EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF STATE TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVES
XXIV EUROPEAN DAYS

MIGRATION FLOWS AND SECURITY THREATS

Prefect Marco Valentini

Oulu, 16 June 2017

MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO

THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION IN THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

Security challenges are connected to each of the following stages :

- **rescue**: interventions at sea must ensure the safety of migrants and the legitimacy of the rescue procedures
- **reception**: public procurement contracts for the management of hot-spot, reception- and return centres are extremely attractive for criminal organizations.
- **protection**: the status of a migrant has not yet been established. This could involve different types of risk in case of excessively drawn –out procedures,
- **removal**: except for displaced persons and asylum applicants, it becomes increasingly difficult to carry out expulsions as illegal stay or absconding turn into permanent conditions.
- **integration**: the major challenge is a poor or missing integration.

THREATS TO SECURITY

There are several links between security and immigration

TERRORISM

ORGANIZED CRIME

PUBLIC SECURITY,

PETTY CRIME AND SOCIAL CONFLICTS

TERRORISM

A TERRORIST ARRIVING IN EUROPE DRIVEN BY THE SPECIFIC INTENTION TO CARRY OUT AN ATTACK

A PERSON OF FOREIGN ORIGIN- BORN AND RAISED IN EUROPE – WHO HAS BEEN RADICALIZED AT A LATER TIME IN LIFE.

ORGANIZED CRIME

IMMIGRATION IS A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL AND FOREIGN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
- EXPLOITATION OF PROSTITUTION AND ILLEGAL WORK
- DRAWING MIGRANTS INTO THE REALIZATION OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (E.G., DRUG TRAFFICKING)
- INFILTRATION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RECEPTION SYSTEM.

PUBLIC SECURITY

THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN CITIZENS HAS A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE HOST COMMUNITIES. RISE IN PETTY CRIME AND SOCIAL CONFLICTS

- EMERGENCE OF SPONTANEOUS AGGREGATIONS, MONO-ETHNIC AND MONO-RELIGIOUS DISTRICTS IN TOWNS AND CITIES
- DISTORTION OF COMPETITION IN THE LABOUR MARKET
- DISTORTION OF COMPETITION IN THE USE OF PUBLIC SERVICES
- PETTY CRIME

ADDED VALUE OF INTEGRATION

Different integration programmes have been established, depending on whether the foreigners are entitled to international protection or are migrants legally staying on the national territory.

Public order and security cannot be the only approach to face the threats posed by migration flows.

The challenge is to prevent security threats promoting the integration of aliens in the host society.

THE PREFECT'S ROLE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION POLICIES IN ITALY

In the Italian legal system, a Prefect :

- shall act as a liason between all national and local administrations in order to ensure minimum standards and a uniformity of "core benefits", as guaranteed in the Constitutional law, to all persons present in the Italian territory;
- shall address issues related to migration flows in the areas under his/her responsibility and questions related to reception, in collaboration with local authorities;
- shall act to ensure legality and territorial, institutional, legal/jurisdictional and social cohesion;
- shall act as provincial authorities for public security

INTEGRATION, PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST TERRORIST THREATS

Radicalization tipically starts in Europe, not in the countries of origin , often in poor living conditions and / or when people experience just one religion and culture.

In Italy, the Prefect is called upon to mobilize all social actors operating in the territory concerned, from schools and cultural organizations through to prisons, also promoting de-radicalization programmes.

Integration programmes can be our most effective tool in combating terrorist threats. Proper communication should be promoted to fight against the pro-jihad ideologies.

INTEGRATION AND FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME

The Prefect is responsible for preventing and fighting against conditions of social exclusion, where criminal organizations can easily creep in.

It is crucial that migrants are given access to those services that safeguard their human dignity and to prevent access to illegal labour and illegal social schemes.

Transparency and respect for the laws in the management of the reception system are central, to prevent infiltrations of criminal organizations.

INTEGRATION AND PUBLIC SECURITY

The Prefect is responsible for carrying out activities for preventing and defusing social unrest, and also works to make both nationals and foreigners they belong to a single, open-minded yet pluralistic community.

In public speaking, divisive attitudes must be avoided, encouraging behaviours that help defuse possible tensions and promote mutual respect.

Rumours about all migrants being more likely to commit petty crime do not reflect reality.

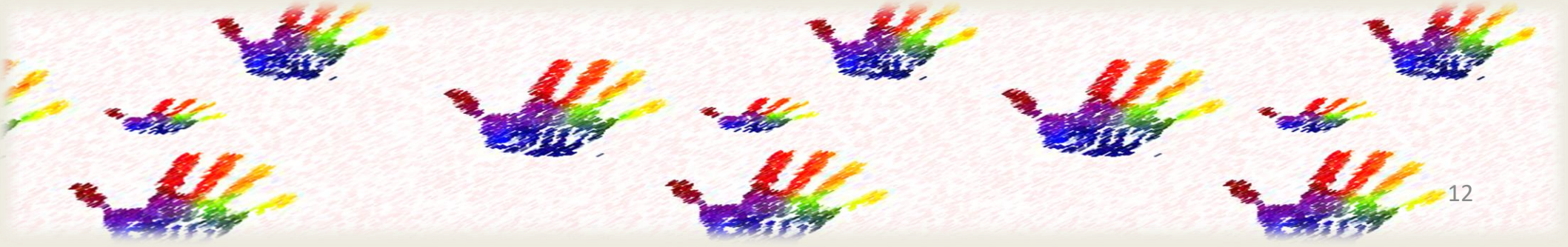
Crime rate among migrants living in poor social conditions increases at about the same pace as the national average

A NARROW PATH TO STRIKE A NECESSARY BALANCE

In the western democracies, the systems for ensuring fundamental rights and freedoms for all individuals have evolved as having universal nature. Modern constitutional systems are based on universally enshrined rules, principles and values.

Due to massive migration flows, the financial sustainability of the integration systems as well as the principle of universal rights are being challenged. Yet, it cannot be excluded that the fundamental rights granted in our democracies may play a role in attracting migrants.

Our challenge is to strike a balance between a sustainable system and the principle of solidarity, with the latter not being denied, in a sustainable way so that universally enshrined rights can be enjoyed.



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