

# Fast Lane to the Labour Market and VET

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State of the Art Report the Italy

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First time asylum applicant	Person having submitted an application for international protection
Refugees	General term, mostly used for permit holders with a permit to stay for 5 years
Subsidiary protection	5 years stay permit when the applicant cannot prove that he or she is at risk of personal persecution, but would risk serious injury in the country of origin
Humanitarian protection	2 years stay permit to those not eligible for refugee status, who do not have a right to subsidiary protection but cannot be removed from national territory because of objective and serious personal situations
Recourse	1° legal recourse to asylum request rejection, to the ordinary Court
Appeal	2° legal recourse to asylum request rejection, to the ordinary Court
Cassation appeal	Appeal for irregular legal process to Court of Cassation
CTRPI	Territorial Commissions or Sub-commissions for International Protection
CNDA	The National Commission for the Right of Asylum
Regional Hubs	Large, regional or interregional centres to be used in the early phases of reception for asylum seekers
CDA	First Reception Centres
CPSA	First Aid and Reception Centres
CARA	Centres for Accommodation of Asylum Applicants
CAS	Reception designated by the Prefectures, in agreement with cooperatives, associations and hotels, in accordance with public contracts regulations, with the local authorities being informed.
SPRAR	System for the Protection of Asylum Applicants and Refugees. Second reception
CIE	Identification and Expulsion Centre

## 1 Overview of situation in Italy

In this paragraph, we will give a short statistical overview of the situation in Italy regarding the structure of the refugee group.

According to Istat (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica-Cittadini non comunitari: presenza, nuovi ingressi e acquisizioni di cittadinanza 9 novembre 2016 - National Statistics Institution: non European citizens: presence, new entry, new citizenships, 9th of November 2016) and the data provided by Eurostat, the number of asylum applications has more than doubled from 2013 to 2015. Whereas in 2013 only 26.620 people asked for asylum, this number increased to 83.540 in 2015. This includes repeated asylum applications and family reunification applications. In the first four months of 2016, 22.335 people requested asylum and in the second four months of 2016, 27.045 migrants applied for the first time. The incoming flows for humanitarian reasons have specific features compared to migration for work reasons and family reunification.

According to Eurostat (Eurostat - Number of first time asylum applicants up to almost 360 000 in the third quarter of 2016 254/2016 - 15 December 2016 ) during the third trimester of 2016 (July-September), the Italy had 34.560 first time asylum applications, at the second place after Germany.

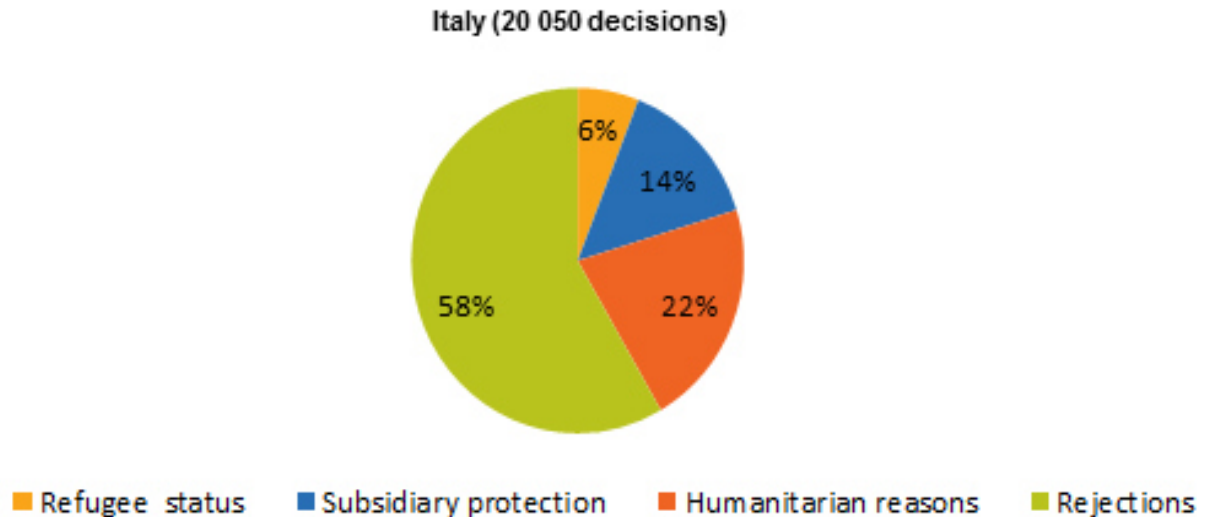
The main countries of origin of people arrived in this time are: Nigeria (8.450, 24%), Pakistan (3.195, 9%) and Eritrea (2.805, 8%). Analyzing 20.050 decisions taken: 11.695 are rejections (58%) and 8.350 the applications with positive outcome (42%): 1195 (6%) asylum applicants obtained the refugee status, for 2865 (14%) has been granted the subsidiary protection, while for 4290 (22%) humanitarian protection (chart 1 below). Between the nationality who have received the refugee status there are: Syrian (250), Nigerian (135) e Pakistani (115); between who have received the subsidiary protection, we found at the first place Afghanistan (945), Pakistan (470) and Malian (260); between who have received the humanitarian protection, we found at the first place : Nigerian (665), Gambian (535) and Pakistani (450). Between who have received the rejection, at the first place there are citizens coming from Nigeria (2.845), Pakistan (1.950) and Gambia (1110).

The gender composition of asylum applicants are particularly unbalanced: in almost 91% of cases they are men. The very low number of women is similar in the main citizenship by number of arrivals. Flows with the higher proportion of women are from Eritrea, Somalia and Nigeria, always less than 22%. Minors, slightly more than 2 thousand, constitute the 4% of incoming flows.

The main area of origin of applicants for asylum is the sub-Saharan Africa. The more frequent nationalities are Mali, Nigeria and Gambia, which alone constitute the 42% of incoming flows to seek asylum and international protection. The raise between 2013 and 2014 has affected more prominently some communities like Gambia, Senegal, Bangladesh and Mali, which inflows have quadrupled , while the Eritrea flows results in decrease.

Asylum applicants and refugees have an higher propensity for internal mobility. Considering the province of issuance of the first permit in 2011 and the province of renewal it can be estimated that between 2011 and 2016 nearly 42% of applicants have renewed the permit in a different province from that of the first issue.

Figure 1, *First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 3rd quarter 2016*



Note. From "Data on asylum extracted on 14 December 2016 and data on population on 8 December 2016", Eurostat.

Aggregated data about the qualification levels and employment history of asylum applicants are not available but some useful information can be acquired from the research " Study on migrants' profiles Drivers of migration and migratory trends. 2016" by IOM (International Organisation for Migrations).

The education level of migrants interviewed in the research is generally very low, with an average of 7.5 years of school completed. The sample varies widely, from 0 years to 22 years of education, with 10% are illiterate and 20% never completed the first cycle of elementary school. 29 %of them have completed primary school, 25% have finished junior high school and only 15% have finished high school. Finally, only 3.2 % of the sample has a degree, with 5.8 percent who have a technical education and professional training.

The majority of respondents worked in their countries of origin. 25% held a skilled job, including: mechanics, construction worker or tailor. The same percentage (22%) of people worked in the agricultural sector, mainly as a farmer, but also in farming and the fishing industry. 21 per cent worked as unskilled labor (drivers, servants, waiters and laborers building). A smaller percentage held a self-employed, often at the head of small businesses. The employees, both public and private, represent 13 percent of the sample, although this category includes a number of professions: teachers (6%), administrative civil servants (5%), to the majority represented by those who worked in the army and defense (40%).

The percentage of those who were unemployed in countries of origin decreases with increasing levels of education, from 13% for the illiterate to 0 per cent among those who had a professional degree. The same dynamic is found among those who worked only intermittently. At the same time, the percentage of students when they left their countries of origin increases with the level of education.

During the journey the migrants acquire new skills, often needing to reinvent themselves in a new country. In fact, 61.5 % of surveyed migrants worked in the transit country where he spent more time. For 71% this country was Libya, where there is still a high demand for unskilled labor.

Only 2% of respondents migrants (18 people in the sample) had a steady job in Italy at the time of the interview. This percentage changes drastically depending on the place of residence of migrants. In 'ghetto' in Puglia (Southern Italy), more than a third of the sample had a job, probably because they live outside of shelters and are forced to find work to obtain food and lodging.

## 2 Policy trends regarding integration of refugees and access to labour market and VET

### 2.1 Description of the policy trends

The national strategy in the asylum sector is oriented to a redefinition of the national reception system that allows the passage from an emergency-management of the phenomenon up to speed, through the implementation of a flexible reception model, integrated and multi-level, with the involvement of regions and municipalities in line with the Joint Conference of 10 July 2014.

Initiatives and projects currently present in Italy for non UE migrants focus mainly on reception for asylum applicants, a process with a different timeline and duration, depending on the regions and the courts but which can easily last one year and a half or even two years. Two months after the asylum application migrants can compete for job opportunity and become potentially holders of any employment contract.

However, at this stage the main obstacle in access to the labor market is the lack of knowledge of the Italian language, the low level of integration and the lack of job opportunities.

The system of the second reception and integration should be carried out by Sprar, destined to become, when adequately expanded, the only second reception system. To achieve this goal, there is a gradual reintegration of Cas, in order to ensure the homogeneity of the quality standards of reception and the services provided. However, the question of accommodation quality is closely linked to the way in which it is possible to respond to the enormous needs of places: that with the opening of the extraordinary facilities (CAS), which alone account for over 70% of total of reception. The data testimony a very composite reality where, in early October 2016, were in the various shelters over 165 thousand people arrived mostly by sea. In the same time in the network of first reception (CDA, CARA CPSA, Hub, Hotspot) were more than 14,000 applicants for international protection, while in the temporary structures almost 128,000 (more than double compared to last year). In Sprar, second reception facilities for asylum applicants and refugees, there were just under 23,000 people. To enable the system to operate effectively, it should be based on expected needs in the different stages of the reception.

This situation is also determined by the unfair distribution across the country: about 8,000 Italian municipalities, only 2,600 are hosting asylum applicants, one in four; and those who do often overtake a balanced and sustainable number for their territory. The Ministerial Decree of 10 August 2016 from the Interior Ministry, intended to expand the network of local authorities holders of reception projects under the Sprar network. Furthermore, the provisions contained in the Decree of 10 August 2016 are positive because give continuity to the projects under way and to make "permanent" the reception activities, providing to the specific request that resources are allocated in the financial plan for at least 7% of the total cost under "expenses for integration". There is therefore an express and meaningful recognition of the importance of investing in the integration of beneficiaries.

The Directive of the Minister of the Interior of 11 October 2016, "Rules for the start of a gradual and sustainable distribution system for asylum applicants and refugees in Italy through the SPRAR" has further strengthened its efforts to reach a single reception system spread all over the national territory. In the directive it is announced that it will soon be adopted a new system of allocation and distribution of asylum applicants and refugees in Italy through the SPRAR and at the same time the prefects are called to the application of a "safeguard clause" that makes exempt municipalities in SPRAR network, or have already formally expressed their intent to join it, by additional forms of reception. It is also specified that this safeguard clause should apply to the extent that the number of places SPRAR meets the quota of migrants assigned to each municipality by the new Plan of distribution and the prefects must ensure that the temporary reception centers present on the territory of the municipalities participating SPRAR network to be gradually reduced, or wherever possible convert to the SPRAR network structures. The adoption of this Directive, as expressed in the agreement of July 2014, aims to promote the stabilization of SPRAR as a single reception system.

The National Program (PN) of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (FAMI/AMIF), defined on the basis of a broad consultation process, shows that in order to overcome an unplanned intervention logic is necessary to put in place structural interventions aimed at upgrading the 1st reception system and at the same time the structures dedicated to the 2nd reception and integration. The main goals are the promoting of measures for autonomy, empowerment and socio-economic integration of migrants. Priority actions aim to improve the quality and speed of procedures in order to cope with the increasing number of asylum requests. The prospect of intervention plans to promote processes of autonomy so to leave the structures with assistance of Integration (OS2).

The current situation is characterized by a redefinition of responsibilities of various competent public bodies in their respective sectors. From 09.01.2014 is in progress the incorporation of CTP in Provincial Centers for Education of Adults (CPIA), established at schools, competent to provide language training services, free access by migrants. The civic-language training services are provided in cooperation with the Prefectures, competent to provide guidance services to citizens of the new entrance that signed the integration agreement referred to in Presidential Decree 179/2011. With the abolition of the provinces, the coordination of career guidance services is hired by the Regions and Autonomous Provinces. The wider group of actors involved in the integration processes of migrants poses the challenge of verifying the impact of activated services and promote actions to ensure uniformity and consistency of an integrated approach to migration policies. The 2014-2020 programming makes it even more necessary to strengthen the complementarity between FAMI and ESF funds in the programming of socio-employment interventions. Key areas of intervention for the period 2014- 2020 are: language training, the qualification of the educational system, supporting employment, the integration of beneficiaries of international protection, social and intercultural mediation in the social, health services , administrative and housing, information, capacity building, combat discrimination against them.

## 2.2 Best practices

### Best practice 1 *Humanitarian corridors*

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Humanitarian corridors are the result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed the by: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - General Directorate for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies;
- Ministry of Interior - Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration;
- Community of Sant'Egidio; Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy; Tavola Valdese (Waldensian Church, to which Waldensian Diaconia/Diaconia Valdese is strictly connected).

It is a pilot project, the first of its kind in Europe, and has as main objectives: - avoid trips with the boats in the Mediterranean, which have already caused a high number of deaths (>5000 in 2016), including many children; - prevent the exploitation of human traffickers who do business with those who flee from wars; - grant to people in "vulnerable conditions" ( victims of persecution, torture and violence, as well as families with children, elderly people, sick people, persons with disabilities) legal entry on Italian territory with humanitarian visa, with the possibility to apply for asylum; - permission to enter Italy in a safe way both for themselves and for all considering that the issuing of humanitarian visas foresees all the necessary controls by the Italian authorities. Humanitarian corridors are the result of an ecumenical collaboration between Catholics and Protestants: the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical Churches, the Waldensian and Methodist Churches have decided to join forces for a high-profile humanitarian project. The humanitarian corridors envisage the arrival in our country, over two years, of a thousand refugees from Lebanon (mostly Syrians who fled the war), Morocco (where land most of those coming from sub-Saharan countries affected by civil wars and widespread violence) and Ethiopia (Eritreans, Somalis and Sudanese). The initiative is totally self-funded by organizations that have promoted it through eight per a thousand of the Waldensian Church and other fundraising. It does not therefore weighs in any way on the State. The same Community of Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical Churches in the framework of the project Mediterranean Hope and the Tavola Valdese through the Waldensian Diaconia / Diaconia Valdese (CSD), provide the costs for hosting refugees. Some associations, such as the Pope John XXIII Community, present for months in Lebanon in Tel Abbas, have facilitated, with their generous commitment, the realization of the project. The refugees, once in Italy are not only welcomed, but they are offered integration in the Italian social and cultural fabric, through the learning of the Italian language, schooling of minors and other initiatives. In this perspective they are given a copy of the Italian Constitution translated into their language.

Up to now the Waldensian Diaconia (CSD) has hosted 165 people, mostly families with small children, in Northern-Centre Italy (Turin, Milan, Padua, Florence). At the moment 55 people are hosted and supported in Turin and its department. The system is thought to allow people to manage their daily life autonomously: from supermarket to pre-school. Every guest receives 40 Euro per week to buy food, and a further 75 Euro monthly allowance (pocket money). To buy a garment or a detergent to clean the house is a normalizing experience, fundamental in the first period. The CSD, by the help of church

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members as well as of professionals, organizes a precise integration path including language lessons. The Syrian refugees arrived before, are part of the integration course for the new arrivals, thus triggering a positive chain reaction.

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## 2.3 Strengths and weaknesses

### *Strengths*

- Involvement of municipalities as main actors in Sprar projects
- Asylum applicants can attend an official course of Italian provided by Cpia during the time of asylum request
- Asylum applicant can seek for job opportunities just after 2 months since the asylum application. They can apply to the job centre and be regular job seekers.

### *Weaknesses*

- Persistent fragmentation with high prevalence of the extraordinary reception centers than Sprar centers, and large gap between a territory and the others
- Still to activate the strengthening of measures to support the integration of beneficiaries of international protection with the adoption of an Integration National Plan
- Due to the large influx of refugees, the asylum procedure takes too long, leaving refugees in uncertainty for long periods of time.

## 3 Access to the labour market

### 3.1 Description of the system

According to LD 142/2015, an asylum applicant can start to work after 60 days since the moment he or she lodged the asylum application.

The stay permit 'for asylum application' authorizes the applicant to work only until the application procedure is settled, and cannot be converted into a regular stay permit for work reasons. Decree 251/2007 establishes that foreign nationals who have been granted refugee status or the status of beneficiary of subsidiary protection 'are entitled to the same treatment provided for Italian nationals regarding paid employment, self-employment, and inclusion on professional registers, vocational training and on-the-job training' (Article 25). In addition, LD 142/2015 states that asylum applicants living in the SPRAR centers may attend vocational training when envisaged in programmes eventually adopted by the public local entities. Once an asylum applicant or refugee fulfils the requirements (knowledge of the Italian language and the possibility to work as prescribed by law), it refers the person concerned to labour placement. This service has, in particular, 2 main tasks. On the one hand, it elaborates a specific integration path for each person through interviews, examination of their CV, an evaluation of their motivations and competences. On the other hand, it monitors jobs or training vacancies within the territory so as to create a notice board to collect all information. After these



preliminary steps, the labour placement should be able to offer refugees available trainings or traineeships.

Usually SPRAR is the only integrated system that provides this kind of services to the beneficiaries but in the project managed by Cov - Diaconia Valdese the labour placement provided is the same for beneficiaries in the SPRAR as in Cas projects. Vocational training or other integration programmes can be provided also by National public funds (8xmille) or the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). In this case, the Ministry of Interior can finance specific projects to NGOs at national level concerning integration and social inclusion. The projects financed under AMIF are, however, very limited in terms of period of activity and in number of beneficiaries. Regions can also finance vocational trainings, internships and specific traineeships compensations. This funds are available both to Italians and foreigners, including asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. The possibility to attend vocational trainings or internships can be limited in the case of those asylum seekers accommodated in CARA centers.

The main tool of active labour policy we use in our projects is the so-called "tirocinio", a period of paid internship in a company. The internship usually lasts 3 to 12 months and is generally funded by the project itself and not by the company. In this period of economical crisis very few internships can be turned into a real employment, and for refugees it is obviously harder. When refugees exit a supporting project and try to enter the work market they suddenly lose their condition and live the same hard experiences the other immigrants live.

In Italy, the current unemployment rate is 10.9 %<sup>1</sup>. Finding regular work is difficult even for Italian citizens, and for a refugee who in a CARA center, the chances are below.

This forces refugees to seek out different types of part-time work or temporary employment, or enter the huge black labour market, where they compete with a large proportion of irregular immigrants. The work available for refugees is to a large extent temporary manual labor. Many go to the south of Italy during summer to work on farms.

It must be pointed out that there is a considerable difference of opportunities in accessing integration programmes depending on the services provided by the reception centers where asylum seekers are accommodated.

Microcredit: supporting migrants in self employment projects by promoting access to a small credit. Piedemonte Region manages the "micro-credit" guarantee fund in favor of "people who are not bankable": people who have no access to credit because they do not have a valid personal guarantee.

It is a tool that can represent an important opportunity for foreigners and for all those subjects, excluded from the traditional circuit of the credit, who want to start a business or a "professional" activity.

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<sup>1</sup> ISTAT (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica) updated at the third trimester of 2016: female unemployment 12%, male unemployment 10.9%, north Italy 6.8%, centre 9.8%, south 18.6%

### 3.2 Best practices

#### Best practice 2 *Diaconia Valdese labour placement*

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The service provides

- informations about labour market rules, job and training opportunities
- help in editing a cv
- tools for promote independent job seeking
- 5 group meetings about: channels for job search, competences assessment, cv editing and job interview simulation, professional recruiter speech, contracts and movie
- internship

2016: the labour placement provided 94 internenship for a group of around 140 asylum applicants and refugees.

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#### Best practice 3 *Partnership with Coldiretti*

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Coldiretti with a million and a half members is the main organization of farmers at national level.

Coldiretti and Diaconia Valdese are partners in social farming projects: job placement of asylum applicants through internships in small agricultural enterprises of the territory. Social farming aims to promote at the same time economic value and social value. It is strategic to deal with the transition of the local systems so strongly affected by the current crisis

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#### Best practice 3 *Partnership with Temporary job agency Synergie*

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Synergie is a temporary job agency providing also active labour policy services. Thanks to the partnership with this agency there was a mutual exchange of job opportunities and matching of potential candidates.

The agency's recruiters have participated as professional witnesses during job meetings organized for asylum applicants and refugees.

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### 3.3 Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- Asylum applicants can start to work after 60 days

## Weaknesses

- Usually SPRAR is the only integrated system that provides a labour placement service

## 4 Integration system

### 4.1 Description of the system

Usually every reception projects have in the working group some professional intercultural mediator. The intercultural mediation intervenes by “mediating”, as a tool of synthesis between the different identity, cultural, religious and ethnic components. By acting at both individual and collective level, on the basis of a deep knowledge of all the identities involved, intercultural mediators actively intervene in social dialogue, by favouring and strengthening it.

Unlike in most European countries, integration programs in Italy are generally only offered while the asylum applicants are still in the procedure and in some cases for a short time after their recognition. In many places the migrant has to leave the centre and the project as soon as receive a permit and, there are no further official programs designed to help the individual integrate into society.

SPRAR system recognize to the beneficiaries six further months of permanence in the projects and if the person sign a lease before the end of the six months, will receive a grant for it.

Furthermore the SPRAR bears the cost of obtaining the driving license for migrants with international, subsidiary and humanitarian protection.

Diaconia Valdese equalizes the treatment for the beneficiaries at the time of obtaining the permit. Even the beneficiaries in Cas hosting projects, managed by Diaconia through the Prefecture, have still six months to spent in the project from the moment of obtaining the permit.

The SPRAR system for asylum applicants and refugees provide for

#### Orientation and Access to the Services on the Territory

The managing entity must: - facilitate the access and the use of public services on the territory according to the Manuale operativo SPRAR; - ensure access to health care and protect the health of the beneficiaries; - ensure the inclusion of the children in the local school system and access to education for adults; - ensure access, availability and attendance to classes of Italian language, without interruption during the whole year, for a minimum of 10 hours per week. In the absence of adequate services on the territory, the managing entity must adopt other measures necessary for the beneficiaries to acquire an equivalent linguistic level; - ensure the enrolment to education for adults and to monitor their participation; - provide information about the territory (public transportation, post, pharmacy, associations).

#### Orientation and Integration into the Housing Market

The managing entity must: - provide information about the Italian housing legislation; - facilitate access to the public and private housing market by promoting, supporting and eventually mediating between

beneficiaries and owners/landlords; - facilitate access to protected housing, in case the specific personal situation of the beneficiary requires so.

#### Facilitation of Social Integration

The managing entity must: - promote the dialogue between beneficiaries and the local community; - promote and support the realization of social and cultural activities the active participation of the beneficiaries (cultural and social activities, sports); - build and consolidate a territorial support network to the project by involving local actors; - promote the participation of the beneficiaries to the associative and public life on the territory, also through the autonomous organization of events. Legal Support

The managing entity must: - provide orientation and support to the beneficiaries in their contacts with the institutional actors in charge of the different steps of the asylum procedure; - provide orientation and information on Italian and European asylum laws; - provide orientation and support during the bureaucratic and administrative procedures; - provide information on the Italian legislation regarding family reunification and provide support and assistance if beneficiaries chose to follow this procedure; - provide information on rights and obligations laid down by Italian legislation; - provide information on programs of assisted and voluntary return.

#### Social and Health Services

The managing entity must: - ensure the availability of primary and secondary healthcare; - provide psychological and social assistance depending on the specific needs of the beneficiaries; - provide orientation, information and help on social security related matters; - ensure the availability of specific psychological, social and health assistance in case of special needs; - establish and consolidate cooperation with actors who may participate in the support, rehabilitation and care of beneficiaries with specific needs; - establish and consolidate cooperation with private and public actors who can participate in managing emergency situations.

#### The Integration Agreement

“Being fully integrated in Italy entails the learning of the Italian language, and requires the compliance with and the promotion of the democratic values of freedom, equality and solidarity, representing the foundations of the Republic of Italy” Integration Agreement.

The regulation governing the integration agreement came into force on 10th March 2012. As from such date, non-EU citizens applying for a residence permit with a duration exceeding one year shall sign an agreement with the Italian State.

By signing such Agreement, foreign nationals undertake to achieve specific integration objectives during the period of validity of their residence permit, and the State undertakes to support foreigners' integration process through the adoption of any suitable initiative in agreement with Regional Governments and Local Authorities.

In particular, as stated in the text of the agreement, foreign nationals undertake to:

- a) acquire a knowledge of the spoken Italian language equal to at least level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, issued by the Council of Europe;
- b) acquire a sufficient knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Italian Constitution, of the organisation and operation of public institutions and civil life in Italy, with particular reference to sectors as healthcare, education, social services and labour;
- c) guarantee the fulfilment of the education obligations for minors;
- d) discharge tax and contribution obligations.

Furthermore, foreign nationals state to adhere to the Charter of Values of Citizenship and Integration and undertake to comply with its principles.

On the other hand, the State:

- a) guarantees the enjoyment of fundamental rights and equal social dignity of people without any distinction whatsoever in terms of gender, race, language, religion, political opinions and personal and social conditions, preventing any expression of racism and discrimination; furthermore, the State facilitates the access to the information that help foreign nationals to understand the main provisions of the Italian Constitution and of the general system of the State;
- b) guarantees, in connection with Regional Governments and Local Authorities, the control of the compliance with the rules safeguarding employed work; the full access to healthcare services as well as to compulsory education;
- c) favours the integration process of foreign nationals through the adoption of any suitable initiative, in connection with Regional Governments, Local Authorities and no-profit associations.

In this framework, within one month as from the signing of the agreement, foreign nationals are granted the free-of-charge participation in a one-day session of civic training and information on the life in Italy. The integration agreement is based on the assumption of the definition of integration as a “process aimed to promote the cohabitation of Italian and foreign nationals, in full compliance with the values enshrined in the Italian Constitution, with the mutual commitment of participating in the economic, social and cultural life of the society”. It is therefore an occasion for foreign nationals to learn the Italian language and the basic civic rules of life in Italy.

As known, the knowledge of the Italian language and culture represent a fundamental step to facilitate the integration process in the hosting community, as well as an indicator of the success of the migration path and of the capacity of foreign nationals to be professionally and socially included in the Italian society.

By the date of the Interior Ministry at the 21<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in Turin province are signed 10.315 agreements (The date of every Italian province are accessible here <http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/it/accordo-dintegrazione>).

## 4.2 Good practices

### Best practice 4 *"Black Stars" football team and curling training*

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Thanks to the sponsorship of a major local company Diaconia Valdese has started and supported the creation of a football team made up of asylum seekers and called Black Star.

The weekly training sessions and the participation in the local tournament is for asylum applicants an important opportunity to establish friendly ties and improve the self confidence. Also the workouts are an important educational opportunities for educators involved.

Another positive sport experience is the training of some asylum applicants with the curling team in the Olympic winter stadium of Pinerolo. The purpose is to create an African curling team but above all a positive mood and promoting the integration.

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#### Best practice 5 *Bank of the time*

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The Time Bank is a local association that bases the collaboration at par despite the benefits are different.

The time is the same for everyone. regardless of social class, profession, from the economic conditions of individuals. One of the main weaknesses of the asylum application process and the large availability of idle time which affects asylum seekers. Many of them were then presented to the office of the Bank of time in Luserna and began a fruitful exchange of favors with the involved partners. The relationships that have been established through this channel have been very positive and useful. Some people found via this channel a real mentor to refer.

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#### Best practice 6 *"Refugees in the kitchen"*

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The kitchen is a strong instrument of exchange, understanding and integration and, since the love for the table of Italians, in our country in particular. For this reason, and in this spirit Diaconia Valdese organizes and promotes numerous dinners, open to all citizens, in which are proposed African and Pakistani cuisine cooked by "Refugees in the kitchen". The response has always been very positive and the initiative has enabled people to approach the issue of migrants.

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### 4.3 Strengths and weaknesses

#### Strengths

- The integration process starts very quickly, with the application for asylum
- The asylum applicants can attend right away a course of Italian language provided by the managing reception organization and by Cpia (Centri Provinciali per l'Istruzione degli Adulti - Provincial centers for adults education)
- Every reception project has professional intercultural mediator in the working group
- in Italy there is a good social fabric of associations and voluntary activities

#### Weaknesses

- The integration agreement is not mandatory
- Attending a course of Italian language is subsidized (if one doesn't attend get less pocket money) but not mandatory

## 5 VET-system and other related vocational training forms<sup>2</sup>

### 5.1 Description of the system

Regions who prepare annual vocational training programmes, manage their organisation. The attendance is usually free. To be eligible, one must possess a good knowledge of Italian, having finished compulsory school and be at least 15 years of age. The offer of study courses in Italian regions varies. All Regions organize vocational training inspired by the following general criteria:

- vocational training includes a part with theory, which takes place in a classroom and, often, even a part of practice, which takes place at the workplace;
- some courses issue a degree, which is indispensable for carrying out of certain professions;
- other courses only issue “certificates of attendance” that enrich the professional curriculum;
- in some cases, a small monetary compensation is given according to the time spent for training, or a flat-rate scholarship. At the end of course, an exam is required. After passing it, a certificate is obtained, that permits to people to register as unemployed with a newly acquired qualification.

Unfortunately the vocational training opportunities are not so many and the training specifically targeted for migrants is even less.

In addition, for asylum applicants is a big obstacle the request of the eighth grade title (middle school) to subscribe. Foreigners can obtain the license of the 8th grade after one year of school attendance and passing the final exam.

Currently between around 150 beneficiaries hosted by Diaconia projects just two of them are attending a professional training.

Adult education (CPIA- provincial centres for adult education) is a set of programmes/courses or education and training activities aiming to update adult vocational skills or improve their literacy. Under the remit of the Ministry of Education (MIUR), it is provided by CPIA. The centres are organised to establish a close link with local governments, the business world and the regulated professions, and to provide education according to learning levels:

- (a) first-level programmes, delivered by the CPIA, leading to a first-cycle qualification (a compulsory education certificate) and certification attesting basic skills related to compulsory education (certificate of acquired basic skills outcome of compulsory education);
- (b) second-level programmes, delivered by education institutions offering technical, vocational and artistic programmes, leading to an upper secondary education diploma: these may be technical schools, professional schools and artistic high school;

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<sup>2</sup> An English description of the Dutch VET system is found at: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/nl/publications-and-resources/publications/8090>

(c) Italian language courses, delivered by the CPIA for working age foreign adults, holding a qualification obtained in the home country. These courses lead to a certificate stating at least A2 level mastery of the Italian language according to the common European framework for languages designed by the Council of Europe.

Guidance activities for VET learners are carried out regionally and locally by training centres in cooperation with public employment services, sector and enterprise representatives, schools and universities. The objective is to provide guidance to students moving horizontally and vertically between various training options and also to support the transition into the labour market.

In Italy, the term vocational education and training tends to be 'reserved' for specific programmes primarily under the remit of the regions and autonomous provinces. From a European perspective the term 'education and training' comprises all types and levels of general and education and vocational education and training (VET). Irrespective of the provider or governance scheme, VET can take place at secondary, post-secondary or tertiary level in formal education and training or non-formal settings including active labour market measures. VET addresses young people and adults and can be school-based, company-based or combine school- and company-based learning (apprenticeships). Therefore, the term VET also covers the technical and vocational schools

About the issue of certification and validation of non-formal and informal learning The Piedmont Region has set up the main characteristics service with the Dgr n. 48-3448 del 06/06/2016 e il D.D n. 420 del 01/07/2016. However, this opportunity is rarely used. Currently it is a real possibility only within the government program Youth Guarantee, but also in this context the recognition of informal skills occurred very marginally

## 5.2 Good practices

### Best practice 7 *Bike repair workshop*

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The reception project of Diaconia has started a small bike repair workshop with the help of an experienced mechanic who has worked as a teacher and mentor.

The choice of the bike is not random. It is a means of transport easily accessible for migrants, widely used and at the same time it is a sport with increasingly successful among citizens. In recent years the bike shops were born and multiplied, offering a repair service.

Asylum applicants who attended the workshop were subsequently placed in internships. Trainees were able to deepen and test on field the skills acquired in the workshop.

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### Best practice 8 *Tailor workshop "Abito qui"*

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The project "Abito qui" ("I am living here") is a tailor workshop proposed to a small group of seven migrants who had already worked as tailors in their countries. With the guidance of a professional tailor, they have utilized old clothes to re use in a new guise.

In this way the small working group gave meaning The project "I live here" is a sewing workshop proposed as an asset to a small group of young boys of seven migrants who had already worked as

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tailors in their countries. With the guidance of a professional, they have utilized raw materials like old clothes to re use in a new guise.

In this way the small working group gave meaning both to their skills and abilities, than to materials otherwise destined for scrap. The meeting of different backgrounds and cultures and teamwork generated a very interesting mix of creativity, implemented in clothes and then self-produced accessories sold in marketsto their skills and abilities, which in materials otherwise destined for scrap. The meeting of different backgrounds and cultures and teamwork generated a very interesting mix of creativity, producing clothes sold in markets

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#### Best practice 9 *Information Tchnology workshop*

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A big gap in the majority of migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa and Pakistan is the competence and skill in the use of personal computers. For this reason, the reception project of Diakonia Valdese has organized an IT workshop for initial literacy and Linux training, a freesoftware.

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### 5.3 Strengths and weaknesses

Strenghts

Weaknesses

- There are few vocational training opportunities targeted for migrants. The few that there are, are concentrated between September and October. Furthermore, given that the available attendees are so few the selection is very strong, with a big number of aspiring excluded.

### Important reports and sources

Akerboom, M. & Wormann, H. (2016). *Integration of beneficiaries of international/humanitarian protection into the Dutch labour market: policies and good practices*. Rijswijk: European Migration Network (EMN).

Giuseppe Ciccarone (April 2016). *Labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees Italy*: EUROPEAN COMMISSION

AIDA, Asylum Information Database (Decembre 2015) *Country Report: Italy*: Ecre, European Council on Refugees and Exiles

Working Paper 1/2016 *How are refugees faring on the labour market in Europe?*: OECD Secretariat and the DG Employment

2016 Study on migrants' profiles drivers of migration and migratory trends: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

(Ottobre 2016) Rapporto sulla protezione internazionale in Italia 2016: ANCI, Caritas Italia, Cittalia, Fondazione Migrantes, Servizio Centrale dello Sprar, Unhcr

FAMI. Rapporto sull'accoglienza di migranti e rifugiati in Italia. Appendice di aggiornamento dei dati statistici al 30 settembre 2016: Roma, Ministero dell'Interno

(9 November 2016) Cittadini non comunitari: presenza, nuovi ingressi e acquisizioni di cittadinanza: ISTAT

#### Important websites

<http://www.interno.gov.it/it/temi/immigrazione-e-asilo/protezione-internazionale>

<http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/>

<http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/en/Pagine/Default.aspx>

<http://www.piemonteimmigrazione.it/losapeviche/en/>

<http://www.cir-onlus.org/en/>

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

<http://stra-dati.istat.it/>

<http://www.sprar.it/english>

### Annex 1. Data on asylum applicants and refugees in Italy

Table 1. Comparison between the arrival of immigrants in Italy during the semester January-October 2015 and January-October 2016.

	January-October 2015	January-October 2016
Arrivals	140.987	159.315
First time applicants	22.335	27.045

Note: CIR Italian Council for Refugees

Table 2 Asylum applicants in Piedmont Region

	immigrati presenti nelle strutture temporanee	immigrati presenti negli hot spot	immigrati presenti nei centri di prima accoglienza	Posti SPRAR occupati (al 12 settembre 2016)	totale immigrati presenti sul territorio Regione

Piemonte	11.373			1.181	12.554
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Note. *Rapporto sull'accoglienza di migranti e rifugiati in Italia. Appendice di aggiornamento dei dati statistici al 30 settembre 2016*

Table 3. *Result and typology of asylum applications in Italy in the last 3 years*

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Asylum applicant</b>	26.620	64.625	<b>83.540</b>
Refugee status	3.080	3.640	3.575
<b>Humanitarian status</b>	5.750	9.315	15.770
<b>Subsidiary protection status</b>	5.565	7.625	10.270
<b>Temporary protection status</b>	0	0	0
<b>Total positive decisions</b>	14.390	20.580	<b>29.615</b>
<b>Rejected</b>	9.175	14.600	<b>41.730</b>
<b>Total</b>	23.565	35.180	71.345

Note: Eurostat

Table 4. *Result and typology of asylum applications in Italy in the first semester of 2016 in Italy.*

<b>2016</b>	<b>Tot</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.337</b>
<b>Refugee status</b>	<b>3.569</b>
<b>Subsidiary protection status</b>	<b>8.398</b>
<b>Humanitarian status</b>	<b>13.180</b>
<b>Others</b>	59
<b>Rejected</b>	<b>43.131</b>

Note: Italian Ministry of Interior

Table 5. *Country of origin of Asylum applicants in Italy in 2016.*

<b>Country</b>	<b>Tot</b>
<b>NIGERIA</b>	<b>16.620</b>
<b>PAKISTAN</b>	<b>10.948</b>
<b>GAMBIA</b>	<b>6.360</b>
Senegal	5.171
Ivory Coast	5.259
Mali	4.343
Afghanistan	2.522
Bangladesh	3.870
Guinea	3.968
Eritrea	5.524
Ukraine	1.856
Ghana	3.131
Somalia	1.574
Morocco	1.159
<b>SIRIA</b>	<b>1.124</b>
Iraq	952
Egypt	500
Others	
<b>TOT:</b>	<b>84.969</b>

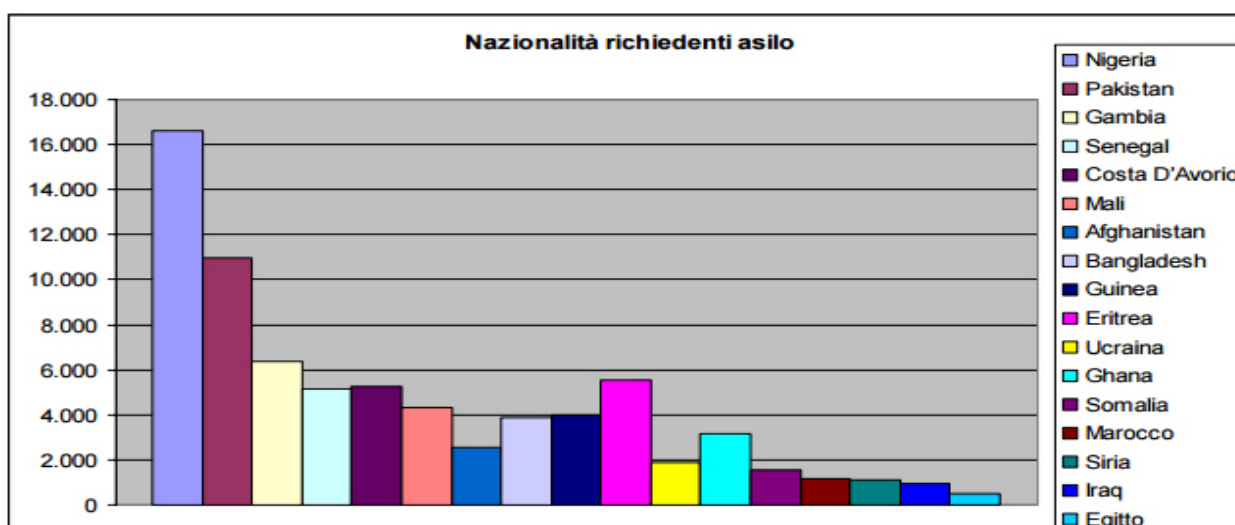
Note: Italian Ministry of Interior

Table 6. *Asylum seekers in October 2016 in Italy.*

	October 2016
Total	13.508
<b>Male</b>	<b>11.273</b>
Female	2.235
Unaccompanied foreign minors	632
Accompanied foreign minors	652

Note: Italian Ministry of Interior

Table 7. Country of origin in 2016.



Note: Italian Ministry of Interior

**Annex 2. Data on asylum applicants and refugees in reception projects managed by Diaconia Valdese in Pinerolo area (Val Pellice, Val Chisone, Pinerolo)**

Table 8: Nationality of origin

Nationality of origin	N.	Nationality of origin	N.	Nationality of origin	N.
Afghanistan	4	Guinea	2	Senegal	11
Bangladesh	4	Guinea Bissau	5	Sierra Leone	2
Burkina Fasu	5	Guinea Conakry	6	Siria	2*
Ivory Coast	8	Liberia	1	Somalia	3

Eritrea	1	Mali	12	Tanzania	1
<b>Gambia</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>27</b>	Nepal	1
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>13</b>	Pakistan	12		

\* This number does not include the 3 Syrian families hosted in this territory within the “Corridoio Umanitari” project (7 adults and 5 minors).

Table 9. *Age distribution*

15-29 years	117
30-40 years	4
40-50 years	2

Table 10. *Education background*

None	31
Basic education	76
Middle education	20
Secondary education	16

Table 11. *Result and typology of asylum applications*

Refugee status	6
Subsidiary protection status	6
Humanitarian status	21
<b>Rejected</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Pending the outcome</b>	<b>64</b>

Table 12. *Internship during 2016: tot 94*

<i>Equipe</i>	<b>Tot</b>	underway	ended
<i>Sprar Torre Pellice</i>	22	9	13
<i>Lotto 5 (ex Prefettura Crumiere)</i>	45	7	38
<i>Lotto 5 (ex Prefettura Val Chisone)</i>	25	8	17
<i>Lotto 4 (ex Prefettura Pinerolo)</i>	4	1	3

Table 13. *Internship duration*

<i>Equipe</i>	3 months 20h for week	3 months 40h for week	2 months 20h for week	4 months 20h for week	9 months 20h for week
<i>Sprar Torre Pellice</i>	22				
<i>Lotto 5 (ex Prefettura Crumiere)</i>	37	2	4	2	
<i>Lotto 5 (ex Prefettura Val Chisone)</i>	23			1	1
<i>Lotto 4 (ex Prefettura Pinerolo)</i>	4				

Table 14. *Internship extension*

<i>Equipe</i>	9 months Extension	6 months Extension	4 months Extension	3 months Extension	1 months Extension
<i>Sprar Torre Pellice</i>				1	
<i>Lotto 5 (ex Prefettura Crumiere)</i>	2	1		1	2
<i>Lotto 5 (ex Prefettura Val Chisone)</i>			1	1	
<i>Lotto 4 (ex Prefettura Pinerolo)</i>					

Table 15. *New internship paid by the company*

<i>Equipe/ duration</i>	9 months a 20h	6 months a 20h	4 months a 20h	3 months a 20h	2 months a 20h	6 months a 40h
<i>Sprar Torre Pellice</i>				2		
<i>Lotto 5 (ex Prefettura Crumiere)</i>		1			2	2
<i>Lotto 5 (ex Prefettura Val Chisone)</i>	1		1	1		
<i>Lotto 4 (ex Prefettura Pinerolo)</i>						

Table 16. *Internship sectors*

Sectors	n. internship	job
Food service	24	kitchen help/washdisher
Agriculture	21	farm hand
tourism infrastructures	9	kitchen help/cleaning/gardener
Entities	8	gardener
Craft	9	interior decorator, mechanical, baker, butcher
Associations	8	gardener
COV Diaconia:	4	gardener
Social sector	4	cleaning, fixing
Shops	5	cleaning, warehouse worker
Services	2	data entry