

Best practices in Sicily, Italy

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Migration flows and integration policies data evidence and best practices in
the EU

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Ragazzi Harraga_ Social Inclusion Processes for unaccompanied minors in the city of Palermo: an effective model of social inclusion that fosters autonomy



About us

CESIE is a European centre of studies and initiatives established in 2001, inspired by the work and theories of sociologist Danilo Dolci (1924-1997).



Our Mission

To promote educational innovation, participation and growth.



Our Vision

The world is only one creature.

Our Units & Objectives



Higher Education and Research

Fostering progress, sustainable and responsible research and innovation in Higher Education and Research Systems.



Rights and Justice

Promoting equality, protecting the rights of people, preventing and developing responses to violence and discrimination.



Adult

Upgrading lifelong learning in adult education, boosting innovative practices and developing key competences for adults.



Migration

Developing effective and inclusive approaches for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.



School

Improving quality and efficiency in school education.



Youth

Enhancing active citizenship, training, education, and mobility of young people.



Migration Unit: our beneficiaries

The overall objective is to develop effective and inclusive approaches for the target groups



Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers

Children, Youth, Adults



Schools, teaching staff, professionals, employers



Local communities



Main Objectives

To develop, strengthen and enhance skills of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

To increase intercultural competences of teachers, school leaders, professionals, employers who work with migrants

To promote an inclusive society by encouraging the active participation of local and migrant communities

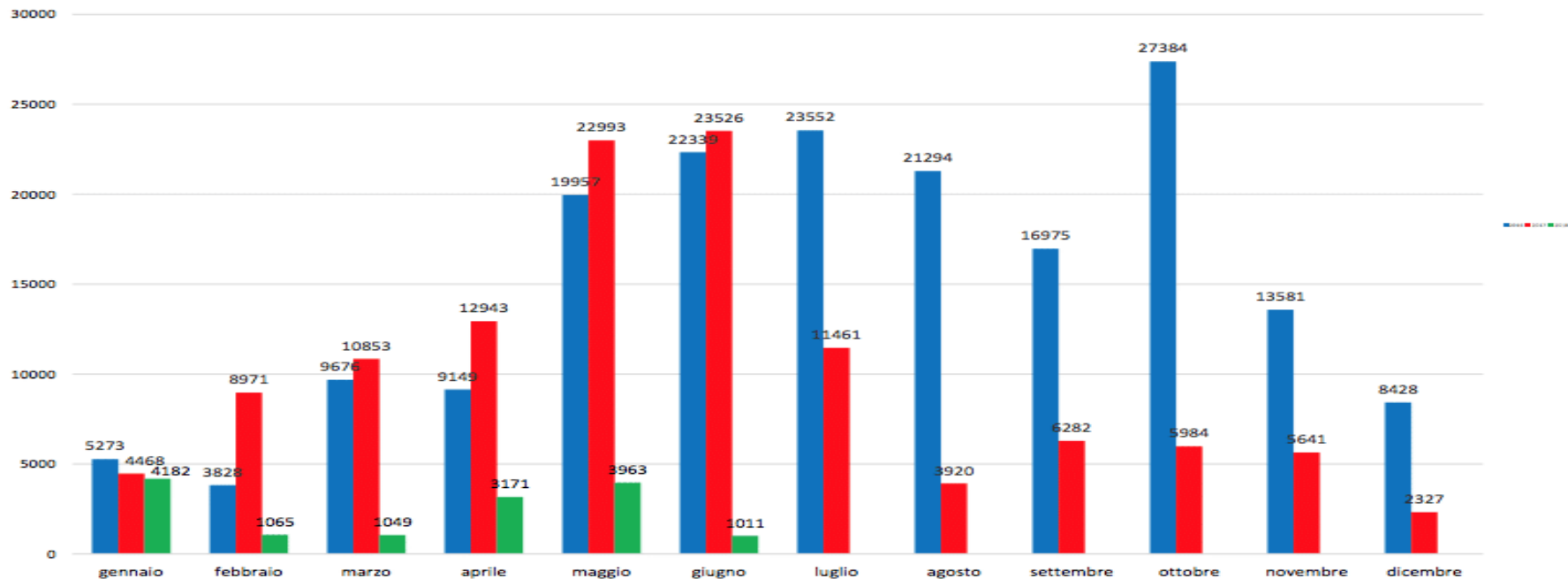
The migration context in Italy

Comparazione migranti sbarcati negli anni 2016/2017/2018

2016: 181.436

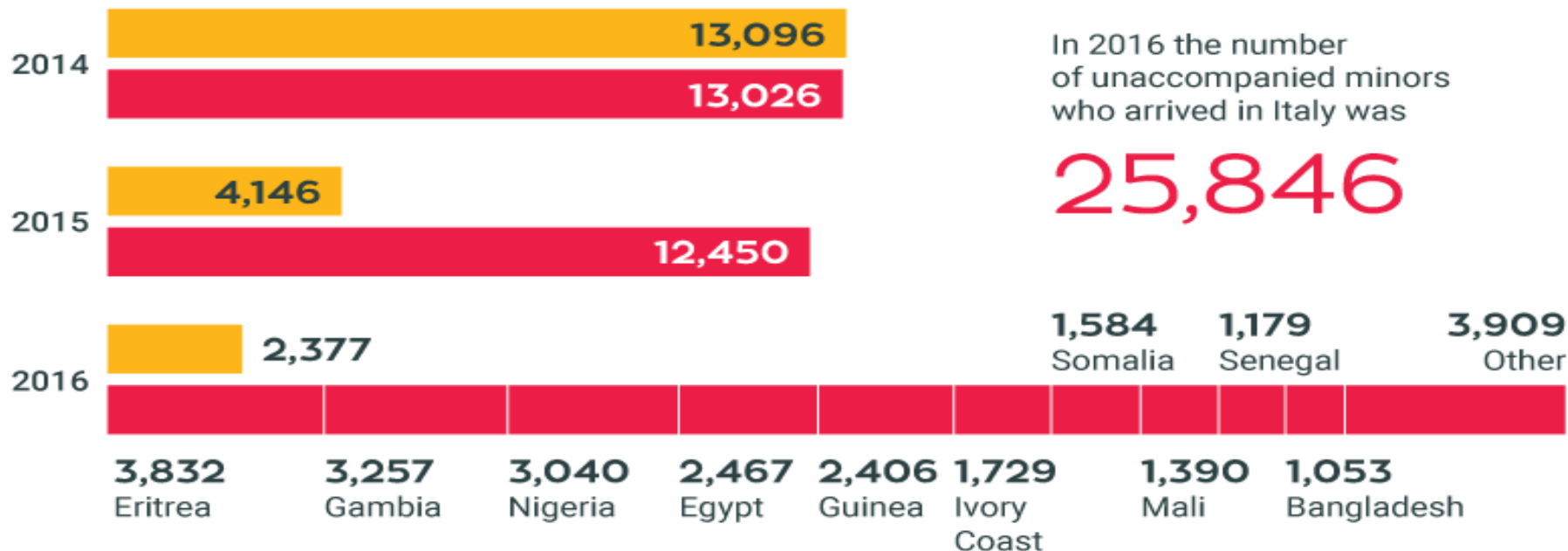
2017: 119.369

2018: 14.441 (dato al 12 Giugno 2018)



Arrivals by accompanied and unaccompanied minors, 2014-2016

■ Accompanied minors ■ Unaccompanied minors

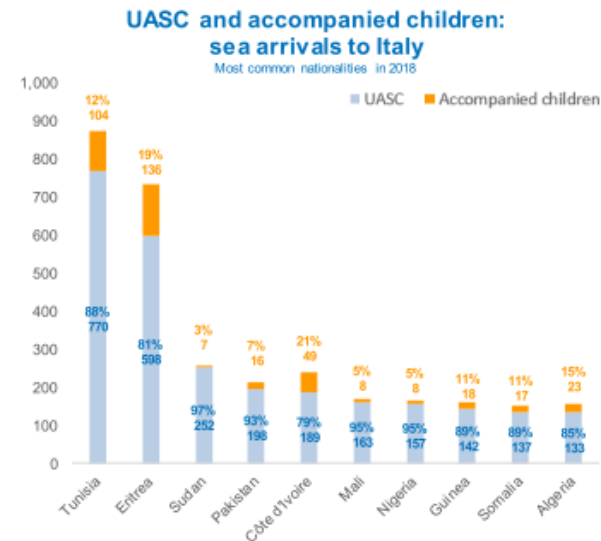
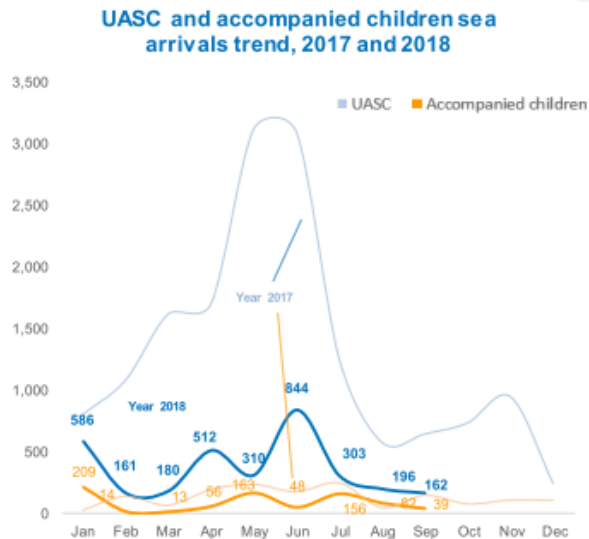
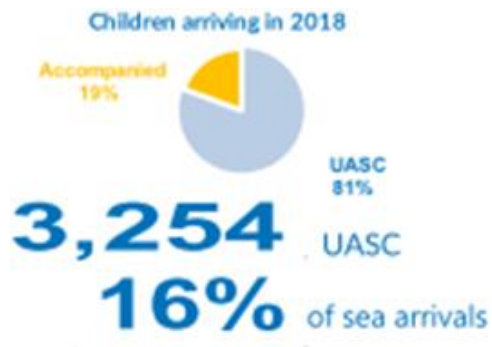


The migration context in Italy

Focus on: Unaccompanied minors

Children arriving in 2018 (Jan – Sep):

4,017, **of which 3,254 are unaccompanied children** (81% of the total)



Source: UNHCR

Unaccompanied minors arriving in Sicily

In 2016 when the project Ragazzi Harraga was formed, the numbers were slightly different to the current situation. The number of UAM hosted in Sicily was 5.750 minors. The city of Palermo hosted around 1300 minors.

There are not been significant changes in the necessities of the population, especially for 2017 that the initial activities of Ragazzi Harraga came into action.



Ragazzi Harraga: challenge > response

Lack of a tracking tool for UAMs' path

The age group of most of the UAM is 16-17

The majority, when turning 18, have difficulties in accessing the reception facilities for adults.

There are no individual projects activated for them, but mostly standardised ones

Lack of pedagogical monitoring, consistence and coherence of their learning paths



The first pillar of the model is the creation of a digital social folder for each minor that contains information about:



- **Identity,**
- **reception history**
- **inclusion process initiated**
- **professional, transversal and basic skills acquired.**

The data is uploaded on a platform and constantly updated by the social assistants of the municipality of Palermo.



Ragazzi Harraga: challenge > response

Need of self-awareness and work experience

The working dimension:

- Lack of connections between the Provincial Centre for Adult Education (CPIA), secondary schools and VET providers,
- Weak or no offer of vocational training as well as a lack of knowledge of the labor market.
- Limited reflection on oneself, one's own skills and long-term planning
- Persistence of negative stereotypes towards UAMs.

Outcome: UAM
reinforce and develop
self-determination, self-
esteem, the ability to
identify and appreciate
their own skills and
talents.

The **second pillar**: creation
of 5 different workshops
and validation of the
transversal competences
and **soft skills** acquired
by awarding **skills**
portfolios

Ragazzi Harraga: challenge > response



A professional kitchen scene featuring a chef in a black uniform and hat. The chef is smiling and looking towards the right, holding a white cloth. In the background, there are stainless steel shelves with various kitchen items, a large stainless steel refrigerator, and a stove with several pots. The kitchen has white tiled walls and a bright, warm light source. The overall atmosphere is busy and professional.

Ragazzi Harraga: challenge > response

The third pillar: development of an active policy for the integration UAM into the Italian labor market, through; internship grants and training on the job.







Ragazzi Harraga: challenge > response

Arriving to the age of majority with out reaching autonomy

The housing issue

When turning 18, UAM's likelihood of not finding stable housing solutions is high

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The fourth pillar includes the launch of a temporary self-sustaining housing solution.

After a round of applications, eight 18 years old boys are selected for being hosted to these facilities for one year.





The fifth pillar includes the creation of a youth hostel in the premises of the guesthouse, which will be run as an independent activity beyond the project duration.

This tool is also used to raise awareness and involve different stakeholders in the visibility, support and promotion of the project and the efforts to create an inclusive and multicultural society.





Ragazzi Harraga_Strenghts

Consultation of a UAMs validation group who provided feedback to improve the project concept and activities' plan.

For the deployment of the workshops and job counselling, we have employed migrant linguistic and cultural facilitators and peer tutors aged between 18-21 years old.



The learning and exchange process is significantly important not only among migrants but also for local citizens.

We have created a network of partners, stakeholders, volunteers, legal guardians that represent a strong and sustainable social capital for these youngsters that will last beyond the project.

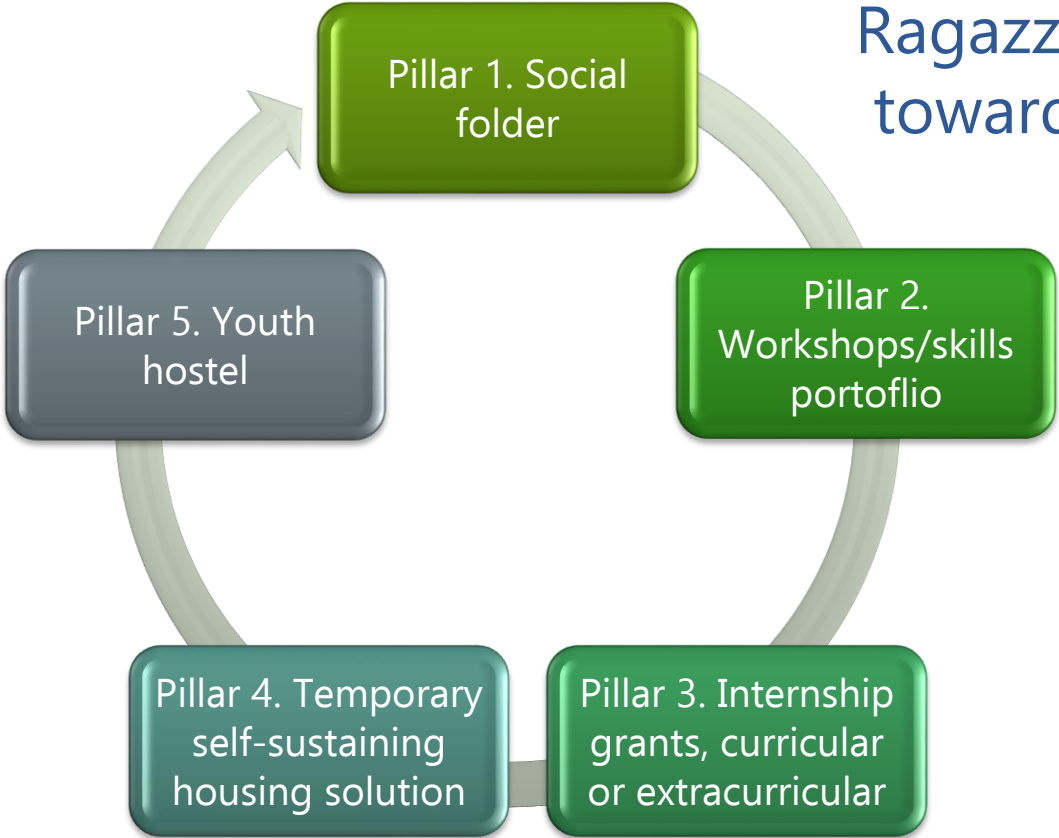


CONCLUSIONS

In regards to the inclusion paths of UAMs, there is a necessity to adopt a **holistic model** which takes over the complexity of the processes and **delivers diverse methods of inclusion and achievement of autonomy.**

Multiple actions answering to multiple needs in a unique structure (such as proposed model) allow to **create connections among the different stakeholders involved, to foster continuity between actions and to strengthen the system of accompaniment towards UAMs autonomy.**

Ragazzi harraga model pathes towards autonomy



CONCLUSIONS

In the establishment of a local partnership, it is crucial to involve **local organizations** (CSOs, reception centers, local authorities etc.) that have already expertise on the field and carry grassroots daily work with the target groups. **Ground based organizations** having different expertise would provide different points of view and approaches, widening the field of action.

The proposed model may have a stronger impact on smaller cities, where concentrated presence of migrants in some central areas of the city is presented by the high percentage. This is due to the easy creation of reference places for the target groups. In the case of bigger cities with an extended migrants' distribution, it seems important the identification of "hubs" that can foster as these places inside the context of the "neighborhood". In reference to adaptability of the model, this characteristic is crucial for the development of a sense of belonging and the further inclusion and active citizenship in the city field.

CONCLUSIONS

One of the **success factors**, that can foster an implementation of such model, would be the ***close collaboration between private, public sectors and the civil society*** sharing responsibility and social capital around the UAMs. This connection requires a definition of common objectives and a sharing of all the actors' understating of the essential needs of the territory and expertise.

The main rule of the model's application on other territory is: **project's creation not for the UAMs but with them.** Such bottom up approach guarantees: (1) a very detailed analysis of the UAMs needs, (2) the effectiveness of the actions proposed, (3) stronger cooperation of the beneficiaries and impact visible for the territory in a long term perspective

In rete con:



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// Thank you

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