



CASE STUDY



Monitoring camps and agreements in the framework of externalisation policies

The project aims to lay out a structure/framework for the establishment of a pan-European observatory (especially Italy) monitoring the externalisation of migration related activities such as the management of refugee camps in countries of transit and, possibly, of origin. The creation of a network of NGOs (under ARCI ownership and coordination) which keep a close eye on how EU agencies, EU institutions and EU Member States finance refugee camps is essential to grasp the legal mechanisms and identify potential infringements of fundamental rights. The dissemination of information and documentation regarding bilateral agreements and summits (Khartoum, Valetta, and Istanbul) is a crucial means of highlighting this growing (but not new) trend of border management and alerting public opinion and institutions (European Court of Human Rights) of breaches of fundamental rights.

National partners

ASGI, Caritas, Eritrea Democratica, Agenzia Habeisha, Lunaria



International partners

Forum Social Maghreb-Mashreck, Euromediterranean Network for Human Rights, Migreurop, FIDH, Forum Droits Economique et Sociaux (Tunisia), Alternative Niger (Niger), Amara (Egypt), MDM Belgique, Niger field programme.





SHORT SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

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DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ORGANISATION

ARCI, the largest Italian association, is active in the field of social intervention for the defence of fundamental rights and aims to promote popular democratic participation and participatory democracy. It has around 1,200,000 members, 126 local committees, 20 regional committees and around 5,800 community centres. Financial resources come from membership fees (45%), private companies' sponsorships (21%), projects funded by public bodies at European, national, regional and local level (25 %), private donors (6

%,) and other sources (3%). All local and national immigration-related activities are coordinated and networked by the Italian Interior Ministry.

PROJECT

What are the local social realities?

The growing political and security instability in Libya and in the Horn of Africa is increasing migratory flows and departures. The saturation of migratory routes through the Balkans and Greece has refocused attention on the central route. This has prompted the Italian government, and EU Member States and EU agencies to consider and develop a series of measures to curb the flow of arrivals and departures. ARCI is deeply concerned about the creation of camps and 'hotspots' at European external borders and the handing over of security responsibilities and border control management to transit countries, such as Egypt and Tunisia, and these concerns prompted it to launch this project. Although the project does not focus on issues related to integration in the host countries, such as Italy for instance, it goes a step further by looking at what could be put in place by civil society to map out the process and act as watchdog in the case of recurrent failures to uphold fundamental rights in camps partly funded by Member States (and therefore EU taxpayers).

What are the specific innovative elements in your project/service?

The project offers an analysis of official and non-official positions and binding (non) legal agreements by Italian and transnational partners, including meetings of European institutions (Commission - Council and Parliament) and monitoring negotiations involving countries of origins,





such as the Khartoum process.

This project aims to set up an informal network that follows developments in the construction of camps at the external borders of the European Union with the efficient and coordinated collaboration of civil society representatives from third countries. There have been concerns, based on the analysis and inputs of partners, that there have been endemic violations of fundamental rights in reception systems such as Choucha and Saloum in addition to the Italian centres of Mineo and Crotone.

One of its aims is to gain a thorough understanding of the political-social context of countries such as Niger, Sudan and Tunisia, which have announced the creation of (EU funded) camps. Furthermore, the aim is to encourage meetings between Italian organisations, in collaboration with international networks, in order to provide an opportunity to develop concrete proposals, (to be promoted with the Italian institutions).

National associations, European networks and organisations in third countries also need to be involved in order to identify and coordinate a common strategy. The Italian organisations involved with ARCI projects, and participants in the first Sabir project, should also be consulted in view of their know-how acquired over years of delivering services to refugees.

Another innovative element is the creation of monitoring tools for policy proposals regarding refugee camps and the externalisation of search and rescue operations and border management. A Strategy Paper with proposals for alternative policies on border management and hosting policies will be created as a complementary tool for advocacy activities at national, European and international level. Another element of the project is to establish the frameworks (legal and logistical) to enable field missions that can mo-

onitor conditions in the given camps and other search and rescue operations externalised to third countries' and transit countries' authorities.

What are the key characteristics of the project/service?

Target groups

Database of organisations at national and international levels active on the issue of externalisation of asylum and border management policies

Principles

Interactive Platform spreading information and news to citizens.

Drivers

The growing political and security instability in Libya and in the Horn of Africa is increasing migratory flows and departures. This has prompted the Italian government, and EU Member States and EU agencies to consider and develop a series of measures in order to curb the flow of arrivals and departures. The creation of camps and 'hotspots' at European external borders and the handing over of security responsibilities and border control management to transit countries, such as Egypt and Tunisia, is of deep concern to ARCI and prompted it to launch this project.

Outcome

Policy recommendations of alternative practices to be presented to official authorities involved in the externalisation of asylum and border management policies. The outcomes expected are that recommendations and proposals developed in this project will foster the real prioritisation of policies that will benefit





European Member States and partner countries while civil society organisations, directly or indirectly, deliver services in refugee camps.

Can this project be transferred to a larger context (a bigger region, the whole country, EU-wide)? If so, what is necessary to transfer it (special structures, finances, common definition of standards...)? If not, why not?

Successfully implemented, this project can reduce efficiency risks and structural deficiencies whilst maximising its scope and long-term sustainability. The common use of systems to exchange news and information on externalised policies of border management and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations can benefit advocacy and reduce conflicting positions. Additionally, the project will allow the creative convergence of opportunities for communications between transnational organisations working on the issue of the externalisation of migration related affairs. ARCI ownership and coordination of this project will also benefit other NGOs at a more supranational level. The maximum involvement of national organisations, dealing with social affairs related issues, is designed to give greater resonance to the project and the values it represents: fundamental rights for people crossing the Mediterranean.

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SOLIDAR, together with our national members and partners, has developed 17 case studies in 2016, presenting innovative, effective, sustainable and tailor made models to promote social inclusion, the social economy and quality job creation by adapting a social investment approach. In their daily work, SOLIDAR members and partners anticipate new or unmet needs of socio-economically vulnerable people and empower them to actively participate in society and to access the labour market.

These case studies gather strong evidence of the social impact of the activities undertaken by our members and partners to help Member States making progress towards the achievement of the social and employment objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the implementation of the Social Investment Package.

SOLIDAR is a European network of membership based Civil Society Organisations who gather several millions of citizens throughout Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the values of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the three main policy sectors; social affairs, lifelong learning and international cooperation.



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