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

Unaccompanied minors in Italy: reception

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Unit IV - “Unaccompanied Minors and Integration Policies”
Unaccompanied minors in Italy

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Data

Definition

Rights & Legislation

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

Multilevel Governance

New Developments
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

**Unaccompanied minors in Italy: Data**

**Number of unaccompanied minors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>7-14</th>
<th>0-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3.481</td>
<td>1.481</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5.926</td>
<td>393</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data update: 31 December 2013*
Unaccompanied minors in Italy: Data

Countries of Origin

- Egypt
- Bangladesh
- Albania
- Afghanistan
- Somalia
- Morocco
- Eritrea
- Gambia
- Senegal
- Pakistan

Countries of Origin: [Graph showing bar chart with data for each country]
### Unaccompanied minors in Italy: Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>UN. MINORS (No.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SICILIA</td>
<td>1,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAZIO</td>
<td>984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOMBARDIA</td>
<td>731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUGLIA</td>
<td>557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMILIA ROMAGNA</td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALABRIA</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VENETO</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOSCANA</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPANIA</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIEMONTE</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIGURIA</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCHE</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASILICATA</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABRUZZO</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLISE</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARDEGNA</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMBRIA</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALLE D’AOSTA</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,319</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The map shows the distribution of unaccompanied minors across different regions in Italy, with colors indicating the number of minors in each region:

- Light green: 1 - 100
- Medium green: 101 - 300
- Dark green: 301 - 1000
- Dark brown: over 1000

The total number of unaccompanied minors in Italy is 6,319.
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

- Age
- Citizenship
- Asylum
- Assistance or representation

Unaccompanied Minors seeking Asylum/ Refugees ≠ Unaccompanied Minors ≠ Unaccompanied Minors victim of trafficking
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*
Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

- Arrival & Placement in a safe place
- Identification
- Accommodation & Social Integration
- Family Tracing
- Assisted Voluntary Return OR Integration path
- Adulthood
...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
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
State is responsible to define national requirements. Regions define minimum standards of services and assistance that must be provided by family-type communities and shelters, 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
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 minor in absence of parents
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
- 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

IOM  Family Assessment  General Directorate  Municipalities

Integration in Italy
Assisted Voluntary Return

Family Assessment 2008-2013

- Requested: 2178
- Developed: 2014
- Unfeasible: 164

Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

Assisted Voluntary Return (1)

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

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
Unaccompanied minors in Italy: the Process of Reception

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**

- N.
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 strengthen 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
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.
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
- Supervision on reception conditions

**Ministry of Justice**
- Legal Guardian
- Custody and foster care
- Control and supervision of public and private accommodation shelters for minors
- Authorization for assisted voluntary return

**Department of Equal Opportunities – Presidency of the Council of Ministers**
- Victims of trafficking > protection; social integration plan

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.
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
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

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
Unaccompanied minors in Italy

QUESTIONS?

Thank you for your attention
Serena Matarese

For further information please contact me at
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General Directorate for Immigration and Integration Policies
Unit IV - “Unaccompanied Minors and Integration Policies”