



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

*Working Program 2015*

**Coordinator: Mr. Vincenzo Niro  
President of the Regional Council of Molise**



## ***Introduction***

The phenomenon of migration has become an indisputable global dimension characterized as a process where the factors of expulsion from the country of origin (poverty, unemployment, war, political persecution etc.) are intertwined with those of attraction in the countries of arrival (presence of communities of compatriots, request of an informal job, etc.).

The complexity of the phenomenon thus presents European, national and local challenges in which the limited recognition of existing regulations in the management of migration flows, both at European and at individual Member States level, can jeopardize the values and the goals of the defences pointed out in National Constitutions, in the Charter of Fundamental Rights (Nice Charter) and in the European Union Treaty itself.

## ***Context***

The focus in Europe on the topic of migration has remarkably grown over the years. The first processing of a plan for shared policies on immigration took place within the Tampere European Council of 1999, in which was established a strong emphasis on the dispute to the flows of irregular migrants and the need for border control of countries of the Schengen Area.

Later on, with the Hague Programme in 2004, was outlined a balanced approach to the management of migration flows, particularly through the creation and strengthening of Frontex, the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders.

In December 2009, the European Council adopted the Stockholm Programme - "An open and secure Europe serving and protecting the citizens". The programme is particularly important because it is the first official European document on migration occurred after the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty of 2009, which makes the Charter of Nice mandatory for all EU Member States.

Since then, many important objectives have been achieved, including a common European asylum system, which introduced better legislation standards for people seeking protection; the Schengen Area has been strengthened; the channels of legal migration have been improved; clearer conditions have been set for entry and residence, and was into force a common set of rights for migrants; the common policy of visa has undergone major changes that have simplified the entry of legitimate travellers in the European Union, by contributing to its economic growth.



In June of 2013 the so-called Common European System of Asylum was arranged, which aims is to establish a common procedure valid throughout the European Union for holders of international protection title. The Common System consists of the following tools:

- Dublin Regulation III (Reg. 604/2013 / EU) that establishes the criteria and mechanisms of dedication of the Member State in charge of examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a citizen of a third country or a stateless person;
- Reception Conditions Directive (Dir. 2013/32 / EU);
- Asylum Procedures Directive (Dir. 2013/33 / EU).

On 16 December 2014, the new European Commission adopted its work program for 2015, entitled "A New Beginning".

Among the priorities identified, there is also the identification of a new migration policy. In the letter of assignment of the President Juncker to designated European Commissioner, Dimitris Avramopoulos, with proxy to Immigration and Internal Affairs, the topics on which the action of European governance will focus is described:

- the review of the legislation on the Blue Card Directive (Directive 2009/50 / EC of 25 May 2009), regarding to the work permit throughout the EU for highly qualified workers;
- the full implementation of the Common European System of Asylum;
- a better management of migration by enhancing cooperation with non-EU countries;
- the struggle of illegal immigration and trafficking of human beings.

The designation of the new European Commission and the start of its work program puts us at the beginning of a new political phase which should be appropriate to actively participate, by entering into the merits of the cornerstone measures of 2014-2020.

The identification, within the priorities of the new European Commission of a new agenda for immigration lies in an historical phase characterized by a steady and growing stream of foreign population heading towards European territories.



According to Eurostat<sup>1</sup>, in Europe in January 2013, the residents in an EU country other than that of citizenship amounted to about 34 million people: just under 7% of the total population. Immigrants as such, that is the residents in a country different from the one they were born, were 50.9 million instead. A difference largely due to naturalization processes that have taken place over the years.

At the continental level quotas more numerous in absolute terms, without distinction between intra-EU immigrants and those from third countries, are present in large countries such as Germany (over 7.696.00 foreigners), the UK (6.929 million) , Spain (5.072 million) and Italy (4.922.085).

The intensification of the conflict in Syria has led to exceeding the threshold of 2.3 million refugees escaping the country at the beginning of 2014.

Still, the number of unaccompanied minors who have applied for international protection has come to 12685. It concerns mainly minors from Afghanistan (3295), Somalia (1580), Syria (1020), Eritrea (710), Morocco (525) and others (5555); most of them have been accepted in Sweden, Germany, the UK, Austria and Italy.

Dealing with a structural and diversified migration phenomena, in its motivation, there is somewhere the need to foster the development of interventions aimed to facilitate positive and participatory processes of integration and then transform the diversity of ones origin, language and culture of foreign communities in an opportunity of civil and cultural growth for Europe.

Even the European Union has strengthened its call to Member States to further develop policies on immigration, asylum and external borders in the basis of protection for migrants and solidarity among the Member States.

Therefore, it emerges the need to take action on many levels to address the challenges related to the response to migratory pressures in full respect of the fundamental rights of migrants: a properly managed immigration can help to boost the economy, as it provides access to a necessary expertise and allows to help address specific shortcomings of the labour market.

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<sup>1</sup> Eurostat: statistical office of the European Union (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>)



When it comes to migration, it should not be forgotten the fact that the immigration streams represent a signal of economic strength, socio-cultural of a country, of its ability to attract capitals, labour force, but also hope and optimism.

The regular and intra-European migration represents, therefore, a contribution to the economy of the countries of arrival.

However, even irregular migration identified only as a factor of social fragmentation and security threat, it can become an important support for economic development of the countries of arrival through a more effective and greater cooperation between Member States and regional/district organizations.

### ***The Working Group "Migration, Social Policies and Human Rights" of CALRE***

During the Plenary Assembly of the CALRE, held in Santiago de Compostela last November 7, 2014, the President of the Regional Council of Molise, Vincenzo Niro, has been appointed coordinator of the Working Group "*Migration, Social Policies and Human Rights*".

The Working Groups, as emphasized by the new President of CALRE, Raffaele Cattaneo, are a valuable business tool on merit, important to analyse and deepen the contents that arise from the work of European institutions.

The Working Groups also aim to contribute to the strengthening of cooperation with the European institutions, in particular with the Committee of the Regions, the European Commission and the European Parliament, as well as between members of the same CALRE. The aim of this cooperation is to exercise a political filter to identify regional priorities, sector by sector, compared to which strengthens the connection between the different administrative and government levels, and participate in a concrete way to the formation of the European decisions by allowing to avoid the creation of onerous constraints and actively contribute to the formation of decisions more favourable and shared with the territories.



In this context, the Working Group "*Migration, Social Policies and Human Rights*" will arise in substantial continuity with previous initiatives and in line with the presented documents and also discussed in the course of last year in the meetings of the Group.

In order to share a strong position related to contents relevant to migration policies, the Working Group "*Migration, Social Policies and Human Rights*" aims to become a true common platform able to engage in its work all the subjects with federalist spirit of European inspiration.

### ***Work Plan 2015***

With the final prospect of delivering opinions, observations and propose possible resolutions on the related subjects, the Working Group "*Migration, Social Policies and Human Rights*", will focus its work on the following main areas:

- **European migration policies:** identify, with the institutions of EU and Member States, fully responsible policies and practices on border management that take into account the aspects of the security, with effective and independent examination regarding to human rights.

To urge the EU to act, tragic events such as those that occurred off the coast of Lampedusa in October 2013 and February 2015 should not be necessary, but the European Union must show greater commitment and solidarity with the regions that receive the most refugees and the people displaced in the world, by participating more broadly in the activities of resettlement.

- **European Law of Asylum:** make effective the application of the principle of *burden sharing*, or rather the division or sharing of financial charges, properly introduced by the Lisbon Treaty (Article 80 TFEU). This principle establishes a European system for the reception distribution of flows linked to shares anchored to certain demographic and economic elements certain and shared, thus overcoming the exclusive criterion of the country of first asylum/reception (Dublin Regulation III).



- **European System of reception:** the effectiveness of reception is also linked, on the side of migrants, to the knowledge of practical and updated information on national policies and on procedures related to immigration in the EU. In fact, some migrants arrive in the destination country with no or only little information about their situation. The majority of migrants have instead incorrect information. In this sense, therefore it is necessary to develop an inclusive information strategy and information material for migrants, including through participatory activities with the migrants themselves and through the direct involvement of Third States of origin or transit of migration flows.
- **Unaccompanied foreign minors (MSNA):** strengthen the collection, exchange of information and best practices related to the protection of unaccompanied minors through activities of networking, cooperation and consultations at local, national and international level, between institutional bodies, associations and civil society organizations.
- **Work related migration:** Develop tools able to foster the match of supply and demand of labour, so that the needs of the European labour market are reflected in the availability of migrant workers. To this purpose, it is necessary to promote the actual recognition of the qualifications and skills of migrant workers, provide a support pre-departure to integration and promote a fair system of recruitment.
- **Dispute of irregular migration:** In order to strengthen the cooperation between all the countries involved in migration flows to provide assistance activities, reception and support to migrants throughout their journey, so to provide them with alternatives to illegal migration, it is though essential the support to countries of origin and transit in the development of appropriate policies for the management of migration and the borders control, as well as in the development of the ability to identify and prosecute human traffickers.



### ***Appointments 2015***

By 15th of March: collection of applications to the Working Group.

7th of July: First meeting of the Working Group with the representatives of CALRE, “Bruxelles,,.

Mid of September: Second meeting of the Working Group with the representative of CALRE, “Molise,,.





*Working Group 2015*

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>REGIONAL PARLIAMENT</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>
ITALY	Consiglio regionale dell'Abruzzo	President Giuseppe Di Pangrazio
ITALY	Consiglio regionale della Basilicata	President Piero Lacorazza
ITALY	Consiglio regionale del Friuli Venezia Giulia	President Franco Iacop
ITALY	Consiglio regionale del Lazio	President Daniele Leodori
ITALY	Consiglio regionale del Piemonte	President Mauro Laus
ITALY	Consiglio regionale della Puglia	President Onofrio Introna
ITALY	Consiglio regionale del Veneto	President Clodovaldo Ruffato
ITALY	Consiglio regionale della Valle d'Aosta	President Marco Viérin
ITALY	Assemblea regionale siciliana	President Giovanni Ardizzone
SPAIN	Parlamento de Andalucia	President Manuel Garcia Navarro
SPAIN	Parlamento de Galicia	President Pilar Rojo Noguera
AUSTRIA	Landtag Steiermark	President Franz Majcen
BELGIUM	Parlament Wallon	President André Antoine