



Good practices in welcoming refugees in Italian Municipalities

adhering to SPRAR network (Italian protection system for refugees and asylum seekers)

In Italy, **2.430 Municipalities**, having less than **5.000 inhabitants** suffer from youth depopulation, an unstoppable regression. ISTAT (Italian institute of statistics analyses) calculated an amount of 2 billion of houses **are abandoned** in these areas. Welcoming a measured number of refugees in towns populated mainly from elders, can make the difference, bringing life back to these small communities.

It's good to mention, at this stage, the story of **Camini**, a small town of **800 inhabitants** in the Locride region. Locride is an area of Calabria (Italy) around the town of Locri in the Province of Reggio Calabria. The term take origin from the ancient Locris, an ancient greek region. It is divided into 4 areas: Vallata dello Stilaro · Vallata del Torbido · Epizefiri · Vallata del Bonamico · Heracleum. **National Geographic** crew made a documentary about the town's reborn thanks to **80 people** coming from **Syria** and **Africa**.

There refugees repopulated school classrooms and streets of an ex- vanishing town. Among Locride's municipalities that are opening their doors to refugees, there are also the towns of Gioiosa Jonica, Stignano, Benestare and Africo. In total there are **twelve** Municipalities adhered to the **SPRAR network**.

This is a welcoming practice based of proportional hosting system open to local communities, the real actors and leaders of this type of welcoming are Mayors.

Also on the other side of Italy, in **Canavese** Region, a subalpine geographical and historical area of North-West Italy which lies today within the Metropolitan City of Turin in Piedmont, there are Municipalities that are welcoming foreigners, like Chiesanuova, a small mountain town located at 600 meters on the sea level in which empty houses are more than inhabitants, the municipality rented from owners, housing that are hosting immigrants, which, in return do various jobs in order to keep the town alive, in fact on **246 inhabitants**, **25 are**

LUETEC libera Università Tutte Le Età Campania

Corso Arnaldo Lucci 96, 80142, Napoli – Italy

P.IVA 07597320634

www.luetec.org

E-mail: giovillp@libero.it

Phone: +39 328 472 3610

©2018 LUETEC libera Università Tutte Le Età Campania. All rights reserved.



immigrants. The Mayor of Chiesanuova, **Giovanni Giachino** and other mayors took their personal experience in the “Europa: i rifugiati sono nostri fratelli e sorelle” summit (Europe: refugees are our brothers and sisters) held at the Pontifical Science Academy. He declared that the solidarity spirit of municipality made good hosting possible. In the city of **Asti** there’s a welcoming system based on inhabitant’s involvement, 50 refugees are hosted in local families, that in most of the cases are not Italian native. Meanwhile in **Padova** and **Rovigo** SPRAR projects already active since a certain numbers of years were confirmed.

In 2016 Italy accommodated **181.000 refugees**, but only one third of 8000 municipalities host migrants, but welcoming centres. SPRAR having about 1000 municipalities adhering to its network can barely ensure **26.000 units**. Numbers are still a modest entity, but with some institutional measures data are set to increase.

- *Source: Economy politics faculty of University la Sapienza of Rome.*

LUETEC libera Università Tutte Le Età Campania
Corso Arnaldo Lucci 96, 80142, Napoli – Italy
P.IVA 07597320634

www.luetec.org

E-mail: giovillp@libero.it

Phone: +39 328 472 3610

©2018 LUETEC libera Università Tutte Le Età Campania. All rights reserved.