

Human Rights in Migration: A Mediterranean Youth Perspective

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The migration in the Mediterranean has shaped our identity as young people since it has always been a development key component. Historically, the Mediterranean region has been the theatre of migration, trade and cultural exchange that has made us what we are. As pointed out in the Report “Continuity and Change in Youth Migration Patterns from the Mediterranean”, labour emigration has been a structural feature of the Arab Mediterranean Countries

economies since the 1960s¹. However, something has changed in the last 5 years, since many Arab and Mediterranean countries have been undergoing significant political, economic and social transitions resulted in increased immigration and migration flows and the difficulties of these countries to face such changes. It seems therefore that the recent and ongoing migration flows are dividing rather than connecting the two shores of the Mediterranean basin.

1: <http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaiw1509.pdf>
2: http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/briefing_papers/BP7.pdf
3: <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
4: “Open Letter to the peoples of Europe, the European Union, EU Member States and their representatives on the Justice and Home Affairs Council”, 22 September 2015, <http://ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/open-letter1.pdf>

When deciding to create a new Dossier, MedNet partnership had no doubt on what to choose: the volume of the migration flows, both intra-regional and between the Mediterranean southern and northern shores was increasing and affecting more and more young people. We felt the need to get more information, understand, deepen the topic and exchange good practices and to do it from a human right and youth perspective.

The results is a Dossier trying to picture a diversified, complex migration made of people, most of them under 30 years old, migrating for socio-cultural, religious and political reasons as well as economic one, moving from a wider range of countries and creating new migration patterns. We see the features of our countries changing quickly: Italy, Morocco, Lebanon and Tunisia, historically considered as emigration countries, have now turned into immigration or in transit country and Eastern Mediterranean countries like Bosnia Herzegovina have organized in order to host asylum seekers as

well, while living one of the most evident brain drain of all history. It must be said that since we started exploring the topic, March 2015, the Mediterranean situations changed very fast: the Syrian migration crisis got worst, a new deadly migration route appeared in the Balkans, different terrorist attacks were carried out in Europe and the Middle East and there were other thousands of victims in the Mediterranean route. Eastern European countries reacted by closing their borders, xenophobia and hate speech and crime have increased and human rights have seen unacceptable violations.

Migration has become a response to global inequalities, violence and repression? and it is characterized by human rights denial where Europe is and will remain the main destination of people on the move and those forced to flee.

**Human rights
are
universal,
indivisible,
inalienable,
interdependent.**

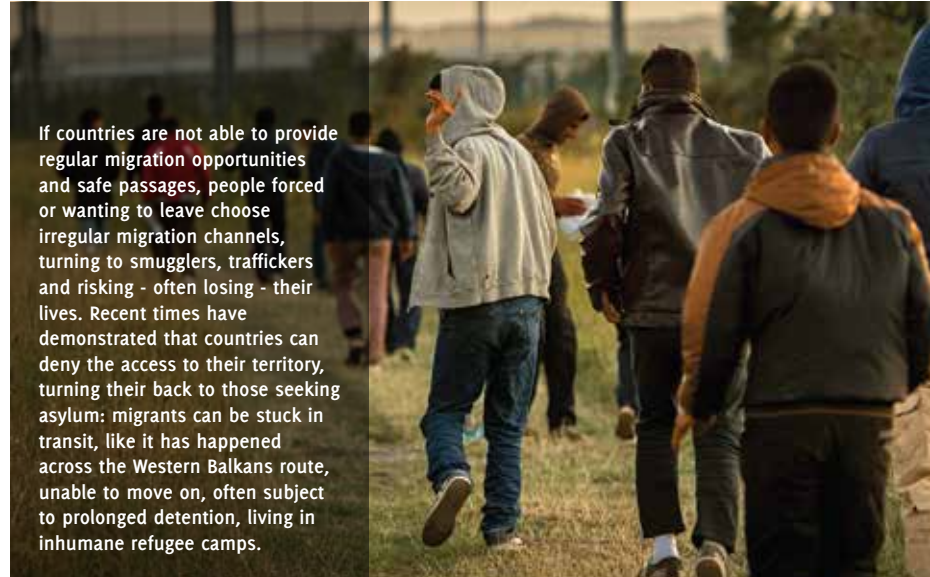
Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status³.”

Although countries have a sovereign right to determine conditions of entry and stay in their territories, they also have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all individuals under their jurisdiction, regardless of their nationality or origin and regardless of their immigration status. “All the Mediterranean countries, no matter whether they are in transit or arrival countries, should “treat all refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants with dignity and respect, respecting and protecting their human rights, irrespective of status⁴”.



**Migrants
are people
and people
have
human rights.**

Migrants, regardless of their nationality or legal status, are also protected by a substantial amount of international and regional human rights instruments as all other human beings. First, at the international level, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) recognizes the right to life (Article 3), the prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 5), the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country (Article 13(2)), as well as the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution (Article 14(1)). Among the many international conventions regulating migration and forced migration a reference point is the Geneva Convention (1951 and its 1967 Protocol). However, not all countries have ratified it: the Lebanese government, for example, created the Central Committee for Refugee Affairs in 1950 to administer the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, Lebanon has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees⁵.



If countries are not able to provide regular migration opportunities and safe passages, people forced or wanting to leave choose irregular migration channels, turning to smugglers, traffickers and risking - often losing - their lives. Recent times have demonstrated that countries can deny the access to their territory, turning their back to those seeking asylum: migrants can be stuck in transit, like it has happened across the Western Balkans route, unable to move on, often subject to prolonged detention, living in inhumane refugee camps.

The MedNet dimension of migration

The following sections have been created by comparing and relating the different Country Reports that MedNet partners have written and, although they do not offer a sufficient overview of this difficult and debated topic, they do bring about the young Mediterranean Perspective we wanted to offer.

Which are the different meanings of “migration” in the MedNet countries? Which are the similarities and the differences? Which are the policies and the interventions in these countries to deal with the current immigration and emigration flows? And still: which “good practices” are emerging? Finally but yet importantly, how and to which extent are young people the main characters of this “history”?

Considering the mixed nature of the current flows, this Dossier will talk about “refugees”, “asylum seekers” and “migrants” by putting together, in some cases, the three categories of people. However, for the scientific literature and in the national and international law and

administrative practice they do differ. Refugees are asylum seekers who are fleeing from wars and persecution of all kinds and, once they have their condition recognized, they get the right to be protected.

Migrants are people who are voluntarily leaving their countries looking for better (or just different) living conditions and perspectives for themselves and their families.

On the boats leaving from Libya, overcrowded with people or when people arrive to the Italian shores, or to the Bulgarian, Turkish or Lebanese borders, it is not easy to distinguish these categories and it would be impossible to do it when rescuing them.

5: <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/refugees/legal-status-refugees.php#lebanon>



Although we had to adopt a certain vocabulary (see also the glossary attached), as MedNetters do not see refugees, asylum seekers or migrants.

We do see people. Ordinary people like you and us, who have often seen everything taken from them, their dignity and their possibility to have a happy life. They all have a right to safety and protection.

Involved Stakeholders

The current movements of people, characterized by a significant component of young people and, specifically, of young asylum seekers, involve and require the intervention of different stakeholders, at different level.

In the public sector, together with International and Regional Agencies (i.e. EU), there are the central and associated State administrations (different ministries, like the ministry of internal affairs, social/integration, education...) and regional/local administrations.

In the private-social sector, there is a high involvement of the varied religious and laic associations, especially in the operational management of the reception and integration. These intervention fields foreseen the participation of migrants and youth association either local, mixed or made of second generation migrants.

Issues common to the area

The growing flows of asylum seekers and migrants, which have become bigger and constant over time, has undoubtedly put MedNet countries – and the Mediterranean countries in general- in great difficulty. These movements, characterized mostly by a transit nature (short term stay), pose significant issues from a political, legislative and organisational point of view. We are talking about:

- Basic rights being guaranteed;
- The reception system;
- Common policies with neighboring countries;
- Fair procedures of asylum right recognition;
- Internal political management of the phenomenon, which appears to be a short-term one also for the Southern Europe, as the majority of people fleeing from the Southern and Eastern part of the Mediterranean would like to get to Northern Europe.

DOSSIER

Human Rights in Migration: A Mediterranean Youth Perspective



The GAMM (Global Approach to Migration and Mobility) is implemented across a broad range of cooperation arrangements. The GAMM first includes bilateral and regional policy dialogues with countries of origin and transit. In 2011, for example, the EU launched a regional policy dialogue for migration, mobility and security with the southern Mediterranean countries. The dialogue in question aimed 'at enhancing and facilitating the regular channels for migration and mobility of the citizens between these countries and the EU'.

On 8 October 2015, a High Level Conference on the Eastern Mediterranean-Western Balkan route took place in Luxembourg with the aim to ensure 'an orderly management of refugee and migration flows along this route'. It led to a Declaration which put forward a series of practical measures to support affected countries along this route⁶.

Push and Pull Factors
Push factors designate the reasons for migrants to leave their country of origin, while pull factors are the reasons encouraging them to come, in this case, to Europe⁷.

On a global scale, the EU hosts a relatively small number of refugees. The three most refugee-hosting countries with a refugee population of over 1 million were at the end of 2014:
Turkey (1,59 million),
Pakistan (1,51 million),
Lebanon (1,15 million)⁸.

All the MedNet countries highlight important flows either in or out of young population. In fact, young migrants constitute a relatively large proportion of the overall migrant population and have a significant impact on origin, transit and destination countries and communities. In many Mediterranean countries, they reflect a very high proportion of the population. According to the latest United Nations estimates, there are 232 million international migrants worldwide, representing 3.2 per cent of the world's total population of 7.2 billion (United Nations, 2013a). There are 35 million international migrants under the age of 20, up from 31 million in 2000, and another 40 million between the ages of 20

and 29. Together, they account for more than 30 per cent of all migrants. Females account for approximately half of the international migrant population.

It is evident that, as it has often happened in the history of migrations and human mobility, young people are those who have the biggest resources (physical, cultural and economic) and those who are most likely to succeed. Young people have the highest chance of success to leave their country and go abroad, bearing high costs and extreme dangers, either fleeing from war, human rights and freedom denial, or to improve their personal and family life conditions.

Although they are optimistic and future-oriented, following years of displacement and war many refugees suffer from profound psychological stress, which makes them an even more vulnerable.

In the last few years, migration flows are less and less made of families if we compared to those of 5-10 years ago. On the contrary, they tend to be "younger" and individual, as they are mainly made of young people 18-35, boys, with a good education level, from few countries. In particular, the countries analyzed in this Dossier are facing, on the one hand, large migratory outflows of young people often with good or high education level that head to countries that seem to offer – and they often do – better job opportunities and profit opportunities, causing a real impoverishment of the country of origin (the so called brain drain).

On the other hand, as mentioned above, the same countries are facing immigration flows of young people (mainly 18-35) that often just stay in those countries for a brief or medium time to leave then for countries that offer them more possibilities (Northern Europe). However, the issues caused by immigration flows seem to be higher than the ones caused by emigration. The last ones, in fact, could be

considered – as they have always been – a social "outlet" and the source of financing both for the country and the families (thanks to remittances).

Right now, the majority of the issues common to the "MedNet" countries focuses on how to manage the humanitarian reception of continuous and large groups of people and on how to manage the impact of the flows on the local population both from a political and communication point of view. Yet, it is easy to suppose that very soon this human mobility will pose integration issues. These people on the move and forced to flee are already reshaping the demographic picture of Europe.

There is anyhow a common issue that goes beyond the MedNet area, which is the absence of strong, shared and coordinated policies, despite some attempt. There is another common issue, which is the weakness of solutions that are often dictated by national interests and by the little economic resources.

6: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/global-approach-to-migration/index_en.htm
7: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STU-D/2015/535005/EXPO_STU\(2015\)535005_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STU-D/2015/535005/EXPO_STU(2015)535005_EN.pdf)
8: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics



Nikolina Talijan Hinic (Banja Luka, BiH) - My name is Nikolina Talijan Hinic, and I am 26. I hold a BA in International Economics from the University of Richmond, USA and an MA in International Relations from the Central European University, Hungary. Upon my graduation I returned to my home country - Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in order to give back and work for the future of my people. After three years of working I hope to leave BiH. Why? It is simple, because I see no vision for the prosperous future of this post conflict society. Unlike majority of young people, I consider myself as lucky for always being able to find a job. However, finding a challenging, intellectual, stimulating job is very difficult in a country led by mediocre entrepreneurs and self-proclaimed businessman. Likewise, working for the governmental institutions led by average, party appointed individuals is not something I envision for a young person who strives to continuously work on developing her abilities. Thus, I am tired of living in a system which neither encourages critical thinking nor fosters dialogue among citizens of different ethnic backgrounds.

Policies

The different countries have had to review and adapt their policies and laws related to asylum seekers reception and the asylum right. They have also had to adopt policies in line with institutions and international agencies, above all those of the United Nations and with the social private sector to manage reception.

On one side, the migration policies adopted by **Tunisia** have tried to strengthen the bond with the national Tunisia communities abroad also with a view on the socio-economic development. On the other, they have been geared to favour a better management of the incoming flows of asylum seekers coming above all from Libya. In this regard, in 2015, the Tunisian government adopted an action programme made of 12 main points⁹.

Although the number of migrant workers and refugees has increased in **Lebanon**, the regulatory framework of this phase prove absolutely inadequate. In the last 10 years, the Lebanese government has intervened to limit migrants' rights (both migrant workers and refugees). Trying to limit the impact of the Syrian migration in Lebanon, the Lebanese government has drafted a political document at the end of 2014 concerning key issues related to the Syrian refugees and their residence in the host country¹¹.

In the last few years in **Morocco**, a multi-ethnic county in its nature, the legislation on migration and asylum right has experienced an unprecedented growth. After the regularisation of foreign citizens, a draft law concerning asylum was drafted in 2013. Two additional laws are about to be adopted: one is against human trafficking and the other one is on foreign people stay¹².

Bosnia-Herzegovina, is facing especially a heavy youth emigration and occupies a marginal position in the current routes. However, in 2014, a functioning refugee centers was built up in collaboration with the EU. Its migration policies seems to be adhering to those promoted by the EU¹³.

The unprecedented and growing arrivals of asylum seekers and migrants to Italy from the Mediterranean and Balkan route have shifted financial resources from the integration field to the reception one. This has been a major change, especially if we consider that integration has shaped the Italian migration policies for the last 30 years. In 2014, an operational plan has been adopted: it re-designed the reception system that is now structured on several level, strengthening also the protection of unaccompanied minors. However, the decentralized administrative and bureaucratic structures of the Ministry of Interior and the territories facing the reception of asylum seekers are still those that are more under pressure¹⁴.



Is it enough?

In a report of 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants expressed his concerns as to psychological and physical damages to other 'vulnerable categories of migrants, including victims of torture, unaccompanied older persons, persons with a mental or physical disability, and persons living with HIV/AIDS'. He 'witnessed the detention of children and families, and the lack of a proper system of guardianship for children' in Tunisia, Turkey and Greece. In Tunisia, he deplored the detention of unaccompanied minors¹⁰.

9: For more information, MedNet Dossier "Human Rights in Migration: A Mediterranean Youth Perspective. Tunisia"
10: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STU-D/2015/535005/EXPO_STU\(2015\)535005_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STU-D/2015/535005/EXPO_STU(2015)535005_EN.pdf)
11: For more information, MedNet Dossier "Human Rights in Migration: A Mediterranean Youth Perspective. Lebanon"
12: For more information, MedNet Dossier "Human Rights in Migration: A Mediterranean Youth Perspective. Morocco"
13: For more information, MedNet Dossier "Human Rights in Migration: A Mediterranean Youth Perspective. Bosnia Herzegovina"
14: For more information, MedNet Dossier "Human Rights in Migration: A Mediterranean Youth Perspective. Bosnia Herzegovina"
15: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STU-D/2015/535005/EXPO_STU\(2015\)535005_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STU-D/2015/535005/EXPO_STU(2015)535005_EN.pdf)

Between 1 January and 31 August 2015, for Italy alone, 8 255 unaccompanied children have arrived, with about a quarter coming from Eritrea. This year, unaccompanied children nevertheless account for less than 10 % of all children who have arrived in Italy¹⁰. Their situation poses particular problems for authorities in terms of making reception arrangements and providing education, care and counselling¹⁵.



Good practices / Lebanon

Development for People and Nature (DPNA) in partnership with Search for Common Ground (SFCG)

Development for People and Nature (DPNA) in partnership with Search for Common Ground (SFCG), implemented a 2 years project, “Better Together, a Youth-Led Approach for Peaceful Coexistence between Syrian Refugees and Lebanese Host Communities”. The project over the two year targeted 160 youth with an age range of 15-25 each year, 80 in the South (Saida, Nabatiye, Jezzine and Tyre) and 80 in 4 different areas in the North.

The project’s aims were to help Syrian and Lebanese youth in Lebanon develop trusting, empathetic and respectful relationships with one another throughout arts, and that Syrian and Lebanese youth develop non-adversarial relationships, increasing trust with one another and working collaboratively to implement peace building activities in their communities.

Youth were brought together in a 6 day camp in which they get the chance to break the ice between each other. They Participated in arts workshops like theatre, music, video and

drawing as well as life skills workshop: conflict resolution, team-building, non-violent communication, giving them the chance to build their creative and leadership and provide them with a supportive environment.

After the camp, youth were brought together twice to three times a month in order to follow up with the art each one had chosen and work on their final product as well as delivering for them life skill sessions and expressive arts sessions.

At the end of the project, youth developed trustful and long lasting friendships with each other as well as implementing initiatives coming from what they learned throughout the year, influencing their local communities and promoting peaceful coexistence.

The project has had a huge impact of youth’s lives and their families and provided all participants and their communities with safe and creative place.



Good practices / Tunisia

The House of Law and Migration

The House of Law and Migration is an intercultural resource center open to all actors of civil society and students wishing to learn, deepen their knowledge and build their capacities on migration issues and the right to asylum in Tunisia, Africa and Europe, focusing on the Mediterranean area. It has established a cycle of trainings and seminars for Tunisian civil society

that will lead to the publication of information materials and guidance for migrants in Tunisia. The discussions, led by public figures and civil society, aim to foster further reflection and exchange on asylum, international migration and all related social issues as well as improving asylum seekers’ reception and integration.



Good practices / Italy

Ethic Street Association and Oxfam Italia

Ethic Street Association and Oxfam Italia gave birth to “The life of the others” exhibition. The project, in collaboration with 2 Italian high schools (Scientific High School Benedetto Varchi in Montevarchi and Linguistic High School in San Giovanni Valdarno) aimed at improving young students’ knowledge about human rights in migration and the Italian Reception system and at dispelling misconception through a real contact with “the other”.

Through a 30-hour capacity building on the migration phenomenon, how to understand and handle diversity and specific trainings on photography, video making and editing, workshops on newspaper and song writing, students were prepared to meet some asylum seekers received by Oxfam Italia in Arezzo. After

a 5-hour-training with the asylum seekers on global citizenship educations and public speaking, 40 students met Rana, Luqman and Qhuras from Pakistan and Peter and Douglas from Nigeria and confronted each other about their daily lives, hobbies and passions but also about the reasons forcing young people to leave their countries. In fact, none the asylum seekers was over 30 years old.

The outcomes of the project was an exhibition called “The life of the others” with pictures, log books of the travels, songs and touching reflections that students did during the meeting. The project has also foresaw a peer-to-peer education action involving high school students, secondary school students and the asylum seekers.

Bosnia and Herzegovina / Migration country

Once an area of voluntary emigration mainly to western European countries, in particular Germany, today's Bosnia has been characterized by forced migration since the early 1990s, due to ethnic conflicts between the Serbian, Muslim and Croatian population. Between 1992 and 1995, Bosnia became a war-torn area, resulting in more or less ethnically cleansed areas, separating this former Yugoslavian republic into two entities: The Federation BiH and Republic Srpska. During the war (1992 to 1995) a huge proportion of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina was displaced due to physical destruction and devastation of their property in which they resided before the war, movement into safer areas, economic needs for the sustainability of families at the time of war and of course due to life threats. While a million people (out of 4,4 million) fled to other countries (principally to other republics of former Yugoslavia, at least a further million were internally displaced), Countries of the

region like Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia hosted almost 40% of the total number of BH refugees, while Germany and Austria received the majority of Bosnian refugees from the region. Returns to Bosnia and Herzegovina started immediately after the end of the conflicts. According to the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a total of over one million returns to Bosnia and Herzegovina have been registered, out of which almost half were so-called minority returns. However, even after the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed in December 1995, a huge number of the population continued migrating due to the violation of human rights of refugees returning to their place of origin, freedom of movement. If this used to be an enormous issue in the past, today's main concern linked to young people and migration is the huge number of young people leaving Bosnia and Herzegovina each year, as economic migrants.

Morocco / Transit, immigration and migration country

According to the World Bank, 3 million Moroccans live outside their countries.

Morocco itself was the largest and fastest-growing sender of migrants to OECD countries, with 62 percent increase of emigrants in 10 years. Although over the second half of the 20th century, Morocco has evolved into one of the world's leading emigration countries, with the global Moroccan diaspora estimated at around 4 million, recently, over the past decade, changing migration patterns have set the stage for potentially far-reaching changes to the economy, demographics, and legal system of this North African country.

Although Morocco remains primarily a country of emigration, it is also becoming a destination for migrants and refugees from sub-Saharan Africa and, to some extent, from crisis-hit European countries. The growing presence of immigrants confronts Moroccan society with an entirely new set of social and legal issues typical for immigration countries, which do not yet resonate with Morocco's self-image as an emigration country.



Tunisia / Transit, immigration and migration country

With more than 1.2 million Tunisians living abroad in 2012 out of a total population of 11 million, Tunisia is, and has long been, a prime emigration country in the Mediterranean region. Despite Tunisia's image as an economically prosperous, secular, and progressive country – notably regarding women's rights – many Tunisians faced daily struggles over the past decade. Structurally high unemployment and lack of prospects particularly affected university graduates and workers in economically neglected interior regions.

The democratic turn, in 2011 was a turning point for immigration too. Within less than a year of the revolution, more than 345,000 migrants entered Tunisian territory fleeing the civil war in Libya, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Of this count, nearly 137,000 were returning Tunisians, while the remainder were foreign nationals, mostly Egyptians, Bangladeshis, Sudanese, and Chadians. Other estimates range as high as half a million people crossing the Libyan-Tunisian border in 2011.



Lebanon / Immigration and migration country

In the Mashrek migration has always been mixed more with politics, as significant and long-standing refugee populations from Palestine, Iraq and recently Syria have been accommodated by Lebanon.

On the other hand, in Lebanon, a university education is viewed as a good springboard for migration, and 39 percent of university graduates emigrate. Right now, Syrians fleeing conflict continue to make up the majority of refugees in Lebanon. According to current projections, there

will be over 1.3 million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon at the start of 2015. Asylum-seekers from Iraq continue to make up the majority of new registrations among non-Syrians.

Developments in Iraq have led to a significant increase in registration requests since June 2014. There is also a consistent number of young Palestinian refugees. With more than 1.3 million refugees expected by the beginning of 2015, Lebanon's hospitality is exceptional.

Italy / Transit, immigration and migration country

Italy has always been an emigration country. In the last 20 years, it has also become a country of migration, where migrants hope to stay and start again their lives, but it is indeed a migrant crossroad. Asylum seekers in Italy in 2014 have more than (+143%) and makes of Italy one of the countries with the highest rate, after Germany and Sweden. However, as the last happenings have shown, Italy is above all a country of transit, as many asylum seekers want to reach Northern Europe or France. The number of asylum applications received in 2014 in European Union (EU) Member States has risen

by 25 per cent compared to the same period in 2013. A quarter of the applicants are of Afghan, Eritrean or Syrian origin, and a similar proportion are under 18 years of age.

In the first seven months of 2014, more than 87,000 people arrived in Italy by sea, mainly from Eritrea and the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), but Italy still find itself alone rescuing migrants and trying to give them a dignified stay in Italy. Oxfam Italia has been working in the asylum seekers' hosting field for several years now and it is also advocating and campaigning for Europe to take its responsibility.

Recommendations

- More than half of the world's refugees (51%) are children. In 2015, there were also more unaccompanied children and young people seeking asylum than ever before. There is a dangerous vacuum in data though. There are general data referring to young migrants, but they are not distinguished from minors.
- Young people are a vulnerable social group. However, while there is a special legislation for minors, young refugees (18-30) are not

entitled to special protection or reception methods. A special legislation protecting them should be created in order to fulfill their full potential and reduce the risk of conflict; it should go beyond the minimum reception standards, with psychological support, education opportunities and increased possibilities to meet the local young population;

- There is a high need for young asylum seekers to be involved in their surrounding communities through active citizenship initiatives to fully develop their potential and start an integration path; in fact, we tend to talk about "them" without really involving them in the decision-making processes.
- There should be more cooperation among NGOs, local governments in charge of the reception system and youth associations to fill in the gaps in providing a diversified and high-quality reception;
- Youth associations must take advantage of their knowledge of non formal education, global citizenship education and participatory methodologies to support the asylum seekers and refugees in their learning and capacity building, empowering them and enhancing their independency;

- Global citizenship education can be targeted and readapted according to the targets in order to promote democracy, equality, inclusion and solidarity;
- NGOs and youth associations must collaborate with the education system at preventive level, by creating awareness raising paths, activities and capacity building workshops to foster dialogue and mutual knowledge;
- Asylum seekers and refugees should become part of youth associations in order to co-design together meaningful initiatives and take ownership;
- Differences must be explored, explained and used in order to be bridged and understood so to fight discrimination, hate speech and crime;
- All states should apply the international legal and normative framework affecting migrants and monitor its implementation, ensuring the full respect of human rights;
- NGOs, CSOs and asylum seekers and migrants themselves are essential to ensure the respect of human rights;
- Mobility opportunities should be made available also to young refugees and asylum seekers as a further opportunity to learn and practice global citizenship education.

The campaign idea: “Young Humans of the Med” to change the narrative

While researching and exchanging knowledge and view, MedNetters came up with a Campaign idea to be developed maybe in the near future. The whole partnership agreed that the campaign could be on “Migration”, including any kind of migration (economic, forced etc).

Objective

The objective of our campaign is to make these young people’s voice heard and change the widespread current narrative about migrants. We want to tell the stories of these young people on the move or forced to flee: they are young, they have dreams, they may have traumas, they are away, they are victims of racism, they may have been victims of violence. They deserve to be known by as many people as possible.

We want to sensitize and raise awareness on young people’s needs and difficulties and we want everybody, from the citizens to the decision-makers to know that we stand united, we face the same problem, we belong to the

same place. We are young people of the Med, we love our countries, we love our Regions, we support each others.


Activities

MEDNET will set up a Facebook page called Young Humans of the Med, inspired to the Facebook Page “Humans of New York” <http://www.humansofnewyork.com/>

This page will contain hundreds of pictures of young people who:

- have been forced to leave their countries (asylum seekers and refugees);
- have decided to leave their country to look for a better future
- wanted to leave but then decided to stay and developed something

Each picture will be done according to the person’s willing (some may not agree on being taken pictures of their face) and will be followed by a description of this person’s life as a migrant.



Some of the questions that may be asked:

- why did you decide to leave your country?
- why did you have to leave your country?
- how did you get to (Country)?
- do you miss home/family?
- what makes you go on?
- what made you step back and decide to stay in (Country)?
- which are your hopes for your future?
- how many languages do you know?
- what did you study?




MedNet

Networking for the Inclusion of Young People
of the Mediterranean Basin