



Consiglio Regionale del Molise



**WORKING GROUP
“MIGRATION, SOCIAL POLICIES
AND HUMAN RIGHTS”**

FINAL DOCUMENT

CONTEXT

The tragic and repeated shipwrecks of boatloads of migrants in the Mediterranean and the unknown number of refugees trying to cross Europe's borders along the other routes of escape, they confirm the alarms raised about the inadequacies of national and EU policies in the management of migration flows.

It is widely admitted the complexity of the phenomenon and the limits of operations as a result of incomplete existing regulations are widely recognized.

The national and European systems did not seem, in recent years, able to formulate a framework of organic and defined responses to migration. On several occasions, in fact, the reception system showed weaknesses which have been counteracted with interventions in emergency. Even the issue of the European Agenda on Immigration by the European Commission did not improve, to date, the management of migration flows and either the decrease in the number of wrecks.

Local governments, on which lowers the burden of social inclusion of migrants, often find themselves with no means of intervention and without adequate resources available. It is on sub-national and local levels, in fact, that the impact of migration on the socio-economic fabric feels more acutely through everyday problems of integration and reception of migrants.

GIVEN THAT

The economic crisis that is affecting most countries of the European Union is likely to accentuate the inherent tension between border control policies and respect for human rights of migrants;

Respect for human rights of migrants and solidarity towards countries from which originates the majority of migratory flows must permeate all stages of the migration policy of the European Union and the policies of hospitality and integration;

The creation of a genuine policy on migration that would collect all the challenges faced by local and regional authorities, passes through the greater EU involvement to guarantee the principles of solidarity and shared responsibilities;

Multilevel governance is a fundamental tool and a prerequisite for achieving the best results in terms of reception and integration of migrants. All levels of government should share the responsibility of the reception and integration of refugees and migrants, as well as the improvement of cooperation, coordination and inter-regional solidarity with the introduction of a mechanism for sharing responsibility between the European Union, Member States, regions and local authorities taking into account the structural constraints, available resources, the needs of the labor market, the demographic situation and other relevant factors (such as family reunification);

The CALRE Working Group "Immigration, Social Policy and Human Rights", endorses the efforts of the European Commission to continue to seek an agreement between states through a more ambitious plan, articulate and focused on the sharing of responsibilities between Member States, thus recognizing that the issue of migration concerns the whole of Europe as a whole;

The CALRE Working Group "Immigration, Social Policy and Human Rights" has taken the important commitment to analyze and propose opinions on the European immigration policies and how they are transposed and implemented by the European Regional Legislative Assemblies;

The CALRE Working Group "Immigration, Social Policy and Human Rights" therefore wants to establish itself as European platform that facilitates pluralistic dialogue and active participation of the Regional Legislative Assemblies in European policies on immigration and integration issues;

All this in the introduction, the CALRE Working Group "Immigration, Social Policy and Human Rights" invites, therefore, the European institutions and the Member States to take a decisive step beyond rhetorical statements and statements of principle and adopt concrete initiatives that, when implemented, should give tangible results. This should be done through close cooperation between the institutions that provides and enhances the role of the Regional Legislative Assemblies and local authorities.

As a follow up to the final document produced in the first meeting of the Working Group, held in Brussels July 9th 2015, on issues related to irregular migration and to the European Agenda on Immigration, and on the work conducted, the CALRE Working Group "Immigration, Social Policy and Human Rights" makes the following recommendations:

Foreign Minors Unaccompanied

- It is necessary to ensure that all relevant actors (EU institutions, national authorities and local authorities) will safeguard the interests of the child as paramount criterion in any decision or action affecting the child;
- It is necessary to process a coherent common approach to foreign minors as migration at European level. This approach must take into account the extreme sensitivity of the subject of children, their protection and the special consideration to be given to the role of regional and local authorities to which belong activities of acceptance and social support;
- It is necessary to make certain analysis of the phenomenon of unaccompanied minors through objective evidence and statistical data at European and national levels in order to make consistent and programmed interventions;

- It is necessary to identify a central body with specific powers in relation to unaccompanied minors in need of international protection, in order to develop, coordinate and supervise a system to ensure early identification of their needs and appropriate responses, particularly of durable solutions in line with the interests of the child.
- It is necessary to involve civil society in the care and protection of unaccompanied minors to ensure at all levels basic services such as health, education, food and housing, in cooperation with the local and regional authorities.

Legal migration / labor migration

- Third countries should also be seen as partners when addressing the needs of the EU in terms of labor, while respecting the principle of Community preference for EU citizens. The EU needs to invest in informing potential migrants about the legal opportunities for access to the EU, the risks of irregular migration and on their rights and duties in destination countries;
- It is necessary to improve links between the demand and supply of labor and allow more flexible access to those who want to migrate for work, by deepening and carrying through the dossier relating to the recognition of foreign qualifications, the portability of pension, social inclusion of migrants and development of intercultural skills;
- It is necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Blue Card as an European instrument, requiring a higher level of harmonization (and simplification) of national rules, which have in fact led to different national systems relating to the Blue Card, rather than a uniformity of application;
- It is necessary to reduce the salary threshold established as benefit condition to the Blue Card. By fixing the share to 1.5 times the national average salary it means

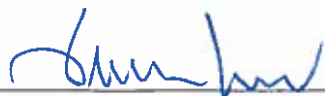
limiting the use of the Blue Card in specific cases (eg. the multinationals), ousting small and medium-sized enterprises, which represent almost all of the actors of the European market.

The role of Regional and Local Authorities

- It is necessary to develop a multi-level governance of migration by strengthening the coordination between EU, national, regional and local levels and with third countries. The sharing of information on EU policy objectives in the field of migration must be part of the dialogue and cooperation with third countries;
- The sub-national authorities are the first actors to be directly affected by the difficulties related to immigration and by the responsibility of key services to the process of local integration. For this reasons local authorities must be fully involved in the creation of a European framework for legal immigration, in the development of measures to combat illegal immigration and in cooperation with the countries of origin of immigrants;
- It is necessary to develop networks and tools aimed at facilitating the exchange of good practices in the governance of migration through the coordination and precise definition of the roles and burdens of all actors involved in the acceptance and integration (local, regional, national, EU institutions and third countries) as well as of immigrants themselves and NGOs.
- It is necessary to reinforce the resources and means for care and immigration policy in the regions of Southern Europe, first recipient of immigrants, unaccompanied minors and asylum seekers.

Campobasso, 25th September 2015

The Coordinator of the Working Group
“Migration, Social Policies and Human Rights”



President Vincenzo Niro
President of the Regional Council of Molise