

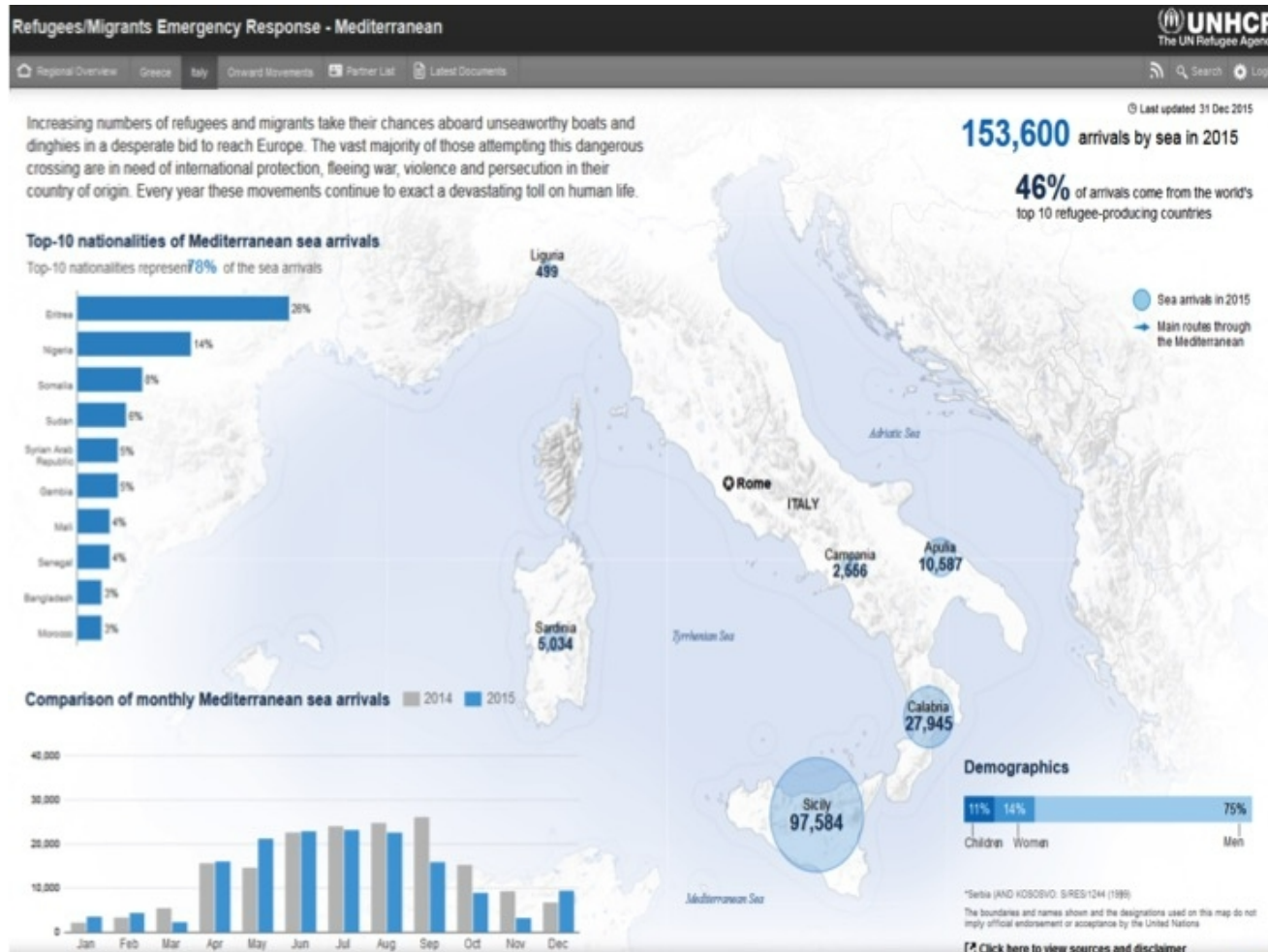
The importance of assessment of qualifications held by refugees

The Italian case

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Refugees situation in Italy / 2015

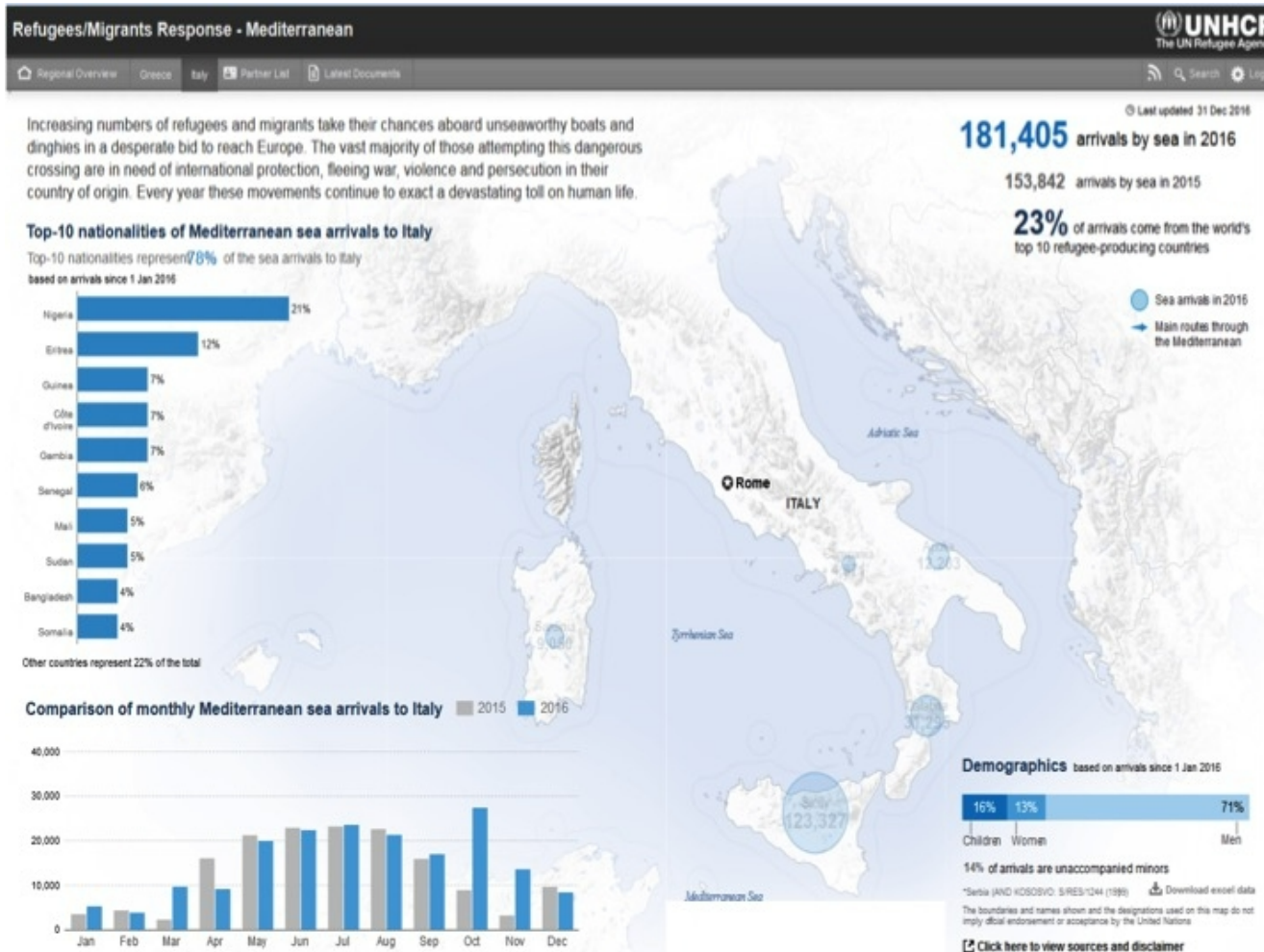


Data from UNHCR: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

Most common nationalities:

Eritrea
Nigeria
Somalia
Sudan
Syria
Gambia
Mali
Senegal
Bangladesh
Morocco

Refugees situation in Italy / 2016



Data from UNHCR: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

Most common nationalities:

Nigeria
Eritrea
Guinea
Ivory Coast
Gambia
Senegal
Mali
Sudan
Bangladesh
Somalia

Sea arrivals in 2018

6,163

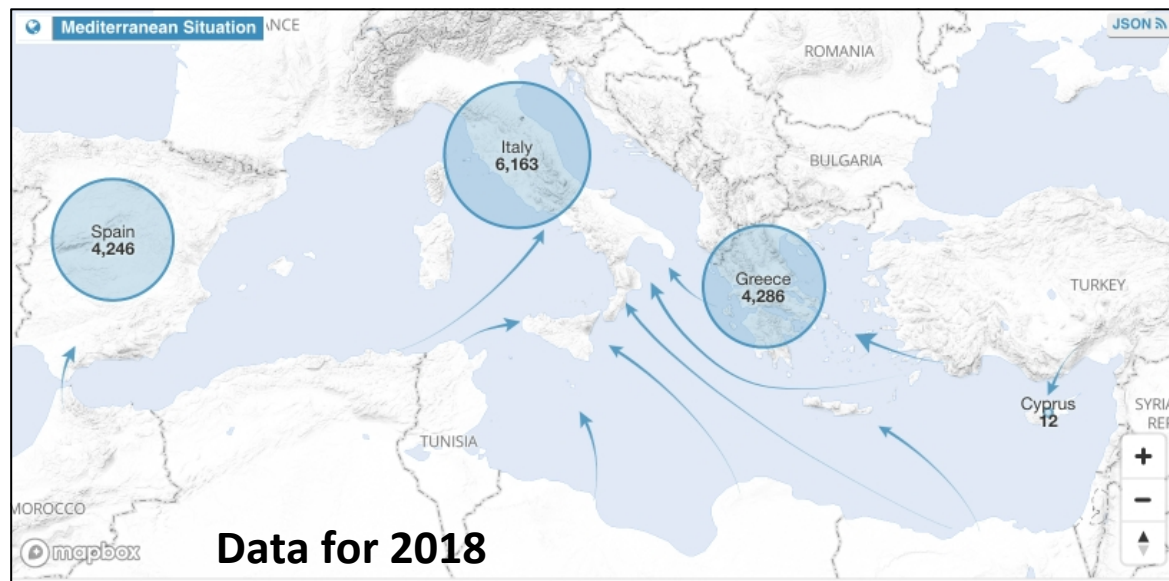
Last updated 23 Mar 2018

Previous years

Previous years	Sea arrivals	Dead and missing
2017	119,369	2,873
2016	181,436	4,578
2015	153,842	2,913
2014	170,100	3,093

Demographics (based on data from January 2017)

Men Women Children



Most common nationalities:
Nigeria, Guinea and Ivory Coast

Most common nationalities of sea arrivals (since 1 January 2017)

Country of origin	Source	Data date	Population
Nigeria		28 Feb 2018	15.6% 18,484
Guinea		28 Feb 2018	8.3% 9,878
Côte d'Ivoire		28 Feb 2018	8.2% 9,718
Bangladesh		28 Feb 2018	7.6% 9,043
Eritrea		28 Feb 2018	7.0% 8,364
Mali		28 Feb 2018	6.1% 7,256
Tunisia		28 Feb 2018	6.1% 7,211
Sudan		28 Feb 2018	5.3% 6,353
Senegal		28 Feb 2018	5.2% 6,172
Morocco		28 Feb 2018	5.2% 6,140

**Refugees situation
in Italy / 2017**

Data from UNHCR
<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

Applications for Asylum in Italy

- **2014:** 63.456 from Nigeria, Mali and Gambia
- **2015:** 83.970 from Nigeria, Pakistan and Gambia
- **2016:** 123.600 from Nigeria, Pakistan and Gambia
- **2017:** 130.119 from Nigeria, Bangladesh and Pakistan
- **2018 (28 Feb):** 5.942 from Nigeria, Bangladesh and Pakistan

Lisbon Recognition Convention

Article VII of the Lisbon Convention stipulates:

«Each Party shall take all feasible and reasonable steps within the framework of its education system and in conformity with its constitutional, legal, and regulatory provisions to **develop procedures designed to assess fairly and expeditiously whether refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation** fulfil the relevant requirements for access to higher education, to further higher education programmes or to employment activities, even in cases in which the **qualifications** obtained in one of the Parties **cannot be proven through documentary evidence**».

The Italian legislation concerning recognition of qualifications held by refugees

In line with the stipulation of the Lisbon Convention, Italy has adjusted its own legislation in terms of refugee qualification recognition by introducing **Legislative Decree 251/2007 Art. 26 comma 3bis (modified by L.D. 18/2014):**

«For the recognition of professional qualifications, diplomas, certificates and other foreign qualifications by holders of refugee status or subsidiary protection status, **the competent administrations must identify appropriate evaluation, convalidation and accreditation systems** which allow qualification recognition as stipulated by Art. 49 of the Presidential Decree n. 394 of 31 August 1999, **even in the absence of certification on the part of the State that in which the qualification was awarded, in cases where the interested party demonstrates the impossibility of obtaining such certification**».

Access to Higher Education in Italy

Italian higher education institutions have been invited to «to make all necessary effort to introduce internal procedures and mechanisms to evaluate refugee and subsidiary protection holder qualifications, even in cases where all or part of the relative documents certifying the qualifications are missing».

*Guidelines for access to foreign students requesting visas
for higher education courses,*
published by Ministry of Education, University and Research

Changing the method of evaluation

In case of absence of documentation or insufficient documentation that can't be directly verified, the COMPETENCES declared by the student are evaluated:

a QUALIFICATION is a FORMAL CERTIFICATE (issued by an authority) that certifies some specific COMPETENCES.

From an **INSPECTIVE PROCEDURE** to an **EVALUATION PROCEDURE**

Together with the evaluation of the competences, the **DECLARATIONS** of the candidate are verified.

The migration phenomenon and the rising number of refugees is leading to a **REVOLUTION** in our recognition system and also in mostly all European higher education systems.

NB: this sector is highly innovative, so all the existing procedures are constantly evolving and must be improved continuously.

Impact of the EQPR

The impact of the pilot phase of the EQPR project in Italy:

- Demonstrate that it is possible to assess qualifications even in case of partial and missing documentation
- Raise awareness on the need of a change in the assessment procedure and in the culture of recognition
- Full implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention
- Involve in the debate relevant stakeholders at national level
- Provide ground to establish and test a methodology in the Higher Education context

The Italian approach

A system-oriented and inclusive approach:

- Ministry of Education, University and Research
- CIMEA - Italian ENIC-NARIC centre
- Conference of Italian University Rectors - CRUI
- Higher Education Institutions

CIMEA statement of comparability
free of charge for refugees

100 scholarships per year for students with
international protection offered by CRUI
and Ministry of Internal Affairs
(a.y. 2016/17 and 2017/18)

Training courses
to Italian Higher Education Institutions
on recognition procedures for refugees

National Coordination for the Evaluation of Refugee Qualifications - CNVQR

Coordinamento Nazionale per la valutazione dei titoli dei rifugiati

Aim : Creating a network of experts from the administrative sector who operate inside higher education institutions and who deal with recognition of qualifications, to share evaluation procedures, problem cases, sources of information and methodological practices in cases of evaluation of qualifications held by refugees, even in cases of little or no documentation.

Main elements:

- Voluntary and auto-financed participation;
- The whole institution must be involved: membership agreement signed by the University Rector, indicating one responsible person and 2 experts;
- Activated and coordinated by CIMEA;
- More than 30 HE institutions involved.

Why a National Coordination is needed in Italy?

- In Italy **the responsibility for academic recognition procedures is in the hands of HE institutions** that are autonomous: this means that we need to create and improve internal competences within our institutions.
- It is **in line with the official status of CIMEA** that is an information centre: we do not directly manage recognition procedures, our statements have the value of non-legally binding advice and it does not entail any obligation for institutions or third parties.
- We want **to increase a “recognition culture”** at national and international level and inform our institutions on the existing rules and procedures to better prepare them for future challenges.
- Taking into account that **Italy is one of the main first arrival countries**, this topic is very sensitive at national level.

1st meeting CNVQR - 7 April 2017



❖ 25 HEIs, with the participation of the **Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research** and **UNHCR**



Implementation of the EQPR in Italy second phase of the project

- ❖ System-oriented approach
- ❖ High level of commitment by Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research also providing financial support to the project
- ❖ Involvement of key stakeholders in the Higher Education sector





Aim: access to Higher Education

Academic qualifications but also Final Secondary School Qualifications

Refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa

Higher Education Institutions:

- Multiplier effect of the project methodology and impact
- Decentralization
- Training for admission officers in HEIs

To conclude...

Thou shalt abandon all that thou hast loved
with greatest tenderness; and of its shafts
this is the one which exile's bow shoots first.
Thou shalt find out how salt another's bread
is wont to taste, and what a painful thing
is going up and down another's stairs.

(Dante Alighieri, *Divine Comedy*, Paradise XVII)



Ευχαριστώ! Grazie! Thank you!

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www.cimea.it



[@CIMEA_Naric](https://twitter.com/CIMEA_Naric)



<https://youtu.be/020sJzh5uJs>