System of Protection of Unaccompanied Migrant Children: 

The Italian experience

Thematic event

'Measures to support the integration of asylum seekers and refugees‘

Cassandra Koch Dandolo

Brussels

22nd of June 2016
Foreign minors present in Italy as of 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign minors residents</td>
<td>1,085,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign minors students</td>
<td>805,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs)</td>
<td>11,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)</td>
<td>3,959</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DATA ON UNACCOMPANIED MINORS PRESENT IN ITALY
(updated to 30/04/2016)

UAMs present

11,648

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 years old</td>
<td>11,082</td>
<td>566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 years old</td>
<td>3,153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 years old</td>
<td>1,136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 14 years old</td>
<td>826</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 6 years old</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOP 13 CITIZENSHIPS OF UAMs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITIZENSHIP</th>
<th>N. UAMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>2,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALBANIA</td>
<td>1,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAMBIA</td>
<td>1,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERITREA</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGERIA</td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOMALIA</td>
<td>628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENEGAL</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANGLADESH</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALI</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVORY COAST</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUINEA</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOSOVO REPUBLIC</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>1,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,648</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNACCOMPANIED MINOR: ...a foreigner under the age of 18 who is for any reason within the territory of the State without assistance or legal representation.

It is forbidden the deportation of a foreigner under the age of eighteen (principle of non-refoulement)

Consolidated Law on Immigration (1998)

- Residence permit
- Accommodation in a safe place
- Guardianship
- Non-discrimination
- Right to health care
- Right to education
- Right to work in compliance with the regulation on child labour

Civil Code
+ Child Protection Law
+ Immigration Law
**Family Tracing**

- **Municipalities**
  - Ask the General Directorate to activate the family investigation
  - Provide for first information

- **Directorate-General**
  - Activates IOM.
  - Monitors the development of the family tracing

- **IOM**
  - Contacts the minor’s family
  - Organises meetings and interviews the family
  - Collects information

- **Assisted voluntary returns**
- **Social Integration**
**UAMs reception system:**


Art. 19 introduced a comprehensive reception system addressed both to unaccompanied minors asking for international protection and to unaccompanied minors not asking for international protection

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**First level reception system - 60 days**

Government reception centers

(accommodation, identification and age assessment)

**Second level reception system – SPRAR**

Reception centres managed by local authorities with the support, on a voluntary basis, of the civil society, and coordinated by the Ministry of Interior

(accommodation and integration services)
Arrival, placement in a safe place & Identification / Primary reception

Once intercepted on the Italian territory, UAMs have to be referred to relevant child protection services and placed in government centres (*primary reception – max 60 days*)

- Child identification procedures
- Medical examination
- Age assessment
- Notification to Juvenile Court of the child’s presence (to proceed with the appointment of the child’s legal guardian);
- Notification to social services (municipalities);
- Notification to Directorate General of Immigration and integration Policies;
- Issuance of the residence permit;
Social Integration/2nd stage reception

UAMs are accommodated within the SPRAR system
(Protection system for asylum seekers and refugees)

Reception centres managed by local authorities with the support, on a voluntary basis, of the civil society, and coordinated by the Ministry of Interior.

Relevant authorities shape with the child a sustainable and long-term life project that should help him/her to develop into adulthood.
Multi-level Governance

Juvenile Court
Ordinary Court

Regions

DG Immigration and integration policies

International Organisation for Migration (family tracing and Assisted Voluntary Return)

Reception System

Coordination office for reception of UAMs

Police

The System for the Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR)

Municipalities

The Italian care system: UAMs’ reception

- Arrival
- Placement in a safe place & identification (primary reception)
- Family tracing
- Social integration (second stage reception) or assisted voluntary returns
- Adulthood
Transition to adulthood

Conversion of the residence permit for minor age
(art. 32 of the Consolidated Law on Immigration)

2 different options
(according to children’s integration path)

2 necessary criteria to remain in Italy and to convert the residence permit for minor age when they come of age:
• Child’s participation in a two-year social integration project;
• Three years of residence in Italy.

If the child has not completed the criteria required by law to remain in Italy when they come of age the Directorate General of Immigration and Integration policies may issue positive feedback/authorization to convert their residence of permit in consideration of his/her individual integration experiences.
Dati minori stranieri non accompagnati

In questa sezione sono contenuti, in forma aggregata ed anonima, i Report statistici relativi ai dati sui minori stranieri non accompagnati raccolti e censiti dalla Direzione Generale dell'Immigrazione e delle Politiche di Integrazione.


La pubblicazione dei Report statistici ha cadenza mensile.

**Anno 2016**
- Febbraio
- Gennaio

**Anno 2015**

Promoting UAMs’ integration: 
*Pathways for education, employment and integration of young migrants 2016-2017*

**Main objectives**

- Facilitating the educational and labour integration of unaccompanied minors and young migrants through the promotion of 1,000 individual grants in order to enable children to attend vocational and educational training defined on the basis of their skills and needs.

- Realization of a pilot model of intervention for the promotion of long-period individual integration pathways to be implemented on a larger scale by European funds (ESF and AMIF)

**Beneficiaries:**

- Unaccompanied minors, including asylum seekers and refugees, in transition period to the adulthood

- Young migrants entered in Italy as Umc

**Funded** by National Migratory Fund: € 4,800,000,00

**Actions:**

- Defining personalised life projects
- Personalised set of active labour market services
- Allowance to all recipients attending the vocational training proposed
- Economic incentive to enterprises in which the internship will take place
Promoting UAMs’ integration: Integration Paths for UAMs 2012

Main objective:
Provision of integration paths intended to accompany UAMs to self-sufficiency and to facilitate their legal staying when they come of age.

Actions:
- Needs assessment
- Offering of a personalized set of active labour market policies (tutoring, counselling, career guidance, job orientation, traineeships, Italian courses)
- Offering of an allowance to intermediary societies providing job orientation and active labour market services, to enterprises for tutoring traineeships activities, to minors for attending traineeships or vocational trainings
- Job scouting, job searching, coaching

Beneficiaries:
- Unaccompanied minors, including asylum seekers and refugees, in transition period to the adulthood
- Young migrants entered in Italy as Uams

Results:
- 222 vocational trainings
- 723 traineeships
- 10% of contracts activated within the following 6 months

Fund
National Migratory Fund + European Social Fund

‘Being young means keeping open the door of hope even when the sea is bad and the sky is tired of being blue…’

[Bob Dylan]

Thank you for your attention

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