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Berlin



INTERcultural Dialogue to Empower Minorities INTER-DEM

2019-3-ES02-KA205-014061

National Research Report

Statistics/Needs regarding ethnic minority youths in matter of social inclusion

(Italy)



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



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1. Introduction

Today, the phenomena of globalization is accompanied by a process called ethnic revival that represent “that attitude of claiming one's own diversity that leads to rediscover a cultural identity that becomes central in addressing individual and collective needs. It is the manifestation of political, cultural, economic and social needs arising from a reaction to the homologation of the culture caused, in particular, by the process of globalization” (Cesareo V, 2000).

According to the Permanent Court of International Justice a minority community is considered “a group of persons living in a given territory sharing a common race, religion, language and/or traditions in a sentiment of solidarity, with a view to preserving their own common traits.

According to Snow (2001) and Huddy (2003) group identities are based on a shared sense of “we-ness” based on real or imagined attributes among fellow group members in contrast to one, or more, actual or imagined “others.” To be activated, collective identity has to be recognised from inside as well as from outside. Therefore, what is important in the analysis of collective identity, after acknowledging the features that characterized one group in contrast to another (religion, traditions, language etc) , is the level of importance toward a membership of the collective group, which usually influences the group’s members’ readiness to view themselves and act in terms of their group membership (Huddy, 2003). Scholars identify different elements as the main characteristics of an ethnic identity, which distinguish it from other types of collective identities. Walker Connor (1993), a primordialist, for instance, considers common ancestry as the main feature for the existence of a ethnic identity. Contrary to Walker Connor’s argument, Triandafyllidou (1998) argued that the existence of group identity cannot be summarized only with the belief of common descent, but must include criteria such as culture, myths, traditions, language and religion to differ one nation from the other.

Italy is one of the European countries that has a widely homogenous population: 92% of the total population identifies itself as ethnically Italian (The Translation Company, 2008). Officially in Italy only linguistic minorities are recognised and protects by an ad hoc legislation: The Law n. 482 of the 15/12/1999, "Rules on the protection of historical linguistic minorities ". The law recognizes a total



of twelve "historical" linguistic minorities and legislates their protection¹: Albanians, Catalans, Croats, French, Francoprovenzals, Friulians, Germans, Greeks, Ladins, Occitans, Sardinians, Slovenes. These groups represent about the 5%² of the total population and are groups that have been settled on the territories that nowadays are administratively and politically part of Italy for centuries; among these groups we can identify native speakers (mostly those who live along the national border areas) such for instance Friulians and Sardinians and foreign communities that have settled in Italy as a result of ancient migration processes and territorial conquests such as Croats and Greeks (Italian Ministry of the Interior, 2019).

In addition to the linguistic minorities, in Italy there are also the communities formed by immigrant groups (Milazzo, E. 2013). Since the 70's, Italy turned into an emigration country and began to record what was evidently a "new phenomenon" at that time: the arrival of foreign immigrants from the less developed countries of the world, which led to a progressive growth of foreign presence in Italy (Institute Stensen, 2015). "Despite the progressive transformation of Italy into a country of immigration, the institutions have underestimated the process itself and as consequences it was not ruled managed for long time". This approach at the phenomena led Italy to the migration crisis started in 2013. The crisis was mostly caused by a very uncoordinated management of migratory flows, characterized by "a general climate of bureaucratic, legislative and administrative disorganization" (Di Pasquale, L, 2013).

The immigrants' communities are precisely the groups to which the greatest episodes of racism and discrimination are directed. The aim of this report is to highlight immigrant's communities issues, needs and level of integration within the country; their living conditions will be compared with those of young Italians in order to describe more precisely the phenomenon of social inclusion in Italy and reveal all the difficulties arising from discriminatory situations. Finally, the Report will be concluded with a series of successful good practices, already implemented and directed to young immigrants in order to promote their full integration in the society.

¹ Some examples of forms of protection can be: the teaching and use of the minority's language in the schools, the use of the minority language in public offices, the representation of the minority in local administrations, the transmission of radio and television programmes in the minority's language, the allocation of additional funds to the region where these minorities belong, etc.

² Numbers regarding linguistic minorities in Italy: Sardu-speakers (official language of the Sardinian Island) 1.3 million (2%), Friulians 700,000 (1.2%), South Tyrolean German-speakers 290,000, Roma/Gypsies 80,000–150,000, French and Franco-Provençal speaking Aostans language 90,000, Slovenes 50,000–183,000, Occitans 50,000, Ladins 31,500–33,000, Catalans 28,500, Greek-speakers 2,500–20,000 and Croatians 2,000–2,400 (Minority Rights Group International, 2020)



2. Statistical Data

In the following section, an analysis of statistical data regarding foreign communities in Italy will be carried out. The main macro categories that will be analysed are: presence and distribution of foreign communities in Italy, level of education and school drop-out, employability and marginalization in the labour market.

The aim of this chapter is to deduce the level of integration of young immigrants through the analysis of the above-mentioned dynamics compared to the equivalent data related to Italian youths.

2.1 Presence and distribution of foreign communities.

According to the Italian National institute of statistic (ISTAT), the total population in Italy on 31st December 2019 was equal to 60.359.346 and the foreign population to 5.255.503, representing the 8,7% of the total population. Among these data, the number of young people in Italy between 18-25 years old is 4.786.752 of which 520.224 are young immigrants (ISTAT, 2019). Of the 5.2 million foreign citizens living in Italy, more than 2.6 million (50.2%) are European (of which 1.6 million come from EU countries), 1.1 million come from African countries (21.7%, mainly from North and West African countries) and 1.1 million (20.8%) from Asia. The American continent has about 380 thousand residents in Italy (7.2%), mainly from Central and South America (6.9%). The national origins of the foreigner communities present in Italy varies, but only 14 of them count more than 100 thousand residents. The Romanian community is the most prevalent in terms of numbers with 1.2 million residents (23% of the total immigrants) followed by the Albanian citizens (441 thousand, 8.4%), Moroccans (423 thousand, 8%), Chinese (300 thousand, 5.7%) and Ukrainians (239 thousand, 4.6%). In the last 15 years the Filipino community has almost tripled its number, reaching a total of 168 thousand presences (+0.3% compared to 2017). For the other communities most represented, there was an increase of immigrants coming from Bangladesh (140 thousand), Egypt (127 thousand), Pakistan (122 thousand), Nigeria (117 thousand) and Senegal (110 thousand). On the contrary, the number of Moldovan (129 thousand) and Ecuadorian citizens decreased (80 thousand). The slowdown in the growth of some nationalities of older settlements was influenced by the acquisition of Italian citizenship (almost 113 thousand in 2018), and by the choice to move to other countries. (Epicentro, 2019).

The distribution of foreign citizens in the country is not uniform as well, with 86% of foreigners living



in the North and Central regions of Italy while 14% live in the Southern part of Italy. That can be explained simply by the fact that northern Italy is richer and more industrialized compare with the South (Di Pasquale L, 2013).

2.2 level of education and school drop-out

In this paragraph will be briefly address the topic related to education and qualifications. The 28.3% of foreign youths in the 15-29 age group (280 thousand people) are enrolled in school or university compared to 48.8% of Italian peers. In particular, if we consider that among youth immigrants 23% are youths from EU countries, we can conclude that the percentage of youth immigrants belong to non-EU countries in education is quite low. In addition, considering the 15-29-year-old youths not enrolled in school or university, just less than 3% of foreigners and 5.4% of Italians participate in other training activities (such as private courses). (Ferrucci G, and Galossi E, 2017)

When analyzing the level of education among Italians and foreigners some differences can be highlighted. Among foreigners, only 47.9% have at least an upper secondary school diploma (or equivalent) and only 12.4% have a tertiary degree, compared to 63.3% and 20.1% among Italians. Another relevant data for the analysis concerns the early school leaving, which is much more accentuated among young foreigners: 37.6% against 12.3% of Italians, this clearly has a strong impact on the possibility of social inclusion of young immigrants. (ISTAT, 2019).

The most alarming figure in term of youths living condition in Italy is represented by the data related to young NEETs between the 15 and 29 years old. According to UNICEF3 Italia, in a study entitled "The silence of the Neet. Young people hovering between renunciation and desire4", young NEETs in the 15-29 age group are 2.116.000 and represent 23.4% of the total number of young people in the country. The majority of Italian NEETs have an upper secondary school diploma (49%), 40% have lower levels of education while 11% of young people who are totally inactive are graduates. Of the total, 14.5% of young NEETs are immigrants (UNICEF, 2019).

³ UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Fund) is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children in 192 countries among the world

⁴ based on data from Eurostat and ISTAT 2018



2.3 Employability and marginalization in the labour market

Regarding employability aspects, employment and activity rates are higher among foreigners young people aged 15-29. In particular, the employment rate stands at 36.3% while among Italian peers it is equal to 27.7%. It should be noted, however, that the employment rate for youths coming from EU countries is equal to 43.1% while that for youths from non-EU countries is 33.6%. The unemployment rate in the 15-29 age group is slightly higher among Italians and is around 30% of the labour force, while among foreigners the overall figure is 27.5%, of which, however, 23.3% are EU citizens and 29.5% are non-EU citizens. These data show that young foreigners with EU citizenship are more employed than the same age as Italians and non-EU citizens, with relatively lower unemployment rates. (Fiorucci G. and Galossi E, 2017)

Although from the data discussed above it seems that young foreigners find work more easily than Italians, it is essential to point out the disadvantages arising not only from an unemployed status but also those deriving from precarious conditions and/or do very low paid jobs.

To sum up, it is necessary to highlight the dual aspect of the labour market in Italy and the distribution in the different labour sectors according to people's citizenship. In terms of employment, the foreign presence in the labour market is more concentrated in the productive sectors and in less qualified jobs (in particular in the sectors of family services, agriculture, workers' professions, industry, unskilled labour, street vendors, the hotel sector as waiters and/or help cooks and dishwashers etc.). A segmentation that is also visible within the sectors themselves: in the trade sector, for example, foreigners in the 7% of cases perform high-skilled jobs and in 31.3% low specialisation professions (Italians 21.7 and 6.0%, respectively) (ISTAT, 2019).



3. The needs of the target group

In this section those phenomena of discrimination affecting young Italian citizens and young people belonging to immigrant communities will be deeply described in order to map the needs of these groups.

According to a study called "Inequalities in Italy" (2019) carried out for GCAP, which is the Italian section of a global movement aim at contrasting the mechanisms that generate poverty, done by ENGIM⁵ and FOCSIV⁶, in Italy there is a growing inequality among different social groups and the persistence of racial/gender/intergenerational discrimination. According to ISTAT (2017), the most discriminated group in Italy is that of "low-income immigrants' families", followed by "low-income Italian families".

With reference to the young Italian citizens, according to the international NGO Oxfam (2020) "Italy is considered one of the countries with a strong influence of family background on the employment success of youth and the generational persistence of incomes". To be more precise, most of the youth coming from poor families have less opportunity to get tertiary education and a high-income job. However, this trend is slightly changing in the past twenty years. On the other side, youth coming from richer and more educated families have more possibility to get a high quality and level of both education and job. However, in the last twenty years the inequality among different generations is increasing. In Italy, on average, young people aged less than 29 years old who have entered the labour market in the last ten years receive a lower salary compared to the levels of their parents when they entered the labour market. Today, more than 30% of Italian youth in employment earn less than €800 gross salary per month and 13% under the age of 29 earn a very low salary (which means more or less €500,00 gross per month) (Oxfam Italy, 2020). In addition, today those young Italians who aspire to get a quality job have to deal with a profoundly unequal market, characterized by increasing job insecurity and a fragmentation of the market.

To sum up, we can say that the overall picture is marked by difficulties due to a decline in the average salary level, an increase unemployment rate among youth accompanied by a unstable job market. In addition, we are facing a marked mismatch between demand and supply of qualified work that has

⁵ ENGIM (Ente Nazionale Giuseppini del Murialdo) is an NGO which works at national and international level, at the service of young people and workers for the development of their professional experience and for their personal and social promotion.

⁶ FOCSIV (Federation of Christian Organisms International Voluntary Service) is a federation that brings together Italian non-governmental organizations of Christian inspiration active in the field of solidarity with developing countries. Today it includes 87 organizations.



forced many young graduates to leave the country for years in the absence of qualified jobs and career progression prospects. (Oxfam Italy, 2020).

On the other hand, young people belonging to immigrants' communities find themselves living even more in a situation of exclusion and marginality caused by inequalities at the level of: language barriers, employment opportunities, housing, access to local services, cultural differences, prejudice etc. These represent some of the major barriers toward the integration, which often have a negative impact on their success in the job market. Moreover, the latest Italian immigration policies, characterised by a strict control of the immigration flows, makes mutable and insecure the immigrants' legal status and consequently their future. Recently, mostly are issued short-term resident permits and the bureaucratic procedures to renew them tend to be very slow. These matters represent an obstacle under many front, for instance the possibility to work with a regular contract. This might be one of the reasons, why immigrants without a regular permit to stay are often "employed" in black in agriculture, receiving a very low salary and working in a extreme low setting conditions.

Another relevant problem for many immigrants is the access of decent housing condition. Many householders do not rent their houses to foreigners especially those coming from certain countries, such as the African continent, or they refuse to sign them a regular contract (another limitation to renew the residence permit).

Regarding the access to education, it is believed that most immigrants who enter Italy are poorly educated and often from rural areas. However, even those with an adequate schooling level, find enormous difficulties in obtaining the recognition of their degrees. This lead highly educated migrants to get non-qualified jobs. In conclusion, there are less job opportunities for migrants, even for those with a high level of education due to the issued explained above.

This context can be explained mostly by the fact that during the last decade, the reactions among the native Italian population towards immigrants have become increasingly hostile. More and more frequently episodes and feelings of xenophobia and racism against immigrants have been registered and expressed. That's because many Italians feared that immigration led to an increase of crimes, others feared it would threaten their cultural identity, others are afraid that migrants working in the formal or informal economy could become competitive, thus "stealing" their jobs. But those thoughts are not the same toward all immigrants: indeed, according to the nationality immigrants are classified as better or worse. These are only few examples, but they represent the result of prejudices and



stereotypes developed in Italy during these years, mainly due to general discontent and frustration and often even used by politicians through propaganda in the media (Cesareo, V. 2000).



4 Best Practices Research

We have searched for best practices about promoting peaceful interaction and tolerance among young people of native and ethnic minorities, there are a lot for the minorities it self but not only for the target group 18 -25. So we decided to add few other best practices that have different target group.



**National Best practices of ethnic minority youths
in matter of social inclusion with the use of digital tools**

Name:	„I’m not racist but...” - YOUTH EXCHANGE PROJECT
When:	Start: 01-02-2018 – End: 31-01-2019
Where:	Took place in Itri (Province of Latina, Italy)
Who:	“Esplora” which is a Non-governmental organisation
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the emancipation and self-esteem of the participants; - Improvement of skills in foreign languages; - Enhancement of the intercultural reaction; - Greater motivation to take part in non-formal training in the period following this exchange.
Stakeholders of the project:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shokkin Group Norge (Norway) - Just an Idea (Finland) - Mittetulundusühing Hea Hombre (Estonia) - Stichting Shokkin' Group Netherlands (Netherlands) - Awesome People (Sweden)
Beneficiaries:	36 participants, between 18 and 25 years old
Funding:	Erasmus+ KA1 Youth
Description:	Erasmus+ KA1 Youth
Results achieved:	<p>“I am not a racist but ...” was a project for the promotion of intercultural education among young people, born from the need to contain the growing hatred towards migrants who arrive in Europe and reflecting on the hidden meaning of the now famous phrase “I’m not a racist, but ...”</p> <p>Often people are unaware of the real facts, what is behind the stories of migrants and what they have faced to reach Europe. Through the methodology of creative and collective narrative, they have spread the stories lived by migrants in order to encourage the integration process, promoting intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and solidarity.</p>
Tools use:	During the mobility some of the participants made a video testimony of the exchange.
Website:	LINK
Contacts:	info@esploriamo.org



Name:	Sharing Identities - YOUTH EXCHANGE PROJECT
When:	Start: 01-07-2014 – End: 30-11-2014
Where:	Palermo (Italy)
Who:	“ PER ESEMPIO ”: a non-profit association that was born in Palermo in 2011
Objectives:	The general objective of the exchange is to increase knowledge of the origins of the cultures of belonging discovering the similarity with the culture of the other in the direction of a cross-cultural training of participants.
Stakeholders of the project:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forum Connecting Cultures in Morocco (Morocco) - Waseela For Training and Development (Egypt) - Asociation Juvenil Intercambia (Spain)
Beneficiaries:	24 young people between 18-25 years old.
Funding:	Erasmus + KA1 Youth
Description:	The exchange promotes the dialogue between young people with different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds and also to disseminate essential European social cultural and civic values, such as equality, tolerance and respect.
Results achieved:	participants acquired personal, interpersonal and intercultural knowledge and skills, requirements and a better reading of the complexity of modern reality.
Tools use:	During the exchange, non-formal education tools like self-awareness exercises, role playing, and simulation activities will be organized in order to bring out the similarities between the participants cultures identifying and valuing the differences. The project aims to enhance the attitudes of self-esteem and confidence, self-knowledge and awareness of one’s own emotions, and the quality of interpersonal communication and the development of a self-critical attitude, thus developing a sense of responsibility towards the community and developing of active citizenship.
Website:	webiste
Contacts:	info@peresempioonlus.org

Name:	META – Minorities Education Through Art
When:	Start: 01.11.2015 - end of the project 07.2018
Where:	Italy, Spain, Belgium and Germany



Who:	University of Florence (Italy)
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To increase the access to education - Improvement of pedagogical approach and didactics - Enhance active citizenship, foster intercultural dialogue and social cohesion.
Stakeholders of the project:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation (IYMF) - Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi - University of Firenze, Department of Education and Psychology - Foundation Pfefferwerk - ERIO European Roma Information Network - MUS-E network Belgium Germany Italy and Spain - ATEE -Association for Teacher Education in Europe
Beneficiaries:	<p><u>Primary target group:</u> children aged between 5-11 belonging to minorities groups, especially Roma, and children with a migrant background who are vulnerable to social exclusion, marginalization and discrimination. In details:</p> <p><u>Secondary target groups:</u> Teachers, Public and Private Educational authorities, Representatives of Cultural Centres and Civil Society organisations working with minorities groups, Parents' Associations.</p>
Funding:	Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme KA3
Description:	The project META aims at fostering intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and social inclusion among children belonging to minorities groups aged between 5-11 by using an innovative educative methodology based on the practice of the arts to learn curricular subject while fostering social inclusion and multicultural values.
Results achieved:	Interact, consult and engage with a wide range of stakeholders, institutions and public authorities in order to provide them with evidence-based tools. Enhance access, participation and completion of young students, belonging to a minorities group in Education.
Tools use:	E-learning, recognition of prior learning, flexible learning pathways, that deliver the right skills and competences required in the labour market, dual-systems of education, open educational resources, Arts integration.
Website:	website
Contacts:	info@meta-project.eu - cinzialaurelli@gmail.com

Name:	PeopleFusion
When:	2013 - 2015
Where:	La Spezia, Liguria - Italy



Who:	Coordinator: Municipality of La Spezia
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To build an information platform (People Fusion) where the authors are both the Municipality and the native and foreign citizens (users), offering the user content and support tools in their own language. - To strengthen the network culture and participation of the territory, through technological innovations and the enhancement of human capital towards a smart and learning city. - To give a leading role to young migrants in schools and to women in continuous training as bearers of innovation and social cohesion, contributing to co-construct knowledge and skills to overcome the digital divide. - To give life to the non-virtual component of the platform, as an accessible, mutual and known space where to turn in case of integration difficulties and during the daily life.
Stakeholders of the project:	<p>Municipality, Open World Cooperative, volunteers and migrant communities.</p> <p>The private social actors involved are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immigrant Solidarity Committee - Open World Social Mediation Cooperative (which has carried out the feasibility research of this project) - ACLI - CARITAS - Dominican, Romanian, Ecuadorean, Senegalese, Albanian communities - Volunteer Service Centre Living Together - AIDEA Association for Adult Education
Beneficiaries:	Resident immigrant community and young immigrants aged 15-30 years old.
Funding:	<p>The Municipality of La Spezia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Immigrant Solidarity Committee" (a network of cultural associations) - Co-financing of intercultural mediation awarded by public call for tenders - Other funds from projects whose objectives are the reception, integration and active citizenship of foreign citizens living in the municipality - Co-financing is also provided with Municipality's human resources involvement - Crowdfunding managed by local third sectors realities - Individual and corporates' donations
Description:	<p>The PeopleFusion project aims to develop an user friendly information technology platform that converts the characteristics and the functionalities of social networks, in tools to promote social inclusion for young immigrants. The platform will function as a "service accelerator" already offered by the municipality of La Spezia. In particular, the platform has been developed to offer support in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - basic registry services (necessary to maintain the state of legality in the country) - Primary, secondary school and Permanent Territorial Centres (future CPAs)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social work and welfare - Health (prevention, emergency, care, mental health) - Work (demand/offer, licences, etc.). - Lifelong learning (distance, mobile, web group learning for adults, especially illiterate foreign women) - Solidarity between people and volunteering
Results achieved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated the map of public and private services present on the city (e.g. Prefecture, Consulates and Embassies). - 40% increase in the number of users of online services in the Municipality - Reduction of bureaucratic procedures by at least 30% - Improved knowledge and understanding of the Municipality's Service Charter by both the foreign and the indigenous population. - Renewed a "Pact for Integration" at local level by launching a communication campaign - Trained 150 social workers from different backgrounds, 25% of whom are intercultural mediators or other operators working daily in the field of migration in the use of the platform - Increase of 20% in the competence of the Italian language among residents of foreign origin, in particular women of Muslim origin. - Increased the role of young people as "bridges between generations and cultures" within the school and the family. - Train 150 teachers to use the platform - Creation of spontaneous and coordinated aggregations of users-authors of the platform content in dedicated spaces (Municipality, Parish, Social Centre) - Creation of entrepreneurship hotbeds (start-ups) for young Italians and foreigners not in employment
Tools use:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of central software - Mobile applications - Interactive kiosk - Video guides - Structures for geolocation - Text content in QR code - Computer literacy courses
Website:	webiste
Contacts:	Responsible for the project: Valeria Fanfani valeria.fanfani@comune.sp.it

Name:	Digital Inclusion - Digital tools for the inclusion of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
When:	2018
Where:	Adria Rovigo, Veneto - Italy
Who:	Caritas



Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to strengthen cooperation and networking between some of the countries currently most affected by the issue of asylum seekers; - to test new and innovative practices in the field of education and training of specific target groups; - to promote the integration of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants through the enhancement of skills that improve their social and labour market inclusion in the host country; - To implement the use of Open Educational Resources to provide migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with digital training tools.
Stakeholders of the project:	SPRAR (Organise reception structure System for Asylum seekers and Refugees) and volunteer associations
Beneficiaries:	Young immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers
Funding:	Caritas own funding and European funds
Description:	<p>"Digital Inclusion - Digital tools for the inclusion of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers" is designed and implemented by a network of eight partners from six European countries (Spain, Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, Greece and Cyprus). The aim of the project is to use new digital technologies to promote the inclusion of young immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers providing them with a specific set of skills that must be valued and made useful in the society of arrival.</p>
Results achieved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acquisition by the target group of basic computer skills (basic language skills, basic elements for job search, basic elements of immigration law, elements of entrepreneurship verified through a final test); - reinforcement of the extra-national network of collaboration between countries involved; - reached a major number of beneficiaries through the implementation of several local events.
Tools use:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - e-learning platform - classrooms already equipped with IT tools
Website:	webiste
Contacts:	info@caritasrovigo.org

5 Conclusions

As shown in the Report, the Italian social and economical context is becoming quite challenging for the young people and especially for the immigrants. The main issues are related with the extreme job and social precariousness to which the new generations are exposed today. There are thousands of young people, including those with an high level of education, who are unable to build a satisfactory career path, often trapped in temporary employment relationships, suspended between



precariousness and uncertainty of the future. As widely described in the report we are facing an generational gap between young people and their parents, who at the same ages, had more chances to get a stable and better paid job. Thus, improving the living conditions guaranteed to them by their parents is increasingly difficult. The influence of family backgrounds also has an increasing impact on people's choices: the advantages (or disadvantages) linked to the family of origin, in fact, have an increasing weight on the educational path and the success in the job market. Today, a significant part of young immigrants, especially those who leave the school earlier, experience (even more than young Italians) unstable, unskilled and precarious jobs.

To sum up, it is useful to apply the findings of Ferrucci and Galossi 'study (2017) according to which there three main structural elements that characterised the social and economical disadvantaged context in which we live.

- a dual labour market that divides insiders (with better protections and wages), from outsiders (mostly young people and foreigners, with precarious and low paid jobs);
- the discriminatory and racist attitudes that begin in the selection of the candidate for the job and during the recruitment process, up to the definition of the tasks;
- an institutional framework which is often obsolete, if not openly hostile, and which greatly limits the possibility of leaving on equal terms with one's peers (in Italy, for example, the regulations on the acquisition of citizenship)".

Therefore, there is an increasing need to start and build a successful integration and social inclusion processes. Integration is a key feature to provide youth with an equal access to opportunities, so the future is not written in the colour of people's skin or from the geographical and/or social origins of their parents.

In this regard, among the various instruments that can promote social inclusion, intercultural dialogue is one of those that would enable young people to become central actors of change. Social inclusion can shorten the "bridges" among young Italians and immigrants in order to turn diversity from something to be afraid of, into a point of strength. A successful future, in a multicultural society, mean to encourage the birth of a constructive dialogue and an exchange of ideas from which to create a new future, together.



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