



*Ministero del Lavoro
e delle Politiche Sociali*

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELL'IMMIGRAZIONE
E DELLE POLITICHE DI INTEGRAZIONE

**Project “Assisted Voluntary Return for Vulnerable Persons”
Seminar
ON THE ROAD: UNACCOMPANIED MINORS**

Unaccompanied minors in Italy: reception

Vilnius, 25.02.2014

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Unit IV - “Unaccompanied Minors and Integration Policies”





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Unaccompanied minors in Italy

I

Data

N

Definition

D

Rights & Legislation

E

The Process of Reception

- Arrival & placement in a safe place
- Identification
- Reception
- Family Tracing
- Assisted Voluntary Return or Integration
- Adulthood

X

Multilevel Governance

New Developments



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy: Data

Present

(31.12.2013)

• 6.319

Untraceable

(31.12.2013)

• 2.142

Arrived by sea (2013) → **3.818**

- Sicily → 2.503
- Apulia → 665
- Calabria → 632

Northern
African
Humanitarian
Emergency

(2011 – 2012)

4.231



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy : Data

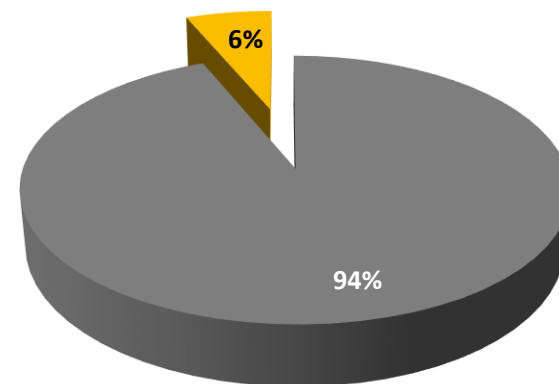
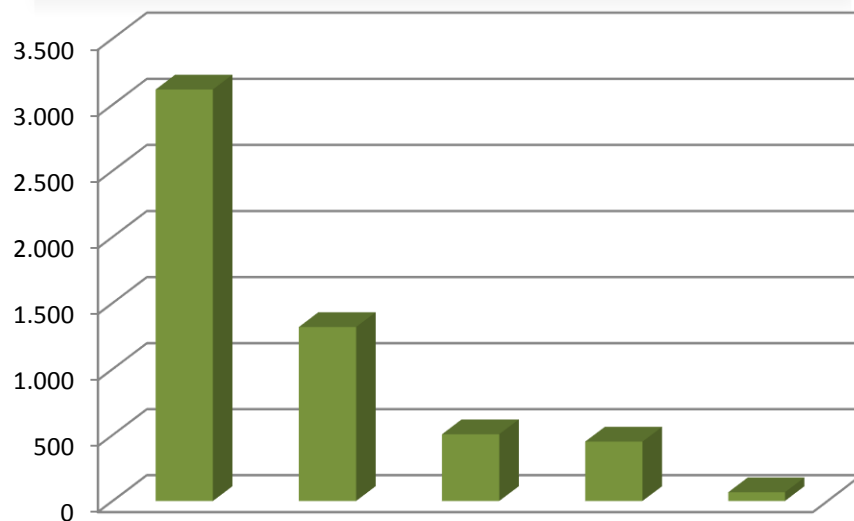
Number of unaccompanied minors

6.319*



| Age | 17 | 16 | 15 | 7 - 14 | 0 - 6 |
|-----|-------|-------|-----|--------|-------|
| No. | 3.481 | 1.481 | 738 | 596 | 23 |

| Male | Female |
|-------|--------|
| 5.926 | 393 |



* Data update: 31 December 2013

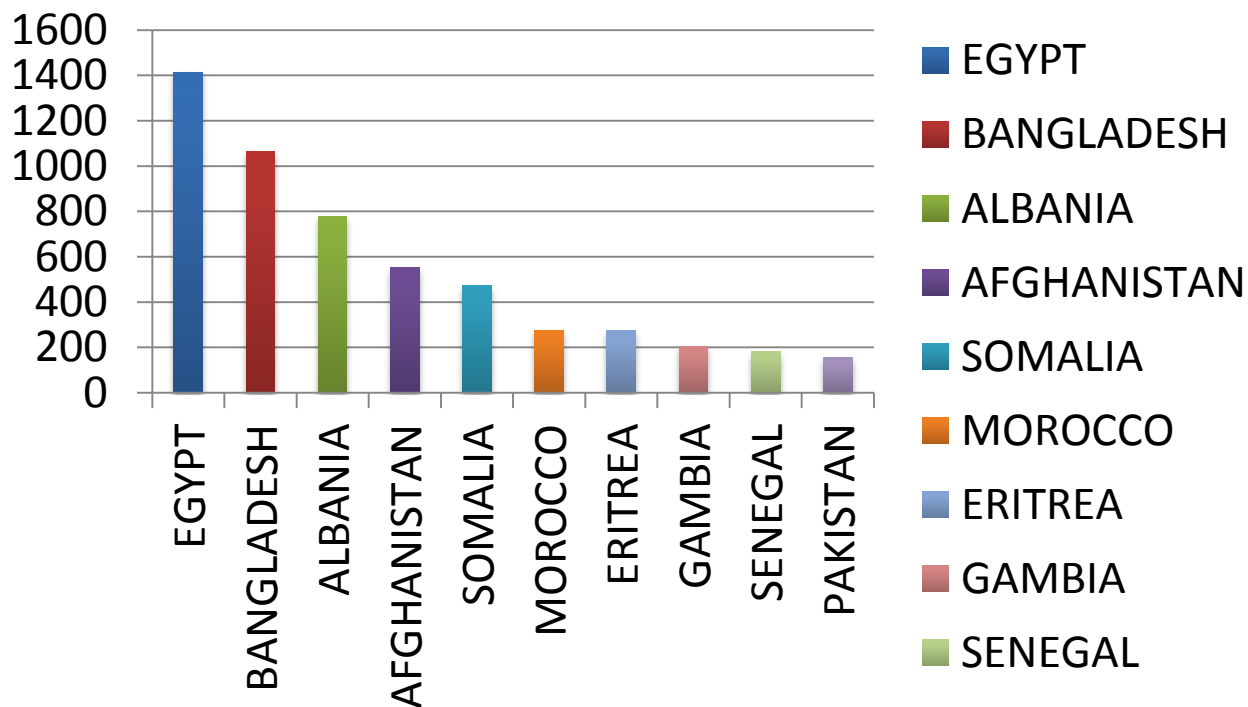


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Unaccompanied minors in Italy: Data

Countries of Origin



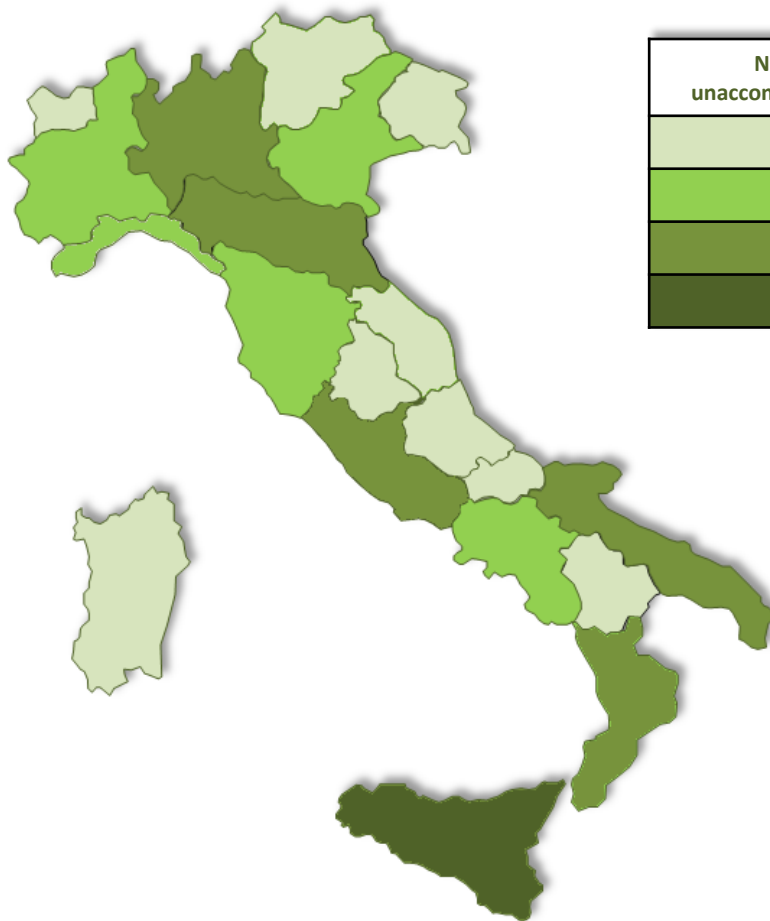


Unaccompanied minors in Italy: Data

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| REGION | UN. MINORS (No.) |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| SICILIA | 1.713 |
| LAZIO | 984 |
| LOMBARDIA | 731 |
| PUGLIA | 557 |
| EMILIA ROMAGNA | 473 |
| CALABRIA | 407 |
| VENETO | 278 |
| TOSCANA | 267 |
| CAMPANIA | 187 |
| PIEMONTE | 180 |
| FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA | 144 |
| LIGURIA | 101 |
| TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE | 96 |
| MARCHE | 90 |
| BASILICATA | 34 |
| ABRUZZO | 26 |
| MOLISE | 24 |
| SARDEGNA | 16 |
| UMBRIA | 7 |
| VALLE D'AOSTA | 4 |
| TOTAL | 6.319 |



| Number of unaccompanied minors | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| | 1 - 100 |
| | 101 - 300 |
| | 301 - 1000 |
| | over 1000 |



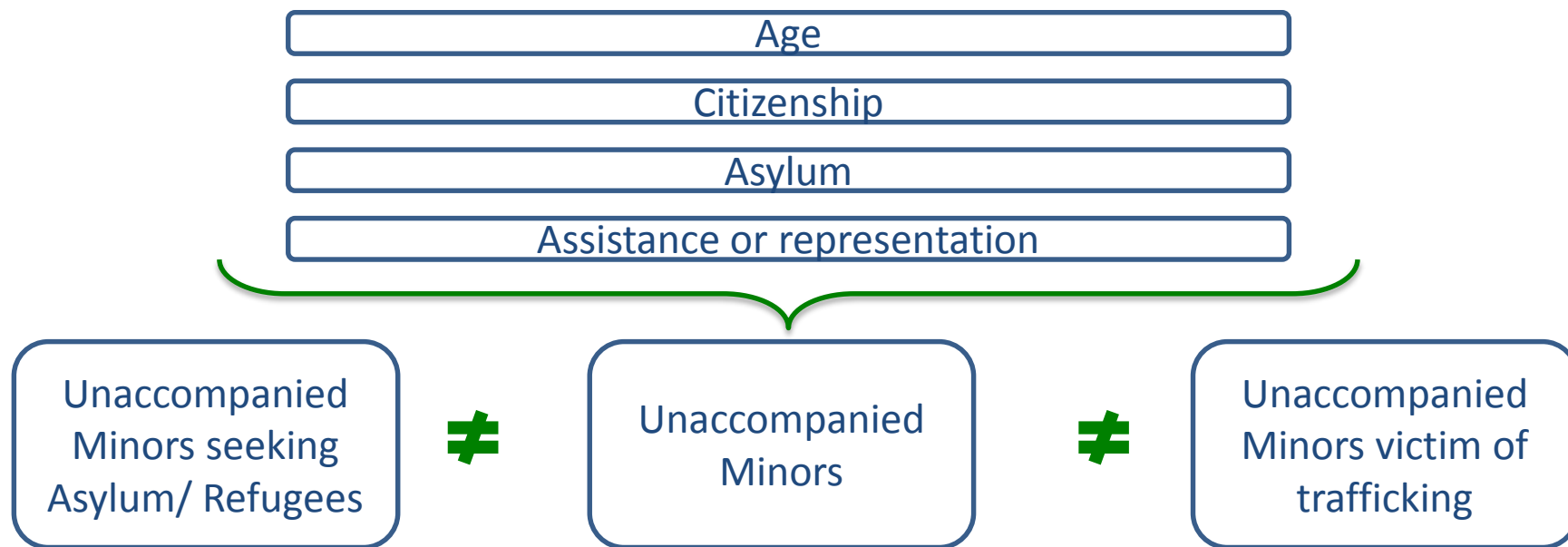
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Unaccompanied minors in Italy: Definition

...a minor not having Italian citizenship or other of the European Union, who, not being an asylum seeker, is for any reason within the territory of the State without assistance or representation from parents or other adults legally responsible on the basis of laws in force in the Italian legislation.

D.P.C.M. n. 535/1999





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Unaccompanied minors in Italy: Rights & Legislation

Non- Refoulement Principle



It is forbidden the deportation of a foreigner under the age of eighteen

Consolidated Law on Immigration (1998)



- Residence Permit
- Accommodation in a safe place
- Guardianship
- Non-Discrimination
- Right to health care
- Right to education
- Adoption of peculiar protection measures

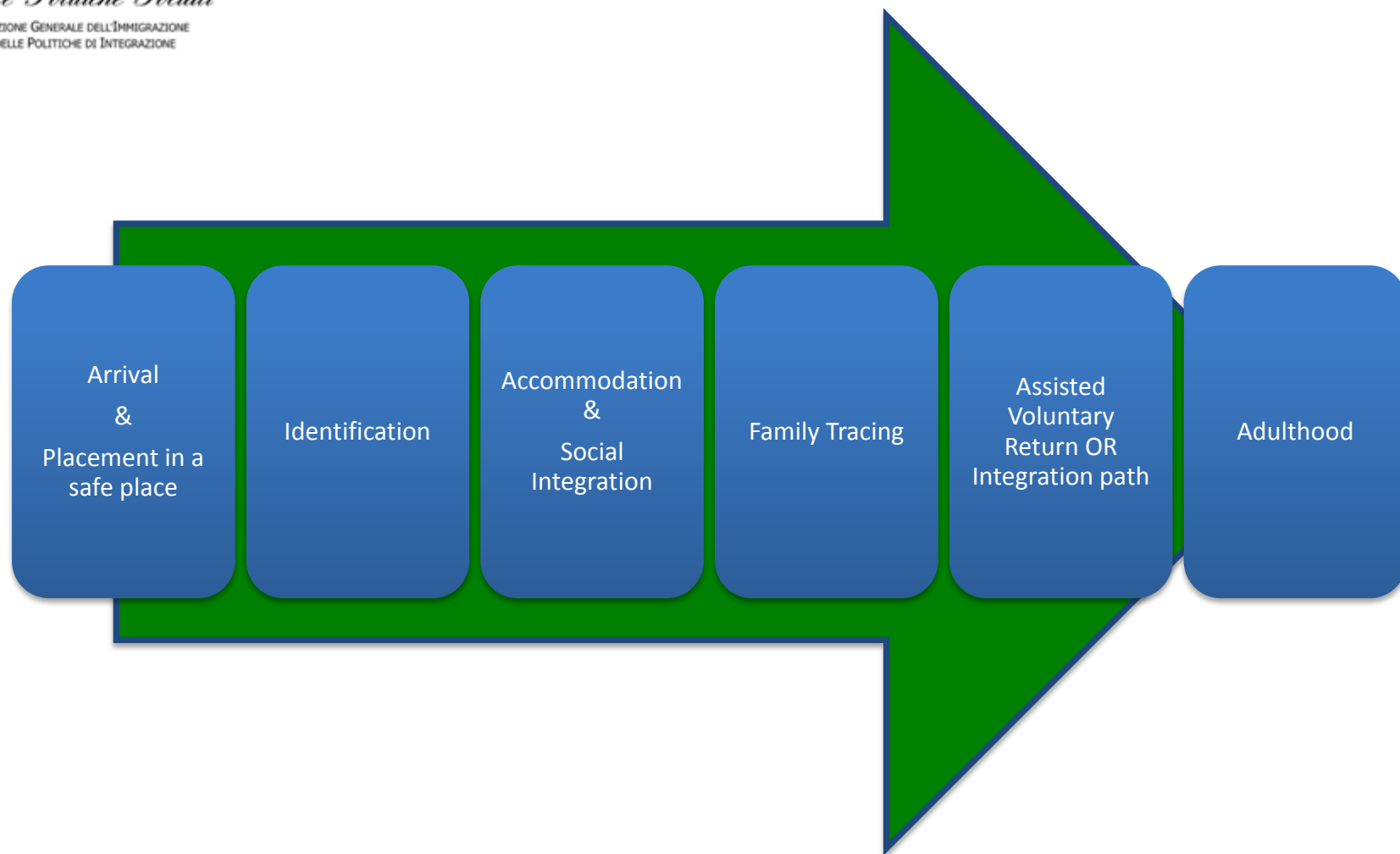
Child
Protection Law
&
Immigration
Law



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception





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Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

Arrival & Placement in a safe place

...Anyone may report to the public authority information concerning the abandonment of a minor.

Article 9 Law n. 184/1983



...When the child is morally or physically abandoned, public authorities, through the proper organs of protection, place him in a safe place, until it is possible to permanently provide to its safeguard.

Article 403 Italian Civil Code



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

Identification

The Authority of Public Safety (Police Officers) determines the identity of the child, where necessary through the collaboration of diplomatic and consular bodies of the child's Country of origin.

Article 5 D.P.C.M. n. 535/1999



- Documents
- Name
- Country of Origin
- Age > Age assessment
- Unaccompanied status

- ◆ Several Phases
- ◆ Cooperation with several actors



Residence Permit on the ground of minority age



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

Accommodation

State is responsible to define national requirements. Regions define minimum standards of services and assistance that must be provided by family-type communities and shelles, periodically monitoring their compliance. (...) Municipalities are responsible for the authorisation of territorial shelters, in accordance with Regional requirements.

Article 2 and 11, Law n. 184/1983



- Common minimum requirements at national level
- Definition of different minimum standards within Italian Regions
- More or less control?
- Specialisation

First
Reception
&
Second
Reception



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

Social Integration

*Regions and Municipalities both contribute to the implementation of social interventions. Regions provide for the coordination of interventions, developed and performed by Municipalities at territorial level. Therefore, Municipalities are responsible for the UAMs' **taking in charge** and to cover related costs.*

Law n. 328/2000



- Different articulation on the national territory
- Different UAMs concentration on the national territory
- Economical aspects

Taking in Charge

Responsibility to perform all actions necessary to guarantee the rights belonging to a minors in absence of parents



Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

Family Tracing (I)

The General Directorate on Immigration and Integration Policies carries out initiatives and research in order to promote the identification of relatives of unaccompanied minors, also in their country of origin and third countries.

Article 2 D.P.C.M. n. 535/1999



The General Directorate on Immigration and Integration Policies may make use of the cooperation of competent public administrations and appropriate national and international organizations, through agreements.

Article 2 D.P.C.M. n. 535/1999



2008 > Notice to the Public > IOM won the competition

Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

Family Tracing (II)

Municipalities

General
Directorate

IOM

Municipalities

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

General Directorate

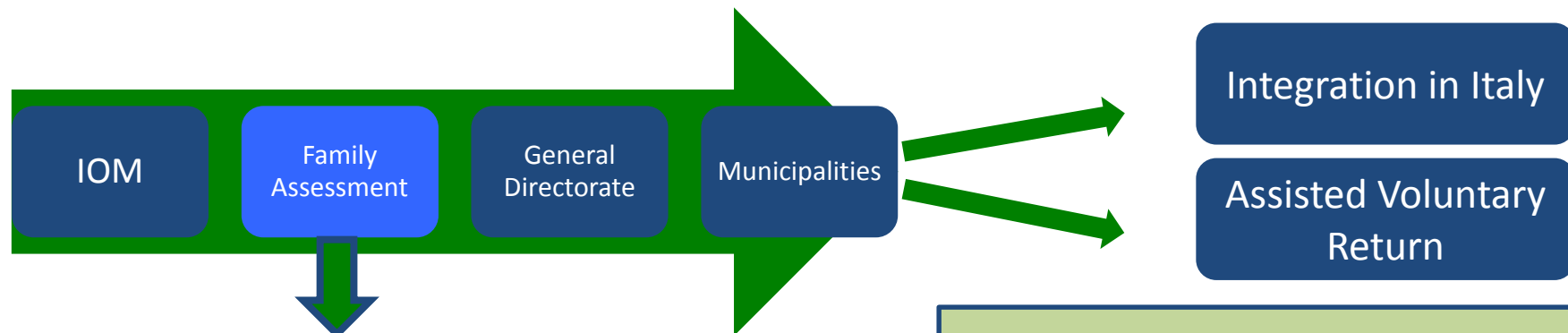
- **Activates** IOM.
- **Monitors** on the development of family tracing

IOM

- **Contacts** the minor's family
- **Organizes** meetings and interviews the family
- **Collects** Information

Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

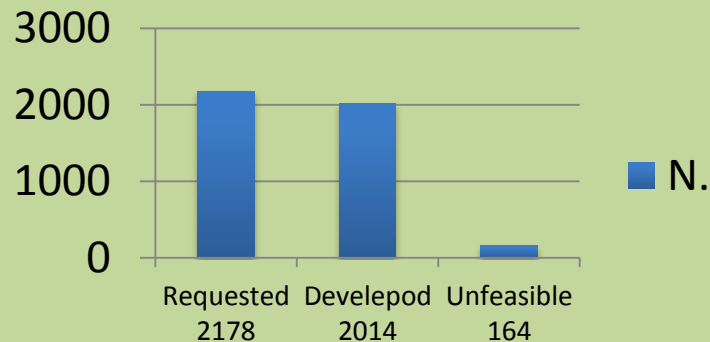
Family Tracing (III)



Provides knowledge of:

- Migratory project (family's venture/individual choice)
- Family history and expectations
- Context of origin
- Possible problems, potential vulnerabilities, critical situations, risks
- Peculiar needs

Family Assessment 2008-2013



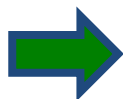
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Assisted Voluntary Return (I)

The General Directorate on Immigration and Integration Policies can adopt, based on the information obtained through family tracing, for purposes of protection and to guarantee the right to family unity, the provision of assisted repatriation of unaccompanied minors

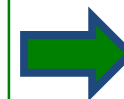
Article 2 and 7 D.P.C.M. n. 535/1999

**General
Directorate**



Checks

- 1) Willingness of the minor
- 2) Information provided by social services
- 3) Outcome of family investigation
- 4) Opinion of the legal guardian
- 5) Clearance of judicial authorities
- 6) Possibility to re-integration



**Issues
the measure of
assisted return**

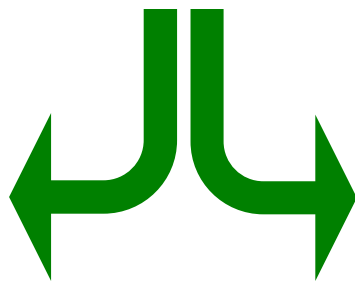
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Assisted Voluntary Return (II)

The General Directorate supports the costs of repatriation and guarantees the minor a **personalised reintegration plan**

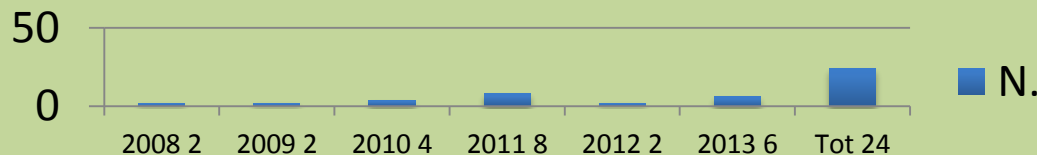
IOM

- Develops the reintegration plan in the Country of origin
- Supports the minor and the family
- Monitors on the implementation
- Informs the General Directorate on outputs and improvements



- Access to education
- Training
- Occupational perspectives
- Minor's aspirations
- Family's expectations
- Italian Social Services' opinions

Family Assessment 2008-2013



Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

Integration

Regions perform functions of planning, coordination and direction of social interventions, as well as verification (...). Municipalities perform administrative functions relating to social interventions developed at local level.

Article 6 and 6 Law n. 328/2000



Individual Integration Paths

- Developed by Social Services of the Municipality
- Access to education and school
- Internship and training
- Access to the labour market

Doti Project

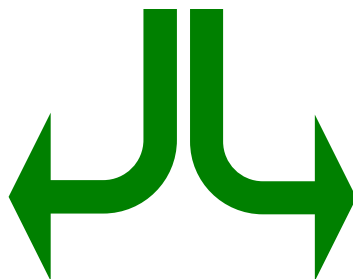
- Developed by the General Directorate in 2012
- To strength UAMs' integration, especially for those close to the age of 18 years
- To promote education, training, skills qualifications and access to the labour market
- Financing of 1,126 individual grants
- Project dedicated to young women for 2013/2014

Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

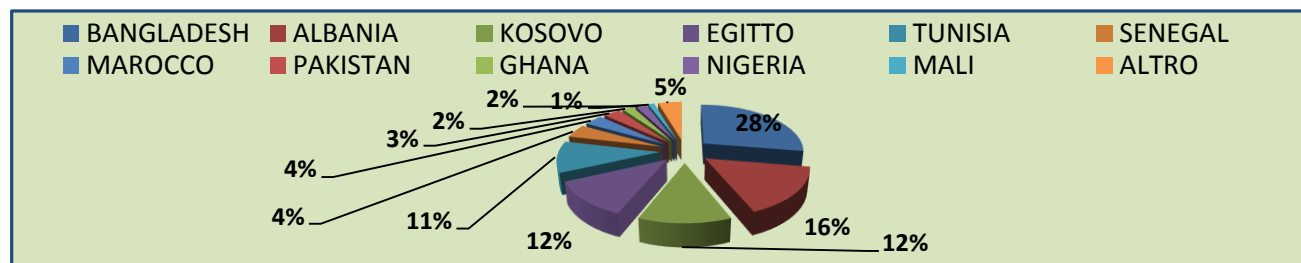
Adulthood

Article 32 of the Consolidated Law on Immigration defines two processes through which an unaccompanied minor may obtain a residence permit for education, work or access to work once he reaches eighteen years of age.

Presence in Italy for at least
 3 years
 +
 Participation in an
Integration path for at least 2
 years



General Directorate on
 immigration and integration
 policies' **Opinion**, issued on
 the basis of the positive
 evaluation of the minor's
 integration path.





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Unaccompanied minors in Italy : Multilevel Governance

State Government Institutions

Ministry of Interior

- Placement in a safe place
- Identification
- Residence Permit & conversion
- Information to other Institutions
- Asylum Seekers/Refugees UAMs > access to the procedure: integration

Ministry of Labour and Social Policies

- Census
- Family Tracing
- Assisted Voluntary Return
- Opinion for residence permit's conversion

Ministry of Justice

- Legal Guardian
- Custody and foster care
- Control and supervision of public and private accommodation shelters for minors

Department of Equal Opportunities – Presidency of the Council of Ministers

- Victims of trafficking > protection; social integration plan



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy : Multilevel Governance

Regions and Municipalities

Regions

- Social Interventions > planning, coordination and direction
- Reception facilities > definition of minimum standards; monitoring
- Health

Municipalities

- Social Interventions > administrative functions at local level
- Reception facilities > authorisation and accreditation; control
- Taking charge > daily needs, peculiar necessities, integration paths, economic aspects

Other Actors

Diplomatic and Consular authorities, IOM, Health Medical Institutions, Psychologists, NGOs, Associations and Institutions for social promotions, Intercultural Mediators Teachers and Trainers, Employers and Tutors, etc.



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy : New Developments

Information System on Minors (SIM)

- To strengthen the activity of data collection, ensuring prompt update
- To facilitate communication and interaction among involved Institutions
- To provide a clear picture on the phenomenon
- To monitor the national territory and territorial realities
- To effectively react to criticalities



SIM: An on-line information system dedicated to UAMs

- Allows the traceability of the minor's reception pathway, since the entrance in the Italian territory, real-time registering information
- All actors (General Directorate, Police Headquarters, Regions, Municipalities, Communities, Tribunals, etc.) access the database and, according to one's competences, may read and update information



TEST PHASE: in seven geographical areas, characterised by peculiar system of tracing, protection and care: Ancona, Bari, Bologna, Crotone, Siracusa, Turin and Venice



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy : New Developments

National Fund for Unaccompanied Minors

- To identify stable and durable solutions
- To support Municipalities
- To allow ordinary management of reception



National Fund for Unaccompanied Minors

- Dedicated and specific Fund
- Hinged at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies
- To provide with an economical contribution Municipalities that supported reception's costs
- Different allocation of resources to the Fund (5mln 2012; 25mln 2013, 40mln 2014)
- Allocation decided in accordance with other competent Administrations and Institutions
- Beneficiaries identified also in consideration of peculiar needs



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy : New Developments

Guidelines on Unaccompanied Minors

To define the procedures belonging to the General Directorate

- In a view of simplification
- In consideration of new national and supranational legislation
- In consideration of recent experiences



Participatory adoption's procedure

- Involvement of all involved Administrations and Institutions
- Public consultation, opened to all stakeholders



Guidelines on Unaccompanied Minors: the General Directorate's competencies

- Adopted by Decree of the 19th December 2013
- Procedures concerning census, family tracing, assisted voluntary return and Opinion's release
- Formats to be used for all communications to the General Directorate
- Consist in a further step for the progressive use of on-line information systems



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Unaccompanied minors in Italy

QUESTIONS



Thank you for your attention



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