

# HOW TO SUPPORT REFUGEE MINORS ARRIVING IN THE US AND EUROPE.

Italian and European challenges.

*Quantitative and qualitative information.*



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# **(1/2) THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA: ITALIAN OR EUROPEAN BOUNDARY?**

- **Strategies for governing migrations in Italy are driven by the joint effect of national and European regulations.**

## **DUBLIN REGULATION (1990, 2013)**

**The asylum seekers have their asylum claim registered in the first country they arrive in (final decision for all EU countries)**

## **(2/2) THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA: ITALIAN OR EUROPEAN BOUNDARY?**

- This mix creates many problems, since policies at European and national levels are not coordinated. They also vary from time to time, due to governments' changes and to changes in public opinion.
- Moreover the 27/28 members (Brexit or not...) of the European Union are on the verge of the European general Elections (from 23<sup>o</sup> to 26<sup>o</sup> of May 2019).

**European elections' results will partially affect EU migrants' policies (high variations among various countries)**

# Migrations in Italy

- Migrants and non Italian people in Italy are a growing part of the total population (about 5 million out of 60 million residents). This percentage is in the middle of the range, compared to other European countries.
- People from abroad are coming from a large number of countries, and are highly distributed in all areas of the country.
- In more recent years about 200.000 persons every year gained Italian citizenship (because of duration of residence, or marriage, or family reunification)
- Children from abroad (minors, under 18), even if born in Italy, must apply for Italian citizenship after attaining 18.

# Migrations in Italy

The public debate in Italy is really hot, but the situation is not “extreme” – although the 2015-2016 humanitarian crisis had a dramatic impact on public opinion (and on the reception of migrants).

# TOTAL SEA ARRIVALS TO ITALY AND UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN (UASC)

	Total arrivals	Monthly average arrivals	UASC	UASC monthly av.	% of UASC on total arrivals
2015	153.842	12.820	12.360	1.030	8,0%
2016	181.436	15.120	25.846	2.154	14,2%
2017	119.369	9.947	15.779	1.315	13,2%
2018	23.370	1.948	3.536	295	15,1%
2019	746	187	133	33	17,8%

## **TOTAL SEA ARRIVALS TO ITALY AND UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN (UASC)**

**After the 2016 peak (181.436 total arrivals, 25.846 UASC) the flow of UASC (and of migrants as a whole) is at present very scarce.**

**Problems remain for the migrants already present and UASC (also due to the length of processes for granting citizenship/refugee status).**

# UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN (UASC) IN EUROPE

- In **2017**, **31 400** asylum seekers applying for international protection in the Member States of the European Union (EU) were considered to be UNACCOMPANIED MINORS.
- This was nearly half the number recorded in **2016** (**63 200** unaccompanied minors registered) and almost one-third of the peak registered in **2015** (**95 200**), but over two and a half times higher than the annual average during the period **2008-2013** (around **12 000 per year**).



## Asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States, 2017 SELECTED COUNTRIES

	Total number 2016	Total number 2017	Males (%)	Aged below 14 (%)	Share in all minor applicants (%)
EU	63 245	31 395	89	6	14.8
UK	3 175	2 205	89	4	28.8
Germany	35 950	9 085	86	6	9.4
Italy	6 025	10 005	93	1	64.5
Spain	30	20	86	0	0.3
France	475	590	76	4	2.8
Greece	2 350	2 455	94	5	12.4

## **Asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States, 2017 SELECTED COUNTRIES**

**In 2017 10.005 asylum seekers  
unaccompanied minors entered Italy  
(one-third of total UASC in UE countries)**

**In Italy the percentage on UASC asylum  
applicants over the total UASC is much  
higher (almost two thirds). A specific  
feature.**

## Three main countries of citizenship of asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States. 2017 SELECTED COUNTRIES

	2017 #	First citizenship			Second citizenship			Third citizenship		
		Nation	#	%	Nation	#	%	Nation	#	%
<b>EU</b>	31 395	Afghanistan	5 340	17	Eritrea	3 110	10	Gambia	2 580	8
<b>UK</b>	2 205	Sudan	335	15	Eritrea	320	15	Vietnam	270	12
<b>Germany</b>	9 085	Afghanistan	2 215	24	Eritrea	1 545	17	Somalia	1 205	13
<b>Italy</b>	10 005	Gambia	2 125	21	Nigeria	1 165	12	Bangladesh	1 130	11
<b>Spain</b>	20	Syria	5	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>France</b>	590	Afghanistan	180	30	Sudan	75	12	Dem.R.Congo	55	9
<b>Greece</b>	2 455	Pakistan	1 180	48	Afghanistan	510	21	Syria	310	13

## Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) in Italy - registered and untraceable UASC

	Registered	Untraceable	% of untraceable
2013	6.319	2.142	33,9
2014	10.536	3.707	35,2
2015	11.921	6.135	51,5
2016	17.373	6.561	37,8
2017	18.303	5.828	31,8

# Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) in Italy - registered and untraceable UASC

**Every year more than 30% of UASC in Italy become UNTRACEABLE, in different conditions:**

- **Disappeared**
- **continuing their trips to other EU countries,**
- **Remain unofficially with parents/relatives,**
- **still alone and exposed to various kinds of risk: homelessness, sexual exploitation, organized crime**

# Unaccompanied and Separated Children

## (UASC) in Italy

### (MISNA – Minori Stranieri Non Accompagnati)

#### HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES FAMILIES.

- This is a pilot project carried out by the Community of Sant'Egidio, in collaboration with the Federation of Evangelical Churches and the Waldensian and Methodist Churches, completely self-funded (1.000 refugees in 2016-2017, newly signed for other 1.000 refugees in 2018-2019)
- A further agreement was signed on 12 January 2017 by the Community of Sant'Egidio, in collaboration with National Department for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Department of the Interior, and Caritas Italy and Foundation Migrantes (for the Italian Catholic Church) for 500 refugees, in 2018-2019.
- The participants are sheltered in families and in small residential communities.
- Since 2017 more than 4.000 “guardians” for UASC have been trained in Italy.