

**Notebooks by Armadilla scs Onlus**

**Migrants and refugees, a global issue**

**(edited by Vincenzo Pira and Marco Pasquini)**

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## Introduction

Armadilla is a non-profit organization of social utility engaged in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. ([www.armadilla.coop](http://www.armadilla.coop))

In this context the Notebooks that we propose want to contribute to disseminate among the students and the public opinion to which Armadilla addresses, information, critical analysis, possible answers to priority problems that are faced.

**The collection of all the Notebooks from 2015 to today can be found at:** <http://armadilla.coop/quaderni/>

**In this paper we propose an analysis of the situation regarding migration and asylum seekers in Italy and in Europe.**

The theme of migration in the world has a very strong impact in local and global policies and is of strong emotional impact in people's perception because it incorporates existential problems that go beyond the specific phenomenon: the theme of identities, the right to citizenship, human security and many others.

You emigrate for many reasons and the distinction you make in Europe between economic migrants (looking for a better standard of living and a worthy job), asylum seekers and refugees must serve not to discriminate or make emergencies classifications, but to better govern phenomena and find answers adequate and effective to the problems that are faced.

For the fifth consecutive year, refugees in the world are increasing. For the fifth consecutive year the number of refugees is a record. UNHCR's Global Trends report - High Commissioner of the UN Refugee Tribunal, presented on 20th June 2018, counted as much as 68.5 million refugees in 2017. Never has there been so many. The proportion, to make us better understand the scope of this humanitarian tragedy, it is one person every 110 in the world.

Of these people, 25.4 million have left everything, fleeing their country; 40 million have nothing left and are displaced within their own country; 3.1 million are asylum seekers waiting to obtain protection based on the rights established by the 1951 Geneva Convention. Compared to 2016, there are 16.2 million new refugees: it means that for each day of 2017, 44,400 people have been forced to leave their homes. Half of the "refugee population" is made up of children and adolescents and 173,800 are unaccompanied minors.

**According to the UNHCR, the main events that have exacerbated the number of refugees in the world are the unresolved crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Afghanistan, the war in the South Sudan and Syria and the exodus of the Rohingya minority from Myanmar** that, in only 100 days between June and August 2017 saw 655,500 people flee to Bangladesh to save themselves from the massacres of which this population is a victim.

**A complex phenomenon that must be studied, analyzed and understood to find not a single answer but a strategy that, through different projects, attacks the causes that cause them, forced migrations and govern an epochal phenomenon that affects the entire planet.**

**Reception, overcoming the emergency approach and learning, through new educational processes, to live with the ethnic, cultural and social diversity existing in our territories.**

As for other issues, the emotional impact and the speed of communications in internet networks make the narratives and slogans prevail and not the in-depth analysis on objective statistical data and the possible more appropriate solutions. To combat these communicative tools years ago an association called "Carta di Roma" was founded ([www.cartadiroma.org](http://www.cartadiroma.org)) which aims to train communication operators for a correct approach on the theme of migration and on the correct use of words.

From these days an appeal was signed by dozens of people in the industry on this:

*"We appeal to the directors of newspapers and newscasts and to all journalists, to comply with the respect for the rules of the Rome Charter, considering that we are in a phase where news about migration has a large space in the information landscape and direct the media agenda.*

***Ours is an appeal to the sense of responsibility and the deontology of all professionals information so that the correct language is used, so that the news comes always checked before being published to avoid the spread of a distorted perception of the migratory phenomenon and an increase of social tension based on inaccurate information, on incorrect and unverified news.***

***Our appeal serves to avoid the spread of a language of hatred. In case it is pronounced from a politician, the invitation to the directors is to not take back the words of hatred in the titles, in the attacks and in throwing the pieces and always try to make a check of what is written.***

*Recent studies, last that of Eurispes (<http://www.eurispes.eu/>), reveal to us that the perception Italians have of the migratory phenomenon is far from reality: only a third of the citizens know that the incidence of foreigners on the population is 8%, while the majority of Italians overestimates this incidence up to three times the real number. The problem is that this distorted perception easily translates into fear, a feeling that underlies the exponential increase in violence a racist background we are witnessing in recent months.*

*For this reason we are convinced that it is important to ask the editors to give continuous attention to the story that is made of migration with a constant verification of news and sources".*

*In this sense it is important to refer to those institutional entities and civil society that provide verifiable data and analysis to consider:*

<https://www.unhcr.it/>

<http://www.italy.iom.int/>

<http://www.interno.gov.it/it/ministero/dipartimenti/dipartimento-liberta-civili-e-limmigrazione>

<https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/immigrati>

<http://www.dossierimmigrazione.it/>

<http://www.fondazioneleonemoressa.org/>

## **1. We start from statistical data**

The total number of foreigners present in Italy on the 1st January 2017 is of 5,047,028 equal to 8.3% of the total population (60,589,445). The largest group of foreigners from other countries is the Romanian Community (1,168,552 people).

The non-EU citizens regularly present in the Italian territory are 3,714,137. Always the mosaic of nationalities in our country is particularly varied, the first ten citizens cover 61.6% of attendance. The most represented countries are Morocco (454.817), Albania (441.838), China (318.975), Ukraine (234.066) and the Philippines (162.469). The most significant decline concerns those of the oldest settlement such as Morocco and Albania, which lose 55,633 and 41,121 permits respectively. The decrease is largely due to the increase number of acquisitions of citizenship and is therefore a sign of stabilization on the territory. (Data ISTAT, 2017)

During 2016, 226.934 new permits were issued, 5% less than the previous year. The decline mainly concerned labor migration (12,873) - decreased 41% compared to 2015 - which now account for only 5.7% of new permits.

On the other hand, the rapid growth of new permits for asylum and humanitarian protection continues and reach the historical maximum (77.927, 34% of the total new permits). Nigeria, Pakistan and Gambia are the main citizenships of people seeking asylum and international protection; together these three cover 44.8% of incoming flows for asylum and international protection research.

This, relative, increase in the grant of humanitarian protection has worried the minister of the Interior, Matteo Salvini, who sent a circular to the prefects and officers on 5th July 2018 asking for greater rigor and greater selectivity in granting such protections.

**However, the new flows do not always give rise to a presence destined to take root in the territory. For example among migrants arrived in Italy in 2012, only 53.4% is still present on 1st January 2017.**

In the last 12 months the landings of migrants on the Italian coasts have significantly reduced:

In the first four months of 2018 about 9,300 migrants have landed in Italy, 75% less than in the same period of 2017. This is a trend that is completely in line with the decline in the last few years six months of 2017 (-75% compared to the same period of 2016).

**IMAGE**

**IMAGE**

The number of asylum applications in Italy has increased a lot from 2014 until the first half of 2017, putting under pressure the lacking reception system of our country. From the second half of 2017, however, the gap between the asylum applications presented and those examined has began to close. However, this is not due to a greater number of requests examined, still at about 7,000 per month from mid-2015, but a sharp decline in asylum applications submitted (linked to decline in landings in the same period and the hope of being able to make the request in the other European country).

**IMAGE**

Looking at the future prospects, the United Nations expects the inhabitants of Africa will double again, from 1.3 billion in 2017 to 2.4 billion in 2050. If the tendency to leave the country itself remained the same in recent years (2.5% of the population), the number of international migrants from Africa would grow from 24 to 54 million. If the also remained unchanged propensity to reach Europe, of these 30 million more migrants, about 7.5 million would arrive in Europe by 2050: about 220,000 people a year, equivalent to 1.5% of the EU population and 12% of the Italian population.

## **2. Asylum seekers and refugees**

The Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR) was created 16 years ago with the objective of promoting the social and labor inclusion of refugees.

The Italian National Integration Plan indicates the goal of making the SPRAR the only system to manage the second reception (or after the first reception at the time of the landing), replacing the places of the Special Reception Centers (CAS) administered at the national level.

The SPRAR is constituted by the network of local authorities that - for the realization of the host projects integrated - access, within the limits of available resources, to the National Fund for policies and services asylum. At local level, local authorities, with the support of third-sector organizations, they guarantee "integrated reception" measures that go beyond the sole distribution of food and drink, housing, including complementary measures including information, accompaniment, assistance and guidance, through the construction of individual paths for cheap social inclusion.

**The number of places available for the SPRAR system is insufficient for asylum seekers and refugees. They have increased significantly: from less than 4,000 in 2012 to around 25,000 in 2017 involving in greater number of local authorities. However, in 2017, 86% of the asylum seekers and refugees welcomed by the emergency and the first reception system were found still in structures other than SPRAR.**

To activate the system, local authorities can use the financial resources made available by the Ministry of the Interior through the National Fund for Asylum Policies and Services. With this instrument, grants are awarded in favor of local authorities presenting projects intended reception for asylum seekers, refugees and recipients of subsidiary protection.

The protection system is characterized by:

- the public nature of the resources made available and by the responsible bodies reception, and by the central government according to a logic of multilevel governance;
- the voluntary participation of local authorities in the network of reception projects;
- synergistic policies on the territory with the third sector entities contributing in essential way to carry out the interventions.
- Reception projects, presented on the basis of specific calls, are submitted examining an Evaluation Committee composed of representatives of the ministry of the Interior, by a representative of the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) and by a representative of the Union of the provinces of Italy (UPI). They also make up the Commission a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (ACNUR) and a representative of the Regions.
- The Ministry of the Interior provides guidelines, where the criteria and modalities are specified for submitting applications for access by local authorities up to the breakdown Annual Report for the National Fund for Asylum Policies and Services.

### **3. Assimilation, integration, cohabitation**

**When we talk about "integration" it means social inclusion, respect for citizenship rights and it does not mean, absolutely, "assimilation". The process of cohabitation between different needs to be done respecting the constitutional principles and laws but should not be interpreted as an obligation to lose their own culture but to create spaces for intercultural dialogue that improve civil coexistence and Community in the host territories.**

According to UNHCR, integration should be understood as the result of a "... dynamic process and articulated bidirectionally", which sees both the protection holders actively involved they must be prepared to integrate themselves without renouncing their own cultural community identity and public institutions, with the task of developing policies sensitive to the needs of one differentiated population. The integration process, so defined, is structured through three dimensions, referable to the areas of greatest importance in the life of protection holders:

1. a legal dimension, with reference to the recognition, for beneficiaries, of rights largely similar to those of native citizens. The full enjoyment of the rights and the civil liberties, such as access to education, the labor market and social and health services, possession of identity documents and travel documents, as well as the fundamental right to the union of family, are essential prerequisites for embarking on the path of building a new life. In the integration process it is also relevant, after an appropriate period of time, the acquisition of citizenship in the host country;
2. an economic dimension, to the extent that the availability of employment determines the ability to autonomously provide the needs of one's own life and one's own family. The beneficiaries of protection need to have access to the labor market in accordance to their skills, experiences and aspirations, so that they can contribute to the best economic life of the asylum country;
3. a socio-cultural dimension, for which integration also occurs through the adaptation of protection beneficiaries to the culture of the asylum country and, at the same time, through the commitment of the host society to stimulate and welcome this process, rejecting and fighting discriminatory logics and promoting the participation of the beneficiaries of the social life of the country "...

The INPS president, Tito Boeri, presented some interesting data on these issues in the presentation of the Annual Report:

***"... Everyone agrees that we need to fight irregular immigration. Good, but yes we forget an important fact: to reduce illegal immigration our country needs to increase the regular one. So many jobs for which there are no workers under the conditions that families can afford assistance to non self-sufficient people, so many jobs that they do Italians do not want to do anymore. 36% of the unskilled manual labor is used today of foreign workers in Italy, against only 8% of Italian workers and the OECD Skills Outlook signals a strong polarization in the demand for work, with highly personal requests qualified to perform tasks at the lower levels of the pay scale. So there is a high demand for immigrant labor in Italy. In the presence of completely unrealistic decree flows, this question pours into the irregular immigration of overstayers, who comes in plane or car, not with the boats but with tourist visas, and remain in Italy with an expired visa. We think in the case of domestic workers. The demand for domestic workers and carers for Italian families is in constant increase also in light of the increase in the number of non self-sufficient people. However, in the absence of decree flows with quotas for domestic workers and caregivers (the last one was in 2011), the number of non-EU domestic workers registered for INPS management tends inexorably to be reduced, not compensated (or compensated to a minimum extent) by the increase in Community workers or Italians who do not have problems with visas. But as soon as there is a provision of regularization of illegal work (as in 2008-9 or 2012), the number of domestic workers and caregivers non-EU citizens rears, demonstrating that these jobs continue to be requested, but are carried out without paying social security contributions. Also the history of countries a Non-recent immigration like ours teaches us that when there are strong restrictions regular immigration increases illegal immigration and vice versa: generally, compared to a 10% reduction in regular immigration, the illegal one increases from 3 to 5%. In the States United the illegal boom began in '64 when the Bracero***

*program was closed, and the number of immigrants found irregularly on the territory had dropped since it began to be fully implemented by the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which has regularized millions of Mexican ... "*

The Moressa Foundation in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration - OIM- and the CGIA of Mestre, analyzes the economic situation of immigrants in its annual reports.

In Italy immigrants are little more than 5 million (about 8.3% of the total population), of whom 176 thousand reception centers are first.

Employees are 2.4 million and have produced 130 billion of added value (about 9% of GDP national).

The economic contribution of immigration translates into 11.5 billion social security contributions, in 7.2 billion IRPEF paid, in over 570 thousand enterprises managed by immigrants.

In a country with a high level of seniority it is an indispensable work force in the productive sector in both social services. It is about occupation not in competition with that Italian but of complementary employment. 74% of domestic workers are immigrants, 56% are family workers and 52% are regular street vendors.

Alongside these professions there are companies run by immigrants who continue to grow and produce added value. There were 570 thousand businesses conducted by immigrants (9.4% of the total) producing 102 billion euros of added value, equal to 6.9% of the national wealth overall. The sectors with the greatest impact are catering (18.3%), construction (17.3%) and agriculture (16.5%).

The most numerous provenance of immigrant entrepreneurs comes from Morocco (73.387), from China (68.546), Romania (63.915), Albania (41.153).

This production is an important process of international cooperation; immigrants through the remittances sent to their countries of origin (5.1 billion) improvement of the living conditions of their relatives, "helping them at home".

#### **4. Right of citizenship**

The only criterion that ultimately matters is not the identity (I feel Italian, I speak Italian, my culture of reference and the sense of belonging is Italian, others recognize me as Italian and therefore I am Italian) but that of legal recognition by the state. I am Italian because the Italian law says that I am are.

But the reality is not so simple. There are legal Italians who do not feel Italian but feel they are Sardinian, Sudtirolesi, Friulians, Sicilians... As in Spain, many Catalans or Basques do not feel Spanish having the passport and identity card of that state.

The Italian state recognizes the right to citizenship if its parents or ancestors have such citizenship regardless of where you were born and in which culture you grew up. In law they call this institute "Ius sanguinis".

This approach has meant that many people who have never been to Italy, who know nothing of the Italian reality, who do not speak Italian only for having had a great-grandfather emigrant have the passport and the right to Italian and European citizenship.

In the history of the West we believed that the liberal ideology that prevailed over the last few centuries has established state apparatuses that claim to transform the great value of freedom into laws and consistent resolutions. "No taxation without representation" is the slogan whose translation is: "No to taxation without representation" that in America during the years 1750 and 1760 motivated the struggle of the Americans against British colonialism.

In Italy there are millions of people who work, pay taxes for decades but have no right to vote or direct representation. And their children, though born in Italy, grew up in our schools, trained to our constitutional values do not have citizenship rights up to 18 years.

A law to guarantee this right had been approved by the Chamber in the previous legislature but opposing political forces have opposed it and made it an identity flag by doing so prevailing immediate electoral interest and not the strategic vision of the state.

The non-recognition of the right of citizenship to those born and grow in Italy is a loss of meaning of civilization and inability to understand how the processes of interculturality and citizenship should be governed a global framework on which the communities of the near future will be established.

The law proposed for Parliament's debate (called Ius soli or Ius culturae) is already one downward mediation on rights that every citizen should have in a state of law in which they recognize the usefulness of being democratic and therefore favors social inclusion and the value of ethnic and cultural diversity of origin (whether they are Sardinian, Argentinian, American, Moroccan or Senegalese).

Small tactical interests, thinking solely about electoral polls is making us lose sense of humanity and civilization.

Thinking about the upcoming elections and not the rights of the next generations is not only inadequate politically but ethically shameful. And it will bring conflicts and growing poverty to Italy.

The law of 30th July 2002, n. 189 (Bossi-Fini) regulates immigration in Italy and modifies it and complements the previous law n. 40 of 6 March 1998 (Turco-Napolitano).

<http://www.camera.it/parlam/leggi/02189l.html>

The main and most controversial changes introduced by the Bossi-Fini were the exacerbation of penalties for human traffickers in violation of the law; an amnesty for domestic workers, carers for the elderly, the sick and the disabled; the use of Navy ships to combat illegal trafficking; the issuing of special residence permits relating to the right to asylum.

This law provides that people without a residence permit but with an identity document (irregular) are expelled by administrative means, that is, by the prefect of the Province where they come traced. The expulsion must be performed immediately with "the accompaniment to the border" by the public force. If the person is also without identity documents (clandestine) will be taken to what were previously called Centers of Temporary Stay (CPT) then defined Identification and Expulsion Centers (CIE) for identification and eventual repatriation.

The expelled foreigner who falls without permission commits a crime and is detained in prison. The non-EU citizen in compliance with the permits, can ask to be reached by the spouse, from the minor or from the adult children provided that they are loaded and on condition that they can not provide to their livelihood. Reunions are also provided for parents of non-EU citizens on condition that they are 65 and no other child can provide for their livelihood.

The law allows rejections to the country of origin in extra-territorial waters, on the basis of agreements bilateral agreements between Italy and other countries, which commit the police to cooperate to prevent illegal immigration. The goal was to make sure that the boats could not dock on the Italian ground and that the identification of those entitled to political asylum or medical care and assistance occurred directly at sea.

That of rejections at sea is one of the most discussed issues also in the European context: among the migrants on board the intercepted boats could be refugees looking for protection international and rejection without first a careful verification (which often does not happen) violates Article 18 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union which incorporates in turn the principle established by the Geneva Convention, according to which states can not defer refugees in countries where these are persecuted and risk their lives.

Article 10, third paragraph, of the Italian Constitution provides, in fact, that the foreigner, to whom it is prevented in his country the effective exercise of democratic freedoms guaranteed by the Italian Constitution, has the right to asylum in the territory of the Republic, according to the conditions established by law.

The institution of the right to asylum does not coincide with that of the recognition of refugee status, for which is not enough that in the country of origin the liberties are generally violated fundamental, but the individual applicant must have suffered, or have founded the fear of being able to suffer, specific acts of persecution.

What emerges most clearly from the reconstruction of the Italian legislative system on immigration, it is not so much the attention dedicated to the protection of the rights of migrants and their unfavorable condition in a perspective of integration, but on the contrary, the idea that immigration is a big problem, difficult to manage, so it is constantly tried to prepare one series of palliatives in a far from far-sighted and tense to seek a solution only soon term, without attributing to this delicate issue, either from a social point of view, economic and political and ethical, the respect it deserves.

We continue to relegate the immigration discipline to a question of mere national security and of public order, and this not only fuels prejudice and fear in public opinion, but it is also quite obvious that the problem of illegal immigration, and of obsession with which attempts to stem it, captures the attention of the various governments in a principal way they succeed, both nationally and supranational, with respect to the importance that it should be attributed to the idea of integration and to the concept of immigration as a resource and positive opportunity for everyone.

#### **4. What to do ?**

**1. To know and to apply are coherent what proposed in the Manual of acceptance of the SPRAR project:**

[http://www.sprar.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SPRAR\\_-\\_Manuale\\_operativo\\_2015.pdf](http://www.sprar.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SPRAR_-_Manuale_operativo_2015.pdf)

**2. Consider the issue of migration and asylum seekers with strict competence of the European Union and not only of the countries of first landing.**

The member countries of the European Union are called to welcome migrants according to a mechanism of allocation based on various criteria, from gross domestic product, to the population, to the rates of unemployment up to the number of nurseries already granted. This is why it is necessary to revise the Treaty of Dublin requiring the examination and stay of asylum seekers in the country of first entry.

Strengthen EU defense operations in maritime border control, fight against the traffickers, prevent illegal migratory flows and strengthen internal solidarity and responsibility. Because instability in Libya creates an ideal environment for the criminal activities of traffickers, support actively pursue all UN-led efforts to re-establish government authority in Libya.

Increase support, among others, for Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Mali and Niger for monitoring and control of borders and land routes and intensify dialogue with the African Union at all levels on these issues.

Expanding regional protection and sustainable development programs for sub-Saharan Africa.

**3. With regard to Italy's internal politics:**

Revise radically the setting of the law n. 189/2002 (Bossi - Fini) and approve a new one law that starts from the principle that immigration must be accepted as a new dimension structure of Italian society (and not cyclical) and that it is therefore necessary to behave accordingly. Overcoming the illusion that repression is enough to govern immigration forgetting that a satisfactory law must also have an incentive force.

An overall approach must obligatorily privilege the preventive aspects and operate on different levels that include international cooperation for sustainable development, one adequate regulation of regular immigration and adequate control of clandestine immigration also in agreement with the countries of origin.

Promote actions and submit proposals in the appropriate environments that allow:

- A. Approve a law that provides for the right of citizenship for those born in Italy and for the children of immigrants who decide to reside permanently in our country once completed the primary cycle of studies.
- B. Launch appropriate administrative measures to reduce bureaucracy and cancel the mess, all Italian, of the endless queues that start at four in the morning to get a residence permit.
- C.
- D. Launch a plan for concerted integration policies with the Regions and Local Authorities. Promote community involvement and get involved the reception throughout the national territory of asylum seekers, which today are concentrated more in a few areas of the country. For immigrants who have been living and working for years, Italy recognizes the rights of citizenship, the right to vote in local elections to immigrants residents for more than five years.
- E.
- F. Promote a new educational program in schools encouraging interculturality such as interdisciplinary approach that favors the inclusion of the children of immigrants and promotes enhancement of intercultural dialogue.