

VALERIA
MIGRANTI

TESTIAMO
UMANI

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List of abbreviations

ARCI	<i>Associazione Ricreativa e Culturale Italiana</i>	Italian Recreational and Cultural Association
ASGI	<i>Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione</i>	Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration
CARA	<i>Centro per Richiedenti Asilo</i>	Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers
CAS	<i>Centro di Accoglienza Straordinaria</i>	Extraordinary Reception Centre
CDA	<i>Centro di Accoglienza</i>	Reception Centre
CIE	<i>Centro di Identificazione ed Espulsione</i>	Identification and Espulsion Centre – Detention Centre
CPA	<i>Centro di Prima Accoglienza</i>	First Reception Centre
CPT		Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CPT	<i>Centro di Permanenza Temporanea</i>	Centre of Temporary Residence – Detention Centre
CPTA	<i>Centro di Permanenza Temporanea e Assistenza</i>	Centre of Temporary Residence and Assistance – Detention Centre
CPR	<i>Centro per il Rimpatrio</i>	Repatriation Centre – Detention Centre
CPSA	<i>Centro di Primo Soccorso e Accoglienza</i>	First Aid and Reception Centre
d.lgs	<i>Decreto Legislativo</i>	Legislative Decree
EASO		European Asylum Support Office
IMO		International Maritime Organization
IOM		International Organisation for Migration
ISPI	<i>Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale</i>	Italian Institute for International Political Studies
MEDU	<i>Medici per i Diritti Umani</i>	Doctors for Human Rights – Italy
NGO		Non Governmental Organization
NPM		National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of Liberty
OLAF	<i>Office Européen de Lutte Anti-Fraude</i>	European Anti-Fraud Office
SAR		Search and Rescue
SIPROIMI	<i>Sistema di Protezione per i Titolari di</i>	Protection System for Beneficiaries of International Protection and for

	<i>Protezione Internazionale e Minori Stranieri non Accompagnati</i>	Unaccompanied Foreign Minors
SPRAR	<i>Sistema di Protezione per Richiedenti Asilo e Rifugiati</i>	Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees
UMF/UMR	<i>Unbegleitete Minderjährige Geflüchtete</i>	Unaccompanied Refugee Minors
UNCLOS		United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNHCR		United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. Foreword by borderline-europe

Dear readers of the Sicily Report!

This report focuses on the effects of the changes in the asylum system in accordance with the adopted "Decreti Sicurezza", the Security Decrees of 2018. Although there has been a new Italian government – named after the Prime Minister Governo Conte 2 –, the laws from the first Conte government to date have been neither abolished nor fundamentally changed. This has profound consequences for the accommodation, protection and care system for migrant men and women in Sicily and throughout Italy. This issue aims to present and analyse these changes to the present day.

When we speak of "migrants" we also include refugees. Thus, we imitate the Italian way of speaking, in so far as the fact that we make no distinction between refugees and other status-holders and non-holders. We use this designation therefore in the same way. Of course, this does not apply to the legal interpretation.

The "Libyan Coast Guard" has been put in quotation marks because there is no unified Libyan state and therefore cannot be called a single state coast guard.

This report provides an overview of the current situation and refers to further sources where appropriate. The situation is fast-moving and we have done the best to capture all its most important elements.

To stay up to date please visit our website www.borderline-europe.de or subscribe to our newsletter. On the homepage you will find our older reports and other information under the heading "Italy" and "Sea Rescue". You can also find further information about Sicily on the trilingual site of our sister association Borderline Sicily: www.borderlinesicilia.it

We hope this report will provide you with an interesting overview of the situation of the migrants in Sicily!

The editorial team of **borderline-europe**, Sicily branch

2. Introduction to Italian migration politics by Dr Jacopo Anderlini, University of Genoa

This report vividly portrays Sicily's current situation with regards to migration politics and specifically of borders administration, and sheds light on one of the key contexts of European exclusionary politics on migration. Those familiar with last year's report will notice elements of continuity as well as significant changes of the Italian regulatory framework, policies, and practices of the migratory control.

Since 2018, the new centre-right government accelerated trends that were already marking the Italian social and political context on border management and migrations. These trends can be summarised as the precarization and criminalisation of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in general and the strengthening of exclusionary policies reinforced and legitimised by an emergency frame. This acceleration and its practical repercussions on the legal framework regulating asylum and on the daily lives of migrants produced a turn in the mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion on the Italian society.

The first important change concerned both the fields of public and national security and that of migration, also creating a political discourse tending to criminalise migrants and asylum seekers. The government's so-called Security Regulation (also Security Decree) – promulgated on the 5th of October 2018¹ and converted into Law on the 1st of December² – directly affects political and civil rights, assigning discretionary powers to law enforcement to exclude “potentially dangerous” people from specific places in the urban context, and restricts asylum rights, disempowering regulations on protection and the Italian reception system.

Among the modifications directly linked to asylum, the most impactful was the structural redesign of the asylum system, with the transformation of the secondary reception network (SPRAR) into the Protection System for Beneficiaries of International Protection and for Unaccompanied Foreign Minors (SIPROIMI), which excludes asylum seekers and those with humanitarian protection status. The latter group were channelled in the pre-existing Extraordinary Reception Centres system (CAS), which, in contrast, does not offer possibilities of integration to asylum seekers compared to the SPRAR.³

In fact, the Decree also reduced asylum rights in general, abolishing humanitarian protection, one of the statuses recognised by the Italian state. Now residence permits are given only for cases requiring medical attention, calamities or “special civil merit” (both not described in detail). Humanitarian protection has been the most assigned status in 2017, a year in which, of the total 81,527 asylum requests examined, 58% were rejected, 8% received refugee status, 8% subsidiary protection status, and 25% humanitarian protection status.⁴ After the introduction of the Decree, during the last months of 2018, the number of rejected asylum requests increased to 80-85%, while humanitarian protection dropped to 3-5%.⁵ This transformation produced *de facto* a process of illegalisation of migrants, affecting particularly those entitled to humanitarian protection, making more difficult to stay within the asylum system, and without providing adequate means to secure a livelihood.

¹ <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2018/10/04/18G00140/sg>

² Law n. 132, 1st December 2018, <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2018/12/03/18G00161/sg>

³ For further information on SIPROIMI and former-SPRAR functioning <https://www.sprar.it/english>

⁴ See Interior Ministry statistics overview on asylum requests for 2017

http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/dati_asilo_2017_.pdf

⁵ See Interior Ministry statistics on asylum requests for November and December 2018

http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/dicembre_2018_.pdf

Furthermore, the same measure introduced regulation changes that increase precariousness among asylum seekers: specifically, applicants are not allowed to register as residents and obtain a document necessary to access basic health and social services. The Decree also places the burden of proof onto the asylum seeker alone, rather than sharing it between the state and applicant; it introduces fast-track procedures for nationals of so-called safe third countries, thereby reducing the time available for a fair legal assessment. It thus also permits repatriations of stateless refugees to so-called safe third countries.⁶

Thanks to another measure within the same Decree, this precariousness extends to people who acquired Italian citizenship, rather than being citizens by birth – in Italy this is also the case for the children of foreigners born in the country, who can acquire citizenship when they come of age. These citizens could now see their citizenship revoked in the case of specific law violations: a distinction that, in practice, creates first-class and second-class citizens.

The attempt to criminalise migrants is very well revealed by the increase of time spent in detention without just cause: asylum seekers can be detained for “further assessments” up to a maximum of 180 days in centres for repatriation (CPR), amounting to a deprivation of freedom in absence of a crime. This criminalisation is reflected by the extension of particular cases with which an asylum application can be rejected, or a protection can be revoked.



“Emigration is not a crime”, Demonstration Palermo, 10/02/2018. Photo: borderline-europe

The second structural change that affected the regulations on migration has been, chronologically, the promulgation of the so-called Security Decree bis dated 14th June 2019 – ratified by the Parliament and made into Law in August – which further weakened migrants’ and asylum seekers’ rights. Similarly, to the first Decree, this new law aims to regulate migration management and right to dissent in a more restrictive sense, introducing more discretionary rules for law enforcement actors. Specifically, five clauses are directed to restrain and criminalise sea rescue while giving more power to the Interior Minister. The Minister can now forbid access and transit in territorial waters to vessels for “reasons of public order and security” and in particular for alleged “abetment of irregular migration”. Besides penal charges, a fine is

⁶ <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legge:2018-10-04;113/vig>

imposed to the captain or the ship owner up to fifty thousand euros, and potentially allows for the requisition of the vessel. These measures appear to be tailored to NGO-owned vessels rescuing migrants in distress in the Mediterranean sea and, while being in blatant contrast with international regulations on sea rescue, provide the legal framework needed to forcibly hindering the activity of humanitarian vessels.

Besides the changes at a systemic level, through decrees and laws, the new turn in the governance of migration has been expressed through a series of direct acts by individual ministers, in particular the Interior Minister, that reshaped not only media and public opinion but also everyday practices and procedures on asylum. The so-called policy of “closed ports” has been enacted mainly through public announcements on social media and with circulars signed by Interior Minister and Transportations Minister to forbid NGO vessels with rescued people on board from accessing harbours. Although it is not legally possible to “close harbours” through a Ministerial circular, single directives targeted humanitarian vessels specifically, keeping them from entering ports. These government acts are at odds with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1994) and the directives of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regarding the obligation to rescue people in distress and for the closest Host State to allow and facilitate disembarkation. As has been covertly stated in the Directive no. 14100/141(8) of the 28th March 2019, international laws are suspended, invoking a presumed state of necessity caused by security risks derived from irregular migration that humanitarian rescue is accused to “facilitate”.

The process of criminalisation of migration in general and of humanitarian rescue in particular shows alarming traits not only because it increases the vulnerability of migrants and asylum seekers through securitization but also because it is founded on governing through exception.

Overall, a drastic restriction of asylum and humanitarian rights can be observed, both from a legal and a material perspective, with fewer regulations aimed at protecting migrants and a reduced asylum system with diminished funding for integration paths, alongside a dominant focus on detention, exclusion and repatriations. The increased vulnerability and structural precariousness suffered by asylum seekers and refugees leads to a process of illegalisation and they find themselves deprived of the means of subsistence. At the same time, through legislative measures and political and media discourses, any initiative of solidarity enacted by civil society, NGOs and networks of activists has been criminalised. A situation that has not evolved with the new centre-left government from September 2019, which is in effect following the previous one on migration policies, announcing that the two Security Laws will not be modified. A government that confirmed the Italian-Libyan agreement to finance the so-called Libyan coastguard and the detention centres, although the situation there has been repeatedly denounced as a brutal violation of human rights.⁷

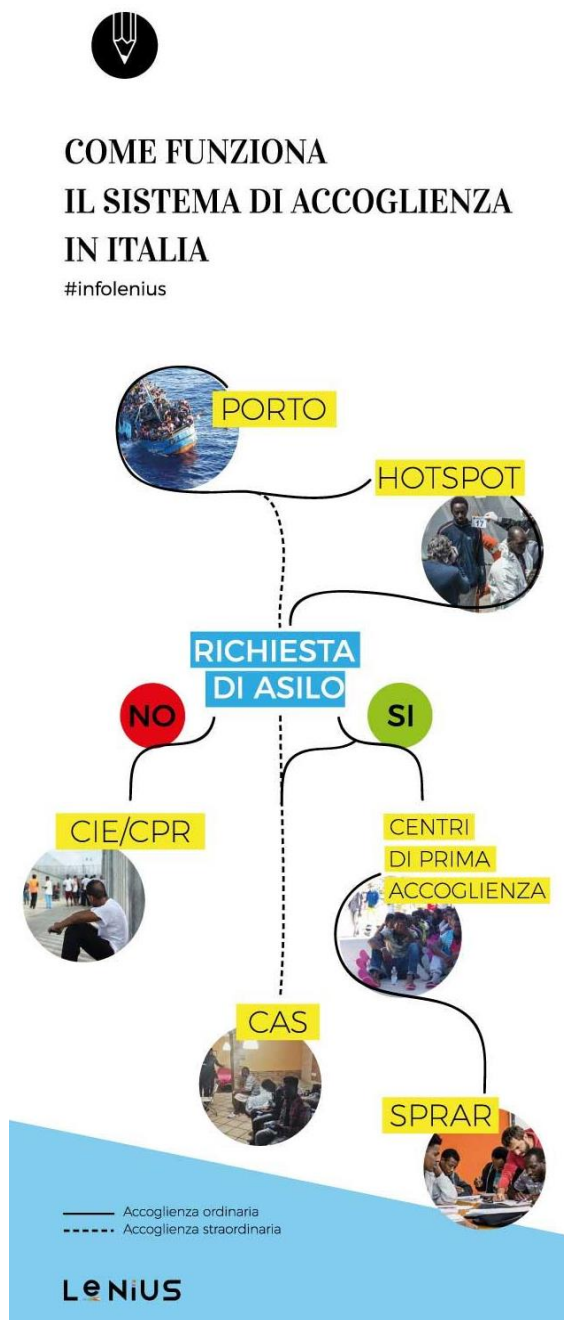
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⁷ See the open letter to the Italian government for the abolition of the Italian-Libyan agreement signed by a network of NGOs: https://www.asgi.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/LETTERA-APERTA-AL-GOVERNO-SULMEMORANDUM-CON-LA-LIBIA_DEF.pdf

3. The Italian reception system – an overview⁸



How the Italian reception system functions:

Porto	Port
Richiesta d'asilo	Asylum application
CIE/CPR	Repatriation centre
Centri di prima accoglienza	Anchor centre/ first point of entry
CAS	Emergency reception centre
SPRAR	Secondary reception centre, from 2018 SIPROIMI

⁸ <https://www.lenius.it/sistema-di-accoglienza-dei-migranti-in-italia/2/>

The Italian admission and repatriation system is structured as follows:

1. The hotspots are used to identify those who have just arrived (see chapter 3.a.)
 2. The initial reception: this includes the centres for asylum seekers (CARA) (see chapter 3.b.+3.c.)
 3. The secondary reception: the protection system for persons enjoying international protection and for unaccompanied foreign minors (SIPROIMI), formerly the protection system for refugees and asylum seekers (SPRAR). With the new security law under former Minister of the Interior Salvini, the SPRAR was replaced by the SIPROIMI (see chapter 3.e.)⁹
 4. CAS were only intended to serve as a bridging system in case of overcrowding. However, an estimated 75-90% of the refugees have lived in CAS for a long time (see chapter 3.d.)
 5. Repatriation centre (CPR) (see chapter 4.)
-
- In the **HOTSPOTS** the refugees are to be identified and the asylum seekers separated from the so-called economic migrants. Actually, the refugees are supposed to be transferred to other reception centres after 48 hours, but this rarely works. The hotspots theoretically replace the system of first reception that was previously in place: centres such as **CPSA** (first aid and reception centres), **CDA** (reception centres) and **CARA** (reception centres for asylum seekers). But even the Ministry of the Interior doesn't offer much clarity here; the old centres continue to exist, and there are no uniform regulations, which makes the reception system more than obscure. "In the logic before the Salvini era, the first reception was intended to provide first aid to migrants, continue their identification and to initiate procedures to apply for international protection. Theoretically, these procedures would be swift and then asylum seekers would be assigned to SPRAR projects, i.e. second reception."¹⁰ Problem: the SPRAR system relied on the voluntary nature of the municipalities, so there was always a lack of places and many refugees were placed in CAS.
 - The former SPRAR, now renamed the Protection System for Holders of International Protection and Unaccompanied Minors (SIPROIMI), is aimed only at those who have already received a positive outcome with their asylum application (refugee status or subsidiary protection) and unaccompanied minors. As a result, a large proportion of refugees with a humanitarian residence permit and asylum seekers missed out on the opportunity to obtain a place in secondary accommodation.
 - As places in the SPRAR/SIPROIMI were not sufficient, CAS (extraordinary reception centres) were introduced, designed to be temporary structures based on Legislative Decree 142/2015. Over time, however, CAS have become the rule and reception is anything but extraordinary: it is the usual way in which refugees are accommodated today (75-90% of refugees have had to and must live in a CAS).
 - Unlike the SPRAR projects, which are managed by non-profit organisations based on the trust of the municipalities, the CAS can be managed by both profit and non-profit organisations based on the direct trust of the prefectures. Each prefecture should regularly publish bids for the award of the sponsorship.¹¹
 - The declared aim of the safety laws was to **generate savings in the reception system** and integrate those who already held an international protection title. But there can be no talk of savings. The cost of an initial reception centre like CAS and CARA are much higher than the continuous funding for a second

⁹ <https://www.lenius.it/sistema-di-accoglienza-dei-migranti-in-italia/>

¹⁰ <https://www.lenius.it/sistema-di-accoglienza-dei-migranti-in-italia/>

¹¹ www.lenius.it/sistema-di-accoglienza-dei-migranti-in-italia/

home would be. Instead, more and more large centres with many inhabitants are to be built. The reduction in costs, which the former Italian Minister of the Interior Salvini announced as “Fighting the Business: Admission”, thus leads to exactly the opposite – large facilities will in future divide up the areas among themselves, but the care of the refugees is not guaranteed. That means:

- The new security laws and the resultant creation of the SIPROIMI mean that a chance of inclusion in Italian society is massively reduced.
- Accommodation in emergency reception centres such as the CAS, which were only ever intended as temporary structures, is prolonged for refugees in the asylum procedure by the new regulations.
- The **CPR** are literally translated as “centres for the duration of stay until **repatriation**” and have replaced the **CIE** (pre-deportation centres) with the Minniti-Orlando Law.¹² As a result of the new security laws, the possible duration of detention has again increased to up to 180 days. Until then it was up to 90 days but could also be extended to 12 months.¹³

The placement of refugees in Sicily

- In Sicily there were two **CARA**: Mineo and Caltanissetta. Mineo was long considered the largest refugee accommodation in Europe and was closed in July 2019.¹⁴ The former **CPSA**¹⁵ (Lampedusa) is considered a fully functional hotspot.¹⁶ The repatriation centre Trapani Milo in the west of Sicily, which was converted into a hotspot at the end of December 2015, became a **CPR** again in October 2018.¹⁷ Another hotspot was opened in Messina in October 2017, but officially operates under the name of a CPSA. The **CPSA** centers were actually abolished with the introduction of the “hotspot system”, but there seems to be no clear line here. This again shows how confused the Italian accommodation system is. In Sicily, too, many migrants are accommodated in CAS.

Further Links:

- https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_03_BORDERLINEEUROPE_Stellungnahme_Unterbringung_ITALIEN_0.pdf
- <https://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/italy/reception-conditions/short-overview-italianreception-system>

¹² D.lgs 46/2017

¹³ www.infomigrants.net/en/post/13670/italy-clamps-down-on-immigration-as-new-security-decree-becomes-law

¹⁴ www.repubblica.it/solidarieta/immigrazione/2019/07/10/news/cara_di_mineo_ecco_perche_non_e_il_caso_di_festeggiare_230851937/

¹⁵ More about the living conditions in the former CPSA in Lampedusa: <http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2015/09/a-lampedusatrattati-come-bestie.html>

¹⁶ More detailed explanations of what a hotspot is exactly and how it differs from a CPSA <http://www.internazionale.it/notizie/2015/09/16/che-cosa-sono-gli-hotspot>, and <http://www.internazionale.it/notizie/2015/10/01/hotspot-lampedusa-migranti>

¹⁷ <https://inlimine.asgi.it/il-cpr-di-trapani-milo/>

3.a. The hotspot system

The system of hotspots was created by the EU institutions to find a political solution to the redistribution of migrants arriving in Italian ports, such as Lampedusa and Sicily (as well as Greece). The aim was to relieve countries and find a more “humane” transitional political solution.

The basis

“The Hotspots proposed by the European Commission in the European Agenda for Migration as an immediate measure ...should help member states facing disproportionate migratory pressures at the EU's external borders.” Four hotspots are currently in operation in Italy, two of them in Sicily (Pozzallo since 19/01/2016 with 300 places, Trapani since 22/12/2015 with 400 places), one on the island of Lampedusa (since 01/10/2015 with 500 places) and one in Apulia (Taranto since 29/02/2016 with 400 places). In each of these hotspots there are facilities for initial recording, identification, enrolment and fingerprinting”¹⁸

Currently, there are hotspots in Italy on Lampedusa and Pozzallo and a first reception centre with hotspot function in Messina. Another hotspot is located on the Italian mainland in Taranto.

The hotspots were introduced without legal regulation in connection with the Road Map 2015 prepared by the Italian Ministry of the Interior.¹⁹ The Road Map and the “Standard Operation Procedures” define the function and operation of the hotspots, but are not a legally effective document.²⁰

The aim of these centres is to separate a so-called “economic migrant” from a potential asylum seeker. What sounds like political will from the outside is, on closer inspection, a system of arbitrariness, surveillance and ultimately retraumatisation for the migrants. The system fails completely in humanitarian standards because there are none. The health care in hotspots like Pozzallo, Lampedusa and Messina is catastrophic, for example there is no psychological care. Migrants are deprived of existential information or documents, e.g. ones that prove they are registered as asylum seekers. There are also no legal regulations according to which the resettlement of migrants to other EU countries is distributed. The representatives of the member states who travel to Italy usually make their selection on the basis of nationality, religion, ethnicity and security, often posing questions to persons concerned that have nothing to do with their asylum application.²¹ The system of hotspots has a wearing effect on the migrants, since none of them know exactly how long he or she will have to stay there.

Meanwhile, migrants are being held in the controversial “hotspots” through which 40,000 people have passed in 2017 alone.²² Unaccompanied refugee minors (URM) are also reportedly detained in hotspots for identification purposes. This violates legislation which in theory prohibits the detention of minors, but URM

¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/pressmaterial/docs/state_of_play_-_hotspots_en.pdf

http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/hotspots_sops_-_versione_italiana.pdf

¹⁹ <http://www.meltingpot.org/IMG/pdf/roadmap-2015.pdf>

²⁰ <http://www.meltingpot.org/l-trattenimenti-illegittimi-all-interno-degli-hotspot-alla.html#nb1>

²¹ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4397:98hotspot-confinement-and-the-mirage-of-redistribution&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122

²² www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/italy

are also exposed de facto to this practice, which is contrary to human rights.²³ Italian law provides that migrants can be detained in the so-called hotspots for a maximum of 48 hours. But the practice is different: migrants who refuse to be identified or fingerprinted are detained for a much longer period. According to reports, coercive means are used in the so-called hotspots to ensure that the fingerprints are secured.²⁴ Even a simple lack of space in other centres can lead to long waiting times. Another factor that makes the refugees wait very long in the hotspots is the so-called “Malta Declaration”:

“The Memorandum of Understanding signed at the Informal Summit of Ministers of Interior of Italy, Malta, France and Germany in La Valletta on 23/09/ 2019 (“Malta Declaration”) was presented as a milestone in addressing controversies over Search and Rescue (SAR) and the disembarkation of asylum seekers and migrants in the Mediterranean”.²⁵*

After the assumption of office by the right-wing first Conte government with its Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, Italy persistently refused to allow rescue ships with fugitives on board to enter Italian ports. This was especially true for civilian sea rescuers, but also for Italian coast guard ships and Frontex units. The Malta Declaration was now supposed to speed up the distribution process after arrival in other EU states, but in fact this is not the case.²⁶

Hotspots and organised crime

A report by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) shows that in the hotspots (as in other centres as well) not everything is always done properly: hotspots and the “links with organised crime, irregularities in the management of contracts, false declarations regarding the meals for migrants - these are the grounds for which the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) in Brussels, following an investigation into the management of reception centres in 2018, recommended excluding Italy from the financing of almost 1.4 million euros from the European Refugee Fund”, the news agency ANSA Europa reported on March 03/03/2009. The maxi-survey, conducted by the District Antimafia Prosecutor's Office of Catanzaro in collaboration with OLAF, concerned 84 people suspected of “having links with mafia groups capable of manipulating public contracts and obtaining illegal public funds”.

²³ Ebda.

²⁴ Ebda.

²⁵ According to an article in Policy Insights, this agreement is more than questionable: “This Policy Insight provides a critical analysis of the Declaration and calls into question its added value in ensuring a predictable EU solidarity mechanism in the Mediterranean. It stresses that the intergovernmental and extra-EU treaty character of this initiative gives rise to a number of concerns regarding compliance with EU treaties and principles, such as those of equal solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility for asylum seekers between all member states”. To be read here:

https://www.ceps.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/PI2019_14_SCRC_Malta-Declaration-1.pdf. The text of the agreement can be found here: <http://www.statewatch.org/news/2019/sep/eu-temporary-voluntary-relocationmechanism-declaration.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/bundesregierung-hatte-aufnahme-zugesagt-deutschland-hat-bisher-keinen-migranten-dersea-watch-3-aufgenommen/25299696.html> , <https://www.investigate-europe.eu/the-forgotten-people-of-sea-watch-3/>

Hotspot Lampedusa

The center became a “hotspot” in September 2015, losing its CPSA status. It was the first hotspot in Europe, closely followed by the Greek hotspot on the island of Lesbos, which opened at the end of October 2015.²⁷



Hotspot Lampedusa, June 2019. Photo: Borderline Sicilia

The health, organisational and hygienic conditions in the Lampedusa hotspot are catastrophic. Borderline Sicilia²⁸ repeatedly denounces the inhumane conditions in the hotspot. When the migrants arrive, no phone cards are distributed to inform the relatives that they have survived. The telephones in the centre are broken, people eat on the floor or on mattresses and they wait for hours for the food to be distributed. The health conditions in the center are inhumane and all this despite the fact that on 06/10/2019 the administration of the center changed once again. The new operator Badia Grande is an organisation that has been present in various centres, from hotspots to CIE and CPR, and has now taken over the organisational management of the hotspot. Borderline Sicilia has found this management to be no better than earlier management by Facility Service and Nuova Generazione. The hotspot is constantly overcrowded and there are little to no relocations or even resettlements of the migrants.²⁹

- Between the beginning of September 2019 and mid-October 2019, 3.762 migrants arrived on Lampedusa – in the same period of 2018 there were 1.456.³⁰
- Over 70% of the migrants who were admitted to the Lampedusa hotspot arrived individually – so-called “autonomous landings”³¹ (as of September 2019).
- The maximum capacity of the structure of the hotspot is 96 places; in September 2019 alone, 160 people were accommodated in the hotspot³², in mid-October it was 400 people.³³

²⁷ https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp-hotspots-migrants-italy-220616-en.pdf

²⁸ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4475:another-summer-of-drowning-and-violations-of-human-rights-at-the-southern-border-of-europe&catid=25&lang=en&Itemid=197

²⁹ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4475:another-summer-of-drowning-and-violations-of-human-rights-at-the-southern-border-of-europe&catid=25&lang=en&Itemid=197

³⁰ www.stol.it/artikel/politik/hotspot-auf-lampedusa-soll-ausgebaut-werden

³¹ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4474:from-libya-to-the-limbo-of-hotspots-the-fate-of-asylum-applicants-in-relocation-procedures&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122

- Minister of the Interior Luciana Lamorgese announces: 132 additional places are to be made available by March 2020, as well as an area reserved for unaccompanied refugee minors.³⁴ In total, the capacity of the hotspot is to be increased to 439 places.³⁵
- The housing conditions in the Lampedusa hotspot have long been known to be unbearable. In October 2018, during a monitoring exercise, it was discovered that 320 people had to stay on mattresses without bed linen and between piles of rubbish. The area for unaccompanied refugee minors did not correspond to any European standard.³⁶
- The shipwreck of 23/11/2019 directly off the coast of Lampedusa resulted in at least 18 deaths, and more missing: the 149 survivors were taken to the island of Lampedusa (as of 03/12/2019)^{37 38}; the living conditions there are harrowing. The men, women and children held in the hotspot for identification stretched the holding capacity of the centre threefold. The survivors shared a sleeping room and sometimes had to sleep on mattresses on the floor. They have no blankets, only thin sheets. No consideration is given to gender or age. Access to sanitary facilities is poor and food rations are insufficient. Among the survivors are URM who lost their parents on the crossing and are severely traumatized. A young man from Eritrea was blinded during his stay in Libya, where he was locked up for four months and denied access to daylight. A great number of the survivors suffer from severe trauma sustained during their imprisonment in Libya and access to psychological treatment is urgently needed but not granted.³⁹ Access to the hotspot is denied to non-employees so that hardly any information is able to get out.⁴⁰ Reports that have nevertheless been leaked are damning: the Lampedusa hotspot is by no means suitable for receiving the rescued and for ensuring reception that does not cause them retraumatization.
- On 08/12/2019 a part of the survivors of the shipwreck of the 23/11 was taken to Sicily by boat, the others should follow (as of 09/12/2019).⁴¹

Further links:

- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4387:88migrants-on-lampedusa-relocations-to-avoid-overcrowded-hotspots&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102
- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4474:from-libya-to-the-limbo-of-hotspots-the-fate-of-asylum-applicants-in-relocation-procedures&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122
- https://palermo.repubblica.it/cronaca/2019/08/22/foto/lampedusa_l_hotspot_e_sovraffollato_i_migrant_i_di_open_arms_8_in_una_stanza-234093874/1/#7

³² https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4387:88migrants-on-lampedusa-relocations-to-avoid-overcrowded-hotspots&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102

³³ www.globalist.it/news/2019/10/14/troppi-sbarchi-a-lampedusa-l-hotspot-e-al-collasso-naufragio-nell-eggeo-morto-un-bambino2047625.html

³⁴ <https://www.lasicilia.it/news/Agrigent/295737/lampedusa-il-viminale-l-hotspot-sara-ampliato-a-439-posti.html>

³⁵ <https://www.stol.it/artikel/politik/hotspot-auf-lampedusa-soll-ausgebaut-werden>

³⁶ www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/10/23/migranti-ministra-lamorgese-annuncia-132-posti-in-piu-nell-hotspot-di-lampedusa-conunarea-dedicata-ai-minori-non-accompagnati/5529290/

³⁷ www.derstandard.at/story/200011730390/sieben-leichen-nach-fluechtlingsunglueck-vor-lampedusageborgen?fbclid=IwAR1AFhYpT1zsaV9iXvXrgYOpZzUznE936VdYOAwhv-n6Mu3qyu6S1RZJKE

³⁸ www.dw.com/de/open-arms-rettet-fl%C3%BChtlinge-vor-libyen/a-51355426

³⁹ www.lasciatecientrare.it/esigiamo-una-degna-accoglienza-per-chi-sopravvive-ai-frequenti-naufragi/

⁴⁰ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/12/06/lampedusa-dentro-l-hotspot-che-va-a-pezzi-tra-rifiuti-e-sovraccollamentocondizioni-disumane/5596286/>

⁴¹ Information from Borderline Sicilia

- www.globalist.it/news/2019/10/14/troppi-sbarchi-a-lampedusa-l-hotspot-e-al-collasso-naufragio-nell-egemorto-un-bambino-2047625.html
- www.lasicilia.it/news/Agrigent/295737/lampedusa-il-viminale-l-hotspot-sara-ampliato-a-439-posti.html
- www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/10/23/migranti-ministra-lamorgese-annuncia-132-posti-in-piu-nellhotspot-dilampedusa-con-unarea-dedicata-ai-minori-non-accompagnati/5529290/
- www.redattoresociale.it/article/notiziario/migranti comitato schengen I hot spot di lampedusa e al collasso
- www.video.corriere.it/cronaca/migranti-330-hotspot-lampedusa-via-trasferimenti/22e69b22-e
- www.agi.it/cronaca/emergenza_migranti_lampedusa-6208204/news/2019-09-1

Hotspot Messina

In Messina, the migrants rescued by Sea Watch 3 had to wait several months until their transfer to other states was finally initiated.⁴² None of them knew why and what they had to wait for there. In October 2019, as part of monitoring and inspections carried out by Borderline Sicilia, ActionAID and ASGI⁴³, interviews were conducted with the migrants who had been waiting for more than four months for a transfer or further action. The three organizations that stand up for the rights of migrants have written a letter⁴⁴ to the Ministry of the Interior and the Prefecture of Messina which describes the situation of the migrants and contains demands that they respect their well-being.⁴⁵ But even after the visit of the German delegation finally took place, those rescued by the Sea Watch 3 were not brought to Germany, but instead transferred to a reception center in Calabria at the beginning of November. There they were separated from the other residents and received no social benefits such as pocket money or specialist medical care.⁴⁶



Hotspot Messina. Photo: Stampa Libera⁴⁷

⁴² www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_08-09_Newsletter_Italien_final.pdf

⁴³ ActionAID is an International organisation that implements projects in 45 countries and works against global inequality and poverty, see also: www.actionaid.it

ASGI (Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione) - Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration, see also: www.asgi.it/chi-siamo/

⁴⁴ www.asgi.it/asilo-e-protezione-internazionale/hotspot-messina-monitoraggio/

⁴⁵ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4397:98hotspot-confinement-and-the-mirage-of-redistribution&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122

⁴⁶ <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/bundesregierung-hatte-aufnahme-zugesagt-deutschland-hat-bisher-keinen-migranten-dersea-watch-3-aufgenommen/25299696.html>

⁴⁷ www.stampalibera.it/2018/08/29/linchiesta-di-antonio-mazzeohotspot-migranti-di-messina-disumano-e-abusivo/

- The hotspot in Messina was opened in October 2016. The containers are designed for 10-12 migrants (five or six bunk beds per container).
- The maximum capacity of the containers is 250 places. The hotspot has three separate areas for families, single women and URM – this area can accommodate 36 migrants.
- The hotspot is equipped with 16 WC facilities (one barrier-free) and 22 showers.
- The migrants receive 1 ½ litre of water per day. The water in the hotspot is not drinkable.
- The hotspot has a playroom for children and a prayer room/TV room.
- The migrants receive pocket money of 2,50 Euro per day, as well as two mobile phone cards with a credit balance of 5 Euro/card when they first visit.
- The hotspot is staffed by six employees who do the clearing and distribute the meals, one person in charge of the centre and one person in charge of the staff, a doctor, a social worker, a psychologist, a nurse and an Italian mediator who speaks English and French.
- During monitoring carried out by the organizations Borderline Sicilia, ASGI and ActionAID, the migrants were interviewed about the current situation in the hotspot. Great criticism has been expressed above all with regard to medical care – the migrants only have a document called “attesto nominativo” (name certificate) which confirms their status as “asylum seekers”. However, this document does not allow them to go to other medical facilities outside the hotspot or to see specialists. As long as they are accommodated in the hotspot, they will not be able to use other medical services. Women, in particular, who were (or are) victims of sexual violence, suffer from the lack of medical care. The hotspot also has no paediatrician. Children who were born in Libya and are now in the hotspot do not receive the necessary vaccinations.
- According to the migrants, the mediator does not have sufficient knowledge of French to meet their needs and to act as a professional mediator. If migrants who arrive at the Messina hotspot do not speak English or French, the mediator cannot help them. Residents of the hotspot interpret their requests, and this is a violation of the privacy of the individual, as it cannot be guaranteed that information will not be disclosed.⁴⁸
- The migrants are not informed about their rights and are not given information about the course of their asylum procedure. Thus, many migrants do not know that they might be placed in another European country.⁴⁹
- During the monitoring, almost all of the interviewees stated that they had not been informed about the length of their stay in the hotspot. There were hardly any translations, explanations, or retranslations of what was said. Especially during the EASO interviews, as well as during the interviews with the delegations of the European countries, what was said was not translated. The signed documents were sometimes not sufficiently explained.
- 61 migrants who were rescued by the Alan Kurdi have been in the Messina hotspot since the 04/12/2019 (as of 09/12/2019).⁵⁰

Further links:

- <https://www.asgi.it/asilo-e-protezione-internazionale/hotspot-messina-monitoraggio/>
- <https://www.asgi.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/report-messina-pubblicazione-def-1.pdf> f

⁴⁸ www.asgi.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/report-messina-pubblicazione-def-1.pdf

⁴⁹ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4474:from-libya-to-the-limbo-of-hotspots-the-fate-of-asylum-applicants-in-relocation-procedures&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122

⁵⁰ http://www.ansa.it/sicilia/notizie/2019/12/04/migranti-alan-kurdi-a-messina-sbarcano-in-61_c0b3314d-8554-47f4-8295063b4f479c6a.html

- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4474:from-libya-to-the-limbo-of-hotspots-the-fate-of-asylum-applicants-in-relocation-procedures&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122
- <https://inlimine.asgi.it/l hotspot-di-messina/>
- <https://www.asgi.it/allontamento-espulsione/immigrazione-hotspot-messina/>
- https://bordermonitoring.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/bordermonitoring.eu-newsletter_3-2019.pdf

Hotspot Pozzallo



Hotspot Pozzallo, 2019. Photo: Borderline Sicilia

The hotspot Pozzallo currently has 128 migrants (as of 03/12/2019). 78 of these were rescued by the “Open Arms” on 25/11/2019.⁵¹

- The former CPSA in Pozzallo is officially active as a hotspot since 19/01/16.
- The conditions inside the hotspot are severe. During the monitoring by Borderline Sicilia migrants reported migrants reported having to sleep on the floor as there were not enough sleeping facilities. Hygiene and sanitation conditions were best classified as critical.
- The migrants reported that they were controlled and robbed of their privacy: their mobile phones are confiscated, the staff and the security threaten punishment for anyone who tried to get in touch with someone outside the hotspot. In addition, private objects were confiscated and checked at the entrance and exit.⁵²
- Psychological support does not exist in the hotspot Pozzallo, legal information and documents are also withheld here.⁵³

Further links:

- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4474:from-libya-to-the-limbo-of-hotspots-the-fate-of-asylum-applicants-in-relocation-procedures&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122

⁵¹ <https://de.euronews.com/2019/11/26/aus-holle-von-libyen-entkommen-78-migranten-an-bord-der-aita-mari>

⁵² https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4474:from-libya-to-the-limbo-of-hotspots-the-fate-of-asylum-applicants-in-relocation-procedures&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122

⁵³ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4474:from-libya-to-the-limbo-of-hotspots-the-fate-of-asylum-applicants-in-relocation-procedures&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122

[procedures&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122](#)

- www.bordermonitoring.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/bordermonitoring.eu-newsletter_3-2019.pdf
- www.mediciperidirittiumani.org/diario-da-pozzallo-2/

The establishment of hotspots and the political intention to control so-called migration flows creates an apparatus of control that deprives migrants of their autonomy and emancipation.

3.b. The CARA Pian del Lago, Caltanissetta

- The CARA Pian del Lago in Caltanissetta was originally both CDA (reception centre, another “type” of centre that is not further explained) and CARA, but today the arriving asylum seekers are accommodated in both complexes in Pian del Lago; in addition, a repatriation centre is also located on the same premises.
- There are many reports about the centre which testify to inhumane treatment and failure to respect the basic rights of migrants. In addition to the camps in front of the centre, in which refugees who want to apply for asylum or extend their residence permit live, an elderly couple with health problems and their children were not allowed to enter the centre for more than 24 hours in April 2016 and were thus forced to spend the night outside the gates.
- The centre is located six kilometres outside the town of Caltanissetta and is only accessible via an unsecured highway. Accidents are frequent, as the asylum seekers are forced to walk these six kilometres towards the city centre. An accident in May 2015 ended in a fatality.
- Due to the overcrowding of the CARA, an informal “field camp” has repeatedly formed in front of the centre, where migrants wait to be identified and to be given a place to live in the centre (they wait four to five weeks for identification, then another three months for a place).
- The “field camp” is regularly evacuated. This practice is completely needless: it has been shown not to solve any problems or improve the situation of the migrants; on the contrary. The only possible solution is a political one.
- The fate of the asylum seekers hangs on the dilatory swork of the competent authorities in Caltanissetta, who only hold hearings once a week: totally inadequate for the number of procedures that need to be processed. The situation of those who merely need to extend their residence permit could be handled differently in that they could simply apply for the extension at the foreigners' registration office responsible for their current residence. However, the municipalities usually do not want to deal with them, so they have to go back again and again, where they usually wait five to six months under such conditions.
- In the first months of 2019 the CAS and the centre for unaccompanied minors of Caltanissetta were closed down. The CARA and CPR of Pian del Lago have stayed open.⁵⁴
- In both state institutions, the accommodation measures that violated human rights and incidents of violence against the residents of the centres were denounced several times.
- In May 2019, the CARA accommodated about 235 people. The migrants come mainly from Pakistan, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Gambia, Senegal, Nigeria, and Somalia. The conditions of the centre are inhumane, a fact that was drawn attention to by its inhabitants when they demonstrated in April.

⁵⁴ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4258:59the-ab-normality-of-reception-in-caltanissetta&catid=35&lang=en&Itemid=198

Among the residents there are some with heightened vulnerability who complain about the lack of health care.

- “Sportello migrant” is the Caltanissetta Counselling Centre that since 2005 has been working on behalf of migrants living in the different centres, raising a voice of opposition against the racism perpetuated locally.⁵⁵
- General situation of migrants in Caltanissetta: the “Sportello migrant” Centre reports an increasing number of cases of everyday racism against migrants in Caltanissetta and the surrounding area. Among other forms of racism, it is impossible for migrants to find accommodation in Caltanissetta: no apartments are rented to migrants and in the few cases where an apartment has been rented to migrants, conditions have been extremely precarious and prices have been extremely high. Structural racism is omnipresent in Caltanissetta.
- “Sportello migrant” reports an increased number of police checks on the streets of Caltanissetta. Nigerian asylum seekers in particular report arbitrary mistreatment and harassment on the part of officials.⁵⁶

Here you can find older reports on the history of Pian del Lago and the unofficial camps in front of the centre:

- <http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2017/07/condizioni-di-vita-semprepeggiori-per-i.html>
- <http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2017/02/visite-allaccampamento-di-pian-del-lago.html>
- <http://siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/2017/04/dopo-lennesimo-sgombero-un.html>
- <http://briguglio.asgi.it/immigrazione-e-asilo/2013/giugno/nota-imm-caltanissetta.html>
- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3750:49press-release-of-the-immigration-desk-of-caltanissetta&catid=35&lang=en&Itemid=198
- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4258:59the-ab-normality-of-reception-in-caltanissetta&catid=35&lang=en&Itemid=198
- <http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2017/07/das-zeltlager-in-pian-del-lago.html>
- <http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2017/04/die-aktuelle-lage-im-camp-pian-del-lago.html>
- <http://siciliamigrants.blogspot.it/2017/03/caltanissetta-nach-der-raumung-ist-das.html>

⁵⁵ [www.briguglio.asgi.it/immigrazione-e-asilo/2013/giugno/nota-imm-caltanissetta.html](http://briguglio.asgi.it/immigrazione-e-asilo/2013/giugno/nota-imm-caltanissetta.html)

⁵⁶ www.borderlinesicilia.org/lanormalita-dellaccoglienza-a-caltanissetta/

3.c. The CARA of Mineo, the former biggest centre in Europe



CARA di Mineo. Photo: Silvia Di Meo, Borderline Sicilia

- With about 375 employees and several hundred volunteers, CARA di Mineo was the largest reception centre in Europe. At peak times, up to 25 people per house lived in the 404 accommodation units, each of which was designed for seven to eight people.
- Since its opening in 2011, the history of CARA di Mineo has been marked by unrest and conflict: insufficient health care structures, overcrowding and long waiting times for asylum decisions made life unbearable for the residents. In return, the centre was collecting between 45-50 million euro annually, which was intended for the accommodation of migrants. Since the takeover of new management from October 2018, benefits have been reduced from 35 to 22 euro per person per day, further worsening residents' living conditions.⁵⁷
- The inhabitants of the CARA were criminalised under all Italian governments. The safety of the farmers was threatened by the reception centre, it was said, and so the centre was constantly guarded by riot police, army with armoured vehicles and even the mounted police.⁵⁸
- The CARA di Mineo became a refuge for parts of the Nigerian mafia. Forced prostitution, sexual violence, drug trafficking and brutality were the reality of the shelter, which was completely unable to fulfil its actual mission: to provide safe haven for fugitives.^{59 60}
- Suicides and murders were also committed in the CARA di Mineo; on 14/12/2013 the young Eritrean Mulue Ghirmay took his own life; on 30/08/2015 the couple Vincenzo Solano and Mercedes Ibanez were killed by another resident of the CARA di Mineo in their house and on 01/01/2018 Francis Miracle was murdered by her partner and father of her two children.⁶¹
- Due to the unbearable conditions in the CARA di Mineo we, [borderline-europe](#), advocated its closure. However, as described in the following chapter, it is clear that the closure of the CARA di Mineo has unfortunately not led to an improvement of the migrants' situation; on the contrary, other problems have arisen. In the end it was a matter of choosing between the plague and the cholera. What started badly will end even worse.

⁵⁷ www.lasciatecientrare.it/sicilia-chiude-il-cara-della-mega-accoglienza-restano-i-problemi-e-cresce-il-razzismo/

⁵⁸ www.lasciatecientrare.it/sicilia-chiude-il-cara-della-mega-accoglienza-restano-i-problemi-e-cresce-il-razzismo/

⁵⁹ www.ansa.it/sicilia/notizie/2019/01/28/droga-cellula-a-cara-mineo-19-fermi_e119149f-05a9-4d10-974d-cfd55e28bad5.html

⁶⁰ www.strettoweb.com/2019/03/migranti-cara-mineo-lega-mafia-nigeriana/821643/

⁶¹ www.ilsettemezzo.com/article?aid=MTYyNg%3D%3D&title=Quel-che-resta-

- Detailed information about the history and structure of the CARA di Mineo can be found in the report "The Situation of Migrants in Sicily", published by [borderline-europe](#) in January 2018.⁶²

The closure of the CARA of Mineo



Evacuation of the CARA of Mineo, 2019. Photos: Borderline Sicilia

- After the evacuation of the CARA of Mineo had begun on 07/02/2019 with the resettlement of the first 44 persons⁶³, the institution was finally closed on 02/07/2019. The closure took place about two weeks before the mid-July deadline announced by the Italian Minister of the Interior, Matteo Salvini.⁶⁴
- In this same place where at peak times in the summer of 2014 about 4.000 people were accommodated, there were still 152 people living as of June 2019.⁶⁵ Since February 2019, the resettlements had been carried out step by step, first by moving the single men to other centres. This meant that CARA had been inhabited mainly by families, most of whom had school-age children who were particularly hard-hit by resettlement.⁶⁶
- On 02/07/2019 only 20 people remained in the CARA because they refused to leave. Church congregations declared themselves willing to accept these persons, but due to the early closing date were caught off-guard by the requirements needed to receive the migrants and needed more time to provide the appropriate structures. Initially, the migrants were received in unofficial structures, but it became clear that the Ministry of the Interior was not interested in these people.⁶⁷
- Members of the team of Doctors for Human Rights (MEDU), which has been providing medical and psychological care for the residents in the CARA di Mineo for three years, are also concerned about the fate of these people. Many of them need intensive psychological care because they have suffered traumas that no one can imagine. These people are left alone with their injuries – psychological and physical – because there is no adequate care in a CAS facility. The MEDU team tried to stay in contact

⁶² www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2018_01_Sizilienbericht%20finale.compressed.pdf

⁶³ www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/02/07/catania-al-via-lo-sgombero-del-cara-di-mineo-trasferiti-i-primi-44-migranti-sindaco-sta-non-lasci-qui-le-macerie/4954995/

⁶⁴ <https://catania.meridionews.it/articolo/79316/cara-mineo-finiti-i-trasferimenti-restano-gli-invisibili-carrelli-per-i-traslochi-nonsappiamo-dove-andare/>

⁶⁵ <http://www.lasiciliaweb.it/2019/06/12/a-luglio-chiude-il-cara-di-mineo/>

⁶⁶ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/02/07/catania-al-via-lo-sgombero-del-cara-di-mineo-trasferiti-i-primi-44-migranti-sindaco-sta-non-lasci-qui-le-macerie/4954995/>

⁶⁷ https://palermo.repubblica.it/cronaca/2019/07/02/news/al_cara_di_mineo_restano_trenta_invisibili_il_vescovo_di_caltagirone_li_ospitiamo_noi_-230177704/

with the residents after the resettlement in order not to lose the therapeutic progress they had made over the past years. In reality, however, this is a difficult or rather impossible project.⁶⁸

From the CARA of Mineo to untracked institutions or homelessness

- Many people have been sent into an uncertain future with the closure of the CARA di Mineo because there are no acceptable alternatives.⁶⁹ Moreover, the closure was carried out without taking into account that among the residents many migrants suffer from physical and psychological vulnerability.⁷⁰
- The former residents of CARA di Mineo were distributed to various CAS facilities in Palermo, Agrigento, Messina and Trapani, where they faced overcrowding, precarious living conditions and lack of services.⁷¹ These centres are often far from the city centre and not connected to public transport, as in the case of the former **Hotel Piano Torre**. “How can one live here? There is nothing. Only trees”, is how one resident of this facility vented his anger. But even apart from the distance and isolation, the conditions in the facilities are catastrophic.
- In the **Villa Sikania** in the province of Agrigento, the hygienic conditions are much worse than in the CARA di Mineo, and yet it also accommodates particularly vulnerable persons.⁷²
- Many people have also been resettled in the **CARA di Isola Capo Rizzuto in Calabria**, although it can be proven that in the past this institution was administered by the Calabrian mafia 'Ndrangheta'.⁷³ Borderline Sicilia, as part of its monitoring of redistribution, observed that the 69 people brought to CARA di Isola Capo Rizzuto barricaded themselves on the bus because the place seemed to them to be a prison. They even broke off contact with the aid organisations by switching off their mobile phones and sealing themselves off. The frustration and desperation of the people affected by the redistribution is more than evident from this incident.
- Many residents tried to escape this redistribution by not getting on the buses intended for them, by disappearing into the concealedness of the countryside or trying to get to another European country. Most of them ended up homeless without any support and henceforth live underground.⁷⁴ Even those who, according to their lawyers, would have had a good chance of obtaining a residence permit choose this path. The so-called “security” decree does not live up to its name at all, because it produces migrants by the dozen who choose to find their way outside the system: a security risk for all involved.⁷⁵
- The activists of Borderline Sicilia who were on the spot on the day of the closure expressed their concerns by saying: “What worries us most are the unregistered people who live unofficially in the CARA di Mineo, because they have decided to return after been resettled in the last months and moved to other centres with worse conditions. Without identity cards, without documents, their names are

⁶⁸ [https://www.redattoresociale.it/article/ed20f84c-41c9-456c-](https://www.redattoresociale.it/article/ed20f84c-41c9-456c-8ca0bb42d23d03a2/cara-di-mineo-verso-la-chiusura-medu-garantire-cure-ai-migranti-vulnerabili)

[8ca0bb42d23d03a2/cara-di-mineo-verso-la-chiusura-medu-garantire-cure-ai-migranti-vulnerabili](https://www.redattoresociale.it/article/ed20f84c-41c9-456c-8ca0bb42d23d03a2/cara-di-mineo-verso-la-chiusura-medu-garantire-cure-ai-migranti-vulnerabili)

⁶⁹ <https://www.tgcom24.mediaset.it/politica/migranti-salvini-a-meta-luglio-chiudera-il-cara-di-mineo-3214011-201902a.shtml>

⁷⁰ <https://www.lasciateciocentrare.it/sicilia-chiude-il-cara-della-mega-accoglienza-restano-i-problemi-e-cresce-il-razzismo/>

⁷¹ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/04/22/cara-di-mineo-la-denuncia-migranti-trasferiti-e-stipati-in-caserma-sovraffollata-impossibile-viverci-le-immagini/5119980/>

⁷² <http://www.lasiciliaweb.it/2019/06/12/a-luglio-chiude-il-cara-di-mineo/>

⁷³ <https://www.corrieredellacalabria.it/regione/crotone-e-provincia/item/190803-le-mani-dei-clan-sul-cara-di-isola-17-anni-perlex-capo-delle-misericordie/>

⁷⁴ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/04/22/cara-di-mineo-la-denuncia-migranti-trasferiti-e-stipati-in-caserma-sovraffollata-impossibile-viverci-le-immagini/5119980/>

⁷⁵ <https://www.lasciateciocentrare.it/sicilia-chiude-il-cara-della-mega-accoglienza-restano-i-problemi-e-cresce-il-razzismo/>

not on the lists of the organized buses. There is no exact number, but these 'invisible ones' are about a hundred". After loading their most important items into a shopping cart, they set off on foot for an uncertain future where no one wants them.⁷⁶

3.d. The emergency centres – CAS

Salvini's security decree, which came into force as a law at the end of 2018, has fatal consequences for Italy's already unstable reception system. This is particularly true for the CAS.

In 2014, the "era of the CAS" was initiated by the prefectures at the request of the Ministry of the Interior. CAS are actually Extraordinary Reception Centres. However, what was intended as a "state of emergency" has now become the rule.

"If we consider the proportionality between the number of migrants admitted to the "official" reception system (SPRARs and state structures) and those who are housed in temporary structures, it becomes clear that the reception in Italy is primarily based on such so-called temporary facilities, which of course are not so temporary. Consequently, the reality of the CAS, contrary to any definition, corresponds to the norm of reception in Italy. It is an unformalized reality, created and developed over time, in which (...) the choice was made to create more places without consulting the management of the centres or any form of central planning, let alone paying heed to the integration measures of the respective regions. We are talking about a reality made up of multiple structures, often subject to private speculation, on the basis of temporary contracts, sometimes suspended, and in which so-called "good practice" remains a rarity. Yet the facilities that stay open are those that are unsuitable for reception, even dilapidated, whose hygienic conditions and sanitary facilities are totally inadequate, where compliance with minimum standards and services, also provided for in the contracts, is only on paper. In the final analysis, this is a reality which, by its very origin and its development to date, carries with it the danger that criminal activities may take root in its ramifications. Control by the Ministry of the Interior of what it has created is hardly possible due to the large, close-meshed distribution of the reception centres on the national territory."⁷⁷ This is what the lawyer Laura Liberto wrote about CAS at the end of October 2015. Unfortunately, nothing has changed in principle. The reception system is and remains a "business" throughout Italy, an important branch of the economy, with which money is earned on the back of migrants.

The CAS are a veritable banquet for those who want to profit from Italy's totally unclear reception system, which can be opened up by private companies through tenders via the prefectures (the representative of the Ministry of the Interior in the provinces). As the prefectures have been desperately seeking places in recent years, the awards have also gone to companies that have maintained the already low standards at the lowest level or have not implemented them at all. Thus, the supposedly "extraordinary" centres quickly became the rule. It is estimated that 75-90% of all migrants are accommodated in such structures.⁷⁸ In most cases, these are mass housings in which people are "parked", without integration opportunities and often

⁷⁶ <https://catania.meridionews.it/articolo/79316/cara-mineo-finiti-i-trasferimenti-restano-gli-invisibili-carrelli-per-i-traslochi-nonsappiamo-dove-andare/>

⁷⁷ <http://www.cittadinanzattiva.it/editoriale/giustizia/8246-centri-di-accoglienza-immigrati-non-prendeteci-in-giro.html>

⁷⁸ <https://www.lenius.it/sistema-di-accoglienza-dei-migranti-in-italia/>

isolated in remote villages. Almost everything can be converted into a CAS: hotels and hostels or country inns, but also gymnasiums and old school buildings.⁷⁹



CAS, „a bed 4 you“. Foto: Borderline Sicilia

The security decree has further tightened the modalities for opening the CAS; “the new conditions are like an executioner’s axe for human rights”, says Alberto Biondo, an activist of our sister association Borderline Sicilia.⁸⁰ The law is a gift for those already in the reception business and aims to create new and larger camps that can accommodate 50 to 300 or more residents. All the operator has to do is to provide food and drink to the refugees. Funds for additional services such as mediation and legal advice, which were already very scarce in the CAS, have been drastically cut. In addition, the budget for the operators per person admitted is no longer 35 euros, but between 21 and 26 euros. No wonder that the winner of the tenders is the one who can make the economically most profitable offer. And these are usually large cooperatives that operate in equally large centres in which as many people as possible can be accommodated and the costs per head can be kept low.

The current situation following the entry into force of the new Security Act

In order to continue to operate the CAS or to open new ones, the companies need to be allocated an invitation to tender issued by the prefectures of the province. The reimbursement of 35 euros per day per person has been reduced considerably, as have the services for the residents. Here is an overview of the provinces in Sicily by Borderline Sicilia (as of December 2019):

⁷⁹ www.lenius.it/sistema-di-accoglienza-dei-migranti-in-italia/

⁸⁰ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4167:68turn-the-computer-off-and-the-brain-on&catid=39&lang=en&Itemid=122

- Agrigento: The invitation to tender has not yet been issued and has been expected for a long time, meaning that the institutions currently operating in the area are still waiting for the extension and have been asked to renegotiate the services on the basis of the new guidelines. The basis is the Salvini safety decree, in which the daily costs per person are reduced from 35 euros to 19-26 euros. This means less money for the operators and significantly fewer services for the migrants. About half of the facilities in the province of Agrigento have agreed to the new contract, the other half have closed the doors of their facilities.
- Trapani: In Trapani, too, new negotiations were held with the providers, and here too some of them agreed, but many also closed their facilities. From a capacity of about 3,000 places in the province of Trapani, the number has dropped to about 800 places. One of the largest providers of accommodation centres, Badia Grande, now manages the repatriation centre in Trapani (and the hotspots in Lampedusa and Messina).
- Palermo: In Palermo, on the other hand, the tender for the centres under the new condition was terminated. Most of the institutions that “won” are already older institutions, only a few new ones have been added. All the centres currently operating in the city and province of Palermo have won this tender and are therefore operating regularly.
- Messina: In Messina, the operators have not changed, the main provider of the CAS is still Medi Hospes.
- Catania: No call for proposals has yet been issued in Catania. Only the large Mineo camp has been closed. Since there is no tender yet, there is no CAS in Catania and the province of Catania.
- Syracuse: There has been a tender for only 300 places in the centres, so there has been a drastic reduction of accommodation places in the CAS in the city and province of Syracuse.
- Ragusa: Here, after the call for tenders, the applications of very many small institutions were approved and they are already working. This means that in this province large facilities have been abandoned.
- Caltanissetta: There is no CAS in the city and province of Caltanissetta. There is only the repatriation centre and the centre for asylum seekers Pian del Lago, which is run by a non-Scilian institution. There are no tenders for the CAS.
- Enna: In Enna, too, there is no tender for the CAS, but many old CAS are working in the transition phase. This means that they have extended and agreed to the new payment conditions, but there is still no legally funded allocation.

Case study: the story of Peter and Precious⁸¹

In July 2019, our cooperation partner, the ARCI Porco Rosso's "Sportello Sans-Papiers" advice centre for refugees documented the story of Peter and Precious in Palermo. The names were invented for obvious reasons. Their history shows in a special way the effects of the security decree.

- In January 2019, the two protagonists realised that their CAS in the province of Palermo was to be closed. It was never easy to live in the village where the CAS was located: the endless waiting for documents, no opportunities to learn Italian or to look for a job. However, for many of the guests of the CAS it was the only home they knew in Italy, and its closure meant that they would be left alone again.
- When they decided to leave the province, Precious was seven months pregnant. They decided to go north to try their luck: perhaps to France or Germany, perhaps to Milan or Turin. However, their journey would be interrupted by the premature arrival of their children. In Tuscany, Precious fainted on the train and had to be treated in the nearest hospital where she gave birth. The twins were premature and required special care. Peter contacted the Porco Rosso: more than a year before the staff of the counselling centre had met the family during a monitoring visit to the reception centres in the province and had remained in contact ever since.
- While Precious was admitted via the hospital to a home for mothers, Peter remained homeless. Thanks to the help of a generous woman whom he met at the hospital and who provided the family with voluntary financial support, and a network of local volunteers who contacted Porco Rosso from Palermo, Peter found accommodation in Tuscany in three dormitories, each of which offered him shelter for a limited period of time, at most a few weeks, although they knew his situation.
- Precious and Peter lived in constant fear that the authorities would consider them unfit to raise their children and could therefore be separated from them. The reckless behaviour of the various actors in the reception centres fed this fear. It was noticeable that only the doctors seemed to be taking care of the family: often they did the work of social workers, informing themselves about the bureaucratic process of Precious and Peter and informing them.
- From the very beginning, Porco Rosso had sought contact both with the CAS where the couple used to live, and with the prefectures of Palermo and Pisa.
- However, the information provided by the CAS operators was vague, not always consistent, and sometimes simply incorrect. Only after several requests and reminders did the Prefecture of Palermo agree to the possibility of re-accommodating the family in one of the CAS in the province of Palermo.
- At the same time, the Prefecture of Pisa informed by telephone that it has neither the availability nor the desire to host the family in Tuscany. It was shameful that both prefectures refused to communicate with each other for several weeks: the prefecture in Pisa believed that it is not obliged to reply to an application from Palermo for a family that Palermo had never taken in itself, while the prefecture in Palermo believed that without an official reply from Pisa it could not take the family back to Palermo. According to the Porco Rosso, the officials of the two prefectures refused to discuss the matter over the telephone. The only way to communicate would be by e-mail, although this is precisely why there were a number of delays. Only after hours of telephone calls, e-mails and several personal visits of the Porco Rosso in the Prefecture of Palermo was a solution finally in sight and the prefecture of Palermo could organise the family's accommodation in a reception centre in Palermo.

⁸¹ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4296:97the-story-of-peter-and-precious&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102

- A veritable odyssey comes to an end. What remains astonishing, above all, is the unwavering determination of people like Precious and Peter, who have to face not only the terrible crossing of the Mediterranean, but also the imponderables of the Italian bureaucracy. The hope is that their children will grow up in a better world.

Case study Villa Sikania, Province of Agrigento

- Villa Sikania is a former hotel that was opened a few years ago as a “HUB” (distribution centre). It was used to accommodate refugees who had a chance of relocation within Europe.
- In the meantime, the Villa Sikania, whose accommodation conditions have been repeatedly criticised in recent years⁸², has been converted into a CAS.
- The Villa Sikania is mainly used for refugees who arrive on Lampedusa or on the southern coast of Sicily and are not immediately transferred to repatriation centres (as is the case with Tunisian refugees).
- Borderline Sicilia has received numerous accounts from men and women deploring the miserable conditions in this centre.
- According to the photos that were sent to us, it seems that the shared rooms are in poor hygienic condition and full of dirt. The refugees, young and old alike, spend more than a month there without any procedure being initiated.
- The large hall of the hotel, not the rooms, is used as accommodation.
- Bed bugs are constantly found in dirty bedding.⁸³



Villa Sikania in Siculiana, 2019. Photo: Borderline Sicilia

⁸² https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1746:42stories-from-siculiana-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly-of-arriving-at-the-reception-center-for-primary-care-villa-sikania&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102

⁸³ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4436:the-obscene-spectacle-of-the-attacks-on-solidarity&catid=35&lang=en&Itemid=198

CAS case study in the city and province of Palermo⁸⁴

- In April 2019, Borderline Sicilia was able to report on the consequences of the security decree, using the concrete example of a new tender issued by the Prefecture of Palermo.⁸⁵
- The Prefecture was looking for a service provider to manage reception centres for a period of two years, from 01/06/2019 to 31/05/2021.
- The Ministry of the Interior budgeted just over 56 million euros for this task. The support of 1,800 migrants throughout the province was to be ensured by this amount.
- Originally, the call for tender was to be published as early as 2017.⁸⁶ However, after “Movimento 5 Stelle” and “Lega” came to power, the process was halted.
- The new call for proposals differed from the original plan of the Prefecture of Palermo both for conditions and budget.⁸⁷
- Similar to the situation in Sicily's main city Palermo, this differentiation of the plan also happened in other Italian cities and municipalities. Many prefectures were forced to suspend the tendering process in 2018 and then publish a new tender under different conditions.
- In the specific case of Palermo, the budget per person was reduced by 9 euros, i.e. to 26 euros, and the compulsory presence of social workers was also reduced. For the nighttime, a presence of four instead of eight hours was now planned. The interpreters and doctors were also affected by the reduction in working hours. The jobs for psychologists were even cancelled without replacement. This was a clear sign that the people should only be detained until the Territorial Asylum Commission, which in the meantime was also understaffed, has made decisions on the asylum applications.
- The victims of this belt-tightening are not only the already overstrained staff in the facilities, but also the residents – and that's *if* they are allowed a roof over their heads. Many have lost their residence status as a result of the security decree and have been driven both into illegality and invisibility.
- It is mostly refugees with a granted humanitarian residence permit who had to leave the centres.
- The figures prove it: it is estimated that, as a result of the Security Decree, 43,000 people lost their residence status between August and December 2018 alone. The number of people accommodated in reception centres in Palermo fell from 1,750 to 1,300 in the same period. Repatriations have more than doubled in 2018 compared to the previous year – from 560 in 2017 to 1.250 in 2018.⁸⁸
- Many also leave the reception centres voluntarily, such as the minor K., whose case was documented by Borderline Sicilia. He was in possession of a residence permit for humanitarian reasons and since he would have come of age on 01/01/2019, as so many did, he would have lost his status as a minor and his residence permit. For this reason, he decided to disappear and move on to another country.⁸⁹
- Salvini's tightened policy and the decreasing numbers also lead to the closure of some centers. To give just one example: in March 2019 the Prefecture of Palermo closed the CAS in Altavilla – on the one

⁸⁴ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4267:68in-full-mafia-style&catid=39&lang=en&Itemid=122

⁸⁵ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4219:20reception-the-prefecture-s-new-invitation-to-tender-for-1800-places-the-first-in-the-salvini-era-many-migrants-from-the-reception-centre-of-mineo&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102

⁸⁶ <https://palermo.meridionews.it/articolo/57444/accoglienza-da-prefettura-nuovo-bando-per-i-cas-crescono-il-budget-e-i-postiper-i-richiedenti-asilo/>

⁸⁷ <https://palermo.meridionews.it/articolo/60101/accoglienza-i-nuovi-cas-tra-colli-e-monti-della-provincia-migranti-sempre-piusoli-e-isolati-cosi-sono-ricattabili/>

⁸⁸ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4171:72they-re-banned-from-celebrating&catid=39&lang=en&Itemid=122

⁸⁹ See above

hand at the request of the Ministry of the Interior to reduce the number of people admitted, and on the other hand at the request of the supporting organisation, which could no longer make enough profit with the low numbers of inhabitants.⁹⁰

- The people present – about 23 – were transferred to Piano Torre (Isnello) and Marineo, neither of which is well connected to Palermo nor offer learning and career opportunities, as was previously the case in Altavilla.
- The result: two residents have renounced their place of residence and three have disappeared before their transfer.
- Since the communities have no resources to take care of the people driven into homelessness, the already difficult situation becomes even more desperate for everyone concerned. Social tensions and an increased police presence are the result: often it culminates in raids, which are only there to arrest people without papers, to put a deportation order in their hands and thus put them back on the street.⁹¹ A vicious circle.
- The profiteering around the CAS is, of course, absolutely to be criticised, but the closures now taking place without a future for fugitives and workers cannot be a solution either.
- “I have several university degrees, and I’m not even being taken for jobs in call centers because I’m overqualified. Only friends of politicians and mafiosi get meaningful jobs. So, I have to continue to accompany the young people because there is no one left in the centres. There are forms of self-government and in some cases it is the older residents who take on the role of mediators for the new arrivals”, report Sonia and Andrea in unison, who have worked in several CAS in the province of Palermo.
- Despite the Minister of the Interior’s claims that the CAS are empty, this is not entirely true, as small boats are landing on the coasts of Sicily and Lampedusa time and again.
- Many young people from the CAS of Corleone, run by the cooperative “Azione Sociale”, have contacted Borderline Sicilia because they have problems with the water supply. As they say, not even drinking water can be found in the centre. Because of the lack of water, the centre does not get cleaned. This causes corresponding hygienic problems and mould that spreads in corridors and rooms. There are no mediators and there is also a lack of clothing.
- A similar thing can be said about the CAS Hotel Firenze in the historical centre of Palermo: a renovation of the damp building is urgently needed, and the furniture is not adequate. Here, too, water is a problem and there are no mediators.
- There are also problems at CAS Pozzo di Giacobbe in Palermo. The people living there have not received any pocket money for more than six months (as of mid-June 2019). This is the same cooperative that manages CAS Turba. This was closed after protests about the lack of pocket money payment – which the operators are legally obliged to do. Instead of improving the situation of those affected, the protest led to charges being brought against five of the protesting youths.
- In the CAS Marconi in Palermo, the young people protested because they were not being paid pocket money.⁹²

Alberto Biondo of Borderline Sicilia: “The Mafia spreads scorched earth and the Mafia-like system, which many European governments support, hits the underprivileged strata of society the worst, especially young

⁹⁰ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4185:86what-remains-of-welcoming&catid=25&lang=en&Itemid=197

⁹¹ See above

⁹² https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4318:19the-strong-hand-of-the-state-against-the-weak&catid=25&lang=en&Itemid=197

people. We have to see every day how friends and activists who have been fighting for years for a better city, supporting and accompanying those who need help most, have to leave to find a future. We fight the Mafia with words and on television, with our actions we do the same as the mafiosi: we eliminate those who disturb us".⁹³

3.e. The second reception – from SPRAR to SIPROIMI

The Decreto Sicurezza⁹⁴ (Security Decree) of 2018 (113/2018), which came into force as Law 132/18 at the beginning of December, has brought massive changes to the Italian asylum and reception system. Introduced by the then Minister of the Interior Matteo Salvini, the decree has to date been neither repealed, nor fundamentally changed by the new government. Here the most important changes related to the former SPRAR system (today SIPROIMI) will be outlined.

- The 2018 reform transformed the System for the Reception of Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR) into the System for the Protection of International Protection Beneficiaries and Unaccompanied Minors (SIPROIMI). The fundamental change from the previous SPRAR system mainly relates to the distinction now made between the reception system for asylum seekers and the system for persons with international protection status.^{95 96 97}
- In contrast to the previous system, in which asylum-seekers or people with humanitarian protection status^{98 99} also had access to the former SPRAR centres, the Security Decree now only allows access to the SIPROIMI to adults with international protection status – such as subsidiary protection status or recognition under the Geneva Convention on Refugees – and unaccompanied minors who have fled the country.¹⁰⁰
- The declared objectives of the new law were to cut costs in the reception system and to focus on the integration of those who already had international protection status.¹⁰¹

This means that the change in the secondary accommodation system has created two parallel reception systems: one for asylum seekers and one for refugees who have already been recognised.

- A circular of 27/12/2018¹⁰² defines more precisely who may and may not be accommodated in the SIPROIMI: those who already held a humanitarian residence permit and were already accommodated in a SPRAR until 05/10/2018 were allowed to remain in the centre until the end of the project.¹⁰³ For holders of a humanitarian title who had not yet been allocated a SPRAR place on 05/10/2018, this was no longer possible. Those who had already been allocated a place but had not yet been able to move in

⁹³ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4267:68in-full-mafia-style&catid=39&lang=en&Itemid=122

⁹⁴ https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2018/11/27/news/scheda_dl_sicurezza_stretta_su_immigrazione_e_mafia-212803810/

⁹⁵ <https://www.sprar.it/english>

⁹⁶ Article 1-6 Decree 416/1989, transposed by L 39/1990, amended by Article 12 Decrees 113/2018 and L 132/2018

⁹⁷ https://www.actionaid.it/app/uploads/2019/10/CentridItalia_2019.pdf p.15

⁹⁸ <https://www.ilpost.it/2018/09/25/protezione-umanitaria/>

⁹⁹ https://www.actionaid.it/app/uploads/2019/10/CentridItalia_2019.pdf p.9

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/italy/reception-conditions/short-overview-italian-reception-system>

¹⁰¹ [https://www.borderline-](https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_03_BORDERLINEEUROPE_Stellungnahme_Unterbringung_ITALIEN_0.pdf)

[europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_03_BORDERLINEEUROPE_Stellungnahme_Unterbringung_ITALIEN_0.pdf](https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_03_BORDERLINEEUROPE_Stellungnahme_Unterbringung_ITALIEN_0.pdf)

¹⁰² <https://www2.immigrazione.regione.toscana.it/?q=norma&urn=urn:nir:ministero.interno:circolare:2018-12-27;22146>

¹⁰³ Article 12(5) and (6) Decree 113/2018, implemented by L 132/2018

by 05/10/2018 had enormous problems, as this was handled differently throughout the country (the so-called retroactive effect of the decree).

- Immediate access to the SIPROIMI is only available to unaccompanied minors who have fled their country, regardless of their protection status and regardless of the status of the asylum procedure.¹⁰⁴ The fact is, however, that they are often accommodated in other centres.
- Local authorities can also accept victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and special exploitation in SIPROIMI.¹⁰⁵ Furthermore, refugees who have received a residence permit for medical treatment, for a natural disaster in their country of origin or for acts of "special civic value" are entitled to be accommodated in a SIPROIMI. The law leaves the definition of "special civic value" open.
- The report of the NAGA¹⁰⁶, published in December 2019, is, like the previous reports, a qualitative study of the system of reception but more so of the non-reception of refugees and asylum seekers in Milan and the surrounding area. In particular, it examines the legal and administrative changes that have led to the dismantling of an already precarious system as a result of the Salvini Decree.
- Swiss Refugee Aid will issue a new report on the situation in Italy at the beginning of next year. Together with borderline-europe, Swiss Refugee Aid¹⁰⁷ occasionally prepares statements for administrative courts, which you can find on our homepage as soon as the courts release them (projects → Italy¹⁰⁸).

Further links:

- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4149:50newsletter-borderline-sicilia-december-2018-january-2019&catid=45&lang=en&Itemid=136
- https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_03_BORDERLINEEUROPE_Stellungnahme_Unterbringung_ITALIEN_0.pdf
- <https://www.frsh.de/fileadmin/pdf/Aktuelles/Reader-IMK-2019-20190610.pdf>
- https://www.fluechtlingsratthr.de/sites/fluechtlingsrat/files/pdf/Beratungshilfe/Italien_Neuauf12_2018.pdf
- https://www.actionaid.it/app/uploads/2019/10/CentridItalia_2019.pdf

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/italy/reception-conditions/short-overview-italian-reception-system>

¹⁰⁵ 4 ebda., with reference to Articles 18, 18-bis, 19(2) (d-bis), 20, 22(12-quater) and 42-bis TUI. The statuses in Articles 20 and 42-bis were inserted by Decree 113/2018.

¹⁰⁶ NAGA is a secular, independent and impartial voluntary association founded in Milan in 1987: https://naga.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Report_Senza-scampo_Naga-5.pdf, a summary of the report in english can be found here: https://naga.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Abstract_EN_Senza-scampo_Naga-1.pdf

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/herkunftslander/dublin-staaten/italien-1.html>

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.borderline-europe.de/projekte/newsletter-italien?l=de>

4. The repatriation centres

Pre-deportation centres have existed in Italy since the Turco-Napolitano law on migration in 1998 (d.Lgs.¹⁰⁹ 286/1998). With the various changes in the law, it has been repeatedly renamed: from the Centres of Temporary Residence and Assistance (CPTA) to the Centres of Temporary Residence (CPT) and finally the Identification and Deportation Centres (CIE). Finally, in 2017, they changed their name once again to Repatriation Centres (CPR). The basis is the 2017 Decree Law No. 13 (art. 19 (1 and 3)). When the renaming took place again in 2017, three new repatriation centres were opened in Italy in addition to the four existing ones:

- Bari (13.11.2017),
- Palazzo San Gervasio (12.1.2018),
- Trapani¹¹⁰

On 27/06/2019 it was published on the homepage of the Italian Chamber of Deputies that the then Minister of the Interior Salvini had announced in a hearing of the Schengen Committee that there were currently still seven repatriation centres in five different regions. They are said to have a total of 1.035 places, but only 751 places are actually usable.¹¹¹

With the new security laws (05/10/2018), the possibility of detention has been increased to 180 days.¹¹²

The current repatriation centres for deportees can be found in:

- Turin (Piedmont);
- Rome (Lazio);
- Bari and Brindisi (Apulia);
- Palazzo San Gervasio, Potenza (Basilicata);
- Caltanissetta and Trapani (Sicily).

Trapani was transformed from a repatriation centre into a hotspot when the hotspot system was introduced and became a repatriation centre again in October 2018.¹¹³

At the time of the Minister of the Interior Matteo Salvini, he had repeatedly announced that he would massively increase the number of deportations. For this purpose, 400 new places were to be created in Sardinia, Friuli, Milan, and Modena. In the three latter provinces and cities, repatriation centres had already been held before. In Calabria, too, another centre was to be opened, and the operative repatriation centre in Caltanissetta was to be enlarged by another 144 places (currently 72¹¹⁴). “In the first six months of 2019, 2.267 people were detained in the CPR, of which 1,022 were actually repatriated, representing 45% (data

¹⁰⁹ Decreto legislativo, legislative decree

¹¹⁰ <http://www.garantenazionaleprivatiliberta.it/gnpl/resources/cms/documents/ef9c34b393cd0cb6960fd724d590f062.pdf>

¹¹¹ <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/italy>

¹¹² <https://www.lasciatecientrare.it/cosa-sono-i-cie-cpr/>

¹¹³ <https://inlimine.asgi.it/il-cpr-di-trapani-milo/>

¹¹⁴ <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/italy>

updated to 20/06/2019). If expulsions as a result of criminal proceedings are also taken into account, a total of 2,839 migrants were expelled in the same period.”¹¹⁵

Further information on detention pending deportation and the legal basis:

- <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/italy>
- <https://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/italy/detention-asylum-seekers/detentionconditions/place-detention>

Extensive reports from different repatriation centres in Italy can be found here:

- <https://www.lasciatecientrare.it/tag/cpr/>

Massive protests occur repeatedly in all repatriation centres. Detainees are effectively held there without any rights, despite not having committed any crimes in the truest sense of the word: “Once again the protests of the detainees focus on the CPR of Ponte Galeria, which continues to be a place where human rights are systematically violated due to unfair and unconstitutional laws. Following last Friday's fire (22/09/2019), which affected four sections of the men's area, and assurances by the police that the building was usable, the true situation was revealed yesterday during a visit by regional deputies Bonafoni and Capriccioli. They found the centre to be completely uninhabitable, especially the sections affected by the protests, where prisoners are now forced to stay and sleep outside among the remains of the fire. Not only are they locked up without having committed a crime, but they are also forced to put their health in serious danger. But the revolt is showing results: 28 migrants waiting to be identified were released tonight”, reported the LasciateCIEntrare support group for fugitives.¹¹⁶

Repatriation centres in Sicily

Caltanissetta

The multifunctional centre Pian del Lago combines a first reception centre for asylum seekers (CARA) (see chapter 3.b.) and a repatriation centre.

A report by Global Detention Project about Caltanissetta asserts that:

- “The CPR Caltanissetta is located in the middle of a large asylum-seeker centre, albeit physically separated from it, and is managed by Auxilium. Inside the repatriation centre there is a canteen, an outdoor area for sports, a health area and a worship area”. After its visit in 2017, the CPT¹¹⁷ described the conditions in the centre as “very poor”. In particular, the committee noted that in some parts of the centre the space available for each detainee was too small, furniture was lacking, bedding was dirty,

¹¹⁵ Ebda., Chamber of Deputies, I Commission, Facts about immigration policy, asylum law and management of migration flows: Hearing of the National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of their Personal Liberty, Mauro Palma, 2707/2019

¹¹⁶ 5 <https://www.meltingpot.org/CPR-di-Ponte-Galeria-un-luogo-di-abusi-sistematici-da.html#.XeqtEK9CfIU> .

LasciateCIEntrare is a wordplay: CIE is the old term of repatriation centre, lasciateci entrare means “let us in”.

¹¹⁷ European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

and toilets and showers were in poor condition. According to the CPT report, the number of detainees held in the centre sometimes exceeded the maximum capacity of the facility. NPM¹¹⁸ 2017 also described the material conditions as "rather deteriorated and in need of maintenance" and the rooms as "cramped, characterised by poor ventilation and lack of natural lighting". Protests and attempted escapes are not unusual at the centre: in December 2018, prisoners set fire to the centre, and in the same month, several prisoners initiated a mass demonstration. In January 2019, a migrant imprisoned there was seriously injured in an escape attempt.¹¹⁹



CPR of Caltanissetta, 2019. Photo: hurriya.noblogs.org

The AIDA report on Italy adds:

- The centre consists of three residential pavilions, two for 36 people each and one for 24 people. The latter is equipped with built-in beds and foam mattresses. The rooms appear overcrowded, poorly ventilated, cold, and lacking access to natural light, while the bathrooms are also in a critical condition. The centre is also equipped with an indoor canteen. In December 2018, a man-made fire damaged three pavilions housing 90 Tunisians. Since the reopening, protests have been frequent. On 28/12/2018, prisoners attempted a mass escape and in January 2019, a boy who had managed to reach the roof of one of the buildings to escape repatriation was seriously injured.¹²⁰

From the 13/10 to the 14/10 a revolt took place in the repatriation centre of Caltanissetta because of imminent repatriations. The detained migrants did not try to flee, but to resist their deportation.¹²¹ Time and again, fugitives are detained after their arrival without the chance of an asylum procedure.

¹¹⁸ National Guarantor for the rights of persons detained or deprived of liberty

¹¹⁹ <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/italy>

¹²⁰ http://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_it_2018update.pdf

¹²¹ <https://www.caltanissettalive.it/caltanissetta-centro-per-i-rimpatri-gli-ospiti-protestano-danneggiando-i-locali/>

Why imprisoned migrants are protesting – the case of the shipping accident off Lampedusa in October 2019

The following case shows the arbitrariness and injustice of the detention of refugees:

- On the early morning of 07/10/2019, a boat carrying refugees sank just six nautical miles off the island of Lampedusa.¹²² There were about 50 people on board, but only 22 survived the accident that occurred during the rescue by customs police. The boat overturned when all the passengers turned to one side when the customs police arrived. Thirteen women could only be recovered dead, another eight bodies were recovered at a depth of 60 metres¹²³ in the following days, among them children.
- According to the ASGI lawyers' association that was prosecuting the case, an accelerated procedure was used for the survivors to examine applications for international protection in transit and border areas. After almost three weeks in the Lampedusa reception centre, four Tunisian migrants¹²⁴ were transferred to Sicily on 25/10/2019 to formalise their asylum application. The first two men who were interviewed were initially told that the Asylum Commission would apply the accelerated procedure. Compared to the normal procedure, this process results in a reduction of rights: the applicant is heard by the competent commission within seven days and a decision is made within two days. There is no suspensory effect in the event of an appeal. However, those who spend their first weeks in the hotspot have no possibility to prepare themselves adequately for the interview, because the organisations that have access to the hotspot (UNHCR, IOM, Frontex) cannot provide proper legal assistance.
- The hearing of the other two Tunisians took place shortly afterwards. Here the Asylum Commission changed the justification for the application of the accelerated procedure: the persons concerned came from safe countries of origin. The first two men had not been told this and so they were summoned again. "This circumstance must be taken extremely seriously: foreign citizens have been provided with contradictory information, which has contributed to creating a situation of extreme confusion", ASGI explained. This is where the safe country of origin stands against the new decree, which excludes accelerated procedures for those rescued at sea.
- The four men, who had been accommodated in a CAS in Sicily, were placed in the repatriation centre of Caltanissetta by a court order at the beginning of November. There, however, the judge did not extend the detention at the detention hearing, as he did not consider himself responsible. Since a deportation order has been issued, it must now be appealed, so that they can be placed in a reception centre again. However, since, as mentioned above, there is no opportunity given to delay decision-making in these proceedings, the persons concerned run the risk of ending up in a repatriation centre again. Given this regulatory chaos, it is not surprising that the refugees concerned take their fate into their own hands and try to leave the country.¹²⁵

Further links:

- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4150:51more-protests-at-the-detention-centre-in-pian-del-lago-tunisian-man-seriously-wounded&catid=35&lang=en&Itemid=198

¹²² <https://www.dw.com/de/bootsfl%C3%BCchtlinge-vor-lampedusa-ertrunken/a-50724796>

¹²³ https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2019/10/17/news/naufragio_lampedusa_recuperati_corpi_anche_il_bambino-238796747/

¹²⁴ <https://www.fanpage.it/politica/migranti-diversi-governi-stessi-errori-per-i-naufragi-in-mare-diritti-violati-e-prassi-illegittime>

¹²⁵ https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_10-11_Streiflicht_-final.pdf

- <https://hurriya.noblogs.org/post/2019/10/15/caltanissetta-rivolta-e-resistenze-continue-contro-ledeportazioni-nel-cpr-di-pian-del-lago/>

Trapani

On 26/09/2019, the Badia Grande cooperative, which now also runs the hotspot in Lampedusa, took over the running of the repatriation centre: five months for 491,000 euros. In Trapani, too, there are repeated protests. As a result of the revolt, about 15 people were put on the street with a seven-day exit order (they have to leave Italy within a week). In November, however, 24 migrants from the repatriation centre in Turin were transferred to Trapani after a revolt there.¹²⁶

As in Caltanissetta, it is mainly Tunisian citizens who are imprisoned in Trapani, most of whom have reached Lampedusa on their own.¹²⁷

Regarding Trapani, a report by the Global Detention Project states that:

- With a capacity of 205 places, the centre is the largest repatriation centre in Italy. The Cooperativa Badia Grande runs the centre. As the facility has only recently started its repatriation operations, there are currently few reports describing the conditions in the centre. However, ASGI has expressed concern about reports of migrants being admitted to the CPR for identification purposes upon arrival. LasciateCIEntrare has also denounced the fact that an unaccompanied minor was detained in the CPR in January 2019, despite the fact that the family had sent the birth certificate as proof of his age.¹²⁸

Further links:

- <https://inlimine.asgi.it/il-cpr-di-trapani-milo/>
- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4281:82we-accuse-the-illegal-detention-of-two-unaccompanied-minor-migrants-in-the-deportation-centre-of-milo&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102
- <https://www.lasciatecientrare.it/lasciatecientrare-un-msna-trattenuto-al-cpr-di-trapani/>

¹²⁶ <https://www.tp24.it/2019/11/28/cronaca/saranno-trasferiti-allex-trapani-ospiti-torino-andato-fuoco/142294>

¹²⁷ <https://hurriya.noblogs.org/post/2019/10/03/rivolte-nei-cpr-di-trapani-e-caltanissetta/>

¹²⁸ <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/italy>

5. The Withdrawal of Refugee Admission

When the new Security Act came into force at the end of November 2018, the residence permit for humanitarian reasons was revoked and replaced by “special” residence permits that can only be issued in exceptional cases. This will increase the number of irregular immigrants. According to the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), between June 2018 and December 2020 there will be at least 140,000 people who will end up on the streets.

Even with the new government, which under Interior Minister Lamorgese had announced a revision of the two security decrees, nothing has changed so far, with “all the consequences that the Salvini decree is already bringing with it, between the increase in the number of irregular migrants, the overcrowding of the extraordinary reception centres, the end of the SPRAR system and all the redundancies that the policy of closed ports and non-admission will still cause in the coming months. With an imminent date, 31/12/2019, the funding of the SPRAR projects for asylum seekers and holders of humanitarian protection will finally come to an end. Asylum seekers will then have to be transferred to the emergency reception centres that are already collapsing. Holders of humanitarian protection, which the decree on humanitarian protection no longer provides for, will end up on the streets”.¹²⁹

Reception services, starting with Italian language courses and health insurance, have been eliminated or reduced since the security laws. From the Borderline Sicilia report of 06/03/2019: “The reception system has been destroyed, as blatant examples from our area prove. More and more migrants are becoming homeless. The revocation of their admission is made possible by the tightened regulations and the confusion that exists at the same time about the validity of the security decree, the Decreto Sicurezza. The operators of the reception facilities are thus given a free hand. Many facilities only survive because they have dismissed qualified staff and mediators. Only the security personnel remain, who cause unrest and provoke the residents. As a result, they have to leave the centres and thus forfeit their right of admission”.¹³⁰



Homeless woman. Photo: Silvia di Meo

a) The new security decree and the abolition of the humanitarian residence permit

A major problem is the **abolition of humanitarian residence**. The Italian institute ISPI¹³¹ estimates that more than 40,000 people will lose their accommodation because of the new security decree. The

¹²⁹ <https://www.linkiesta.it/it/article/2019/11/08/un-anno-decreto-sicurezza-accoglienza/44269/> , German version of borderline-europe

¹³⁰ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4176:77the-reception-system-collapses&catid=25&lang=en&Itemid=197

¹³¹ https://www.corriere.it/cronache/19_marzo_24/migranti-italia-44000-irregolari-piu-caritas-corre-ripari-e542a400-4e0e-11e98f3f-b71cad3f7934.shtml

estimate is based on figures provided by the Ministry of the Interior and - in contrast to the above-mentioned figures – is based on the period from June 2018 to February 2019 (so several months before the law came into force were also included): 49,460 migrants have had their asylum applications rejected – 4,806 persons were deported during this period. This leaves more than 44,000 people who have no chance of legal residence due to the cancellation of their humanitarian residence permit. “Caritas Ambrosiana, an institution belonging to the Diocese of Milan, has set up a ‘Solidarity Fund for the Excluded’ for foreigners who have had their integration process interrupted due to the new regulations and have had to leave the reception centres managed by the Prefectures. Caritas estimates that in Milan alone, 200 people are already in this situation. The security decree, **contrary to what was promised, will create an emergency situation in our country**. We have decided to deal with it as we do in these cases, providing facilities and resources (...)”, said Caritas Director Luciano Gualzetti in a statement by the organisation.

b) **Revocations on the basis of d.lgs¹³² 142/15**

There have also been many revocations of accommodation in the past. Once such a revocation has been issued by the prefecture, access to accommodation is in principle blocked and lengthy applications are needed to convince the prefecture to grant a new accommodation place. These revocations can be issued for a variety of reasons – see art. 23 of d.lgs 142/15. In many cases, these revocations of accommodation have been issued when homes were to close, and the residents were transferred. In April 2019, the director of a CAS in Syrakus contacted Borderline Sicilia: four CAS were to be closed, one of them was his. The residents were to be transferred to two larger and much worse CAS – this led to protests. The protesters were punished with revocations.

At the moment, however, it must be said that the operators are desperately looking for residents due to the lack of arrivals, so the number of revocations for reasons of article 23 has decreased. For refugees who have left their accommodation, however, the situation remains the same: once a revocation has been issued by the authorities, they no longer have access to accommodation on their return. This ban can only be lifted with a very good reason. Law 142/2015 remains in force with the new security law and the problem of revocations remains. If a refugee loses his/her accommodation, he/she will of course also lose other supplies. Those affected are dependent on the “mercy” of charitable institutions or other “private” solutions. If the stay has also expired, there is the right to medical care, but this is always only emergency care.

Further links:

- <https://www.asgi.it/notizie/revoca-accoglienza-napoli/> - Revocation due to protests
- <https://www.dirittoimmigrazione cittadinanza.it/rassegne/rassegna-di-giurisprudenza-italiana/asilo-e-protezione-internazionale> - Rulings of some administrative courts against the revocations, which means that the person concerned has to find (and pay for) a lawyer to regain his/her right to accommodation.
- https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_03_BORDERLINEEUROPE_Stellungnahme_Unterb_ringung_ITALIEN_0.pdf

¹³² https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_03_BORDERLINEEUROPE_Stellungnahme_Unterbringung_ITALIEN_0.pdf

6. Unaccompanied refugee minors (URM)

Legal basis: Article 19 of Legislative Decree 142/2015, which covers unaccompanied refugee minors and unaccompanied refugee minors who have applied for asylum.

- For the URM there **are three phases of reception**: Initial reception, second reception and reception in temporary centres. According to the law, they should not stay longer than 30 days in the **initial reception**, and identification should take place in 10 days. These initial admissions are opened by the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with local authorities. The **secondary reception**, former SPRAR, now SIPROIMI centres¹³³, is for the integration of the refugees. The **transitional facilities** are only to be used for a short reception if places cannot be found immediately. In recent years, these centres have often become the final destination for the young refugees.
- **Guardianship**: a guardian should be appointed within 30 days – one of the major problems, as there is often no guardian to take care of the individual case. Until a guardian is appointed, the legal representatives of the centres are often the temporary guardians, which is a conflict of interest, as the young people are dependent on the operators of the homes. Law 47/2017 also allows the appointment of voluntary guardians, who must be registered with the Youth Court.
- **Age verification**: if there is any doubt about the age of the young person, the first thing to do is to obtain documents from their home country that confirm their age. The home embassies being involved is a major problem for young people seeking asylum. The public prosecutor's office at the juvenile court commissions the determination of the age. Wrist x-rays are no longer the first and sole method of age assessment, but they can still be carried out.
- According to the Italian Ministry of the Interior, in May 2019 there were at least **7,580 URM** in Italy: about **85% of them between 16 and 17 years of age, 5.7% 14 years or younger and 1% even under six years of age** (as of May 2019).¹³⁴ However, these figures only refer to the minors who were registered and interviewed. The actual number of URM is likely to be much higher.
- By far the largest number of URM are in **Sicily** (as of June 2019, 2). 2,202 persons, or about 30% of the total URM in Italy. In second place is Lombardy, which has taken 774 URM.¹³⁵ The consequence of this unequal distribution is an **overload of overcrowded structures**, the consequences of which the URM suffer bitterly.¹³⁶
- In March 2019, only **3% of all URM in Italy were in a foster family** – as should be the case for all URM under the of the Zampa Law 2017.¹³⁷ The vast majority were placed in regular reception centres.¹³⁸

¹³³ See chapter 5

¹³⁴ <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/immigrazione/focus-on/minori-stranieri/Documents/Report-MSNA-mese-maggio2019.pdf>

¹³⁵ <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/immigrazione/focus-on/minori-stranieri/Documents/Report-MSNA-mese-maggio2019.pdf>

¹³⁶ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/06/09/minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati-ce-la-legge-ma-non-si-applica-solo-il-3-va-inaffido-e-i-tutor-non-vengono-assegnati/5217552/>

¹³⁷ <https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Meldungen/DE/2018/EMN/20180523-UM-Tagung-Italien.html?nn=1366152>

¹³⁸ <http://www.vita.it/it/article/2019/05/29/minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati-perche-litalia-deve-ripartire-dallaf/151727/>

- The Italian magazine Il Fatto Quotidiano speaks of **at least 4,324 “untraceable” URM** for which the authorities have reported deportations. They are in particular danger of ending up in the network of crime, underground and prostitution – especially among young girls. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, many are often exploited on building sites and camps.¹³⁹

Special burdens for URM in Italy

- Unaccompanied refugee minors have to deal with a **double psychological burden**. First, they have to cope with the traumatic experiences of their escape and the new beginning in a foreign country. Many have lost their parents, family members and friends and have to process these losses at a very young age. Second, they are also in their teenage phase, which is massively complicated by cultural and contextual changes and the bad experiences they have had.¹⁴⁰
- These young people therefore need a **special form of reception and care** so that this double psychological burden does not destroy them.
- In reality, the opposite happens: when they **come of age**, those who have been granted a humanitarian residence permit lose both their **right to live** in the **reception centre** and their **residence permit**, because this was abolished after the **Salvini’s Security Decree**. Those who still have it will lose it when it expires, there is no chance of renewing it. It is very difficult to obtain another form of residence permit, for example through work or training, because the URM in the initial reception centres have not had the opportunity to learn or integrate sufficiently in Italian, neither socially nor through work.¹⁴¹
- **In Sicily**, at the **beginning of 2019**, this fate has affected about **2,000 boys and girls** who were to come of age.¹⁴²
- All the integration achieved by the URM will therefore be nullified when they turn 18, as they will lose their place in a reception centre for minors and still have no right to be admitted to a centre for adults. The danger of marginalisation and exploitation is enormous.¹⁴³
- The admission system in foster families in its original form fails because of **the lack of implementation**. There are not enough foster families because the municipalities do not search for them enough and do not carry out awareness campaigns. Each region has its own regulations, there is **no uniform legislation**, which in combination with a lack of staff leads to widespread confusion. The dismantling of the SPRAR system, which is being pushed forward by the new safety decree, also worsens existing structures and provides even less adequate support for URM.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁹ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/06/09/minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati-ce-la-legge-ma-non-si-applica-solo-il-3-va-inaffido-e-i-tutor-non-vengono-assegnati/5217552/>

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/06/09/minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati-ce-la-legge-ma-non-si-applica-solo-il-3-va-inaffido-e-i-tutor-non-vengono-assegnati/5217552/>

¹⁴¹ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4258:59the-ab-normality-of-reception-in-caltanissetta&catid=35&lang=en&Itemid=198

¹⁴² <https://www.lasciateciocentrare.it/sicilia-chiude-il-cara-della-mega-accoglienza-restano-i-problemi-e-cresce-il-razzismo/>

¹⁴³ https://video.repubblica.it/dossier/migranti-2019/l-eta-fragile-tra-i-migranti-che-compiono-18-anni-dopo-il-decreto-sicurezza-vanifica-la-nostra-integrazione/334676/335276?refresh_ce

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/06/09/minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati-ce-la-legge-ma-non-si-applica-solo-il-3-va-inaffido-e-i-tutor-non-vengono-assegnati/5217552/>

Case study: Unaccompanied refugee minors in the repatriation centre of Trapani

- On the 14/06/2019, Borderline Sicilia was informed that two URM were in the **repatriation centre in Trapani**. The Judge of the Peace in Trapani had ordered the temporary placement of the two boys without confirming the extent of their detention.
- Borderline Sicilia reports that the two minors are still being held in the repatriation centre, although they have submitted a report to the public prosecutor of the Palermo Juvenile Court (also forwarded to the Prefecture of Trapani and the guardians) in due time. They are in **a state of promiscuity with adults and their accommodation violates the rules of child protection**.
- **Article 19, paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree no. 142 of 2015** expressly prohibits the detention of unaccompanied minors in CPR facilities and, according to **Article 19 of the Consolidated Immigration Law**, under no circumstances can the refusal and expulsion of children under the age of 18 be ordered.
- Borderline Sicilia therefore urged all authorities to immediately release the two URM from the CPR and transfer them to appropriate structures, as well as to initiate the procedures for the protection measures required by law.¹⁴⁵

Case study: Allegations of abuse in the reception centre of Fondachelli Fantini (Messina)¹⁴⁶

A particularly drastic example of the inhuman excesses in Italy's reception system are the events in Fondachelli Fantini in the province of Messina. In 2016, "Save the Children" lodged a complaint – the accusations were serious and have been confirmed:

- The management of "Rosselli", the reception centre for unaccompanied minors, is accused of illegally employing ten minors and other residents of the centre, mainly for cleaning and clearing up work that should have been done by paid workers. Some suspects are also accused of a series of mistreatment and use of violence. From the testimonies of the victims, some of whom had even fled the centre, it is clear that the minors were also served spoiled food. In addition, there are inadequate sanitary facilities and a lack of water in the centre.
- And that's not all: the accusations extend right into the political administration of the centre. There is also an application for remand of custody against the mayor, Marco Pettinato, and some family members. It seems that the municipal administration has falsified the registration list and declared a larger number of residents than were actually in the centre, which means that they received correspondingly higher payments from the Ministry of the Interior. Many minors had already moved north but were still listed as residents of the home. It is no wonder that the mayor Marco Pettinato and also his father and predecessor Francesco Pettinato are known for racist statements and questionable manoeuvres: Marco Pettinato already made a name for himself in 2013 when he offered to the Italian State to bury the body of SS leader and war criminal Erich Friede in his municipality.

¹⁴⁵ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4281:82we-accuse-the-illegal-detention-of-two-unaccompanied-minor-migrants-in-the-deportation-centre-of-milo&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.stampalibera.it/2019/07/05/tutti-i-nomi-pestaggio-e-caporalato-11-richieste-di-misure-per-la-gestione-dei-centridi-accoglienza-di-fondachelli-fantina/>

- The scandal surrounding the reception centre in Fondacchelli Fantini is appalling and seems to be only the tip of the iceberg. The legal investigation of the case continues even three years after the accusations have become known. As of July 2019, procedural issues and jurisdiction were still pending clarification. And while Salvini boasts of having closed the CARA di Mineo and declared war on NGOs, the reception centre in Fondacchelli remain open – apparently, they are still of strategic importance.
- The only question is: if Save the Children had not existed, who would have brought to light the inhuman conditions there?

7. Seasonal work - exploitation mechanisms at different levels

Many migrants throughout Italy were also working in agriculture during the 2018/2019 seasonal harvest. The number of unreported cases of such work is very high and only a few places where migrants perform agricultural work are known.

Since the 1990s, seasonal work in agriculture has been carried out mainly by migrants. In 2017, especially in the south of Italy, mainly people from Sub-Saharan Africa were employed. In San Ferdinando, Calabria, 88% of all workers in agriculture are migrants.¹⁴⁷

Seasonal harvesting work is underpaid, working conditions are very precarious, labour rights are not respected and migrants are exposed to various mechanisms of exploitation. Due to the seasonal nature of the work, the constant change of location creates an environment in which exploitation and abuse are commonplace.¹⁴⁸



Erbe bianche, 2019. Photo: Borderline Sicilia

¹⁴⁷ See also the report from Human Rights Council: „Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences”, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2014693/a_hrc_42_44_add.1_E.pdf

¹⁴⁸ https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2014693/a_hrc_42_44_add.1_E.pdf

- The most well-known place for seasonal olive harvesting in Sicily is **Campobello di Mazara**.
- During a visit to the camp in October 2019 our colleagues from Borderline Sicilia realized that the situation of the migrants has worsened over the last few years. Migrants live under very precarious living conditions: home-made dwellings made of wood and plastic sheets without doors, no running water and no sanitary infrastructure.¹⁴⁹
- A migrant from the camp reports on the current situation there: “What can I tell you, it is like every year when we meet here again, but this time it is even worse than before. Moreover, this year there are almost no olives and finding work is even more difficult. I really don't know what to tell you, I'm sorry. Take a walk around and tell me what's good in this hell”.¹⁵⁰
- The leaders of the “Tavoli tecnici”¹⁵¹ have asked the Red Cross to set up a camp that can accommodate 240 people in tents. However, these are only available to those who have a residence permit. This year, compared to last year, no meals are prepared, and no entrance fees are charged; last year so few migrants accepted this service that not even the funds promised to the Red Cross were collected.
- The authorities boast that the new initiative offers migrants the opportunity to stay overnight directly in the employer's premises. However, due to the lack of control mechanisms, the migrants are usually housed in very precarious conditions, e.g. without sanitary facilities, and many return to the old familiar camps where they live in simple dwellings.
- “L'ex cementificio” is the name of the place where 600 people, mainly from Senegal, have set up camp: with or without a residence permit, young and old, they come from all parts of Italy to harvest.



Ex-Cementificio, 2019. Foto: Borderline Sicilia

- The administrations of Campobello and Castelvetro have said that they will evacuate parts of the unauthorised camp “Erbe bianche”¹⁵², as there is archaeological interest in the site. 62,000 euros have

¹⁴⁹ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4365:66campobello-2019-another-olive-harvest-in-the-name-of-exploitation&catid=43&lang=en&Itemid=204

¹⁵⁰ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4365:66campobello-2019-another-olive-harvest-in-the-name-of-exploitation&catid=43&lang=en&Itemid=204

¹⁵¹ "Tavoli tecnici" is the name of the committee of the administration of Campobello di Mazara, of the authorities and of the competent employers who meet annually before the olive harvest to exchange information about the conditions of the workers in Campobello and to discuss solutions for a successful harvest for all

¹⁵² "Erbe Bianche" ("White Grass") is a part of the camp, where migrants live in self-built dwellings made of wood and plastic sheets without doors.

been spent to carry out this project, but the camps have not been evacuated. They continue to resemble a landfill and the asbestos that contaminates the soil and air in both camps is still present.

- The situation has not changed in recent years. Borderline Sicilia observes in the monitoring that the migrants hardly want to answer questions about the current situation on-site and do not want to have the camp filmed; they are afraid of the reactions of the employers.
- Only the new arrivals are open to talk. They say that about 10 women were forced to prostitute themselves, most of them were very young Nigerian women. Senegalese were also among them. As the women have not yet reported the crime, authorities are unable to, nor do they really want to intervene.
- The camps have established themselves as a goldmine for various “traders”: a bucket of water costs one euro, a simple dwelling between 150 and 300 euros, toilet and shower use also one euro and transport to the olive grove now costs five euros a day.
- Many young migrants from Livorno, Bolzano and Reggio Emilia who have just come of age, have been promised an employment contract, accommodation, and meals. But the reality is quite different: they are forced to stay in the camps just like everyone else and the money is usually not enough to pay the expensive “service fees”.
- In total, at peak times there are 1,000 people on site who come to Campobello di Mazara for the olive harvest. But there is not enough work for all these people, so many of them get into debt paying the return journey.
- What is new this year (2019) is above all the emergence of a shadow economy within the camp; in the past, workers shared the transport money to the olive grove among themselves in solidarity, whereas today a service is offered and each one has to pay five euros for the transport. In different barracks food and drinks are offered and thus a place of consumption is created, making it clear that the migrants are not only exploited as cheap labour, but also within the camp itself.
- Up until three years ago, there were still various volunteer organizations on-site that helped coordinate the camp. Today, everything has turned into a “business” and there is hardly any money left for the migrants at the end of the olive harvest.

The migrants are trapped in mechanisms of exploitation that manifest themselves at different levels and are also present in other parts of Italy where seasonal harvests take place. Trapped in a vicious spiral in search of the next bit of earnings to survive, the migrants thus move from harvest to harvest without knowing what new exploitations await them.

Further links:

- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4365:66campobello-2019-another-olive-harvest-in-the-name-of-exploitation&catid=43&lang=en&Itemid=204
- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1731:27the-tent-city-of-campobello-di-mazzara&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102
- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2503:2campobello-di-mazara-precarious-agricultural-labour-and-discrimination&catid=43&lang=en&Itemid=204
- <https://www.borderline-europe.de/projekte/%E2%80%99Edie-situation-von-migrantinnensizilien%E2%80%9C>

- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4038:39the-hidden-economy-and-the-exploitation-of-seasonal-workers-theory-practice-and-comparing-views-12-09-marsala&catid=43&lang=en&Itemid=204
- https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3742:41the-shanty-town-at-cassibile-at-the-point-of-emergency-employers-should-guarantee-accomodation&catid=41&lang=en&Itemid=202
- <https://www.liberties.eu/de/news/ausbeutung-migrantischer-arbeitnehmer-in-italien-greta-bericht/15082>
- https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2014693/a_hrc_42_44_add.1_E.pdf

On the rescue of migrants at sea



Arrival SW3 with Carola Rackete, Porto Empedocle, July 2019. Photo: Borderline Sicilia

- According to statements by the Italian Ministry of the Interior, 10,960 refugees reached Italy by sea in 2019.¹⁵³ 2,498 of these were in September alone. Most of the refugees come from Tunisia, followed by Pakistan, the Ivory Coast, Algeria, and Iraq. The massive drop in arrivals from Libya is also clearly reflected in the composition of the countries of origin.
- But this does not mean that the refugees are not trying to cross the sea: the Alarm Phone posted on Twitter on the 21/09/2019 that it had never before been contacted so frequently by refugee boats in the Central Mediterranean in such a short period of time (as in the days from 16/09 to 20/09). 10 boats with about 720 refugees on board had left the Libyan coast. Five of these boats had been stopped and brought back by the “Libyan coast guard”, which means that about 431 people had to return to the hell of the Libyan camps. The other five boats were taken to Europe, four to Malta and one to Italy. A

¹⁵³http://www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_04-122019.pdf, Stand 04/12/2019

similar situation happened in November: “Last week, from 19/11 to 22/11, in just four days, the alarm telephone was alerted that 13 boats fled Libya, carrying about 730 people. Of those who called us, about 420 people were rescued to Europe, 287 by NGO ships and 133 by the Maltese coast guards, and about 190 people were intercepted by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard and forced back to Libya”.¹⁵⁴

- Time and again, refugees also reach the island of Lampedusa independently. The civilian rescue ships are also still operating – as long as they are not stopped by the Italian authorities. Furthermore, crew and rescued persons have to wait for days for the assignment of a safe harbour, e.g. also the Alan Kurdi of the NGO Sea-Eye. Only when the Mayor of Palermo officially announced on 03/12/2019 that he had asked the authorities to allow the Alan Kurdi to dock in his city was it assigned to the port of Messina, this after seven days at sea and three emergency evacuations for medical reasons.
- Where the course of refugee policy in the new Italian Government will lead is not yet clear, but renewed, long negotiations where exactly the rescued can be brought ashore leave little hope. It is nevertheless difficult to say at present whether and how the “Salvini Decree” will be amended. So far there have mainly been expressions of intention on the part of the new Conte government and the EU Commission to create new distribution mechanisms to relieve Italy. All EU-states should be made responsible for accepting migrants. If they refuse, they should experience noticeable financial losses. If and how this will contribute to an improvement of the situation of migrants is still questionable.
- The situation of migrants in the Libyan camps is catastrophic. If they manage to survive the dangerous crossing to Italy and are not stopped by the so-called “Libyan Coast Guard”, they receive inadequate treatment and long waiting times in Italy. The new Italian Government and the EU institutions must quickly find humane solutions that are no longer characterised by closed ports and more overcrowded centres. A rapid redistribution is urgently needed, one that takes into account the needs of the refugees and does not keep them on “stand-by” for weeks after the traumatic experiences of flight.
- The extension of the “**Memorandum of Understanding**” between Italy and Libya in November 2019 is shocking in view of the well-known situation of the migrants, but also of the Libyan population ravaged by civil war.¹⁵⁵ It was not until autumn 2019 that it was discovered by an Italian journalist that already in 2017 there had been visits to Sicily and Rome by a member of the so-called “Libyan Coast Guard” from Zawiyah – a man who is wanted as the head of a well-known people-smuggling network.¹⁵⁶
- It is gratifying to note a **ruling by the Civil Court in Rome**¹⁵⁷ **issued at the beginning of December:** refusals at sea are illegal and those who suffer them have the right to claim damages and to seek international protection in the EU country that issued the refusal. In an appeal by the Italian lawyers' association ASGI and Amnesty international Italia, the court found that a group of migrants rescued by an Italian military ship in 2009, then taken back to Libya, had the right to compensation and to enter Italy to seek asylum. It will have to be seen in the future how this legal basis can be used in cases of refoulement, because it is not easy to establish contact with the people taken back to Libya, but it is nevertheless an important sign of the Italian justice system doing its job.

¹⁵⁴ 3 https://alarmphone.org/en/2019/11/26/four-days-of-struggle/?post_type_release_type=post translation from borderline-europe

¹⁵⁵ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/11/deal-curb-migrant-arrivals-italy-libya-renewed-191102122821537.html>

¹⁵⁶ https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4327:28dalla-libia-a-mineo-il-negoziato-tra-l-italia-e-il-boss&catid=13&lang=it&Itemid=131

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2019/12/03/news/migranti-sentenza-del-tribunale-i-respingimenti-sono-illegali-242483557/>



Demonstration for the Sea Watch 3 in Syrakus, January 2019. Photo: Borderline Sicilia

Borderline-europe and **Borderline Sicilia** have published many articles about the sea rescue and its criminalisation during the year 2018/2019.

Here you will find some further links on the topic:

1. Sea Rescue and Sicily 2019

- **The Diciotti case: on the vote of Immunity for Salvini “open the case for the conflict of competences before the constitutional court”** https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4279:80th-e-diciotti-case-on-the-vote-of-immunity-for-salvini-open-the-case-for-the-conflict-of-competences-before-the-constitutional-court&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102
- **Gregoretti: we request the immediate landing for the migrants rescued by the coast guard** https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4302:3gregoretti-we-request-the-immediate-landing-for-the-migrants-rescued-by-the-coast-guard&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102
- **Tunisia safe harbor? Stories of violence and deportations from the Tunisian-Libyan border**

https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4413:tunisia-safe-harbor-stories-of-violence-and-deportations-from-the-tunisian-libyan-border&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122

- **Another summer of drowning and violations of human rights at the southern border of Europe**
https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4475:another-summer-of-drowning-and-violations-of-human-rights-at-the-southern-border-of-europe&catid=25&lang=en&Itemid=197
From Libya to the limbo of hotspots: the fate of asylum applicants in relocation procedures
https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4474:from-libya-to-the-limbo-of-hotspots-the-fate-of-asylum-applicants-in-relocation-procedures&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122
- **The border of Lampedusa. Unlawful practices, indifference and resistance**
https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4384:85the-border-of-lampedusa-unlawful-practices-indifference-and-resistance&catid=25&lang=en&Itemid=197
- **Migrants, those bodies at the bottom of the sea and the safe routes that still do not exist**
https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4379:80migrants-those-bodies-at-the-bottom-of-the-sea-and-the-safe-routes-that-still-do-not-exist&catid=74&lang=en&Itemid=102
- **No one could say they didn't know**
https://www.borderlinesicilia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4392:93-no-one-could-say-they-didn-t-know&catid=27&lang=en&Itemid=122

2. Sea rescue and 2018 – 2019

- **Salvinis Italien: Abschottungspolitik auf Kosten von Menschen in Seenot – 1**
https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/Salvinis%20Italien%20-%20Abschottungspolitik%20auf%20Kosten%20von%20Menschen%20in%20Seenot_0.pdf
- **Salvinis Italien: Abschottungspolitik auf Kosten von Menschen in Seenot – 2**
https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/Salvinis%20Italien%202%20-%20Abschottungspolitik%20auf%20Kosten%20von%20Menschen%20in%20Seenot.pdf
- **Salvinis Italien Abschottungspolitik auf Kosten von Menschen in Seenot – 3**
https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/Salvinis%20Italien%203%20-%20Abschottungspolitik%20auf%20Kosten%20von%20Menschen%20in%20Seenot_0.pdf
- **"Lassen Sie mich erklären, warum der Plan der Regierung, NGOs zu stoppen, gegen das Gesetz verstößt."**
https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/%C3%9Cbersetzung_Artikel%20Nalbone.pdf
- **Wie Libyen zum sicheren Hafen wurde. Die Zuweisung einer libyschen „Search and Rescue Zone“ als europäisches Migrationsmanagement**
https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/Wie%20Libyen%20zum%20sicheren%20Hafen%20wurde.%20Die%20Zuweisung%20einer%20libyschen%20Search%20and%20Rescue%20Zone%20als%20europa%CC%88isches%20Migrationsmanagement_0.pdf
- **Mare Jonio setzt Seenotrettung gegen die italienische Regierung durch**

[https://www.borderline-](https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_Das%20Recht%20ist%20mit%20uns_Judith%20Gleitze.pdf)

[europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_Das%20Recht%20ist%20mit%20uns_Judith%20Gleitze.pdf](https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_05_Das%20Recht%20ist%20mit%20uns_Judith%20Gleitze.pdf)

- **53 gerettete Migrant*innen bringen die politische Stimmung in Italien zum Kochen**

[https://www.borderline-](https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_07_03_53%20gerettete%20Migrant_innen%20bringen%20die%20politische%20Stimmung%20in%20Italien%20zum%20Kochen_b-e_0.pdf)

[europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_07_03_53%20gerettete%20Migrant_innen%20bringen%20die%20politische%20Stimmung%20in%20Italien%20zum%20Kochen_b-e_0.pdf](https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2019_07_03_53%20gerettete%20Migrant_innen%20bringen%20die%20politische%20Stimmung%20in%20Italien%20zum%20Kochen_b-e_0.pdf)

- **Tripolis und der Bluff der Küstenwache: "Alles wird von Rom koordiniert"**

https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/sar%20libica.pdf

You can find much more information on the homepages and social media pages of the civil sea rescue NGOs / groups and the telephone hotline for sea rescue Alarm Phone:

Sea Watch: <https://sea-watch.org/>

Sea-Eye: <https://sea-eye.org/>

Mediterranea: <https://mediterranearescue.org/en/>

Open Arms: <https://www.openarms.es/en/who-are-we>

MayDayterraneo: <http://www.maydayterraneo.org/es/>

SOS Méditerranée/MSF: <https://sosmediterranee.de/>

United4rescue: <https://www.united4rescue.com>

Alarm Phone: <https://alarmphone.org/en/>



Demonstration Palermo, July 2018. Photo: borderline-europ

Annex

You will find information on the following topics in our 2018 report¹⁵⁸:

- A.1. No rescue in October 2013 - milestone for the changes in maritime rescue
 - A1.1. 03/10/2013
 - A.1.2. 11/10/ 2013
- A.2. The terminated operation "Mare Nostrum"
- A.3. The replacement operation "Triton" ("Frontex-Plus")
- A.4. The maritime disasters in April 2015
- A.5. About the EU mission EUNAVFOR MED ("Sophia")

¹⁵⁸ https://www.borderline-europe.de/sites/default/files/projekte_files/2018_01_Sizilienbericht%20finale.compressed_0.pdf

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- <http://www.borderline-europe.de>
- www.borderlinesicilia.it (in three languages)

Newsletter

- borderline-europe publishes a quarterly newsletter on the situation at Europe's external borders and a newsletter on Italy approximately every six weeks. <http://www.borderline-europe.de/newsletter-borderline-europe> <https://www.borderline-europe.de/projekte/newsletter-italien>
- In addition, a monthly newsletter is published on the website www.borderlinesicilia.it, which deals with new developments in the region of Sicily.