a Decree in February 2017, which amended and streamlined procedures for Territorial Commissions - namely those related to notifications and auditions - and introduced new rules concerning appeal possibilities. In the name of simplifying judicial procedures and lightening the burden of the reception system, those seeking international protection will no longer have the chance to appeal the rejection of their asylum claims. In other words, asylum seekers who have their claim denied by the territorial commissions will only have one chance to fight such a decision in court (besides the appeal before the Court of Cassation in case of errors of law)²³.

Although the legislative procedure is controversial and is clearly an inadequate response to the Italian system in matters of immigration and asylum, the integration plan is defined as:

“a process aimed to promote the cohabitation of Italian and foreign nationals, in full compliance with the values enshrined in the Italian Constitution, with the mutual commitment of participating in the economic, social and cultural life of the society.” (Art. 4-bis, comma 1, TU 286/98).

By signing the Agreement (at the Immigration Services Office or at the Questura-Police Headquarters), the foreign nationals commit to acquire an adequate level of spoken Italian – at least equivalent to A2 level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) –, acquire an acceptable level of knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the Republic and civil life in Italy, and guarantee the fulfilment of the education obligations for minors. By signing the Agreement, the foreign nationals claim also that they adhere to the Charter of Values of Citizenship and Integration. As well as references to the dignity of people, their civil rights and duties, the principles of freedom of religion, state secularism, and the promotion of peace, the Charter contains precise references to the classical cultural roots (Ancient Greece and Roman Empire) and to the Jewish-Christian tradition, constituting the “values on which the Italian society is based” (Charter of Values of Citizenship and Integration, Decree of the Minister of Interior, 23rd April 2007). **In 2017, the Italian government passed the National Integration Plan to aid refugee integration in Italy.** The plan to aid refugee integration

²² <http://eumigrationlawblog.eu/the-new-italian-law-on-unaccompanied-minors-a-model-for-the-eu/>

²³ <http://openmigration.org/en/analyses/why-the-new-italian-law-on-immigration-and-asylum-is-not-good-news-at-all/>

in Italy is funded by the Italian government and the European Union. It is designed to target 75,000 people with EU refugee or subsidiary protection status.

A key component of **the National Integration Plan** is teaching the Italian language. By teaching Italian to refugees of all ages, the government hopes to increase refugee integration in Italy. After the refugees learn Italian, it will be easier for them to participate in the local community. The second major component of the National Integration Plan is promoting “active citizenship”. The Italian government hopes to curb Islamophobia by fostering goodwill and communication between refugees and the Italian communities in which they live. Young refugees will begin to communicate with young Italians, mutual respect will begin to grow and future generations will have a better understanding of each other.²⁴ Even if there is not a well-structured integration policy discourse in Italy, in political and public discourses some immigrants’ groups are considered particularly difficult to integrate because of cultural and religious diversity. Migrants are accepted as workers and they are economically integrated – albeit in “subordinate integration”. However, if they become a visible community and/or demand public and institutional recognition, then opposition towards them increases. Muslims (above all, North-Africans), Chinese nationals and the Roma are particularly poorly tolerated²⁵. At the expiration of the residency permit (usually 2 years), the foreign nationals have to prove having obtained at least 30 credits (including the 16 assigned on the stipulation phase), in order to renew the title. The State, on the other hand, commits to support the integration process of the foreign nationals with the implementation of suitable initiatives in collaboration with the Regions and Local Entities. The three main routes to obtaining Italian citizenship are either by (1) descent, (2) marriage or (3) naturalization. A non-EU citizen having legally resided in Italy for ten years may apply for Italian citizenship and a EU citizen after four years. A foreigner with native-born Italian parents or grandparents who have lost their citizenship and therefore unable to pass citizenship on, is entitled to apply after three years of legal residency in Italy.

General information about TCNs in Italy

On 1st January 2017 the foreign population in Italy is estimated at 5,958,000 units. Of these, 85% are residents, regularly registered in their local council’s Registry Office, whereas 420,000 are – presently – regular non-residents and 491,000 have an irregular immigration status²⁶.

²⁴ <http://www.borgenmagazine.com/refugee-integration-in-italy/>

²⁵ http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/32019/INTERACT-RR-2014_05.pdf

²⁶ <http://www.ismu.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/XXIII-Report-on-migrations-2017-1.pdf>

Examining the different nationalities of immigrants who have come to live in Italy through an overview of Civil Registry Office data (updated on 1st January 2017), we find that Romanians maintain the first place, with 1,169,000 residents (23.2% of total presences). To follow, we have approximately 450,000 Albanians (8.9%) and 420,000 Moroccans (8.3%). The ranking then counts 283,000 Chinese (5.6%) and 234,000 Ukrainians (4.4%), before including Filipinos (3.3%), Indians (3%), Moldavians (2.7%), Bangladeshis (2.4%) and Egyptians (2.2%)²⁷.

TABLE 1. FOREIGNERS IN ITALY ON 1ST JANUARY 2015-2017 BY TYPE

Type of migrant	1 Jan 15	1 Jan 16	1 Jan 17
	(thousands)		
Resident (registered at the Registry Office)	5,014	5,026	5,047
Regular non residents	401	410	420
Irregular	404	435	491
Total present	5,819	5,871	5,958

Source: ISMU analysis on ISTAT data

Immigrants in Italy are younger on average: 21 percent are under age 18, compared to 16.4 percent of the overall Italian population; 44 percent are ages 18 to 40, in contrast with 25.9

TABLE 4. MAIN NATIONALITIES AMONG FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN ITALY. AT 1ST JANUARY 2014-2017 (THOUSANDS)

Nation of origin	2014	2015	2016	2017	Variation 2016-2017
Romania	1,081,400	1,131,839	1,151,395	1,168,552	17,157
Albania	495,709	490,483	467,687	448,407	-19,280
Morocco	454,773	449,058	437,485	420,651	-16,834
P.R. of China	256,846	265,820	271,330	281,972	10,642
Ukraine	219,050	226,060	230,728	234,354	3,626
Philippines	162,655	168,238	165,900	166,459	559
India	149,434	147,815	150,456	151,430	974
Moldavia	142,453	147,388	142,266	135,661	-6,605
Bangladesh	111,223	115,301	118,790	122,428	3,638
Egypt	96,008	103,713	109,871	112,765	2,894
All Countries	4,922,085	5,014,437	5,026,153	5,047,028	20,875

Source: ISMU analysis on ISTAT data

²⁷ <http://www.ismu.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/XXIII-Report-on-migrations-2017-1.pdf>

percent of the entire population; and just 3 percent are over age 65, compared to 22.3 percent overall. Nearly 73 percent of all resident children of migrants were born in Italy, with higher shares among younger age groups.

Of the total migrant population, 1,681,000 had temporary residency permits, primarily students and workers. This category includes a small group of seasonal workers, usually employed in tourism and agriculture. In 2015, fewer than 4,000 seasonal work permits were issued, representing just 1.6 percent of all temporary permits; however, these data do not include much larger numbers of unauthorized seasonal workers, mainly employed in agriculture in the South. These workers usually arrive in July and stay until November, moving to different regions and provinces to work as farm laborers on several harvests.

Seasonal laborers in the South are often victims of the so-called *caporalato*, an illicit form of employment mediation in which recruiters use their power to extort money from workers for board, lodging, and transportation²⁸.

Organisation and self-organisation of TNCs: Good Practices

ManoLavoraBoccaParla - Project for the Enhancement of Traditional Knowledge

Associazione Le Fate Onlus was founded in Verona in 1999 with the aim of promoting the well-being of families – of children, boys and girls, women and men. Members of the association are social workers with different courses of study (Education Science, Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, Literature, Social Services, Art). Its projects aim to guide and promote empowerment and personal growth, a process based on self-esteem, through a relational approach that - starting from the knowledge of a context - enhances relational networks and cultural and family identity.

The main goal of the various project-areas is to create opportunities, to cultivate potential talents, starting from each person's strengths and abilities.

Functional and relational skills can be achieved facing real situations. However, real situations are not enough to make a situation "educational". In fact, they must be designed, in order to:

- have a meaning – to be recognized as an important part of one's life and/or of a process of development;
- place the person in a path, in which "doing" leads to "knowledge";

²⁸ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/emigration-asylum-destination-italy-navigates-shifting-migration-tides>

- create the opportunity to live different kinds of relationships, in which the persons experience "good feeling with others";
- create skills and abilities that can be used in other situations.

Aiming to promoting the well-being of women, the association has worked to promote people's skills, collaborating on a network with the Municipality of Verona, in particular the Women's Intercultural Center of the Municipality of Verona "Casa di Ramia" in the District of Veronetta. Together, they promoted the Valorizzazione dei Saperi Tradizionali Project, funded by the Veneto Region in 2008, as part of Cantieri d'Integrazione Project, which the Municipality of Verona is Head of.

The project, which has been developed thanks to the active participation of migrant women, aims to create a low-threshold, free access space - open to children too - where craft techniques and good life practices can be exchanged starting from women's desires. The tools of this project are manual work and Italian language practice through experience.

Active participation has also been facilitated thanks to a new member of the Association, a Peruvian social worker. At the same time, an artisan from Morocco and collaborator of Associazione le Fate, has created a new association to promote her products and services. The ancient craft culture, in fact, can be valued as much as a cultural resource and a sign of identity, but also as an added value in contemporary marketing and high technology society.

Manolavoraboccaparla lab originated from the desire of Italian and migrant women to recover and exchange their arts - sewing, cooking, macramé, body care, medicinal plants, spinning, weaving. For 6 years adult women, younger and older, have met every week and have intertwined relationships and experiences through manual work and storytelling. In order to facilitate attendance and participation also for mothers with young children, some women have dedicated themselves to the care of the babies, activating female collaboration practices.

Method

The recovery of manual activities traditions, in a collective situation involving people of different ages and origins, is a way of working which is extended to different educational situations: it involves Italian and migrant women, teachers, pupils and students, mothers and grandmothers. Planning of the project's development is self-managed, coordinated by the group manager and by a migrant artisan woman. The project is shared with other women, the implementation is discussed between them. Each period of work is of about 6 months, adequate time is provided to reflection and to the evaluation of the activities carried out, with progressive adjustments of the proposal.

Specific spaces are reserved to the practice of interchange, in which manual work is shared in a

relaxed time, which opens up opportunities for personal narration, supported by the manual work too.

The method favors the storytelling, the narration starting from oneself, the transmission of experience and knowledge in the presence. Documentation has been entrusted to audio recordings, to photographic images, to the drafting of synthesis texts that gather the reflections on the experiences.

Manolavoraboccaparla allowed to develop and start the same project-model in two other districts of the Municipality of Verona over the years, promoting active participation and willingness on the part of participants to go beyond cultural and generational prejudices, experimenting with new tools to deal with conflicts, bringing out the will to build relationships and foster new projects.

IPARTICIPATE

Story and objectives

The association “IPARTICIPATE” was born in 2015 in Florence as a follow-up of the European project IPARTICIPATE (Immigrants Political Awareness Raising Through Instruments for Citizenship and Participation Activities). The project has been realized, with the financing of the European Union, in several European countries characterized by multicultural environments: Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal and United Kingdom. As far as Italy is concerned, activities have been carried out by ANCI Toscana, which was the leading partner.

Even after the end of the project, the Association, formally registered as a voluntary association, has continued to work to promote the participation of youths to the public and political life of the country in which they live.

The association is formed by many “second generation” youngsters, born and/or raised in Italy, coming from families with a migration background. They come from different parts of the world and mainly from Albania, Morocco and Romania, thus reflecting the main foreign communities established in Italy.

The main objective of IPARTICIPATE is to promote the socio-political awareness of the so-called “second generations” youngsters, i.e. coming from immigrant families, and making them active actors of the social and political life of the society. This can be achieved through the promotion of the participation and of an active citizenship in their respective societies, changing the approach and the ways of action on the basis of the situation.

Over the years, the association has carried on a wide spectrum of activities. However, all of them converge on the same stream: raising awareness and promoting issues such as the reform of the

Italian citizenship law and its recent rejection, the fight against racism and discriminations based on nationality, color of the skin and religion and the fight against the diffusion of hate speech against migrants.

Activities

From its first year, the activities carried out by the association have been many and different. The first initiative has been an activity of lobbying realized through a petition sent to the European Parliament. The petition aimed at guaranteeing the same opportunities to join traineeships in the European institutions to all students, in particular to Third-country nationals studying in Italy. The activities had been carried on through a campaign on Change.org and a video of awareness raising. Both products have been widespread on social platforms.

In political terms, one of the most central issues of IPARTICIPATE is focused on the acquisition of the Italian citizenship by children born and/or raised in Italy coming from immigrant families. The political debate on the citizenship reform based on the “*ius soli*” principle has been very intense in the last years and has been promoted by the “*Italiani senza cittadinanza*” (Italians without citizenship) and CONNGI (National coordination of the new Italian generations) movements. The CONNGI movement was born from a project of the Italian Ministry of Work and Social Policies and encompasses several associations, including IPARTICIPATE, in a crucial network of key actors on the Italian territory.

Already in 2016, the representatives of the Association were involved in events and seminars as participants and speakers. In December 2016, the Association presented itself as example of participation of the second generations in the social and political life in the territory of Florence on the scope of the national seminar “*Traiettorie migranti, università, scuola, territorio*” organized by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR). In 2018, the Association has participated on the second Edition seminar held in Padova “*Protagonisti. Le nuove generazioni italiane si raccontano*” and the workshop “*Hate speech: conoscerlo per combatterlo*” organized by the Association “*Lunaria*” in Rome.

Beside the institutional and lobbying activities, the Association promotes also activities of awareness raising of the civil societies and the activism of youths in their territory through flash mobs and manifestations. In 2017, the Association has organized in Florence one flash mob during the “*Febbraio della cittadinanza*” (February of Citizenship) promoted by the movement “*Italiani senza cittadinanza*” (Italians without citizenship) e “*L’Italia sono anch’io*”, to sustain the reform of the law on citizenship. Moreover, on 20 May 2017, IPARTICIPATE has participated in a “*manifestation for peace*” in Florence, organized by Comitato Fermiamo la Guerra. Also, on such occasion, we have focused on the reform of the law of citizenship, to get signatures for the launching of a petition on *ius soli*, promoted by the Italians without citizenship movement.

On the same type, a flash mob against stereotypes has been organized by IPARTICIPATE always in Florence, in a central square: the flash mob, which has involved other 12 Associations in Florence, had the objective to sensitize on the theme of discrimination. Around 100 persons animated the square wearing T-shirts with phrases against most common stereotypes.

The association also promotes cultural type events; one example is the “Invisible - Dialogando con le seconde generazioni” event, when second generation artists have presented their works: the presentation of the latest two books of Brhan Tesfay and an exhibition of Zaklina Paunku, a Serbian photographer.

In 2018, the Association has developed also an educational profile, since it held workshops focused on the citizenship issue and on the concept of identity in the schools of Florence.

RAGAZZI HARRAGA – Social Inclusion Processes for unaccompanied minors in the city of Palermo

The project aims to strengthen, experiment with and evaluate innovative pathways of autonomy in the transition to adulthood, through a path of social inclusion, training, orientation and job placement, as well as new solutions for independent housing for single migrant children received in the city of Palermo.

Objectives

- To improve the reception system of unaccompanied minors by promoting models ensuring the protection of children’s rights in Italy;
- To promote models supporting social inclusion which take into account the potential, the interests and the expectations of unaccompanied minors, so as to facilitate an autonomous and responsible passage to adulthood by involving the Region of Sicily;
- To create a social file for each minor featuring all the information concerning their identities, the reception procedures, the inclusion strategies and the hard, soft and life skills they have developed;
- To give unaccompanied minors the opportunity to strengthen and develop soft and relational skills;
- To develop an active policy for labour market integration of unaccompanied minors;
- To identify temporary housing solutions featuring affordable accommodations for unaccompanied minors and a tourist hostel;
- To design efficient tools in order to ensure the visibility and sustainability of the project.

Results

- Creation of a platform with social files for each minor featuring all the information concerning their identities, the reception procedures, the inclusion strategies and the hard, soft and life skills they have developed;

- Unaccompanied minors who take part in the project will develop soft and interpersonal skills: i.e. self-empowerment, self-esteem, awareness of their own competences and talents;
- Development of an active policy for labour market integration of unaccompanied minors;
- Setting up temporary and affordable housing solutions featuring a low-cost accommodation for unaccompanied minors and a tourist hostel.

Activities

- Creating a platform which allows users to share, monitor and follow the inclusion strategies of unaccompanied minors living in Palermo;
- Developing activities aimed at sharing methodologies and identifying tools so as to enhance and value the skills acquired by unaccompanied minors and improve the continuity of inclusion strategies;
- Promoting activities aimed at enhancing active citizenship and including unaccompanied minors in the social and cultural life of Palermo (i.e. intercultural, theatre and multimedia workshops);
- Creating and promoting the adoption of open source tools enabling a participatory mapping of the social and cultural organizations in Palermo;
- Informing, describing, and supporting unaccompanied minors in order to promote active labour market policies;
- Supporting vocational counselling services so as to identify professional skills and collect vacancies from hosting businesses;
- Redecorating and adapting buildings to host unaccompanied minors and guests;
- Assisting and helping institutional care leavers and providing them with autonomous and affordable housing solutions;
- Managing a tourist hostel in collaboration with unaccompanied minors;
- Sensitising and raising awareness of the project in order to promote and enhance its scope.

Partners

CIAI – Centro Italiano Aiuti all’Infanzia Onlus (Coordinator); Comune di Palermo– Assessorato alla Cittadinanza Sociale; Associazione Santa Chiara; Cooperativa Libera...mente; CPIA Palermo 1; Libera Palermo; Nottedoro; SEND; CESIE.

FETE- From Expats to Experts: United Civil Society through Inclusion and Empowerment of Young Immigrants

Objectives

- To provide young immigrants with skills relevant for the European labour market through workshops and internship opportunities, but also build bridges between immigrants and local communities and therefore combating stereotypes surrounding immigration;
- To deliver a mentorship programme and guide for mentors as a tool for better inclusion of first generation immigrants;
- To contribute to a common European inclusion strategy based on research findings and project implementation results to be published and disseminated in Europe

Activities

- Research about a successful inclusion strategy and developing a strategy based on the research findings implemented and tested in Malta first and implementing the adapted strategy in Italy, France and Denmark;
- Delivery of 7 day workshop training and 3 months small scale project implementation (Internships=Seeds) assisted and facilitated by the mentoring programme in Malta, Italy, France and Denmark;
- Delivery of 5 day Youth Exchange in Malta, school workshops in each country and public debate in Copenhagen, Denmark;
- Disseminating the strategy based on theoretical research and practical implementation in 4 European countries as well as the Guideline for mentors

Results

- Local Workshop: Young migrants build soft skills for employability;
- FETE participants complete the internships by the end of 2015 - working opportunity and public debate on inclusion;
- Inclusion Strategy: An overview of migration policies, and young immigrant inclusion strategies in the European Labour Market;
- Online platform "Inter(n)changes" for young immigrants and local enterprises/ NGOs;
- Mentoring guidelines "Youth Empowerment through Mentoring: a Guide for Youth Workers";
- 20 participants trained as Youth Ambassadors for Diversity and Youth Empowerment;
- Success Stories – Video Interview with participants [young migrants, aged 18 to 30]

Partners

Coordinator: Crossing Borders (Denmark); The People for Change Foundation (Malta); CNAM - Pays de la Loire (France); CESIE (Italy)

CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH (A.C.B.)

Story

The Cultural Association of Bangladesh (A.C. B.) was formed to provide information and assistance to the citizens of Bangladesh. It is formally settled as an association for social promotion in 2007 in Arezzo. The principal objectives of the association are:

- To promote the culture of Bangladesh.
- To defend the rights of workers, women and children.
- To know other cultures to appreciate diversities.
- To act against every type of violence and discrimination.
- To contribute to render to the society we live in more modern and equally.
- To support the integration between the people.

In 2009, A.C.B. participated in one coordination of associations promoted by a big organization strongly rooted in the Italian territory (ARCI), with the objective to support moments of exchange and confront and, at same time, provide spaces and management support for young associations. In 2011, with the support of some volunteers connected to ARCI, the association started to obtain its first small public funding which allows it to sustain economically its own activities, in particular the creation of a front office of information. The office, despite having Bengali and Pakistani users, welcomes people of all origins. In 2012, with the arrivals in Italy of immigrants from North Africa after the so called “Arab spring”, A.C.B. decided for the first time to participate in one project of hospitality and experimented on welcoming of a Nigerian family, recently arrived from Libya. The experience has been successful and in 2017 A.C.B. welcomed up to forty people. Currently, A.C.B. outlines some agreements with ONGs, Associations and the Local authorities to start projects of international cooperation and development in Bangladesh and in other countries in the Southern part of the world.

Principal activities

Cultural activities: At the beginning, the activities of the Association focused on celebrating Bengali traditions in the community and let the inhabitants of the territory know their culture of origin. These activities unite and strengthen the relationship between the members of the association, making the group more cohesive. Some examples are the “celebration of the mother tongue” and the “celebration of the independence of Bangladesh”.

Front desk: It addresses mainly Pakistani and Bengali people. Also thanks to the presence of the mediators, it becomes more and more a point of reference for people of all nationalities. The climate of closure in the city (Arezzo) after the local right wing administration has brought many foreign people to ask for help and information where available. At the front desk it is possible also

to be supported by a legal expert, while more complicated cases are followed outside of the front desk and persons are accompanied to the social, sanitary and scholastic services.

School and afterschool: Following an increase in the requests of schools with a strong presence of Bengali children, the Association has undertaken an intense activity in these schools in the last years. At the moment, it realizes specific courses addressed to the classes of two comprehensive schools and also activities with parents and teachers. Furthermore, the Association organizes also an afterschool activity three times a week to provide support for homework and it is open to the entire local citizenship, notwithstanding it is mainly attended by foreign children. During the summer time, newly arrived children who will enter primary school can attend specific a linguistic strengthening activity. Another fundamental activity connected to schools is the linguistic cultural mediation which aims to solve the critical situations and divisions that may appear between teachers and parents and proposes instead a moment of contact and reciprocal knowledge, fighting stereotypes.

Reception/welcoming: the experience of welcoming of refugees and asylum seekers has begun in 2012 and has become more and more structured since then. Today, it welcomes a maximum of 40 persons, divided in small groups living in apartments. The Association has employed local operators and qualified personnel to work in the reception centers. However, the worsening of the reception system's conditions and rules at national level has brought the Association to rethink its involvement in this kind of activity. Indeed, the members of the Association questioned themselves whether an excess in the support of the hosted persons is an obstacle towards their active participation in the society.

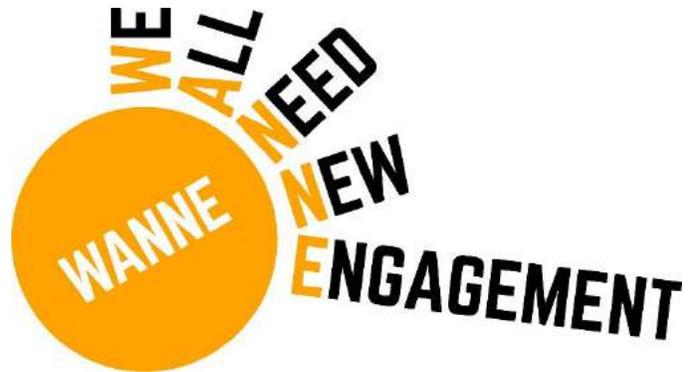
Women: in the last years, one of the Association's objectives has been a greater participation of women. However, this objective shows to be very difficult and complex to be achieved. Many activities have been realized with the aim of meeting women needs and bringing them in an independent condition, for example: courses connected to maternity, courses of sewing, courses of Italian held in their children schools. All these courses have been organized with the presence of a female mediator. Starting from the above mentioned objective, A.C.B. continues to question itself on the best way to start a direct communication and a real exchange and to set up virtuous paths of emancipation and empowerment.

The specificity of this Association, which we have identified as a good practice, is that it was born as an "ethnic" association, but then addressed and involved also native citizens and people of other nationalities. Moreover, the experience of welcoming asylum seekers is a unique one, since it has been realized by a "mono-ethnic" association. Also the approach adopted by the Association is very interesting since it is focused on the awareness that the best way to create fruitful occasions of encounter, exchange and reciprocal growth is the legitimation of the point of view of the people we meet. This kind of approach allows problems and needs to emerge, in order to identify original and more efficient solutions.

Recommendations

Finally, following the contents and the comments above, the recommendations address the need for measures to influence politics and policy and popular responses around migration:

- the negative narrative around refugees and migrants needs to be changed. Specifically, the rhetoric and the correlation between terrorism and migrants used by politicians and press through an information campaign performed by activists and NGOs allowing migrants to become active participants for example in public speech;
- political parties at local and EU level have to discuss about »inclusivity«, »protection« and »long-term perspectives« instead of »security threats«. Cooperation between political parties and civil society and migrants must be promoted through the promotion of info-points, training, desk offices;
- reports, recommendations by EU agencies don't reflect the situation on the ground. EU institutions and Agencies must collaborate with NGOs to ensure effective access to mechanisms and procedures for asylum and first reception;
- involve Civil Society organisations and local authorities when designing policies with regard to first reception, identification and integration policies;
- raising awareness, campaign organised by civil organisations to reach and involve communities in activities and initiatives to know each other and to build a multicultural society;
- to engage, stimulate and empower diasporas to be actively involved in the field of migration through training and initiatives;
- to involve diaspora organisations in the debate about migration with local and international organisations through their knowledge and skills;
- give the opportunity to migrants to enhance or acquire skills and competences especially language, interculturality and communication fields;
- to enable migrants to access funding in the form of traineeships and experience training on the job;
- to provide accurate information to migrants, including refugees, on means for access to international protection, family reunification, and their rights and duties.



About the Project:

WANNE (776195-WANNE-AMIF-2016-AG-INTE) aims to give visibility to the active engagement of third country nationals and people who have migration experiences, and, by communicating good practices of participation and inclusion, change the negative narrative on migration. WANNE wants to foster engagement with a special focus on diaspora and civil society organisations in educational, cultural and social activities, and in national and European decision-making frameworks. We all need new engagement to realise mutual understanding, humanity and conviviality.

WANNE Partners:



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The information and views set out in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union.