



Report on International Protection in Italy **2017**

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CARITAS ITALIANA
CITTALIA
FONDAZIONE MIGRANTES
CENTRAL SERVICE OF SPRAR
IN COLLABORATION WITH
UNHCR

SUMMARY

**Report on
International
Protection
in Italy, 2017**

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Preface

This report on international protection in Italy 2017 is testimony to the critical work of NGOs and tells the story of how Italy is, in many ways, at the centre of the narrative of a global and European refugee crisis. All sections of Italy's society - its people, communities, municipalities, NGOs, and government - are managing a historically difficult challenge of refugee integration.

As Chair of the European Parliament's de facto migration committee (LIBE Committee), I know this should not just be an issue for Italy, it must be an issue for the whole of the European Union, acting in solidarity.

The very large numbers of refugees still fleeing Syria and also being trafficked from sub-Saharan Africa through Libya are making the most dangerous and heart breaking journeys. Having visited the region recently, I know the conditions in Libya are extremely difficult. The push factors resulting in refugee flows are still constant.

The pace of relocation in the EU has increased in 2017, which is welcoming. The total number for relocation stands at 30,000 of the 160,000 figure agreed in September 2015. I commend the decision of European Court of Justice to rule against the appeal of Hungary and Slovakia against the relocation scheme.

Other key aspects of the EU's response to migration relate to the EU's ongoing co-operation with Africa on migration. This is highlighted with the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, which equates to €2.9 billion. The monitoring of EU funds is an essential part of protecting and upholding asylum safeguards in the EU's response to migration.

Unfortunately, all of these actions of the EU do not amount to sufficient solidarity for Italy, Greece, and current actions by EU Member States generally are insufficient to create a strong functioning EU asylum policy.

Solidarity is too often just a word which is heard in the Southern regions of the EU or Member States such as Germany and Sweden who take higher numbers of refugees. EU policies such as relocation, the mechanisms for receiving refugees, and the better integration of refugees can only happen if all current 28 Member States express solidarity and use their resources to help those Member States in the Mediterranean under most pressure.

This report should be read by everyone in the EU Institutions and it should inspire those in the EU to create and implement better refugee policies in relocation, resettlement, reception, integration, and the sharing of responsibility between the 28 Member States.

Concrete lasting solutions and a set of humanitarian EU laws that will be implemented by Member States are the goal of all who care about the refugee crises, refugees, and the impact of the refugee crisis on Italy. Above all I wish all those who work in the NGO sector all the best in their important work.

Introduction

Nowadays, writing on the topic of reception is rather a challenging task. Certainly, ideas, data, and narratives are fully available for depicting an evolving and complex world like the one we are living in. In this world, a widespread network of institutions, associations, and volunteers jointly work together committed to uphold the rights of migrants to guarantee access to human rights and protection. In the last decades, the society witnessed people escaping from wars, conflicts, prosecutions, and – often simultaneously – from environmental disasters or lack of basic resources, hoping to find a solution - like in Italy - for their need of protection.

Starting from these needs, a multilevel system has been developed to provide accommodation - albeit with limits - to thousands of asylum seekers. Over the recent years, institutions, local authorities and the third sector (non-profit sector) have cooperated indefatigable to achieve this goal and fill the word “hospitality” with value and sense.

However, it is an effort - despite its extraordinary nature - that has to deal also today with the current historical, social, and political context in which all the certainties we had consolidated over time seem to fluctuate. The values and principles of humanitarian actions for migrants that we upheld until yesterday were suddenly questioned. Solidarity with migrants is often perceived more as a negative value than a virtue and more and more mystified. The choices pushed along by various European governments to keep the migrants away are more and more welcomed, although they are often in clear violation of human rights. What once constituted a sporadic and solitary action of an individual government to keep migrants away from its national borders is now being put in place by the European Union.

The oxymoron of a repulsive reception, typical of those who imagine managing the complex migration phenomenon through security and outsourcing policies, is becoming increasingly common in the European society, with a worrying cascading effect that overwhelms media, institutions and public opinion. In this context consensus is growing towards those xenophobic movements that are capitalizing the fears linked to the arrival of foreign citizens.

The perception of widespread economic and social insecurity linked to migrants, the fear of terrorist attacks and the inability of current governments to guarantee security to their citizens are key elements on which these movements try to build their popularity in Europe.

It is a situation that not only has consequences on electoral level but also on stability of territories. Migrants, whoever they are, are increasingly perceived as a threat. It is the historical term of “hostes”, as the Roman used it, which describes the ones not being part of “civitas” but considered to be a current or potential enemy. And it is on this binomial that a dangerous narrative is being built, often also on the issue of refugees.

Various initiatives that characterized the European Agenda on Immigration in 2017 and more recently at the summit of Tallin (spring 2017), explain Europe’s strategy towards migration. The European Commission, presenting its Action Plan to alleviate pressure on Italy, reaffirmed its commitment to immigration and migrants, but then goes in a direction that unfortunately tries to block almost exclusively flows to Europe already in North Africa. Although the Member States have been urged to contribute more to the African Fund, to speed up relocations from Italy, to move forward on the reform of the Dublin regulation, we have seen not much progress on this front. In September 2017 the total number of relocations carried out from the beginning of the program in 2015 was just 28,000 persons (when it was expected to involve 160,000 refugees and asylum seekers): Slovakia accepted only 16 of the 902 asylum seekers allocated, the Czech Republic only 12 out of 2,691, Spain only 13.7% of the established quota, Belgium 25.6%, the Netherlands 39.6% and Portugal 49.1%. A failure that saw the so-called “Visegrad countries” making fun of Brussels with the Hungarian Premier Orban who not only refused to host refugees but, with his Slovak colleague, also appealed to the European Court of Justice against the relocation program. On 6 September, however, the Court rejected the appeal.

It is an embarrassment, as Pope Francis reminds us, indicative of the limits of the processes of European unification, of the obstacles which the concrete application of the universality of human rights see itself confronted to, and of the walls faced by integral humanism but which should constitute one of the most beautiful achievements of our civilization. Among others, the recent case of Austria bears witness to this nationalist drift. In July, Vienna threatened to deploy the army on the Brenner Pass if the influx of migrants from Italy had not diminished. The Austrian Foreign Minister Kurz (now Prime Minister) reiterated that “Preparations for border controls with Italy are not only legitimate but necessary. We will prepare and defend our Brenner border!” And so, once again, migrants and their fragile lives became the electoral tool of an increasingly reluctant populism, incapable of understand-

ding history and of living it with foresight. The temptation of a short-sighted reading of space and time is leading Europe towards a dead end, obsessed by limited and particular issues, unable to widen its gaze to recognize a greater aim that will bring benefits to everyone.

To try to widen the gaze means first of all to elaborate proposals able to put people and their dignity at the centre, subtracting them from those who speculate on their destiny before, during and after the journey. It is no longer a time of fiction but of concrete actions that must be able to count on a global agreement on migrants and refugees, capable of keeping together the needs and demands of all to improve the protection of fleeing people. The resettlement program launched by the Ministry of the Interior, characterized by a strong humanitarian character and involving Syrian refugees from Lebanon and Turkey, as well as Eritreans from Sudan, is moving in this direction.

Inspired by this conviction, the Italian Government, the Italian Episcopal Conference and the Community of Sant'Egidio signed a protocol for the opening of a humanitarian corridor last spring, thanks to which refugees will enter Italy, in a legal and safe way, starting first with some 500 refugees currently stranded in Ethiopian refugee camps. It is a signal with a high symbolic value that makes Italy one of the few countries on a global level to experiment with alternative forms of legal and safe entry for applicants for international protection.

Also the numbers related to the resettlement programs, implemented by the United Nations, are growing and are the result of the virtuous collaboration between institutions, organizations and NGOs as in the case of the involvement of Caritas Italiana in the program of family reunification of Syrian families from Jordan. It is now less than a year until the final adoption of the Global Compacts at the UN General Assembly in 2018. As outlined in the New York Declaration, the member states will have to undertake shared commitments, including amongst others the fight against exploitation, racism and xenophobia; the rescue and assistance of fleeing people; the guarantee of fair border procedures in line with international law.

In this difficult historical situation our country, between lights and shadows, is trying to carve out a strategic role for an immigration management that is not only useful and functional to the pressing requests of Brussels, but also sustainable for the countrywide system, starting with a renewed

effort to create a far-reaching and unified reception system. The awareness that the ordinary system is still underestimated compared to the real reception needs, has brought this year ANCI (National Association of Italian Municipalities) and the Ministry of the Interior to support the financial measures in favour of the "receiving and accommodating" municipalities and above all to promote the SPRAR system in the country with encouraging results considering that today municipalities that participate are more than 40% of the total when only a year ago they were 1000 less. In addition, places in the SPRAR system have recorded an important increase in absolute numbers passing from 26,000 to 30,000. Although there is awareness that the goal of one single reception system is still far away, we are working, also with the support of the third sector (non-profit sector), in order to reach this ambitious and fundamental goal as soon as possible. A shared and joint commitment, which bases its foundations on the 2014 Unified Conference Agreement of the Italian Regions and on the National Distribution Plan - agreed by ANCI and the Ministry of the Interior - and on the Ministerial Directive of 11 October 2016, containing the so-called "safeguard clause", which exempt municipalities involved in the SPRAR network from other forms of reception. Thanks to these tools, regular meetings were held at territorial level through which Prefects have launched a stable dialogue with Mayors to agree on numbers and type of reception. In this sense, a new way of consultation, dialogue and participation has been launched, on topics with a significant impact both for the beneficiaries in accommodation and for the receiving communities.

It is equally evident, however, that a functional system does not only need reception facilities but above all requires measures and policies for integration. The adoption of the National Integration Plan undoubtedly represents a first step towards a comprehensive strategy. The plan foresees action on multiple levels and calls Regions, local authorities and the third sector to develop policies to enhance specific features and work for a full integration of migrants into the host communities. A rethinking of tools, practices and procedures is all the more necessary, because it is no longer enough to be able to accommodate, but it is necessary to be able to integrate.

Recommendations

European Institutions are invited to make greater efforts to promote policies to manage the common migration phenomenon, and above all to care for human beings and to respect their fundamental rights. This is why we demanded that any agreement with third countries or transit countries always takes place within the framework of a system that guarantees human rights. In addition, EU countries are urged to implement relocation and resettlement programmes in the interest of sharing responsibility.

The Italian Government is urged to deepen every effort to ensure legal and safe access to our country for applicants in need of international protection. It is requested that any activity aimed at controlling and managing migratory flows is carried out in full compliance with international treaties and national laws on human and personal rights.

The Italian Government is urged to promote further the equal distribution of asylum seekers on its territory and to make operational and concretize the implementation of the National Distribution Plan of the Ministry of the Interior and ANCI (National Association of the Italian Municipalities). At the same time, activities aimed at multiplying the SPRAR system to the territories are encouraged in order to arrive at a unified system in which quality of reception is guaranteed.

The Italian Government is urged to address the existing gaps in the current reception of Unaccompanied Minors, through providing a number of suitable reception places and sustaining with appropriate measures the efforts of the municipalities.

The Italian Government is urged to continue reflecting on the subject of integration with key institutional actors and actors of the third sector in order to operationalize the Integration Plan, with particular reference to the pathways to reach real and full autonomy of beneficiaries, connecting with local authorities.

In view of the forthcoming elections, all parties and movements are invited to put the theme of international protection among the qualifying points of their agendas with a view to significantly improve the responses in terms of welcoming and integrating the beneficiaries, with particular reference to vulnerable people and unaccompanied minors.

It is hoped that politics and the media will be more responsible in the narration of the migration theme, inviting everyone to have an approach that is free of ideological conditioning and stereotyped visions.

Forced migration in the world and in Europe

Every minute 20 new individuals are forced to flee. At the end of 2016 some 65.6 million persons were fleeing, 300,000 more than during the previous year. Another 40 million persons were internally displaced (IDP's) and 22.5 million were refugees. Half of them were children. 55% of all the refugees in the world came from three countries: Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan. With about 3 million refugees Turkey is currently the country with the biggest number of refugees. Germany and the US are the countries with the biggest number of asylum seekers in 2016.

The number of individuals asking for international protection within the EU shows since 2016 a negative trend with a total of 1,259,955 applications (a decrease of 4.8% compared to the previous year). In 2017 a further decrease is expected due to a significant reduction of flows from Lybia, following the agreement reached with Italy. During the first 6 months of the current year, this trend was confirmed with a 43,3% reduction in asylum requests compared to the same period of the previous year. Germany remains the country with the biggest number, circa 745,000 asylum seekers followed far behind by Italy with 123,000 demands, France with 84,000 and Greece with 51,000. These four countries together are responsible for 79.6% of the requests for international protection presented in the EU during 2016. It should be noted that Germany is also the first country in terms of asylum seekers per population (9 asylum seekers on 1,000 citizen) whereas Italy is at the 10th place (with a ratio 2 on 1,000). Most Central European countries, in accordance with a national restrictive policies, saw the number of requests significantly decreasing, above all Hungary with a decrease of 83.4%.

During 2016 Syria (342,000 requests), Afghanistan (190,000 requests) and Iraq (131,000 requests) are the three top countries in Europe followed by Pakistan, Iran and Eritrea. Evidently the agreement with Turkey had consequences, as in one year the number of Syrians arriving has reduced by 11%. The 2017 figures show a further significant reduction. Also with Afgha-

nistan the EU signed an agreement to contain the irregular migration flows and facilitate returns.

In 2016 the trend of positive decisions for asylum requests was at 60.8%, with higher rates of 80% in Malta and in Slovakia (especially due to humanitarian protection status) while rates lower than 25% were observed in Greece, Ireland, and Hungary (8%) as the lowest. On the total of requests, the recognition rate for full refugee status was 54.5% followed by 38.3% subsidiary protection status. The remaining 7.2% got a humanitarian status. The figures for 2017 show a significant trend of reduction of every form of protection.

In 2015 the migration crisis reported a critical increase of so-called Dublin cases, exceeding 141,000 requests in 2016, 45,8% of which concerning Italy (as first entry point in Europe), followed by Germany and Bulgaria. The main part of the Dublin cases were so-called cases where the asylum claim is under scrutiny in one Member State, but the applicant previously presented a protection request in another Member State). This happened to 95.5% of all the cases arriving in Bulgaria. Another 4,000 transfers were made to Italy and they came from Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

The relocation program was set by the EU agenda, and was supposed to ease migratory pressure on the two main entry countries, Italy and Greece. It failed its objective. In fact only 29,134 persons were relocated until September 2017 (of the foreseen 160,000). Of these, 9,078 persons were relocated from Italy. The main receiving countries were Germany, France and Netherlands whereas Poland and Hungary did not accept any relocation cases.

Two European resettlement programs allowed 22,518 refugees to come to Europe from third countries. This is a considerably higher number compared to previous years. The program saw a strong commitment from countries like Estonia, Finland, and Germany whereas countries like Greece, Poland, Bulgaria and Croatia abstained. Italy welcomed 60% of its quota, i.e. 1,152 refugees.

Figure 1

Applications of international protection in EU. Years 2008-2016 and first semester 2017. Absolute values.

Source: Eurostat

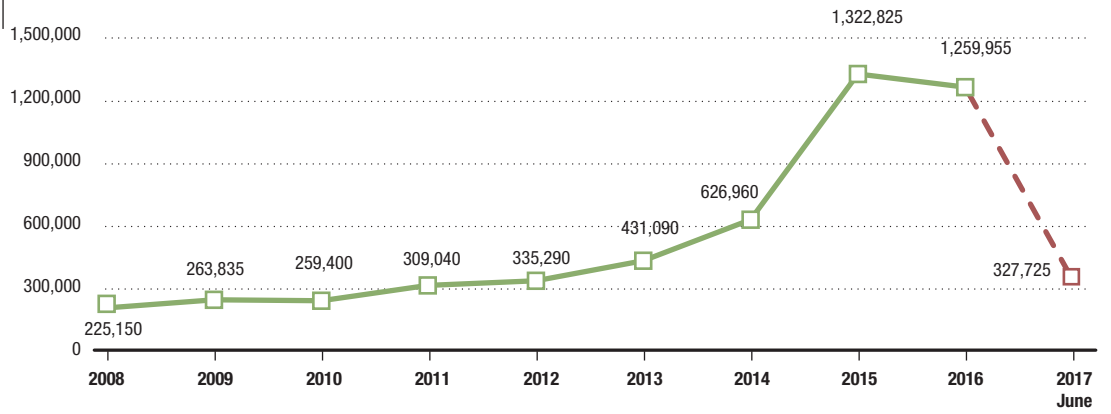


Figure 2

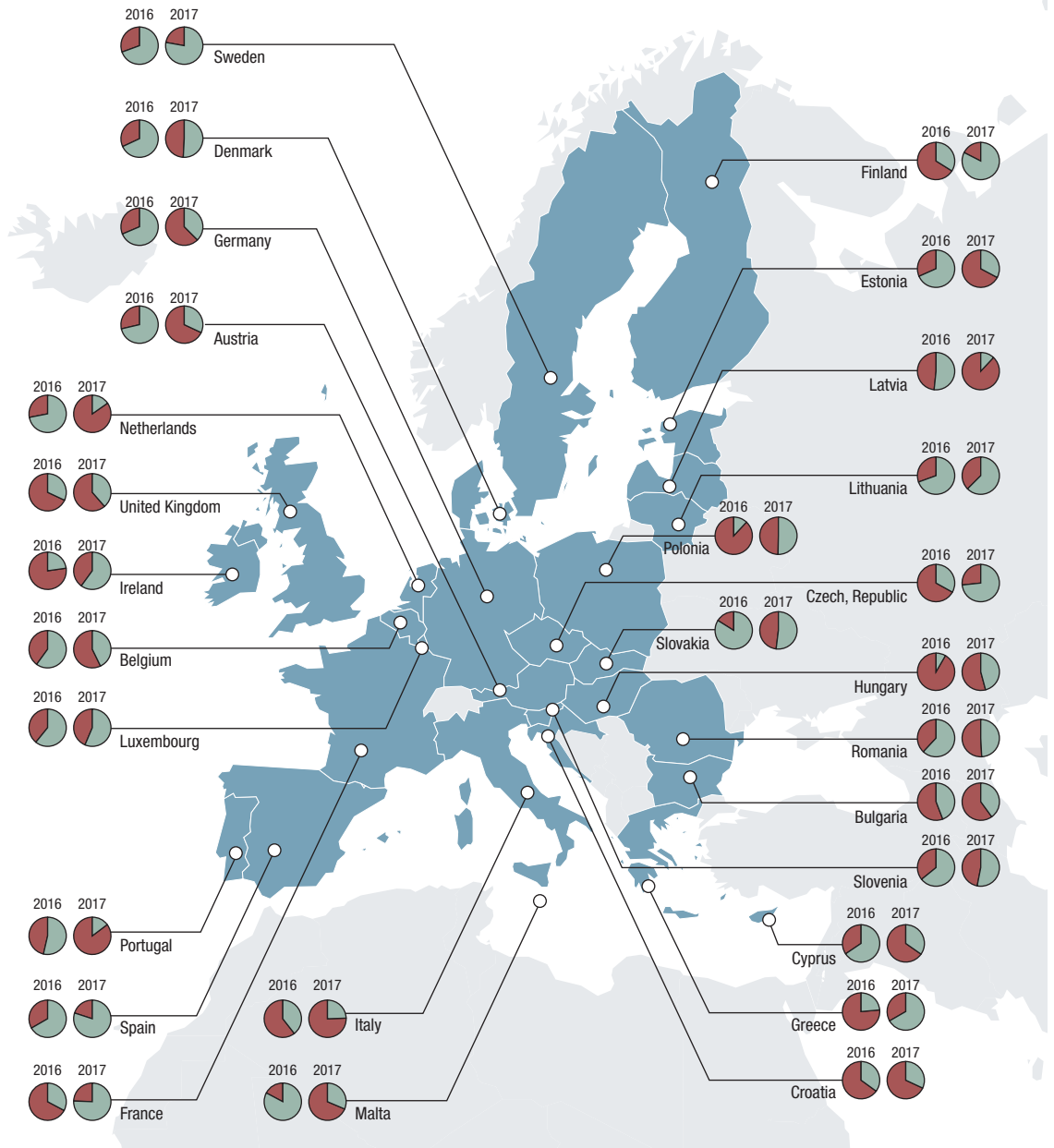
Decisions in EU, by rate of recognition. Year 2016 and first semester 2017. Percentage values.

Source: Eurostat

DECISION
Percentage values

International protection recognition

Rejection



Asylum seekers and international protection in Italy

In 2016 the number of migrants arriving on the coast of Italy reached 181,436 persons. This was 18% more compared to the previous year. Sicily with some 123,000 persons arriving was the first region. Most migrants left from Libya, i.e. 162,000. During the first six months of 2017 Nigeria was the first country (as in 2016) with

14,000 arrivals, followed by Bangladesh with 8,241 arrivals and Guinea with 7,759 arrivals. Compared to just over 41,000 migrants who were intercepted in irregular positions during 2016, the total number of repatriations was over 5,800 (compared to 5,500 last year).

Figure 3

Migrants arrived on Italian coasts. Years 1999-2016. Absolute values

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

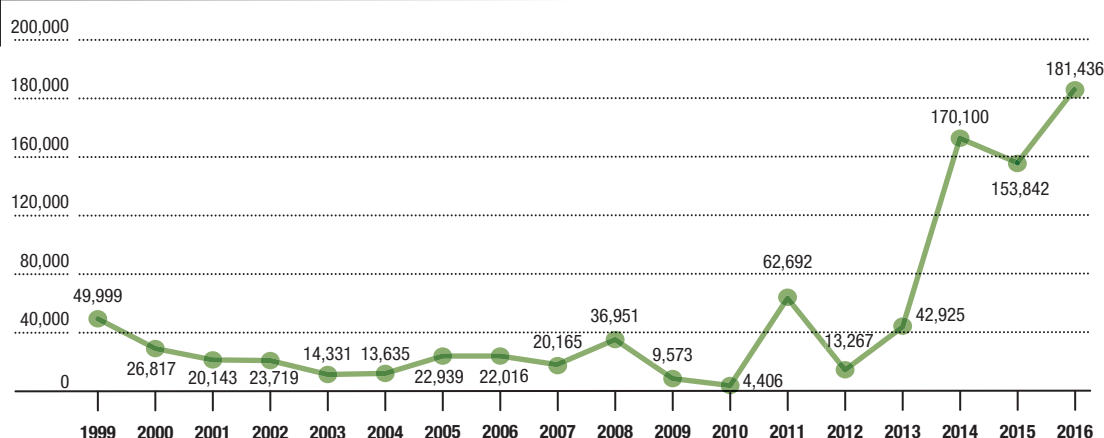


Table 1

Migrants arrived on Italian coasts, first 10 citizenships. Year 2016 and first semester 2017. Absolute values

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

*data might encompass migrants still in the identification procedures.

	Citizenship 2016	Citizenship 2017
Nigeria	37,551	Nigeria
Eritrea	20,718	Bangladesh
Guinea	13,342	Guinea
Ivory Coast	12,396	Ivory Coast
Gambia	11,929	Gambia
Senegal	10,327	Senegal
Mali	10,010	Mali
Sudan	9,327	Eritrea
Bangladesh	8,131	Morocco
Somalia	7,281	Sudan
Others *	40,424	Others*
Total	181,436	Total
		83,752

In 2016 some 123,600 asylum requests were presented in Italy (an increase of +47% compared to 2015). The profile of the asylum seeker was: 70% of African origin, 85% male, and 80,2% between 18 and 34 years old. The five first countries of origin were: Nigeria 27,289, Pakistan 13,510, Gambia 9,040, Senegal 7,723 and Ivory Coast 7,419 person. The number of

asylum requests increased by 44% during the first six months in 2017 compared to the previous year. Unaccompanied minors (UAM) presented in 2016 some of 5,930 asylum requests. During the first 6 months in 2017 some 4,500 requests by UAM were presented. 8 out of 10 cases received a positive decision.

Figure 4

Asylum seekers by country of origin, first 10 countries. Year 2016. Absolute values

Source: National Commission for Asylum Right

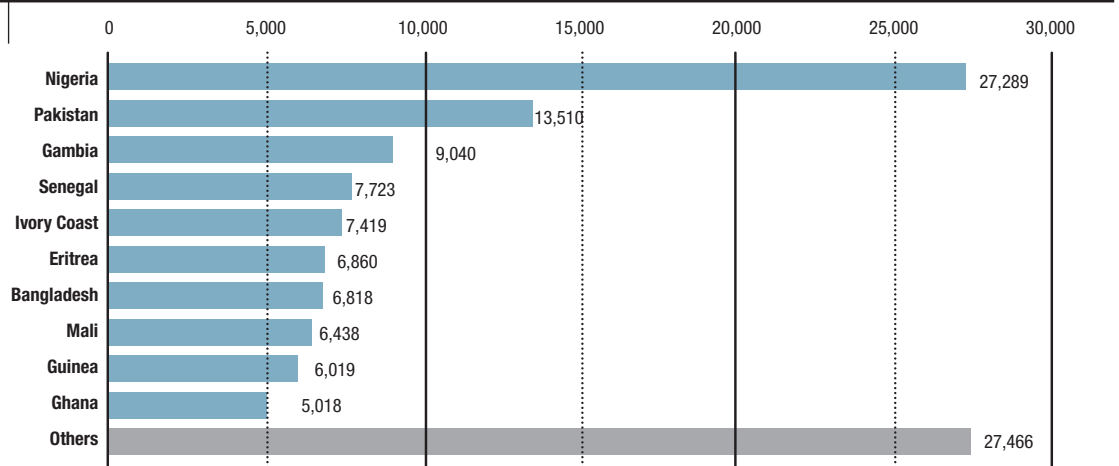
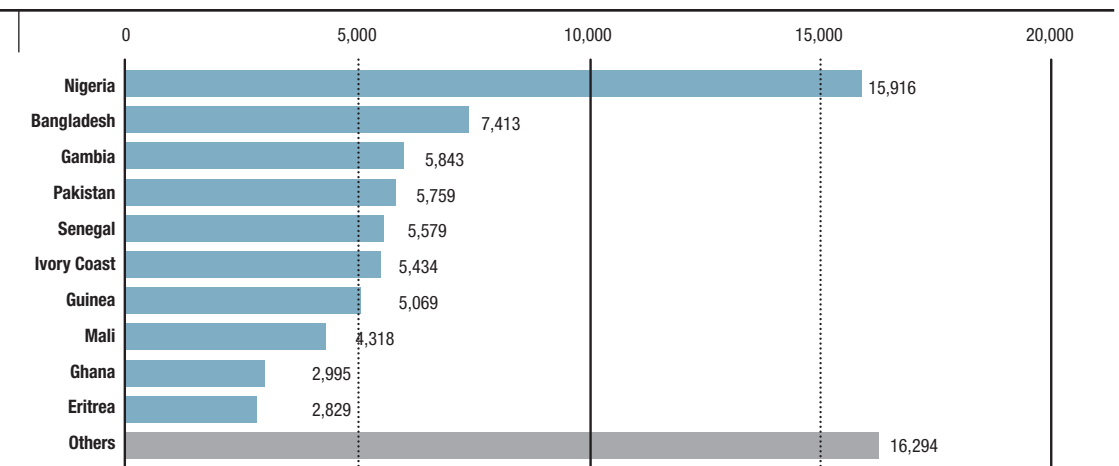


Figure 5

Asylum seekers by country of origin, first 10 countries. Year 2017 (up to 7 July). Absolute values

Source: National Commission for Asylum Right



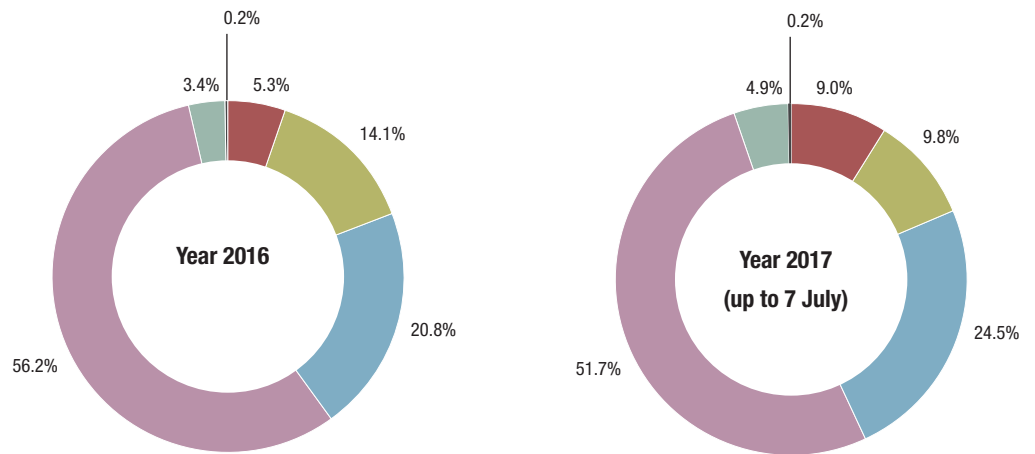
In 2016 the Territorial Commissions (First Instance) examined a total of 91,000 asylum claims. 40.2% received a positive decision whereas 56.2% received a negative decision. During the first semester in 2017 the positive decisions

in Commissions like Torino, Caserta or Palermo increased (with around 70% positive cases). Those with an increased negative number of decisions were Firenze/Perugia and Bari (80% of negative decisions).

Figure 6
Decisions on international protection applications by status. Year 2016 and 2017 (up to 7 July).
 Percentage values

Source: National Commission for Asylum Right

- Geneva Convention
- Subsidiary protection
- Humanitarian protection
- Rejected
- Untraceable
- Other



As of July 15th, 2017, some 205,000 migrants were hosted in different structures all over the country (in 2016 the number was 188,000). Some 158,607 migrants were accommodated in extraordinary reception centres (CAS), followed by 31,313 migrants accommodated in SPRAR centres and some 15,000 migrants in first reception centers. It is to emphasize that from 2014 to 2016 a 286.5% increase in CAS accommodation was observed, whereas SPRAR accommodation increased by 50%. During the first semester 2017, the regions most involved in reception were: Lombardy (with 13,2% of the total), Campania (9,3%), Lazio (8,7%), Piedmont and Veneto (both 7,3%), and Apulia (7%). The reception system involves around 40.5% of all Italian municipalities (3,231), with about one third of

all places in Lombardy (20,3%) and Piedmont (10,8%) together. The Region with the highest ratio between municipalities involved in reception and municipalities in the region is Tuscany with 83% of all its municipalities accommodating asylum seekers, followed by Emilia Romagna with 78% whereas the lowest figures are reported from Sardinia (17,8 %), Abruzzo (19,3%) and Aosta Valley (20,3%).

In the institutional system of reception, the contribution of the Italian Church is particularly significant in terms of places available in 2016, i.e. almost 25,000 places. This includes places within the SPRAR and CAS systems, but also with innovative projects that see family and parishes hosting beneficiaries in their premises.

Table 2

Municipalities by reception places and Region.

Year 2017 (15 July).
Absolute and percentage values

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Regions	Municipalities with places		Total Municipalities		Incidence
	v.a.	%	v.a.	%	%
Piedmont	348	10.8	1,202	15.1	29.0
Aosta Valley	15	0.5	74	0.9	20.3
Lombardy	657	20.3	1,523	19.1	43.1
Trentino-Alto Adige	76	2.4	293	3.7	25.9
Veneto	277	8.6	575	7.2	48.2
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	94	2.9	216	2.7	43.5
Liguria	99	3.1	235	2.9	42.1
Emilia Romagna	260	8.0	333	4.2	78.1
Tuscany	229	7.1	276	3.5	83.0
Umbria	51	1.6	92	1.2	55.4
Marche	107	3.3	229	2.9	46.7
Lazio	141	4.4	378	4.7	37.3
Abruzzo	59	1.8	305	3.8	19.3
Molise	58	1.8	136	1.7	42.6
Campania	231	7.1	550	6.9	42.0
Apulia	136	4.2	258	3.2	52.7
Basilicata	54	1.7	131	1.6	41.2
Calabria	146	4.5	405	5.1	36.0
Sicily	126	3.9	390	4.9	32.3
Sardinia	67	2.1	377	4.7	17.8
Italy	3,231	100.0	7,978	100.0	40.5

More than 3,200 Italian municipalities (40% at national level) involved in the reception system

In 2016, 652 SPRAR projects were financed by FNPSA [National Fund for Policies and Services on Asylum], 508 were dedicated to ordinary reception, 99 for unaccompanied minors and 45 for persons with a mental discomfort/ physical disability. These projects made 26,012 places available, making it possible to host 34,528 people. 555 local authorities, 491 of which were municipalities, were responsible for projects. Regarding the legal status of the beneficiaries of the SPRAR projects in 2016, 47.3% were claiming international protection, 28.3% had a humanitarian protection, 14.8% had a subsidiary protection, while only 9.6% had a full refugee status.

Among beneficiaries, the most represented countries were: Nigeria, Gambia, Pakistan and Mali. A total of 2,898 unaccompanied minors were accommodated. SPRAR used in 83.3% apartments for the accommodation of beneficiaries followed by collective centres in 10.3% and housing community accommodations in 6.6% of all the cases. In 2016 some 12,171 person left an accommodation: in 41.3% of cases because of socio-economic inclusion, while 29.5% voluntarily abandoned the reception before the dea-

dline. Amongst the services provided sanitary assistance (20.9%) and cultural mediation/translation (17%) prevailed.

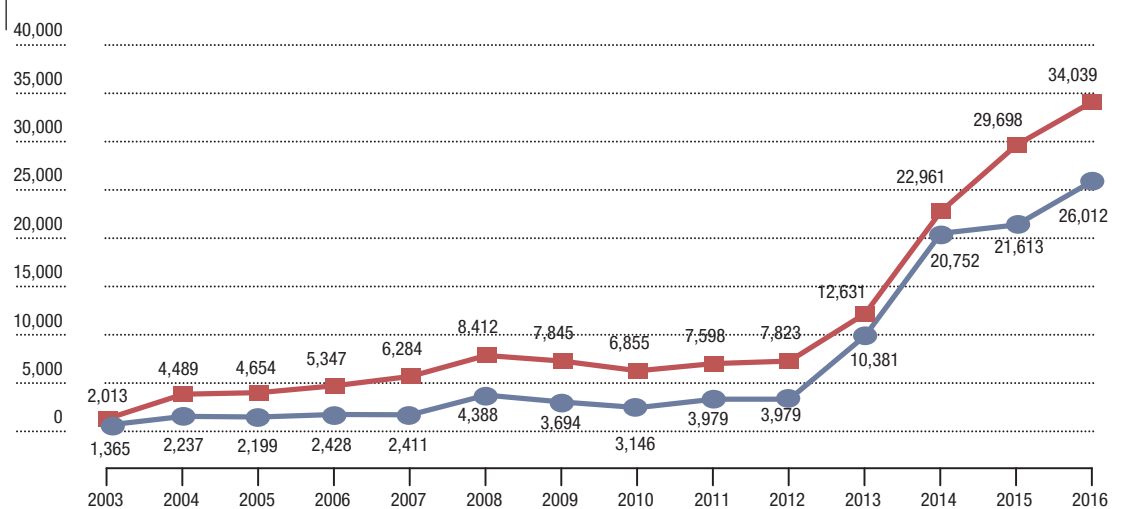
In order to foster, strengthen, and spread the reception of asylum seekers and refugees at local level, ANCI and the Ministry of Internal Affairs have jointly promoted the SPRAR system within the territories during the last year, and important results have been achieved: for instance, the total number of places available within the SPRAR network has increased from 26,000 up to 35,000 (October 2017). Additionally, after the approval of the Distribution Plan for Asylum Seekers and Refugee – agreed to by ANCI and the Ministry of the Interior – and the Ministerial circular regarding the so-called “safeguard clause” (11 October 2016), systematic meetings have taken place at local level, allowing Prefects to keep a constant dialogue with Italian Mayors to discuss and decide on the number and methods of reception in their municipality. Thus, a new way of conciliation, dialogue and participation has been inaugurated on topics of great impact both for the hosted people and for the hosting communities

Figure 7

SPRAR places and beneficiaries.
Years 2003-2016.
Absolute values

Source: SPRAR

■ Places
■ Beneficiaries



In the first half of 2017, 12,239 minors landed on our coasts (4% more than during the same period of 2016), 93.2% of them were unaccompanied minors (UAM). The majority of them came from Guinea, Ivory Coast and Bangladesh. In the same reference period, 4,500 applications of international protection were presented by UAM, in 93% of the cases from boys, almost entirely (99%) included in the age range of 14-17 years. Amongst the UAM seeking international protection persons from The Gambia prevail, followed by Nigerians and Bengalis.

Most applications ended with a proposal for humanitarian protection status (69.1%), 4.9% in recognition of a full refugee status and 3.8% in subsidiary protection. Denials represented 20.4% of the total applications.

Figures also point out that the smaller quota of female applicants obtains to a much greater extent full refugee status, while the above-mentioned denials (20.4%) concern almost exclusively males. Whereas humanitarian protection status is most frequently granted to minors of the 14-17 years age range and full refugee status or subsidiary protection status to the minors aged 13 years or less..

Minors whose applications for international protection were denied are mostly from Bangladesh or Ivory Coast; while those who often get the full refugee status are minors from Nigeria; those who often get subsidiary protection are from Mali and those who often get humanitarian protection are from The Gambia.

In 2017 Law no. 47/17 on UAM came into force. This law established the procedure on how to determine the age of the minors, in which centrality is assigned to the outcome of the inter-

view held by specialized staff in the reception centre, and on multidisciplinary evaluation that will be done in case of persistence of doubts.

It also established the competence of the adoption of acts relating to UAM to the Juvenile Court (i.e. Tribunale per i minorenni) and the creation within the Court of a list of “voluntary tutors” for minors.

Regarding the accommodation of the UAM, the law foresees that in case of unavailability of places in first reception centres or in the SPRAR system, the public authority of the municipality where the child is located temporarily provides the assistance and the reception of the UAM. National Fund for the reception of unaccompanied minors, managed by the Ministry of the Interior, provides funding for such assistance.

The first level reception system dedicated to the UAMs is integrated with that of the SPRAR (Protection System for Asylum Seekers); so after the first accommodation period in governmental structures (whose duration is reduced from 60 to 30 days), UAM will be integrated in the protection system for asylum seekers (SPRAR), matching the needs and the characteristics of the minor (emerged during the interview) with the target and the characteristics of the SPRAR project.

Data from the Directorate General for Immigration and the integration policies of the Ministry of Labour from 30 April 2017 reported that 15,939 UAM were present in Italy, of which 26.1% are accommodated in first reception centers and 65.8% in second level facilities, for a total of 1,917 structures altogether surveyed.

PROFILE OF REPORT PROMOTERS

ANCI (National Association of Italian Municipalities) represents Municipalities with Parliament, Government, the Regions, Public Administrations, Community bodies, the Committee of Regions and any other institutions exercising public functions of local interest.

7,318 municipalities belong to ANCI, representing 90% of the Italian population. On immigration and asylum, ANCI, within the framework of positions defined in the Immigration Commission, encourages implementing innovation, develops networks and collaboration, takes part in the national debate on matters of territorial interest, such as exercising citizenship, integration, access to services, collecting the instances of Municipalities and reporting them to the appropriate offices.

It is on the idea of virtuous collaboration between central State and territories that ANCI has promoted immigration initiatives such as the Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR) experience.

Caritas Italiana is the pastoral body of the CEI (Italian Episcopal Conference) promoting charity.

Its purpose is to promote, «evidence of charity in the Italian ecclesiastical community, in forms that comply with times and needs related to the integral human development, to social justice and peace giving special attention to the most needy through a predominantly pedagogical function» (art. 1 of the By-Laws).

Amongst its multiple activities, Caritas Italiana operates nationally and internationally on matters related to human mobility in emergency humanitarian, reception and protection situations.

It is a member of Caritas Internationalis, the global network present in over 160 countries, and of Caritas Europa, which includes the Caritas of 46 European countries.

In Italy, through the network of the 220 diocesan Caritas, it performs a capillary action supporting foreign citizens; creating activities not only for reception but to integrate individuals and families present in the territory.

Cittalia - Fondazione ANCI Ricerche, is the ANCI structure dedicated to studies and research on matters that are of main interest for Italian municipalities.

Established in 2008, the Foundation has worked on topics concerning environment, public and private institutions and innovation and has subsequently focused on welfare and social inclusion. Study and research activities concerning the development of new projects include the theme of asylum, human rights, immigration, citizenship, social inclusion, social and socio-health policies.

Cittalia includes the Central Service, structure coordinating the Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR). This structure provides information, promotion, consultancy, monitoring and technical assistance to Local Authorities which implement “integrated reception” programs in Italy and form the SPRAR network.

Cittalia, active at European level, provides municipalities with information and services on the main European financing programs and support for Euro-planning activities related to the Foundation’s emergent topics: #citizenship #reception #integration

Fondazione Migrantes is a pastoral organisation of the Italian Episcopal Conference set up in 1987 to promote knowledge of human mobility; with attention for protecting the rights of the migrating individual and families and promoting the responsible citizenship of migrants. Migrantes has inherited the pastoral and social work of UCEI, the Central Office of Italian Emigration, which in convention with UNHCR, from the 1960s to the 1980s, together with other Christian churches and religious experiences, dealt with the arrival of refugees in Italy following humanitarian crises. Nowadays, by supporting the permanent Observatory on refugees, *Vie di Fuga*, with the diocesan and regional Migrantes and the world of co-operatives and religious institutes – represented in a national Council of Migrations –, collaboration with the Papal council of migrants and itinerants, the Council of the European Episcopal Conferences (CCEE), the I CMC, Migrantes contributes to informing and narrating the international protection situation in Italy and Europe.

CENTRAL SERVICE OF SPRAR

Established by Law 189/2002, the Central Service coordinates and monitors SPRAR, the Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, a network of local authorities which - accessing the National Fund for the policies and services of asylum and with the support of Third Sector - implement projects and “integrated reception” actions for asylum seekers and refugees. Assigned by a convention to ANCI - which avails itself of the operating support of Fondazione Cittalia to implement activities – the Central Service is also assigned tasks involving information, promotion, consultancy and technical assistance for local authorities; and to monitor the presence of applicants and holders of international protection in Italy. The goal is to go beyond the mere provision of food and accommodation, through training courses and mentoring, assistance and orientation, in order to provide individual paths for socio-economic inclusion.

UNHCR is the world’s main organisation on the front line to save human lives, protect the rights of millions of refugees, displaced and stateless people and build a better future for them.

It operates in 123 countries and with more than 40 million people.

Set up by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 December 1950, since then the Agency has helped more than 60 million people rebuild their lives.

For this reason it was awarded two Nobel Peace Prizes, the first in 1954, the second in 1981.

The UNHCR mandate is to guide and coordinate, globally, the protection of refugees and actions needed to guarantee their well-being.

The Agency works to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to asylum and be welcomed safely in another State.

Together with governments, UNHCR helps refugees return home, be welcomed in a country where they found refuge or in a third country.



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