



MINISTERO del LAVORO
e delle POLITICHE SOCIALI

DIREZIONE GENERALE dell'IMMIGRAZIONE
e delle POLITICHE di INTEGRAZIONE

Monitoring Report

Data as at 31 December 2018



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
(UAMs) IN ITALY

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Monitoring Report on the presence of unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs) in the national territory was realised in compliance with what provided for by Art. 33 of Lgs.D. no. 286/1998 (Consolidated Act on Immigration), by Art. 19, par. 5 of Lgs.D. no. 142/2015, as well as by Art. 2 and Art. 5 of Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers no. 535/1999.

The Report refers to data collected by the Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies, as updated at 31 December 2018. Since 2018, the Report has been published on a six-monthly basis. All Reports are available on the institutional website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies at the following address: <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/immigrazione/focus-on/minori-stranieri/Pagine/Dati-minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati.aspx>. Moreover, always on the same website, the Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies monthly publishes summary statistical Reports on the presence of unaccompanied foreign minors.

Many thanks to the subjects that contributed to the enhancement of this Report through specific in-depth analyses on themes linked to UFMs.

2 THE EVOLUTION OF RULES AND OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

On 4 October 2018, Decree-Law no. 113/2018 was adopted regulating “*Urgent provisions on international protection and immigration and on public security, as well as measures for the Ministry of Interior’s functions and for the National Agency’s organisation and functions with regard to the management and destination of criminal assets confiscated and recovered from organised crime,*” converted, with amendments, by Law no. 132/2018.

Decree-Law no. 113/2018 revokes residence permits for humanitarian reasons as envisaged in Art. 5, par. 6, of Lgs.D. no. 286/1998 and introduced new types of residence permits granted for special cases. In these regards, Circular no. 83774 of December 18, 2018, adopted by the Ministry of Interior, established, among other things, the current regulations on unaccompanied foreign minors reception and the different types of residence permits according to Decree-Law no. 113/2018.¹

With specific reference to the provisions of the new Decree-Law no. 113/2018 on unaccompanied foreign minors, it is important to highlight that Art. 1, par. 1, lett. n-bis) abrogated the latest provisions of Art. 32, par. 1-bis, of Lgs.D. no. 286/1998, according to which “*pursuant to Article 20, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, of Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990 and following amendments, the missing issuance of a requested opinion cannot legitimise the refusal to renew a residence permit; the applicable law is Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990, Art. 20, par. 1, 2 and 3, and following amendments.*” Consequently, the so-called silent consent can no longer be applied with regard to the issuance of an opinion provided for by Art. 32 of the Consolidated Act on Immigration. Therefore, all opinions must be explicit.

Moreover, Art. 12, paragraph 5-bis) of the mentioned Decree-Law confirmed that when unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors turn 18 years old they are allowed to remain in the “Protection system for international protection holders and unaccompanied foreign minors” (SIPROIMI, former SPRAR) until their international protection application has been defined. Such provision was better clarified by the Ministry of Interior’s Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration – Central Directorate for Immigration and Asylum Services, through Circular no. 22146 of December 27, 2018, establishing under paragraph I), lett. B) that: “*In accordance with regulatory amendments, SIPROIMI and related projects offering assistance and social inclusion services and fostering autonomy paths can be accessed by: a) [...]; b) unaccompanied foreign minors, also not*

¹<http://www.interno.gov.it/it/servizi-line/circolari/circolare-18-dicembre-2018-decreto-legge-4-ottobre-2018-n-113>

seeking asylum. When unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors turn 18 years old they shall remain in the System until their international protection application has been defined." The Circular also provided for SIPROIMI to be further developed as a reception and inclusion system for unaccompanied foreign minors who, needing extended support in order to successfully complete their social inclusion path, are given in custody to social services even after having turned 18 years old and up to the maximum age of 21, by virtue of a decree adopted by the Juvenile Court pursuant to Art. 13 of Law no. 47/2017.²

From an international viewpoint, it is important to highlight the European Parliament resolution of April 5, 2017, addressing refugee and migrant movements: the role of the EU External Action, published on the Official Journal of the European Union on August 23, 2018. The European Parliament thereby stressed that minors represent a significant part of migrants and refugees, and that it is necessary to draft and implement specific procedures to guarantee their protection, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore, it invited countries hosting refugee minors to ensure the latter's full access to education, and to foster, as much as possible, their integration and inclusion in the national education systems. Moreover, it asked international donors to give priority to education when dealing with situations of crisis relating to refugees, promoting programmes aimed at involving and supporting migrant minors from a psychological standpoint, also through courses that may help them learning the language of the host country, so as to ensure a higher level of integration.

In accordance with the Global Compact on Refugees³ - endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 17, 2018, with Italy's vote in favour - when drawing up policies and programmes, all States and actors involved with foreign minors need to keep into account the particular vulnerabilities and protection needs of specific categories, such as girls, children with disabilities, adolescents, unaccompanied and separated minors, victims of sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation or other harmful practices.

On December 19, 2018, the United Nations General Assembly also endorsed the Global Compact for Migration.⁴ The agreement, under objective no. 7, was titled "Address and Reduce Vulnerabilities in Migration," focuses on the protection of unaccompanied and separated foreign minors at all stages of migration, with the need for preventing and opposing their discrimination and for ensuring the identification of sustainable solutions in their best interests. In particular, the Global Compact underlines the importance to introduce special procedures for their identification, the reporting to the competent services, assistance and family reunification. It also emphasises the need to ensure their access to healthcare, education and legal aid, their right to be heard in administrative and legal proceedings, and the need to promptly appoint qualified and impartial legal guardians.

Italy, which abstained together with other 12 Countries, reserved to release its opinion only after conducting in-depth analyses on the actual scope of the Global Compact for Migration, endorsing a motion that committed the Government to postpone its decision on the matter.

With reference to rulings concerning humanitarian protection for unaccompanied foreign minors, the Ordinary Court of Naples – First Civil Section bis – with order of December 11, 2018, annulled the rejection released on 8 January 2016 by the Territorial Commission of Caserta that did not grant international protection to a minor since the latter did not satisfy all necessary requirements. The Court of Naples stated that the new criteria laid down in Art. 32, par. 3 of Lgs.D. no. 25/2008, as amended by the mentioned Decree-Law no. 113/2018 with regard to the more restrictive residence permit for special protection, cannot be applied to pending proceedings. Moreover, in the specific case, it established that the application submitted for humanitarian protection could be accepted, *"since, at the moment of expatriation, the applicant was a minor, and such vulnerability allows for said applicant to be granted humanitarian protection [...]".*

² <http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/it/documentazione/circolari/circolare-inerente-dl-4-ottobre-2018-n113-profilo-applicativi>

³ https://www.unhcr.org/gcr/GCR_English.pdf

⁴ <https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration>

Another relevant issue was clarified by the Constitutional Court with ruling no. 218 of November 29, 2018, that declared the raised issue concerning the constitutional legitimacy of Art. 11 and Art. 21 of Law no. 47/2017 groundless, with regards to the section where, not envisaging economic burdens at the State's expense for the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors, it would cause voluntary legal guardians to be excluded from the applicability of Art. 379, par. 2, of the civil code (fair allowance for bearing expenses and charges deriving from protection). The Constitutional Court, by explaining its rejection, stated that, according to the Italian legal system, guardianship is always free of charge, regardless of the nationality of the subject under guardianship. It also declared that a fair allowance pursuant to Art. 379 of the civil code can be assigned by the guardianship judge only in the event of expenses deriving from the management of an asset, in consideration of relevant difficulties, while it is not owed for responsibilities addressed toward the person in need for guardianship.

Hence, *"allowance can be granted under the condition that the minor is in possession of an asset [...] therefore, its granting is linked to the management of said asset, in whose absence, legal guardians, also of Italians in need of guardianship, are not granted any allowance, not even as a refund for any out-of-pocket expenses."*

Always with regard to jurisprudential aspects, it is useful to mention a provision aimed at providing an effective solution to the high concentration of unaccompanied foreign minors in Southern Italy. The Juvenile Court of Palermo, in accordance with many decrees, has appointed several mayors as temporary legal guardians establishing, at the same time, that said mayors should have quickly transferred the unaccompanied minors to other Italian localities where a voluntary guardian can be appointed, so as to guarantee an adequate exercise of the minors' rights.

With reference to funded measures addressed to unaccompanied foreign minors, the Ministry of Interior has published on its website the results of the public call *"Inclusion paths addressed to unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs) hosted in second reception facilities."* The aim of the call is to realise inclusion paths for unaccompanied foreign minors in addition to second reception facilities and to assistance guaranteed by the authorities of competence.⁵

Moreover, the Ministry has published the first results of the public call *"Pilot language courses for years 2018-2021,"* addressed to vulnerable Third-country nationals legally residing on the national territory, among whom unaccompanied foreign minors. The call aims to help legally residing Third-country nationals to learn Italian through pilot language courses.⁶

⁵ http://www.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/graduatoria_5.xlsx

⁶ <http://www.interno.gov.it/it/amministrazione-trasparente/bandi-gara-e-contratti/avviso-fami-servizi-sperimentali-formazione-linguistica-2018-2021>

3 DATA ON UFMS: CHARACTERISTICS AND TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION

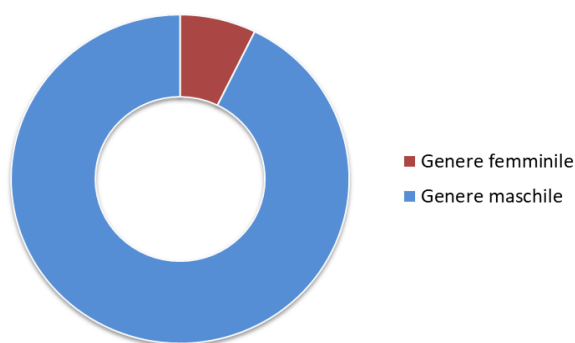
On December 31, 2018, the unaccompanied foreign minors present in Italy amounted to 10,787, registering a 41.1% decrease compared to the same period in 2017, and a 37.9% decrease compared to 2016. (Table 1).

Table 1– Absolute values and percentage variations of UFMs present on the territory. Data as at 31 December 2018.

Data as at	31/12/2018		
No. of UFMs present	10,787		
		-41.1%	Decrease in presences compared to 31/12/2017
Data as at	31/12/2017		
No. of UFMs present	18,303		
		-37.9%	Decrease in presences compared to 31/12/2016
Data as at	31/12/2016		
No. of UFMs present	17,373		

The datum relating to UFM's gender highlights the net prevalence of the male component (92.7%).

Chart 1–Absolute values and percentages per gender of UFMs present on the territory. Data as at 31 December 2018.

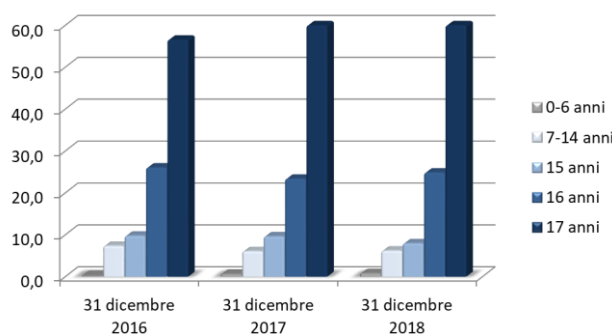


	31 December 2018	
	N	%
Females	787	7.3
Males	10,000	92.7
Total	10,787	100

With regard to age, 17-year-old children accounted for 60.2% of the UFMs present on the territory, 16-year-olds for almost one fourth of the total, 15-year-olds for 8% of the minors present, while 7% were below the age of 15.

The percentage of 17-year-olds remained steady compared to the same period in 2017, against a slight increase in the number of minors below the age of 17 (Graph 2).

Graph 2 – Distribution per age of UFMs present on the territory as at 31 December 2018. Comparison with the situation as at 31 December 2016 and as at 31 December 2017.



	31 December 2016		31 December 2017		31 December 2018	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-6 years old	46	0.3	116	0.6	84	0.8
7-14 years old	1,280	7.4	1,113	6.1	671	6.2
15 years old	1,696	9.8	1,760	9.6	860	8.0
16 years old	4,524	26.0	4,279	23.4	2,680	24.8
17 years old	9,827	56.5	11,035	60.3	6,492	60.2
Total	17,373	100	18,303	100	10,787	100

The missing unaccompanied foreign minors⁷ as at 31 December 2018 amounted to 5,229, whose Countries of origin were mainly Eritrea (14.9%), Tunisia (12.7%), Somalia (11.4%) and Afghanistan (10.1%). As of 2017 - the year in which the Information System for Minors (SIM – *Sistema Informativo Minori*) was created - it is also possible to provide the datum relating to the number of minors that leave reception facilities throughout the year. In 2018, such datum was equal to 2,378 UFM, of whom 25.1% were Tunisian, 17.2% Eritrean and 8.2% Guinean.

3.1 Countries of origin

On 31 December 2018, the main Countries of origin of the UFM present on the territory were Albania (1,550), Egypt (930), Gambia (892), Guinea (802), Eritrea (770) and the Ivory Coast (769). In other words, considered in overall, these six Countries represented more than half of the Countries of origin of the UFM present in Italy (52.9%). The other Countries of provenance mostly represented were Mali (596), Nigeria (563), Pakistan (552), Senegal (505) and Somalia (475). Compared to 31 December 2016 and 31 December 2017, with the exception of Pakistan, a decrease was registered in the presence of UFM coming from the abovementioned Countries (Graph 3). The drop was particularly relevant with regard to minors coming from Egypt, Gambia and Nigeria. Moreover, compared to the total amount of UFM present as at 31 December 2016, an increase was registered in the presence of minors coming from Albania, Pakistan, Guinea, the Ivory Coast and Mali.

Graph 3 – Distribution per first 11 Countries of origin of UFM present on the territory as at 31 December 2018. Comparison with the situation as at 31 December 2016 and as at 31 December 2017.

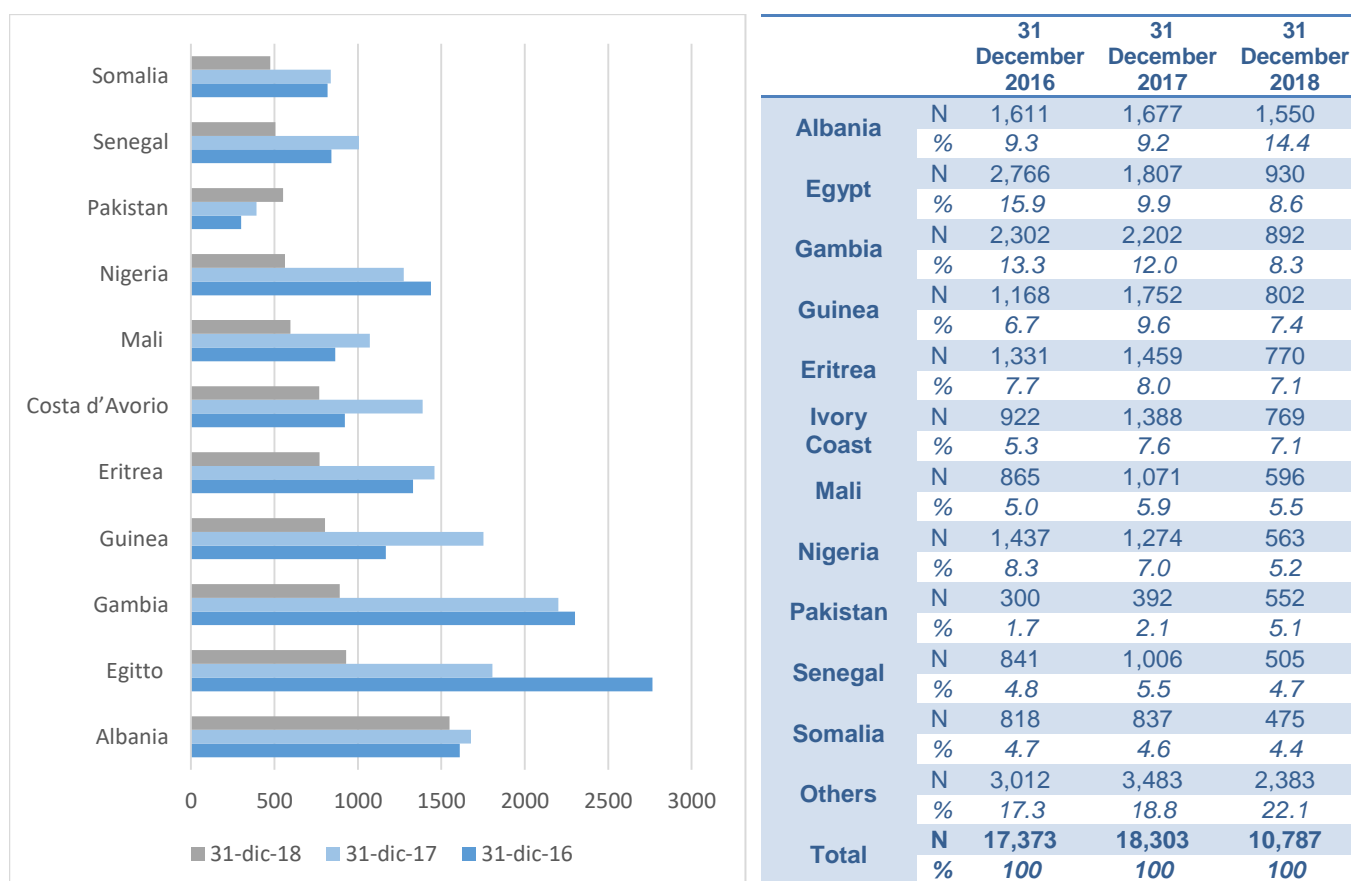
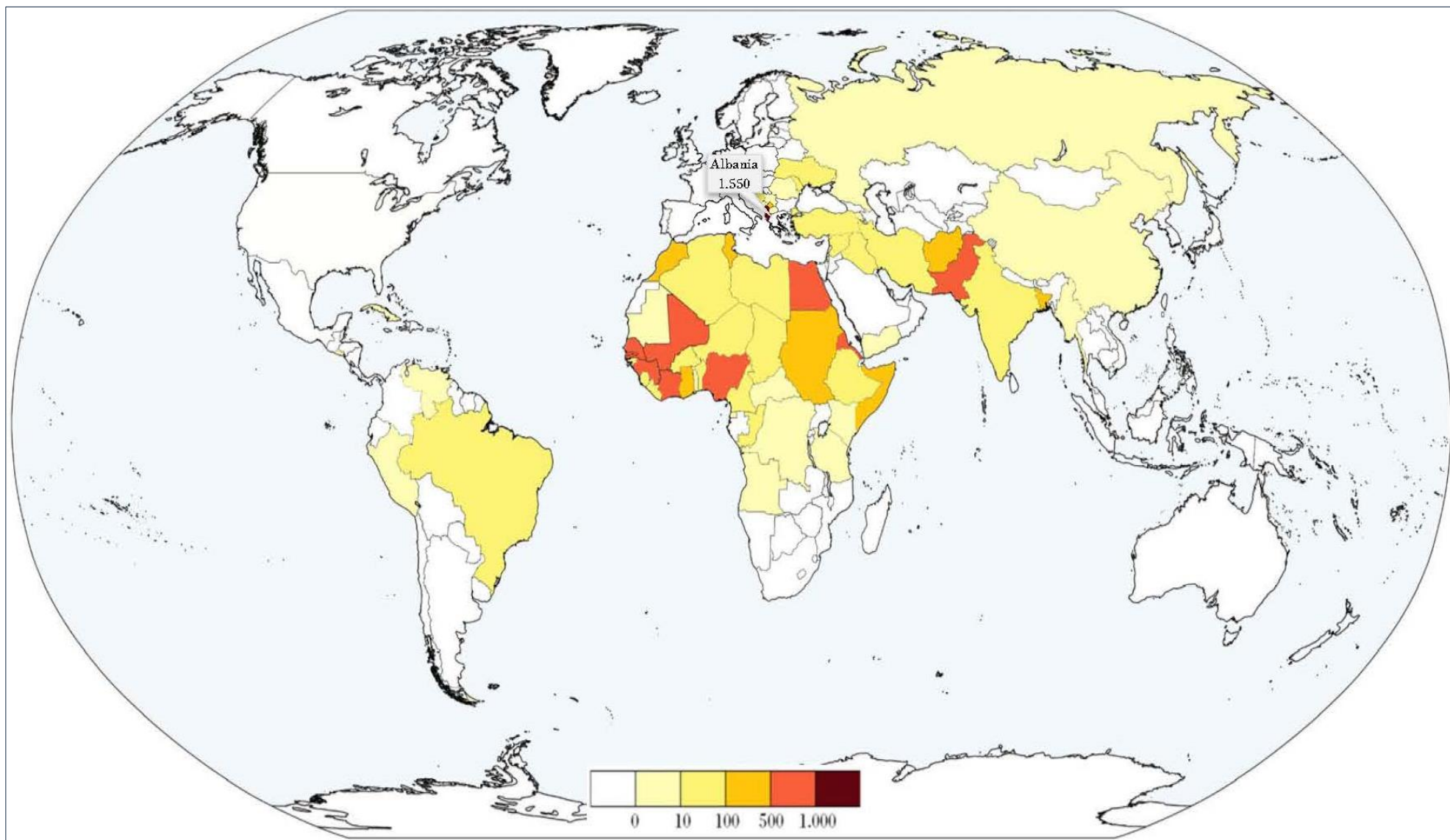


Figure 1 shows the Countries of origin of UFM present on the territory as at 31 December 2018.

⁷ Missing means unaccompanied foreign minors that leave reception facilities as reported to the Directorate General by the authorities of competence. When minors leave facilities, they are registered in the Information System for Minors (SIM) until they turn 18 years old or until they are found. The abovementioned number of missing UFM represents the total leavings registered over the years and relating to minors below the age of 18.

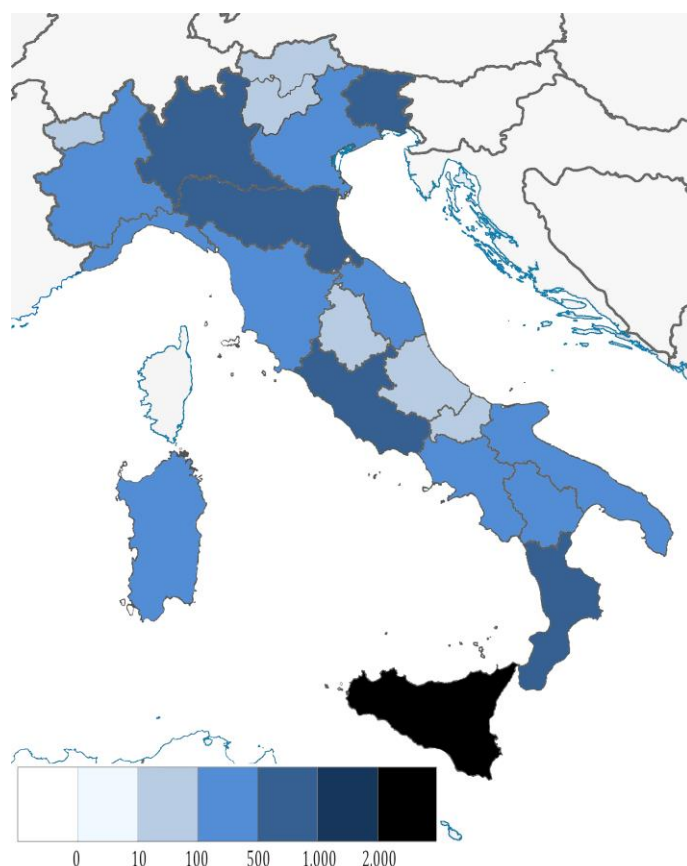
Figure 1 – Countries of origin of UFM^s present on the territory as at 31 December 2018.



3.2 Host Regions

Sicily confirmed to be the Region hosting the highest number of UFM's (4,097, equal to 38% of the total), followed by Lombardy (875 minors, equal to 8.1%), Emilia Romagna (792 minors, equal to 7.3%), Friuli Venezia Giulia (785, equal to 7.3%) and Lazio (761 minors, equal to 7.1%) (Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Distribution per host Region of UFM's present on the territory as at 31 December 2018



	No.
Sicily	4,097
Lombardy	875
Emilia Romagna	792
Friuli Venezia Giulia	785
Lazio	761
Calabria	522
Tuscany	474
Apulia	424
Campania	357
Veneto	322
Piedmont	307
Liguria	233
Sardinia	181
Marche	155
Basilicata	146
Molise	97
Abruzzo	77
Autonomous Province of Bolzano	71
Umbria	69
Autonomous Province of Trento	32
Valle d'Aosta	10
Total	10,787

Comparing the number of unaccompanied foreign minors hosted in the different Italian Regions as at 31 December 2018 with the number of UFM's hosted in the same period with reference to years 2016 and 2017 (Table 2) - without prejudice to the generalised decrease in absolute values – the data highlight that Sicily, Calabria, Apulia and Sardinia underwent a drop in presences over the total amount of minors, while an increase was registered in Lombardy, Emilia Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lazio and Tuscany.

Table 2 – Distribution per host Region of UFM's present on the territory as at 31 December 2018. Comparison with the situation as at 31 December 2017 and as at 31 December 2016.

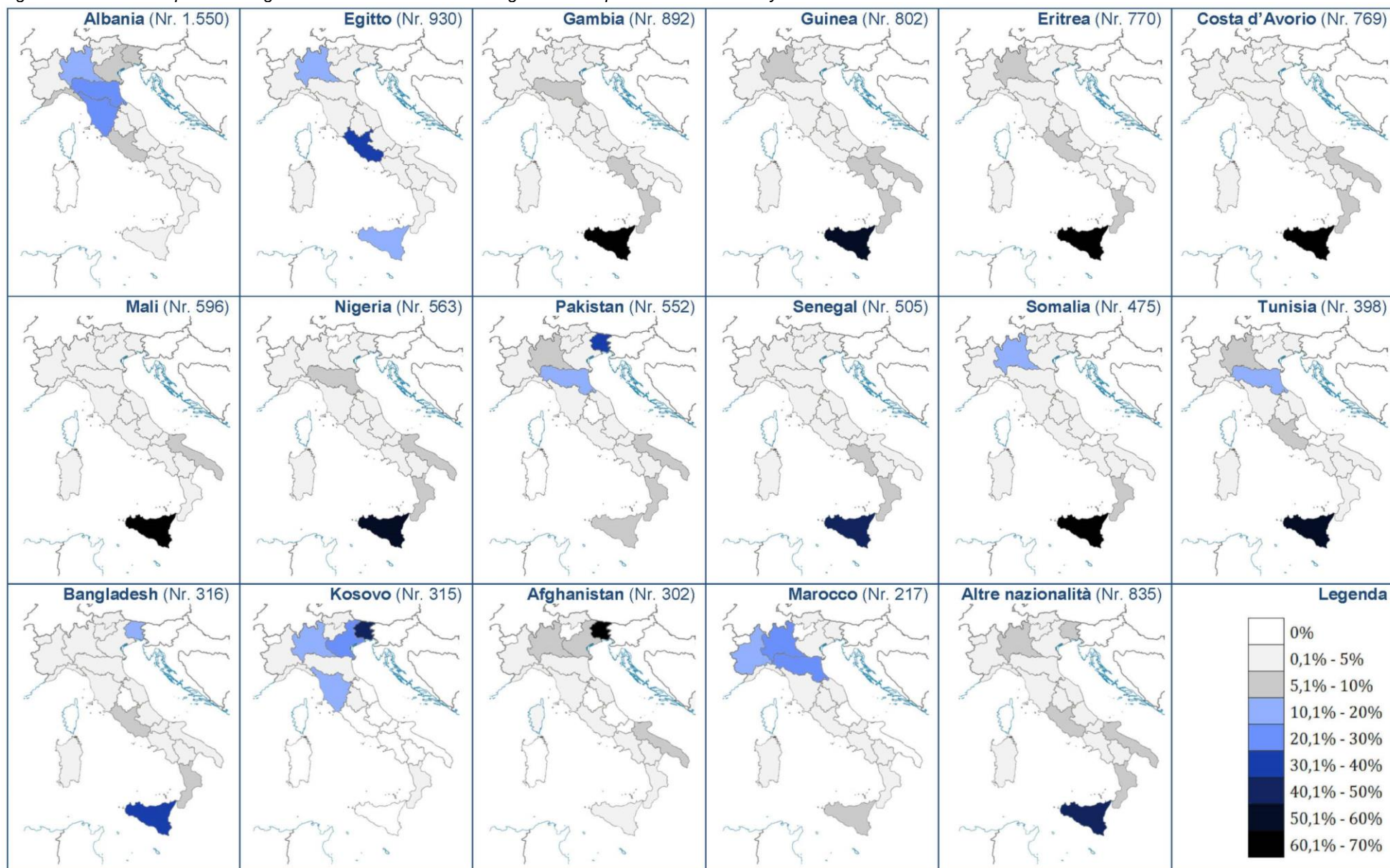
REGION	DATA AS AT 31.12.2018		DATA AS AT 31.12.2017		DATA AS AT 31.12.2016	
	a.v.	%	a.v.	%	a.v.	%
Sicily	4,097	38.0	7,988	43.5	7,097	40.8
Lombardy	875	8.1	1,216	6.6	1,065	6.1
Emilia Romagna	792	7.3	1,017	5.6	1,081	6.2
Friuli Venezia Giulia	785	7.3	619	3.4	637	3.7
Lazio	761	7.1	1,049	5.7	919	5.3
Calabria	522	4.8	1,443	7.8	1,418	8.2
Tuscany	474	4.4	671	3.7	656	3.8
Apulia	424	3.9	909	5.0	879	5.1

Campania	357	3.3	724	4.0	876	5.0
Veneto	322	3.0	375	2.0	304	1.7
Piedmont	307	2.8	457	2.5	539	3.1
Liguria	233	2.2	257	1.4	259	1.5
Sardinia	181	1.7	706	3.9	752	4.3
Marche	155	1.4	204	1.1	190	1.1
Basilicata	146	1.4	231	1.3	299	1.7
Molise	97	0.9	120	0.7	108	0.6
Abruzzo	77	0.7	125	0.7	134	0.8
Autonomous Province of Bolzano	71	0.7	106	0.6	79	0.5
Umbria	69	0.6	30	0.2	16	0.1
Autonomous Province of Trento	32	0.3	52	0.3	62	0.4
Valle d'Aosta	10	0.1	4	0.0	3	0.0
Total	10,787	100	18,303	100	17,373	100

Figure 3 shows the territorial distribution per host Region of the 16 main Countries of origin of UFM's present on the territory as at 31 December 2018.

Minors coming from Bangladesh and African States (Gambia, Guinea, Eritrea, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and Tunisia) were mostly concentrated in the Region of Sicily; those coming from Albania, in the Regions of Emilia Romagna and Tuscany; and those coming from Pakistan in the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. The latter Region also resulted to host a significant number of minors coming from Afghanistan and Kosovo.

Figure 3 – Distribution per host Region of the main Countries of origin of UFM's present on the territory as at 31 December 2018



UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINORS ON THE MOVE: A FOCUS ON CAUSES, RISKS AND RECEPTION IN SEVERAL AREAS OF NORTHERN ITALY

(by UNHCR)

Unaccompanied foreign minors (hereafter UFM) moving illegally to other European Union Countries after arriving in Italy has been a common phenomenon for many years. Already back in July 2012, the UNHCR published the monitoring report [“Protecting Children on the Move,”](#) providing results, evidences and procedures for receiving and assisting unaccompanied foreign minors moving between Italy, Greece and France.

The report highlighted that, despite being provided with a protection and reception system (now as then), *“many of these children tend to avoid entering any national protection mechanism, or abandon their reception facilities shortly after arrival, for fear of jeopardising their migratory plan to reach the intended destination.”* Although aware of the fact that moving to other European Countries would have exposed them, once again, to risks and exploitation, the minors interviewed stated that their main motivations for making such choice consisted in their **scarce expectations of integration, the inadequacy of the reception facilities and of the services supplied by non-professionals, the length and complexity as well as the non-harmonisation of key procedures such as, among the others, their identification and age determination, the appointment of guardians and those relating to family reunification in the EU area (Dublin Regulation).**

More recently - in June 2018 – the UNHCR published the report [“Desperate Journeys.”](#)⁸ According to said report, despite an increase in relocation procedures allowing for the legal transfer to various EU countries of many asylum seekers and refugees⁹ (also minors), **the long procedures - especially those connected to family reunifications¹⁰-** are very likely to remain the most important reason for minors to voluntarily leave their reception facilities. During the last year, besides providing support in landing places and at governmental first reception facilities,¹¹ the [UNHCR](#) has been conducting a monitoring activity by regularly visiting several reception facilities in Northern Italy and in cities where people usually stop before moving on to the Country’ borders.¹² According to the information collected, UFM keep on deciding to move illegally **due to bureaucratic uncertainty and delays.**¹³ According to the testimonies collected, this sense of uncertainty is stressed by two aspects: on the one hand, the difficulty to obtain prompt responses to their applications (indeed, the intermediate procedures are almost always conducted internally, thus not allowing the interested parties to obtain information on their situation); on the other hand, the fact that legal support is not always available and exhaustive, thus making it not easy to understand the procedures’ progress. Moreover, another factor constantly stressed by the mentioned report concerns the risks to which minors are exposed when moving through territories. During their journey, also within European borders, UFM remain exposed to the risk of **violence, abuse and mistreatment.** It is also important to highlight that minors often go missing as they do not access the services to which they are entitled due to the fear of having to wait a long time for the implementation of the procedures allowing for their relocation in other European Union Countries. In such cases, minors live in informal groups with adults of reference, increasing the risk to be newly traumatised and/or exposed to sexual and labour exploitation.

The emergency and seriousness of this phenomenon is also given by the difficulty to understand with adequate exactitude how many UFM are truly involved. The unique current datum at disposal, indeed, results to be the one published by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies concerning missing minors. Such datum,¹⁴ however, does not include minors that left before being registered or minors arrived through the north-eastern borders avoiding border

⁸ UNHCR, *Desperate Journeys*, pp. 23-27.

⁹ ECRE, *Relocation of Asylum Seekers in Europe, A view from receiving countries*

http://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/aida_brief_relocation.pdf According to the Ministry of Labour, 102 UFM were relocated from Italy in 2017 <http://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/italy/asylum-procedure/relocation>.

According to the Ministry of Interior, on 23 October 2018 the relocation had involved 275 UFM.

¹⁰ Cf. UNHCR, *Left in Limbo*, August 2017.

¹¹ For further details on the activities conducted by the UNHCR in Italy see also <https://www.unhcr.it/cosa-facciamo/protezione>.

¹² The UNHCR is conducting monitoring activities at the Italian-French border of Ventimiglia-Menton, at the Italian-French border of Bardonecchia-Claviere, at the Italian-Swiss border of Como-Chiasso, at the Italian-Austrian border of Bolzano, at the Italian-Slovenian border of Gorizia and Trieste, at the Italian-Austrian border of Tarvisio and in the city of Udine. Moreover, the UNHCR is also present in the cities of Milan and Rome, as the latter have always represented a crossroads for minors on the move. Besides its monitoring activity, the UNHCR is working in close cooperation with territorial social services and with professionals at reception centres in order to strengthen the professionalization of the actors involved in receiving UFM.

¹³ The terms of the procedures are merely regulative; consequently, after submitting applications, minors remain in a discouraging limbo. This critical aspect emerged with particular reference to relocation, as minors remain suspended for months and in some cases for more than one year.

¹⁴ As reported by the authorities of competence to the Directorate General at the Ministry of Labour, the number of unaccompanied foreign minors who on 31 December 2018 had left their facilities amounted to 5,229.

controls. According to the UNHCR's monitoring report, the datum is particularly alarming at the borders of Friuli Venezia Giulia. In fact, the region is characterised by the entry of a high number of minors coming from Austria, who then move on to other European Countries. The UNHCR's monitoring and support activities conducted in Northern Italy identified various types of interventions addressed to minors on the move carried out by territorial social services of competence. The following data are the result of a research conducted in said territories and of the information collected during meetings held with people of reference in territorial social services.

When finding minors on the territory, the reference persons of the social services of the **Milan Municipality** promptly place them in specially dedicated reception facilities. To such end, the Municipality put at disposal a wide network capable of receiving, on 30 July 2017, 650¹⁵ minors plus an additional 170 within the SPRAR system.¹⁶ Moreover, in November 2018 the Municipality of Milan inaugurated its Welcome Centre,¹⁷ a multiservice facility dedicated to UFM's arriving in the municipal territory. The centre is equipped to host 12 newly arrived minors. Minors are allowed to stay in this centre for a very short period of time (approximately 5 days), during which they meet social workers, are informed on legal procedures, and can have access to a first health screening.

In **Friuli Venezia Giulia**, minors found by the police are placed immediately in reception centres for minors, authorised by the Region. As of July 2018, the UNHCR in cooperation with the Italian Refugee Council (Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati - CIR) has been conducting an activity aimed to support minors found on the territory, providing them with prompt legal information. Moreover, in order to make this service precise and systematic, specific standardised procedures have been agreed upon between the social services and the Police with the aim, among other things, to simplify and ensure fast access to the international protection procedure.¹⁸

Minors found at the **Brennero-Bolzano pass** can have access to an information service supplied by cultural mediators. Minors are then brought to the dedicated reception facilities located in the city of Bolzano. Currently, the Municipality can host several minors on the move at the UFM's reception centres, thus always providing immediate reception.¹⁹ In order to strengthen the professionals' and the social workers' technical competences, the UNHCR has organised training courses on several themes such as protection, age determination, the right of family unity (in collaboration with the NGO Safe Passage), and access to international protection. With regard to the transit areas, such as for example **Ventimiglia**, minors found on the territory can be placed in two facilities: Parco Roya, set up by the Prefecture of Imperia and managed by the Italian Red Cross (Croce Rossa Italiana - CRI), and the facility for minors in Via Dante managed by the Local Committee of the Italian Red Cross and under an agreement with the social services of Ventimiglia. None of the two facilities represents a definitive collocation for minors, who are placed by the Municipality of Ventimiglia in one of the accredited communities,²⁰ if they decide not to continue their journey.

The phenomenon of minors on the move results to be a steady datum that goes beyond the trend of entry flows via the sea since, as reported, arrivals can also concern minors coming from the Balkan route. The effective coordination of all the actors involved in receiving UFM's aims to simplify the administrative procedures relating to minors' prompt and correct identification and to their adequate placing in specially dedicated facilities where minors can find specialised personnel capable of supporting them during their permanence in Italy. At the same time, procedures are being simplified with regard to minors' reunification with parents, family members and/or groups of belonging residing in other European Union Countries. These two aspects can undoubtedly contribute in strengthening minors' protection and in reducing their illegal movement.

¹⁵ Cf. Report issued by the Municipality of Milan:

http://mediagallery.comune.milano.it/cdm/objects/changeme:85727/datastreams/dataStream22796539926354324/content?pgpath=/SA_SiteContent/SFOGLIA_NEWS/Notizie_Prime_Piano/archivio_dal_2012/politiche_sociali/migranti_accoglienza_relocation_milano

¹⁶ Cf. Territorial Network of SPRAR projects <https://www.sprar.it/progetti-territoriali-3>.

¹⁷ Cf. Press release issued by the Municipality of Milan:

http://www.comune.milano.it/wps/portal/ist/it/news/primopiano/tutte_notizie/politiche_sociali/progetti_minori_stranieri_non_accompagnati

¹⁸ Prior to said procedures, it was very difficult for minors to formalise their international protection application, such that some waited to turn 18 years old before submitting asylum application.

¹⁹ For further information, see also the Report issued by the Town Council of Bolzano relating to the period November 2016 – March 2018:

https://www.comune.bolzano.it/UploadDocs/21198_RELAZIONE_REFERENTE_per_CONSIGLIO_pdf.pdf.

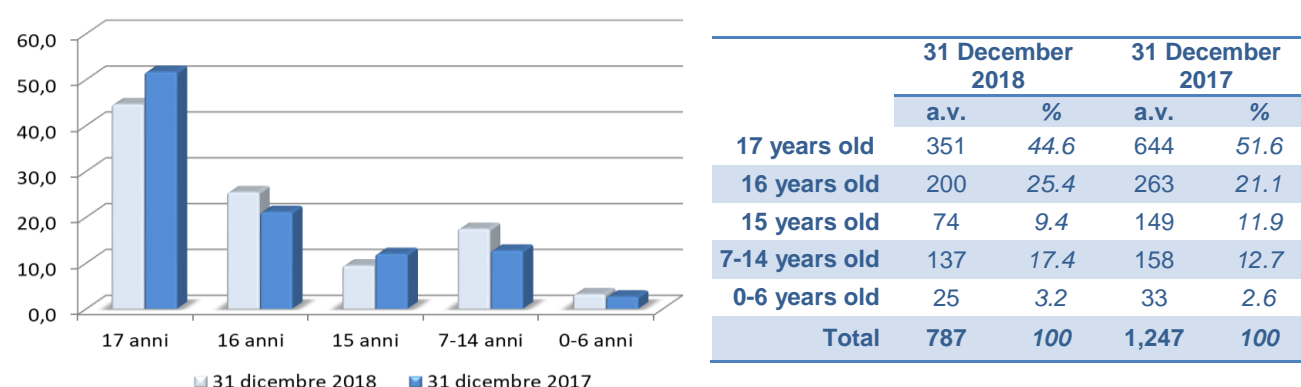
²⁰ Cf. Structures allowed to host UFM's in the Municipality of Ventimiglia <https://la-riviera.it/media/2017/09/accoglienza-verbale.pdf?x28348>

3.3 Female unaccompanied foreign minors

Female unaccompanied foreign minors present in Italy on December 31, 2018, amounted to 787 and represented 7.3% of the UFM's present on the territory. Compared to the same period in 2017, it is possible to observe a decrease in the absolute value of 460 female presences; whereas, the prominence of the family component over the total amount of UFM's present, resulted to be substantially stable.

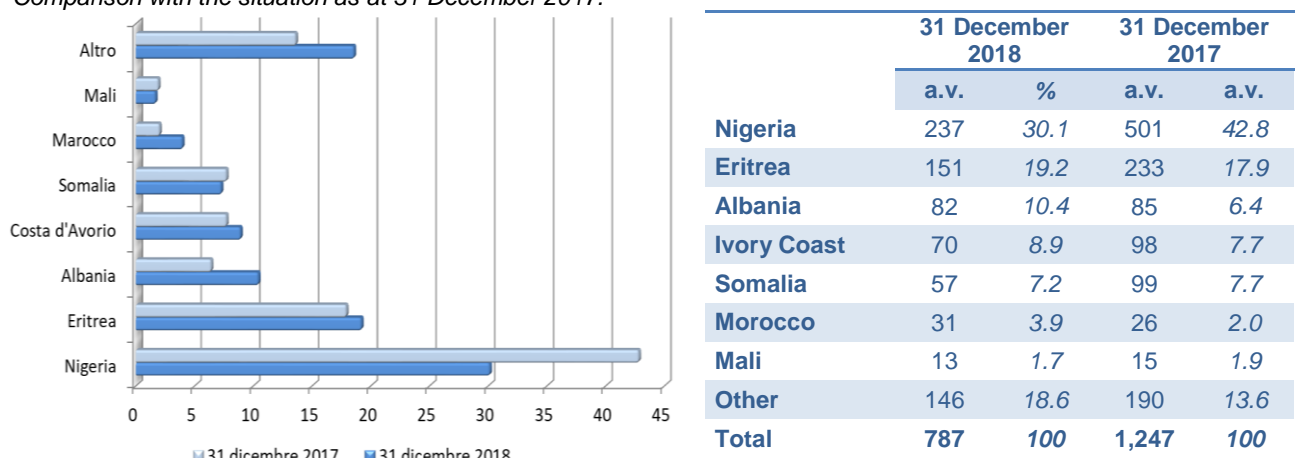
With regard to age, 44.6% of the female minors present on the territory were 17 year old and 25.4% were 16 year old, while the 15-year-olds accounted for 9.4%, and the component below the age of 15 was equal to 20.6%.

Graph 4 – Distribution per age of female UFM's present on the territory as at 31 December 2018. Comparison with the situation as at 31 December 2017.



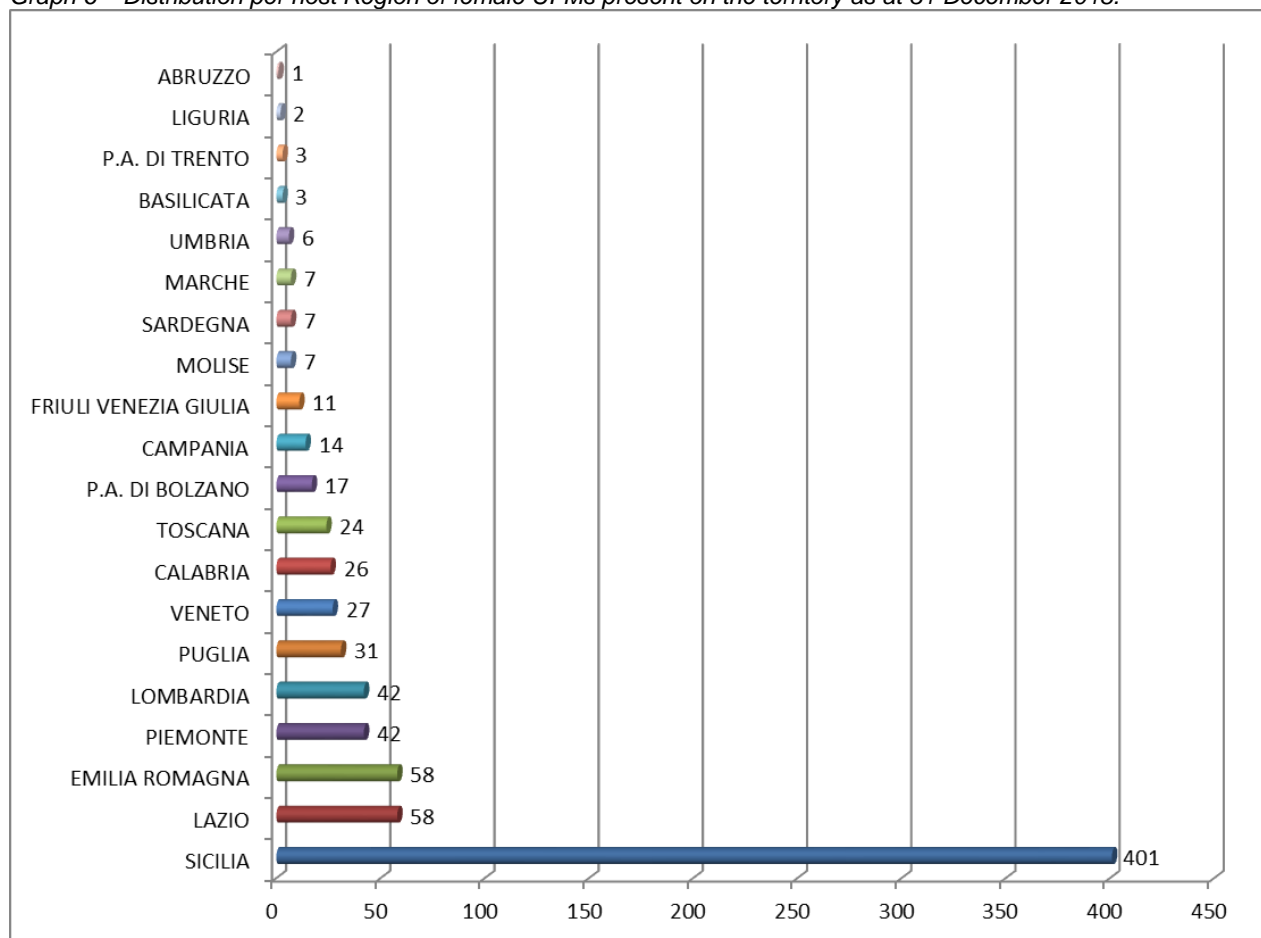
The majority of female unaccompanied foreign minors present on the territory came from Nigeria (237 minors, equal to 30.1% of the total amount of female presences), Eritrea (151 minors, equal to 19.2%), Albania (82 minors, equal to 10.4%) and the Ivory Coast (70 minors, equal to 8.9%). Compared to the same period in 2017 (Graph 5), against the overall drop in female presences, it is possible to observe a consistent decrease in the absolute value of female minors coming from Nigeria, Eritrea, the Ivory Coast and Somalia. With regard to the relative weight of female presences, the number of Nigerian minors dropped sensibly (30.1% against 42.8% in December 2017), while the number of Eritrean, Albanian and Ivorian minors slightly increased compared to the same period in 2017.

Graph 5 – Distribution per first 7 Countries of origin of female UFM's present on the territory as at 31 December 2018. Comparison with the situation as at 31 December 2017.



With regard to the host Regions, similarly to what identified for the entire UFM population, the presence of female unaccompanied foreign minors was more consistent in Sicily (51%) (Graph 6).

Graph 6 – Distribution per host Region of female UFM's present on the territory as at 31 December 2018.



KOSOVO: AN OVERVIEW (by IOM)

Socio – political profile

Kosovo²¹ is situated in the centre of the Balkan Peninsula enclosed by the Republic of Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia. Its administration was established at international level in 1999, through UN Security Council Resolution no. 1244, that sanctioned the creation of a transitional civil administration following the conflict that had involved the entire territory of the Former Yugoslav Federal Republic.

After Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence, occurred on 17 February 2008 - openly opposed by the Serbian Republic - many Member States of the United Nations, among which Italy, recognised the proclaimed Republic of Kosovo.²² Currently, within the European Union, 5 States have not yet expressed themselves in such sense, for different reasons.²³

In 2010, the International Court of Justice released its opinion about the declaration of independence considering it "illegal," and to date the Court has not yet ruled its "legitimacy."

²¹ All references to Kosovo are to be understood within the context of what established by Resolution 1244 (1999) of the UN Security Council.

²² To date, it has been recognised by 113 States.

²³ Greece, Spain, Slovakia, Romania and Cyprus.



Dialogues aimed at normalising the relations between Kosovo and Serbia - facilitated by the European Union and officialised with the Brussels Agreement of 2013 - achieved important results due to agreements on four key aspects entered into on August 25, 2015. However, the process underwent an abrupt interruption in 2017 when a train tried to enter Mitrovica (Serbian ethnical enclave) with the sentence "Kosovo is Serbia" written on it in 21 languages. Another event that affected the normalisation process was the arrest of Ramush Haradinaj, former Kosovar prime minister and president of the political party "Alliance for the Future of Kosovo." He was held in custody in France, while waiting for extradition following an arrest request issued by Belgrade for crimes against the Serbian population during the war in Kosovo.

New dialogues, facilitated by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, from July to September 2017 and March 2018 finally led to an agreement between Presidents Thaçi and Vučić. The two presidents, indeed, declared their will to enter into a new phase of dialogues on the normalisation of the relations between Serbia and Kosovo.

The European Commission's visa liberalisation roadmap

Starting in 2012, within the scope of carrying out further dialogues with Kosovo about visa liberalisation for Kosovar citizens entering the European Union, the European Commission periodically monitored Kosovo's progress in fulfilling the set out benchmarks. With regard to this, the EU Commission published four reports, whose most recent one was published in May 2016.

Indeed, on May 4, 2016, the Commission presented a proposal for Kosovar citizens' visa liberalisation under the condition that, within the date established by the European Parliament for the ratification of said proposal, Kosovo should have ratified the demarcation of its border with the Republic of Montenegro and made steps forward in its fight against organised crime. The Kosovar assembly ratified the demarcation of the border with Montenegro in March 2018; consequently, the European Commission, through a press release dated 18 July 2018, confirmed that Kosovo had met two major conditions for visa liberalisation: it had ratified the demarcation of the border with the Republic of Montenegro and increased its actions against organised crime and corruption, thus fulfilling the conditions laid down in the roadmap drafted to such end. Finally, the Commission encouraged the European Parliament and the European Council to act in favour of the proposed visa liberalisation.

Population and migratory flows

In 2016, according to data collected by the Kosovar statistical agency, the population amounted to 1,783,531 inhabitants. According to these data, the population estimated for year 2017 (the latest data available) amounted to 1,798,506 inhabitants.

The Kosovar population is mainly composed of citizens belonging to the Albanian ethnic group (91.1%); the remaining 8.9% belong to minority ethnic groups, among which Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, Gorani and Turks. About 2% of the population are Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE). The distinction between Roma "subgroups" is especially based on linguistic and religious motivations: the majority of Roma are Christian-Orthodox and speak Serbian and Romani, whilst Ashkali and Egyptians mainly speak Albanian (Serbo-Croatian as second language, in particular among the older generations) and profess Islam.

The issue related to ethnic minorities' rights in Kosovo continues to be at the core of the European Parliament's recommendations. Indeed, in its resolution of 14 June 2017, the Parliament highlighted that further efforts are

necessary to guarantee the protection of the rights of all minorities present in Kosovo, through the full implementation of the legislation in force and the allocation of sufficient resources for this purpose. Moreover, with the aim to contribute towards the construction of a multicultural society, the European Parliament invited the local authorities to implement as a priority all legislative and operational measures necessary to further promote ethnic minorities' rights, including those concerning property rights, language and culture. Furthermore, the Kosovar authorities were invited to ensure the total reintegration of all Roma citizens who sought international protection in EU countries and returned to Kosovo, by granting their rights as reinstated citizens, thus putting an end to their condition of statelessness. In conclusion, the Commission encouraged Kosovo to adopt a new strategy and a new action plan for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in local communities.

The data collected in 2017 by the Kosovar Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with local municipalities, UNHCR and IOM, highlighted that the number of immigrants present on the territory in said year amounted to 5,832, including citizens who returned to Kosovo or had been reinstated, as well as international protection seekers who had been granted citizenship, and holders of residence permits lasting more than one year.

Vice versa, the number of legal and illegal emigrants leaving Kosovo in the same period amounted to 11,263.

In this context, it is important to highlight that the Kosovar competent authorities²⁴ calculated that most emigrants in 2017 left the Country legally for family reunifications, marriages, search of employment, permanent emigration (especially toward bordering States), study/life-long learning. However, during the same year, a significant number of people left Kosovo seeking international protection (for the first time) in a Country of the European Union or belonging to EFTA. Those who chose to emigrate outside of Europe, mainly went to Canada and the United States. The number of international migrants (net emigration rate) in Kosovo for year 2017 was equal to 5,431 inhabitants. Single estimates on the movements of minors are not available.

With regard to national migration, during 2017 a given number (defined as significant by the Report) of the population residing in Kosovo changed residence (municipality of belonging), mainly by moving from rural contexts to urban or suburban areas, for various reasons (which are not specified in the Report). These movements were estimated to be equal to 9,376 units.

²⁴ 2018, Kosovo Agency of Statistics and Office of the Prime Minister "ESTIMATION – Kosovo population in 2017"

4 UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINORS SEEKING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

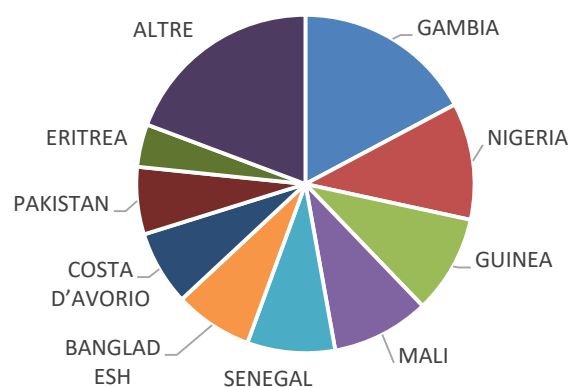
4.1 International protection applications

In 2018, the total amount of international protection applications submitted by unaccompanied foreign minors amounted to 3,676. In 2017, said applications amounted to 9,782.

In relation to Countries of origin (Table 3), the African continent confirmed to be the main area of provenance of unaccompanied foreign minors seeking international protection (2,975). The first Country of origin was Gambia (633 minors, equal to 17.2%), followed by Nigeria (411 minors, equal to 11.2%), Guinea (346 minors, equal to 9.4%) and Mali (344 minors, equal to 9.4%). The gender-related data highlight the net prevalence of the male component (3,359, equal to 91.4% of the total amount).

Table 3 – Distribution per Country of origin of unaccompanied foreign minors seeking international protection as at 31 December 2018.

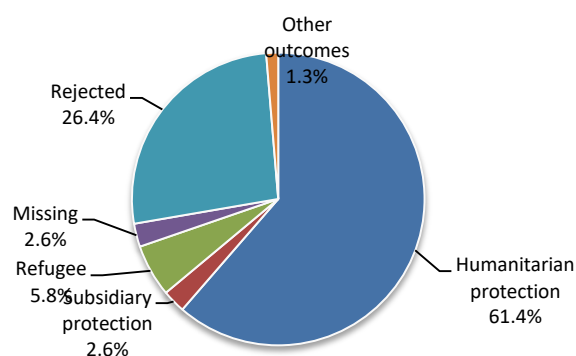
COUNTRY	No. of UFM's seeking international protection	%
GAMBIA	633	17.2
NIGERIA	411	11.2
GUINEA	346	9.4
MALI	344	9.4
SENEGAL	309	8.4
BANGLADESH	275	7.5
IVORY COAST	262	7.1
PAKISTAN	237	6.4
ERITREA	150	4.1
OTHERS	709	19.3
TOTAL	3,676	100%



* Source: Data collected by the Ministry of Interior – National Commission for the right of asylum.

With regard to the types of decisions adopted by Territorial Commissions in order to grant international protection to asylum-seeking unaccompanied foreign minors, the following chart highlights the prevalence of the humanitarian protection recognition, representing 61.4% of the decisions adopted during year 2018, whereas about one application out of four has been rejected (26.4%).

Graph 7 – Percentage of the different decisions adopted with regard to unaccompanied foreign minors seeking asylum in year 2018.*



* Source: Data collected by the Ministry of Interior – National Commission for the right of asylum.

4.2 Family reunifications in accordance with the Dublin Regulation

On 31 December 2018, 482 UFM²⁵s seeking international protection were held eligible for family reunification, pursuant to Articles 8 and 17, paragraph 2 of the Dublin Regulation (EU Regulation no. 604/2013), and in particular:

- 284 UFM²⁵s are currently inserted in the family reunification process;
- 159 UFM²⁵s left during the ongoing procedure;
- 39 UFM²⁵s were included in the national procedure after the rejection of their family reunification application in accordance with the Dublin Regulation.

With reference to the 284 UFM²⁵s seeking international protection currently included in the family reunification procedure, it is important to specify that:

- 141 - mainly male (121) and in average 17.5 years old (128 coming from Eritrea, 4 from Somalia, 3 from Gambia, 2 from Senegal, 1 from Sierra Leone, 1 from Syria, 1 from Sudan, 1 from Guinea) - have already been transferred from Italy to Sweden (40), Great Britain (22), Switzerland (21), the Netherlands (20), Norway (19), Germany (14), France (1), Denmark (1), Finland (1), Spain (1) and Malta (1). The reunifications involved siblings (104), uncles and aunts (26), mother (3), father (6), cousins (2).

It is important to highlight that since in most cases the UFM²⁵s lacked an identity document or official certificates (certifying, for example, the date of birth or the family bond), the applications were supported by considering as evidence a copy of the relatives' identity document, the minors' family tree, further interviews on the minors' personal stories and their relationship with the family member, family photos, etc.

- 143 – coming especially from Eritrea – are still waiting for the procedure to be defined and live mainly in Sicily (86), Apulia (14), and Lombardy (9); in particular:
 - 44 have already obtained the positive decision by the Countries of destination (in particular Sweden, Great Britain, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, France and Lichtenstein), and 18 will be soon transferred;
 - 8 are still waiting for the decision to be taken by the Countries of destination;
 - for 11 of them, the reception application is ready to be submitted;
 - 54 have been rejected by the Countries of destination; for most of them, the request to review the application has already been submitted;
 - 26 are under the “Dubs Act” procedure.

5 TYPES OF RECEPTION

With regard to the 10,787 minors present in Italy as at 31 December 2018, the 95.7% were hosted in reception facilities, while the 4.3% of the minors reported to the Directorate General were hosted by private subjects.

As highlighted in Table 4, the UFM²⁵s hosted in second reception facilities amounted to 7,294, representing the 67.6% of the minors present on the Italian territory. The percentage of minors hosted in first reception facilities was equal to 28.1%. First reception facilities include first reception governmental centres funded by AMIF (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund), temporary reception facilities activated by Prefectures on the basis of Art. 19, paragraph 3-bis of Lgs.D. no. 142/2015 (the so-called “CAS minori”), first reception centres accredited/authorised by Municipalities or Regions and, lastly, those with an emergency or temporary nature.

Second reception facilities, instead, include centres within the SPRAR network, second reception centres funded by AMIF and all second level facilities accredited/authorised at regional or at

²⁵ Source: Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of Interior – Dublin Unit.

municipal level. On December 31, 2018, 3,500 receptions in the SPRAR system were funded for unaccompanied foreign minors,²⁶ including 413 in second reception centres funded by AMIF.²⁷

Table 4 – Distribution per type of reception of UFM's present on the territory as at 31 December 2018.

TYPE OF RECEPTION	No. of UFM's	
	No. of UFM's PRESENT	%
SECOND RECEPTION FACILITIES	7,294	67.6
FIRST RECEPTION FACILITIES	3,032	28.1
PRIVATE SUBJECTS	461	4.3
TOTAL	10,787	100.0

5.1 Reception facilities

On 31 December 2018, the reception facilities registered in the Information System for Minors (SIM) that hosted UFM's amounted to 1,374. The Italian Regions with the highest amount of facilities hosting said minors were Sicily (27.1%), Lombardy (9.9%), Lazio (9.6%), Emilia Romagna (8.1%), Campania (7.8%), Apulia (6.1%) and Tuscany (5.0%).

Table 5 – Regional distribution of reception facilities hosting UFM's as at 31 December 2018.

REGION	a.v.	%
SICILY	373	27.1
LOMBARDY	136	9.9
LAZIO	132	9.6
EMILIA ROMAGNA	111	8.1
CAMPANIA	107	7.8
APULIA	84	6.1
TUSCANY	69	5.0
CALABRIA	65	4.7
PIEDMONT	47	3.4
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA	38	2.8
MARCHE	37	2.7
SARDINIA	31	2.3
VENETO	29	2.1
LIGURIA	27	2.0
BASILICATA	24	1.7
ABRUZZO	19	1.4
UMBRIA	17	1.2
MOLISE	16	1.2
AUT. PROV. OF TRENTO	9	0.7
VALLE D'AOSTA	3	0.2
AUT. PROV. OF BOLZANO	0	0.0
TOTAL	1,374	100

²⁶ Source: Database of SPRAR's Central Service.

²⁷ Source: Database of SPRAR's Central Service.

5.2 Governmental first reception facilities funded by AMIF

On 31 December 2018, 27 projects for first reception facilities funded by AMIF (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) have been activated.

These projects were launched on 23 August 2016 after the public call “Qualification of the national first reception system for Unaccompanied Foreign Minors (UFMs),” published by the Ministry of Interior. Subsequently, following the re-publication of the call, an additional 8 projects were funded and launched in 2018.

The ongoing projects are distributed throughout the national territory in the following territorial areas: Sicily (12), Calabria (2), Basilicata (2), Apulia (2), Campania (3), Tuscany (1), Emilia Romagna (2), Piedmont (1), Liguria (1), Molise (1).

According to the reports received from the Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies, from the launching of the projects (23 August 2016) to 31 December 2018 the minors hosted in such facilities amounted to 5.331.

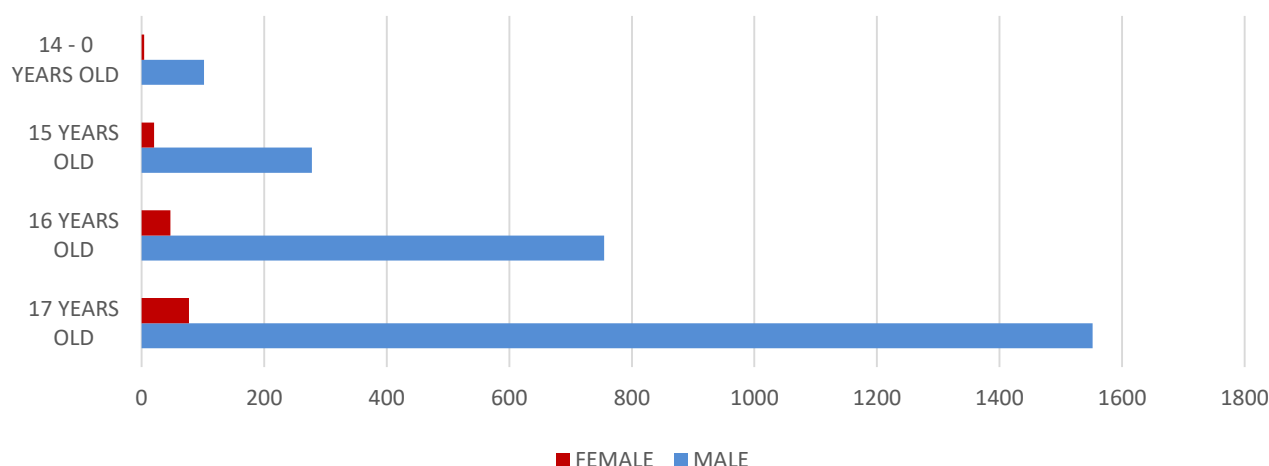
Table 6 highlights the distribution per Country of origin of the minors hosted in governmental first reception facilities in the period taken into consideration. The main Countries of provenance resulted to be Tunisia (16%), Guinea (11.8%), Gambia (11.8%) and Eritrea (7.7%)

Table 6 – Distribution per Country of origin of UFMs hosted in governmental first reception facilities funded by AMIF from 23 August 2016 to 31 December 2018.

COUNTRY	No. of UFMs	%
TUNISIA	873	16.4%
GUINEA	630	11.8%
GAMBIA	628	11.8%
ERITREA	408	7.7%
NIGERIA	376	7.1%
MALI	368	6.9%
IVORY COAST	338	6.3%
BANGLADESH	253	4.7%
SENEGAL	252	4.7%
PAKISTAN	226	4.2%
OTHERS	979	18.4%
TOTAL	5,331	100.0%

Most of the minors hosted were male and between 16 and 17 years old (Graph 8).

Graph 8– Distribution per gender and age of UFMs hosted in first reception facilities funded by AMIF from 23 August 2016 to 31 December 2018.



In the period of reference (23 August 2016 – 31 December 2018), among the 5,331 minors hosted in these facilities, 1,236 submitted application for international protection, 2,180 left voluntarily, whilst 2,848 were transferred (among whom, 2,006 were transferred to second reception facilities within the SPRAR network or to second reception facilities funded by AMIF). Therefore, on 31 December 2018 the minors present in first reception facilities amounted to 303.

**RECEPTION AND SERVICES SUPPLIED WITHIN SPRAR PROJECTS ADDRESSED TO
UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINORS
(by Cittalia – SPRAR's Central Service)**

Local authorities within the SPRAR network provide the received unaccompanied foreign minors with a series of services aimed at guaranteeing the minors' rights as provided for by regulations, such as the regularisation of their legal status, and their gradual autonomy and inclusion in the territory's social context. Based on the local authorities' exclusive competencies and without prejudice to the responsibilities of other institutional actors involved on the territory with different functions, said bodies are entitled to ensure the interventions' implementation in the entire period of minors' reception by launching SPRAR projects. When minors enter reception facilities, the first activity carried out by professionals consists in drawing up a Personalised Learning Project (Progetto Educativo Individualizzato - PEI), that is a personalised integrated reception programme (ranging from schooling, to vocational training, labour integration, etc.) according to minors' individual characteristics, needs, skills and interests. The PEI implements the general objectives established in the overall project on minors' reception and provides for moments in which minors co-participate and assume responsibilities in managing daily life in the facilities.

Therefore, the PEI is based on several activities planned and organised within the facilities with the aim to involve minors throughout the entire period of their reception. Such activities also aim at the minors' possible and desirable integration in the hosting community. To such end, learning Italian is one of the priority intervention envisaged in the personalised learning project; indeed, besides compliance with compulsory schooling, the territorial project also guarantees the minors' access to language courses, with at least a ten-hour attendance per week. Indeed, language courses and inclusion in the school system positively affect the process of the minors' socio-cultural integration and socialisation. Moreover, the majority of SPRAR projects foster minors' participation in a wide range of after-school playful, sporting, recreational and cultural activities (cultural visits, exhibitions, training laboratories, various types of courses, sports, dancing, voluntary work, etc.). It represents a good way to involve minors in activities carried out by their peers with whom they can experience a common growth.

Within the scope of SPRAR projects, the realisation of personalised reception and social integration paths entails the implementation of an array of initiatives embracing various fields of intervention (from linguistic-cultural mediation to labour orientation, from training to awareness-raising activities, from assistance to socio-healthcare protection services, etc.). Indeed, SPRAR territorial projects realise many initiatives every year - in cooperation with the subjects belonging to the Third Sector and with other territorial actors, both institutional and non-institutional - with the aim to foster and guide minors in their path towards personal autonomy. Very often, such activities involve minors hosted both in facilities and in the social community, the latter being families, students, individual citizens or enterprises and other subjects belonging to the local entrepreneurial economic context.

In 2018, one of the most positive experiences realised through territorial projects, for instance, consisted in activities aimed at the requalification of abandoned city areas which used to be the community's beating heart. The main purpose was that of strengthening and improving the young guests' inclusion in the local territory (Acri's SPRAR project). This project called "artistic residence" involved UFM's hosted in the reception centre and several high-school students. After having met a couple of times to get to know each other, UFM's and students visited some of the city's semi-abandoned neighbourhoods, accompanied by the professionals of the reception centre, in order to observe, interpret, talk and exchange views with the residents. This enabled hosted minors and locals to get to know more in depth the most hidden places of the territory, the culture and traditions of the area and of its inhabitants. The project ended with a final performance carried out by those who participated in the initiative together with several elderly people living in the historic neighbourhood, with whom minors had met during their visits.

In another experience (Villa Castelli's SPRAR project), an awareness-raising campaign on migration and reception addressed to citizens was launched, in order to create direct contact between families and minors hosted in the reception centre. Several families were identified with a view to host minors for lunchtime one Sunday a month and during the main holidays. Each family participated in a training path, whose main themes were the promotion and

awareness-raising on reception and intercultural exchange. This experience allowed each UFM to build a social network and to be able to count on the support of a “family,” capable of easing the UFM's growth path.

Besides the mentioned activities, the PEI also gives importance to minors' vocational training, fostering their path toward autonomy and inclusion in the host community. Indeed, the projects are likely to invest in training paths for UFM's based on a preliminary mapping of the territory's labour needs. It permits to establish more or less formal relationships with many institutional and non-institutional actors, making the territorial network capable of developing ideas, projects and new paths.

As with adults hosted in reception facilities, the training fields in which minors are mostly involved - besides the territories' specific vocational characteristics – are the food industry/tourism followed by the craftsmanship. Indeed, internships and/or labour grants addressed to UFM's have been successfully launched within the food industry/tourism and the crafts sector. Indeed, various experiences have led to the minors' labour inclusion at the end of the paths.

In this context, a particularly innovative experience addressed to unaccompanied foreign minors and 18 year olds within the SPRAR project was put in place by the municipality of Pachino, which initiated courses for labour orientation and inclusion through the Labour Inclusion Service (Servizio di Inclusione Lavorativa - SIL). The project allowed to create and/or develop territorial networks aimed at connecting the territory's economic realities and the recipients themselves, so as to foster the latter's labour inclusion. In order to facilitate UFM's' labour inclusion, the territory's productive assets were mapped, so as to evaluate employment opportunities by matching labour demand and supply. Meetings were held in collaboration with labour consultants, accountants, workplace medical staff, technical experts in corporate security with the aim to raise awareness in the local economic and production sectors about the suitability for launching internships in companies. These activities led to the creation of a database including available enterprises and fostered the realisation of vocational trainings and labour inclusion through internships. Moreover, owing to the cooperation with several companies, Intercultural Laboratories were activated as a space for debate, in which it was possible to share ideas and create activities for the development of business culture. In this view, different laboratories were activated: Arts and Crafts (Arte e Mestieri di artigiano) aimed at training bricklayers, painters, olive tree farmers; Eco-Furniture (Eco-Arredi) consisted in learning how to build eco-furniture by hand (objects, toys, board games, using recovery material); Social Nursery (Vivaio Sociale) with the construction of a vegetable and spice garden entitled “from trees to vegetable gardens” (within the medium period, it will become an fairtrade purchasing group – Gruppo di Acquisto Solidale - GAS). The produced resources have been displayed during the initiative “Re-starting from the youth,” an event organised to promote the recipients' employability. On that occasion, the “course attendants” met with their tutors (who followed them during the workshops) to talk about their experience and the competences acquired throughout the project. This formula contributed in encouraging communication between the youth and enterprises, between labour demand and supply. It also allowed to create and/or to develop territorial networks connecting the territory's economic realities and the UFM's within the SPRAR project with a view to achieve the latter's labour inclusion.

Almost all the existing projects promote actions aimed at raising awareness in the city's communities on themes related to the right of asylum and the condition of international protection seekers and holders. To such end, many ways were used and identified on the basis of the territory's characteristics and the context of the reception centres. All projects were aimed to encourage subjects belonging to different cultures and traditions to exchange knowledge, experiences and memories. In fact, most of the projects promoted public meetings such as workshops, conventions and conferences, or provided for meetings with the local population on the occasion of local holidays; the projects also fostered sport activities that saw the participation both of minors hosted in the reception facilities and Italian youths; moreover, many meetings with students were organised directly in schools and many musicals and/or theatrical events were developed. All these initiatives, first of all, allowed the local community to socialise with the people involved in the SPRAR project (professionals and recipients), getting to know their stories and their lives, fostering growth and integration odds in the local community.

One of the several experiences realised in cooperation with the school system during 2018, Petrosino's SPRAR project, for instance, enabled those participating to share moments of discussion with students from an Institute for Land Surveyors during school hours and after school hours. During the meetings in class, the discussion was carried out on infrastructure, local and UFM's customs and traditions, the Italian law and the Constitutions of the UFM's' countries. The meetings were also characterised by moments of aggregation through sporting activities. Before the meetings, the professionals helped the unaccompanied foreign minors studying the themes on the agenda, in order to be able to debate on said themes with students. Moreover, since the meetings were held both in Italian and in English, the youth involved had the possibility to improve their language skills. The course ended with a day dedicated to play local traditional games as well as those of the recipients' countries of origin, organised for the initiative Open Doors (Porte Aperte), through the SPRAR project.

Another good experience was an initiative launched through Bologna's SPRAR project, in which the UFM's hosted in the reception centre and the students from two high-schools in the city cooperated during a school-work activity. The initiative was realised in two phases: during the first phase, the students attending classical high school carried out internships within the so-called "Buona Scuola" project ("Good School") at three reception centres for UFM's under the managing body's administration. The initiative had the aim to promote an intercultural dialogue between peers and to lead students and recipients to discover multicultural aspects in their everyday contexts so as to overcome prejudices by living and working together, and to be educated on globalisation and citizenship by entering into a "relationship with others." The students involved in the project worked together with the facility's staff, planning and managing the educational and socialisation interventions within the autonomous reception groups in which the UFM's were hosted. Moreover, training meetings were organised, with the legal consultants of the SPRAR, on themes related to the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors, the procedures for seeking asylum and the mapping of services addressed to international protection seekers and holders present on the territory of Bologna with the aim to foster a better knowledge of the local welfare system. In the second phase, on invitation of the Agency for Services to the Person (Azienda Servizi alla Persona - ASP) of the Municipality of Bologna, the students of Foreign Language High-school carried out school-work alternation activities at the autonomous facility "Casa Murri." In this case, the activities were organised on the basis of various meetings during which in-depth analyses were conducted on the knowledge of the areas of Bologna frequented by most UFM's involved in the SPRAR project and those frequented instead by students; finally, another meeting allowed to realise a Food Workshop fostering the youngsters' ability through cooking courses.

The minors' involvement in sport activities represents the simplest and most direct path to pull down barriers, foster acquaintance among peers and increase the sense of belonging within a community. Indeed, reception facilities promote many initiatives to such end. Worthy of notice, for example, is the experience of a small municipality in Molise counting about 1,200 inhabitants. In this case, the SPRAR project launched by the municipality of Cerro al Volturno involved UFM's in the local football team's activities allowing them to participate together with the local youth in the championship games. This contributed in developing a greater sense of belonging to the community for the recipients of the SPRAR project.

6 OPINIONS ISSUED ON THE CONVERSION OF RESIDENCE PERMITS PURSUANT TO ART. 32 OF THE CONSOLIDATED ACT ON IMMIGRATION

Art. 32, paragraph 1-bis, of Lgs.D. no. 286/1998, as amended by Art. 13, paragraph 1, of Law no. 47 of 7 April 2017, regulates the modalities for granting residence permits for reasons related to study or subordinate/autonomous work when unaccompanied foreign minors turn 18 years old.

Unaccompanied foreign minors in foster care pursuant to Art. 2 of Law no. 184/1983, or under guardianship, that have been living in Italy for less than three years and have been granted access to a social and civil integration project can submit application to convert their residence permit as minors into a residence permit for reasons related to study or subordinate/autonomous work, upon prior positive opinion of the Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies.

From 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018, the opinions issued under the abovementioned law amounted to 2,344 (Table 8).

Table 8 – Distribution per Country of origin of opinions issued. Data as at 31 December 2018 and as at 31 December 2017.

DATA AS AT 31 December 2018			DATA AS AT 31 December 2017		
COUNTRY	No. OF OPINIONS ISSUED	%	COUNTRY	No. OF OPINIONS ISSUED	%
ALBANIA	808	34.5	EGYPT	684	32.7
EGYPT	597	25.5	ALBANIA	604	28.9
REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO	327	14.0	BANGLADESH	321	15.3
BANGLADESH	271	11.6	REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO	246	11.8
SENEGAL	56	2.4	GAMBIA	62	3.0
GAMBIA	54	2.3	SENEGAL	41	2.0
MOROCCO	52	2.2	MOROCCO	30	1.4
TUNISIA	42	1.8	PAKISTAN	26	1.2
PAKISTAN	36	1.5	GHANA	15	0.7
GHANA	24	1.0	TUNISIA	10	0.5
NIGERIA	21	0.9	NIGERIA	10	0.5
GUINEA	16	0.7	GUINEA	7	0.3
OTHERS	40	1.7	OTHERS	36	1.7
TOTAL	2,344	100.0	TOTAL	2,092	100.0

At territorial level, Lazio, Lombardy, Emilia Romagna and Friuli Venezia Giulia (Table 9) are the Regions that issued the highest number of opinions pursuant to Art. 32, paragraph 1-bis of Lgs.D. no. 286/1998.

Table 9 – Distribution per Region of opinions issued – Data as at 31 December 2018 and as at 31 December 2017.

REGION	DATA AS AT 31 December 2018		DATA AS AT 31 December 2017	
	No. OF OPINIONS ISSUED	%	No. OF OPINIONS ISSUED	%
LAZIO	464	19.8	479	22.9
LOMBARDY	448	19.1	283	13.5
EMILIA ROMAGNA	281	12.0	251	12.0
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA	237	10.1	283	13.5
VENETO	179	7.6	101	4.8
TUSCANY	160	6.8	169	8.1
CAMPANIA	117	5.0	130	6.2

PIEDMONT	113	4.8	98	4.7
LIGURIA	85	3.6	58	2.8
MARCHE	81	3.5	49	2.3
SICILY	49	2.1	79	3.8
ABRUZZO	31	1.3	12	0.6
BASILICATA	26	1.1	15	0.7
AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF BOLZANO	21	0.9	16	0.8
APULIA	20	0.9	19	0.9
AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO	12	0.5	15	0.7
UMBRIA	7	0.3	23	1.1
CALABRIA	6	0.3	8	0.4
MOLISE	5	0.2	2	0.1
SARDINIA	2	0.1	2	0.1
TOTAL	2,344	100.0	2,092	100.0

Table 10 shows the number of opinions issued on the basis of the different types of integration paths carried out by minors, with a comparison between year 2018 and year 2017. Similarly to the same period in 2017, the most frequent integration path realised in 2018 was the educational and training path, involving 78.3% of former foreign minors for a total amount of 1,835 opinions issued. Whereas, 21.8% of the opinions issued involved former foreign minors who carried out a socio-labour insertion path.

Table 10 – Number of opinions issued per type of integration path. Data as at 31 December 2018 and as at 31 December 2017.

INTEGRATION PATH	DATA AS AT 31 December 2018		DATA AS AT 31 December 2017	
	No. OF OPINIONS ISSUED	%	No. OF OPINIONS ISSUED	%
EDUCATIONAL	1,142	48.7	1,136	54.3
EDUCATIONAL + TRAINING	693	29.6	601	28.7
EDUCATIONAL + LABOUR	449	19.2	325	15.5
LABOUR	60	2.6	30	1.4
TOTAL	2,344	100.0	2,092	100.0

7 MEASURES FOR AUTONOMY – TRAINING, LABOUR AND INTEGRATION PATHS FOR YOUNG MIGRANTS

7.1 Contents and structure of the intervention

The project “Training, labour and integration paths for young migrants” (“Percorsi per la formazione, il lavoro e l’integrazione dei giovani migranti” – hereafter, “Percorsi”) falls within the initiatives promoted by the Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies aimed at fostering the socio-labour integration of vulnerable migrants. The intervention aims to consolidate measures and services for the socio-labour insertion of unaccompanied foreign minors and young migrants. The aim is to guide and support them in achieving autonomy after they turn 18 years old and exit the reception system provided for by the relevant laws, with a view to permit their legal permanence on the national territory, and to prevent the risk of their exploitation.

The project was launched in October 2016 with two specific objectives:

- to realise personalised intervention plans providing internships and a series of related and integrated services addressed to unaccompanied foreign minors in the phase of their transition towards adulthood (starting at 16 years of age) and to young migrants (up to 23 years of age) received in Italy as unaccompanied foreign minors, including international protection holders and seekers, in condition of joblessness or unemployment;
- to develop and qualify the governance between institutional actors (with particular reference to local authorities) and key stakeholders, in order to structure and transfer a model of intervention for an integrated reception and socio-labour insertion of unaccompanied foreign minors, sustainable and replicable at national level and solidly rooted on the system of territorial services for labour, training and integration.

With regard to the modalities for realising the project, it is important to highlight that:

- the intervention was implemented through a public call addressed to subjects authorised to carry out intermediation activities at national level and to public and private subjects accredited by the Regions to provide employment and labour services (the so-called proponent bodies);
- the instrument used was the so-called “individual endowment,” allowing to supply a series of services in three specific areas (reception, training, labour), and the recognition of a contribution to the proponent subject (equal to € 2,000 for carrying out activities aimed at fostering the recipients’ socio-labour insertion, lasting up to a maximum of 64 hours); the instrument also envisaged an attendance allowance for the recipient (equal to € 500 a month, for the participation in a 5-month apprenticeship), as well as a contribution to the subject hosting the apprenticeship (equal to € 500, for tutoring and assistance lasting up to a maximum of 16 hours);
- the intervention was funded by the European Social Fund (€ 9,000,000.00).

Therefore, the model proposed was based on the consolidation of the social capital both of the individual and of the context in which the individual lives: a strategic investment capable of building a social and relational bond, in order to contribute towards an effective inclusion process.

7.2 Results and evaluation of the intervention

Table 11 – Results of the project “Percorsi.”

	“PERCORSI” PHASE I	“PERCORSI” PHASE II	TOTAL
PATHS THAT CAN BE FUNDED	960	850	1,810
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	1,670	1,450	3,120
APPRENTICESHIPS ACTIVATED	944	853	1,797
APPRENTICESHIPS CONCLUDED	865	739	1,604
APPRENTICESHIPS INTERRUPTED	79	114	193

The third phase of the project – envisaging the funding of an additional 170 integration paths - is about to be launched. The related public call will be published within the first six months of 2019.

The first results of the intervention have been provided in the evaluation report of “Percorsi” phase I. The report describes and analyses the results of the first phase of the project concluded in August 2017, and has been published on the institutional website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies available at the following link: <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/immigrazione/focus-on/politiche-di-integrazione-sociale/Documents/Report-Monitoraggio-Percorsi-I-30062017.pdf>. The evaluations carried out by the subjects involved in the intervention (proponent bodies, companies, apprentices), analysed in the mentioned report, highlight the impact

of the project on the integration path of the participants and allow to understand the project's points of strength and critical aspects, also in sight of its future reorganisation.

In particular, with regard to the positive effects of the measure, it is important to highlight that the mentioned path:

- allowed to improve life conditions, not only from an economic viewpoint but also with regard to relationships;
- allowed to develop linguistic and technical-professional skills, sometimes also enhancing past training experiences (formal and non-formal);
- represented an opportunity for immediate earning;
- built the perception of one's employability and increased autonomy in the search of opportunities following apprenticeship.

At the same time, several critical aspects emerged. They are mainly represented by:

- the brief duration of the apprenticeship, becoming an obstacle for the apprentices' complete and actual insertion in a company;
- the apprentices' scarce linguistic skills and the absence of an adequate preventive orientation capable to promptly identify their competences and ambitions; this aspect ended up being impedimental for the optimisation of the training experience;
- the non-homogeneous territorial distribution of the paths and a relevant concentration of the same in Southern Italy (in particular Sicily), characterised by a lower employability rate.

The "Percorsi" path was characterised by a focus group set up in October 2018 at the end of the second phase of the intervention, with the aim to collect and analyse the evaluations of the subjects involved, that is promoting authorities, companies and apprentices. The results of the focus group - that will be published - substantially confirmed both the positive and critical aspects of the measure that had already emerged during the first phase of the intervention.

The implemented initiative is consistent with the directions provided at the European level: indeed, it falls within the path traced out by the "Action plan for unaccompanied foreign minors (2010-2014)" adopted by the European Commission. The mentioned plan highlights the need for finding long-lasting solutions for unaccompanied foreign minors and for supporting them in their social integration path. On the basis of an ex-post evaluation, the "Percorsi" project is fully in line also with the content of the European Commission's more recent communication entitled "The protection of children in migration." Said communication stresses the need for minors' prompt integration and support in their transition towards adulthood and in their exit from the welfare context.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN ITALY

15 NEW START-UPS WITH SOCIAL IMPACT ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE PROJECT "IDEAS IN ACTION FOR UPSHIFT"

(by Unicef/JA Italia)

Last year, the results of a series of surveys published on U-Report on the Move (<https://onthemove.ureport.in>) - the digital platform launched by UNICEF in Italy to give voice to unaccompanied foreign minors - highlighted that 50% of young migrants and refugees asked for further information on how to access education and labour, 60% never had the opportunity to participate in apprenticeships, although 90% would have liked to be involved.

The surveys, analysed through specific focus groups, also highlighted the relevance of empowerment processes and of the transversal competences' development, which are typical of the entrepreneurial environment. Such empowerment is fundamental in order to accompany foreign minors and youngsters recently turned 18 years old towards a greater autonomy and, therefore, towards adulthood, making them protagonists of the change they are pursuing with the migratory project.

Moreover, the results published on U-Report on the Move emphasised that 90% of the interviewees believed that it is more difficult to find a job for unaccompanied foreign minors than for Italian peers, many complaining of cases of discrimination occurred when searching for employment.

The analyses of said surveys led to the development of “Ideas in Action for UPSHIFT,” an entrepreneurship education pilot-project addressed to young migrants, refugees and Italians implemented in Sicily by UNICEF and JA Italia. The initiative originated from the synergy created between UPSHIFT - UNICEF’s programme that meets the challenge to develop the youth’s skills and their inclusion process in the socio-economic context - and “Ideas in action” - JA Italia’s entrepreneurship educational path – a project based on a decade-long experience matured in the Italian schools, also in needy territories with high levels of school dropout.

From October to December, 150 participants coming from the three Sicilian provinces of Palermo, Agrigento and Catania were involved in the project. The first phase of the programme aimed to provide participants with competences linked to the entrepreneurial environment as well as everyday life competences necessary to orientate themselves in the future. Foreign and Italian minors all together analysed the problems of the communities in which they live and the relevant possible solutions, which then became actual project ideas.

A technical jury, composed of experts from the entrepreneurial environment, evaluated the ideas and decided which were considered ideal for the second phase of the programme, that is the transformation of the projects into start-ups with a social impact.

The start-up ideas passing on to the second phase amounted to 15. Some proposals received special recognition, such as “Children Moto Fun,” promoted by young migrants and refugees in Palermo. The project made use of an itinerant typical southern vehicle (“ape”) with the aim to foster children’s social inclusion and the rediscovery of traditional games among the new digital natives. Naro (province of Agrigento) promoted “GrandmaLab” through which the youth decided to involve grandmothers, who handmade wool sweaters which were then sold online through modern digital technologies. Finally, Catania promoted “Celiacus,” a project introducing a fusion celiac cuisine based on Sicilian and African recipes.

The ideas chosen were not only the most creative and sustainable ones, but they were also chosen those promoting social inclusion. For instance, “Ideas in Action for UPSHIFT’ brought the youth closer to the labour market highlighting the value of sharing experiences with people from different backgrounds,” said Anna Riatti, UNICEF coordinator for the programme addressed to migrant and refugee children and adolescents in Italy. “The greatest result, however, was given by the friendships made at school. Besides fostering the acquisition of technical competences, the project was an opportunity to promote social inclusion and to encourage Italian minors and unaccompanied foreign minors to share stories and experiences.”

“Sharing, cultures, generosity, friendship are the key words that characterised the project at first and that, according to our opinion, are the best basis to set up enterprises and more in general to build up a better future for everyone. This is the goal: Italian and foreign youngsters working together to improve the community in which they live and in which they want to continue to live. Here at JA Italia, together with UNICEF, we will continue to help them in this challenge,” said Antonio Perdichizzi, President of Junior Achievement Italia.

“The project is particularly effective because it develops the competences of both Italian and foreign adolescents, acting as stepping-stone so that they may walk on their own legs along a new path,” said Paolo Rozera, General Director of UNICEF Italia. “The objective is twofold: to draw the youth closer to the labour market and to create an opportunity for social inclusion, encouraging interaction between youngsters with extremely different backgrounds.”

The second phase of the project will begin in January and it is aimed at supporting the staff in the prototyping phase and in the enterprise acceleration phase. It will end in Catania, in May.

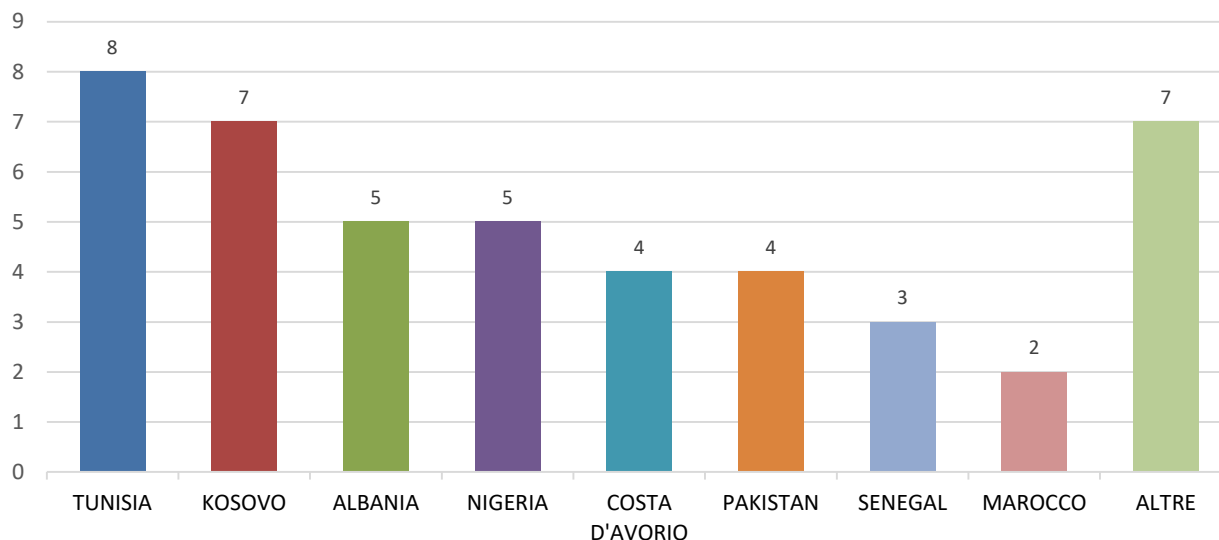
8 FAMILY TRACINGS

In compliance with what provided for by Art. 2, paragraph 2, lett. f, of the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers no. 535/99, the duties of the Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies are “to launch investigations and carry out researches aimed at identifying the family members of the unaccompanied minors present on the territory, also in their Countries of origin or Third Countries, through cooperation with competent public authorities and suitable national and international ones.” Family tracings have several purposes and play a fundamental role in identifying the best long-term solutions for the minors’ best interests. Owing to family tracings, local Authorities acquire detailed knowledge on the minors’ background, reconstruct their stories and family conditions, and analyse in depth any critical or vulnerable situations emerged, including issues related to the territories of provenance. All this information is used both to better tailor the foreign minors’ reception and integration path in Italy, and to evaluate the possibility to

carry out their assisted voluntary return or family reunification in accordance with the Dublin Regulation.

In the second half of 2018, on the basis of the requests submitted to the Directorate by the local Authorities' social services involved in UFM's reception, IOM was asked to conduct 45 family tracings. Said requests concerned minors mainly coming from Tunisia, Kosovo, Albania and Nigeria (Graph 9); 5 family tracings were carried out in European Countries.

Graph 9 – Main Countries of origin of the minors for whom family tracings were conducted – July/December 2018.



With reference to the territorial distribution, the Regions that submitted the highest number of requests for family tracings in the second half of 2018 were Emilia Romagna (26.7% of the total), Lazio (20%), Sicily (15.5%) and Veneto (11.1%).

VULNERABILITY OF THE CONTEXT OF PROVENANCE AND MIGRATORY PROPENSITY OF TUNISIAN UNACCOMPANIED MINORS: A QUALITATIVE COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS OF FAMILY TRACINGS CONDUCTED BETWEEN 2008 AND 2018

(by IOM)

The Arab Spring – of which the so-called Tunisian Jasmine Revolution (2010-2011) represents one of the best known event from a media viewpoint – led to, among other things, considerable migratory flows towards Europe. In particular, in 2011 Italy registered the entry of a consistent amount of migrants, among whom many unaccompanied foreign minors²⁸ (UFMs), also Tunisian.

Two years after said events, the Office for North Africa of the Economic Committee for Africa (ECA) published the report *“Etre jeunes au Maghreb”*²⁹ on the occasion of the International Year of Youth 2010-2011, with the aim to provide a better understanding of the expectations and hopes of the most vulnerable youth residing in the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). The report highlighted that the migratory propensity concerned about 40% of the youth interviewed and/or involved in focus groups (from Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia). The results also emphasised that the youth tended to migrate illegally more than adults, exposing themselves, even consciously, to the related risks. Their desire was to flee from the multidimensional precariousness triggered in the community of provenance, that seemed even more precarious against the model of the “socially successful” youth discovered by migrating abroad.³⁰

The increase in the number of hosted minors led the most involved Italian municipalities to ensure a greater commitment also in terms of human resources. Indeed, in the abovementioned period, the requests for family tracings

²⁸ Monia Giovannetti (edited by), *I minori stranieri non accompagnati in Italia (Unaccompanied foreign minors in Italy)*, Fifth Report ANCI/Cittalia. The UFM's received in 2011 amounted to 9,197 (against 4,588 in 2010).

²⁹ « Etre Jeune au Maghreb », Bureau pour l'Afrique du Nord de la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA-AN), Rabat, 2013.

³⁰ ibidem

with regard to Tunisian minors basically tripled. The requests for in-depth investigations on the minors' family and social context of provenance, presented as family tracing requests, highlight the role played by the social services, above all in the municipalities of Bologna, Trento and Macerata with regard to minors coming from Sfax, Tunis, Kairouan and Kasserine, and by the Sicilian social services (in particular Catania) with regard to minors coming from Tunis, Monastir, Medenine and Sfax.

Most interviews with the families were carried out by IOM between August and December 2011, in the wake of the fading and then of the ending of the mentioned uprising movements. The interviews mainly involved families residing in the urban areas of Tunis and Sfax, followed by those residing in the south-east areas of the capital, and only marginally the families residing in other areas of Tunisia.

On the basis of an analysis carried out through the family investigation reports drawn up after the interviews, it is clear that the main motivation driving to migrate was economic, basically as a direct consequence of family conditions characterised by hardship and social deprivation, among whose, however, the condition of extreme poverty did not constitute a prevailing fact.

With regard to said deprivation, it is important to keep in mind that North Africa holds the worldwide record as to unemployment rate among youngsters between 15-24 years old, an index that, in 2009, reached a maximum peak in the AMU region equal to 23.7% (in the same year, Tunisia's unemployment rate was equal to 29%).³¹ On the basis of the data published in 2018 by the World Bank, it is clear that the percentage has further increased in the Country, reaching 36.2%.³²

In a few cases, situations related to dysfunctional dynamics within the family unit (domestic violence, separations and conflictual divorces) were mentioned as the direct cause for minors' migratory choice. However, it is interesting to notice that, where this was reported, the overall social context appeared extremely deprived and at risk of deviance, especially for the youth. In such socio-economic context, characterised by the lack of development perspectives and by an inadequate infrastructure and network of services – often totally inexistent for the youth – many minors were psychosocially disoriented and bored due to a lack of recreational and sport opportunities. All this drove a considerable amount of Maghrebi youth to use their time unproductively. Such inactivity, in actual fact, resulted in dependence on their families, causing frustration and humiliation that ended up strengthening the youth's exclusion from the local social context,³³ and at driving them to emigrate, almost as a forced choice.

A further motivation mentioned by the interviewees that drove the youth to migrate – although not in a relevant manner – was the presence of relatives in the Countries of destination, that is Italy and France. This confirms the fact that the migratory tendency is a phenomenon that has pooled young generations coming from this geographical area.

On the other hand, the number of families stating that the youth had ran away/emigrated to flee from a situation of social disorder turned out to be residual, confirming the fact that the decisive issues were connected to deeper and more structural economic and social issues in the Tunisian society. In particular, they complained about the difficult and slow transformation from a mainly agricultural economy, the inadequacy of the school system, and the absence of social policies supporting and preventing social hardships, in particular for family units.

In order to compare this qualitative analysis with more recent data of reference, the content of the interviews conducted with the Tunisian minors' families were analysed by IOM's staff between 2016 and 2018.

With regard to the presence of Tunisian minors hosted in Italy, it is important to highlight that the absolute values and percentages remained more or less stable in 2018,³⁴ with a maximum percentage of presences equal to 3.7% of the total amount of minors present and registered in 2018 (18,303 on 31 December). However, a sensible increase was registered, both in terms of absolute values and percentages, compared to the data of years 2016 and 2017,³⁵ registering a variation slightly above 3% (with a maximum variation between 0.5% and 3.7%).

The distribution of the geographical origin of the interviewed families in the period of reference saw a prevalence, as opposed to the previous data analysis, of the central and southern regions of Tunisia, compared to the capital.³⁶ Also the governorates north-east and south-east of Tunis resulted to be less represented, whilst in the previous survey they were fairly detected. This difference in the representativeness of the places of provenance can be in part explained by the different weight played by the requests for family findings coming from the social services of Rome and Reggio Emilia, municipalities that mainly submitted requests in favour of minors coming from the areas of Nabeul, Kairouan, Mahdia, Sousse and Sfax. Moreover, it is possible to assume that the adults' migratory chains in those areas partly

³¹ ibidem

³² <https://donnees.banquemondiale.org/indicateur/SL.UEM.1524.ZS?locations=TN>

³³ « Etre jeune au Maghreb », cit.

³⁴ Data collected by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, obtained from the monthly statistical reports available online at: <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/immigrazione/focus-on/minori-stranieri/Pagine/Dati-minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati.aspx>

³⁵ ibidem

³⁶ In particular, the regions of Kasserine, Kairouan, Mahdia, Monastir and Sfax.

coincided with the abovementioned areas of provenance.

The motivations for migrating - although the economic issue continued to be relevant and was mentioned by almost all interviewees - differed from the previous analysis, which highlighted situations of disruption/family hardship as main cause of the migratory choice. Among the issues mentioned the most, those particularly alarming concerned domestic violence and/or parents' separations/conflictual divorces, followed by tragic events (death or serious illness of the head of the family) and/or situations of family multi-vulnerability. All these hardships were indicated as a driving motivation for the migratory choice, considered as the sole option in order to flee from a situation of hardship and deprivation affecting all levels of life.

Where the family, as a primary socialisation agency, resulted to be strongly insufficient, and the social environment of provenance resulted to be compromised, not even the school system, as secondary socialisation agency, resulted to be an effective point of reference for Tunisian minors, in particular for boys, who experienced major difficulties in adapting to the rigour and discipline of the school system. For many youngsters, going to school was the opportunity to live a moment of daily escape,³⁷ more than an opportunity to build their future.

The extreme economic uncertainty of the interviewed families seemed therefore to coexist not only with deep family hardships, but also with widespread social hardships, connected to the pronounced backwardness/isolation that characterises the areas of provenance of these families, be it rural or semi urban contexts.

Lastly, the interviewed families highlighted how the stories about the possibilities offered by the host European Countries had a very strong effect. Indeed, reception expectations are amplified – often in a merely illusory manner, deriving from a solid preservation of family bonds with relatives that had already started the migratory path.

Although the Tunisian society has registered constant improvements in the last 10 years, even if moderate, the Human Development Index (HDI),³⁸ for example, highlights the lastingness of social and family vulnerabilities, by far the weak pillars of social welfare. Indeed, as stressed also by this comparative qualitative analysis, such vulnerabilities have led to an exponential increase in risks and vulnerabilities for weak subjects, in particular minors. Indeed, if family investigations carried out in the first period of reference highlighted that the economic motivation was a main driving force for migrating, together with the minors' desire to follow their ambitions in terms of study and work, the second group of interviews emphasised family hardships. Indeed, the latter have become the driving force for migrating; at the same time, they represent the cause of the increasingly long-lasting hardship suffered by minors, ranging from uneasiness in the family, to paths ever more characterised by the risk of social deviance. All these conditions were strongly emphasised in the recent interviews, whereas in the first group of analysis they resulted to be under-represented.

9 FINANCIAL SITUATION

For the three-year period 2019-2021, pursuant to Law no. 145/2018, the expenditure item 2353 "Fund for the reception of unaccompanied foreign minors" has been provided with an endowment equal to 149,996,398 Euros for year 2019, and with one equal to 170 million Euros for years 2020 and 2021.

³⁷ "Etre jeune au Maghreb," cit.

³⁸ Data collected by UNDP, available online at the following link: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/TUN.pdf