ORIGINS AND TRENDS
OF CONTEMPORARY
M I G R A T I O N S

Cover: Migrants waiting to cross the border between Mexico and the USA

ORIGIN AND TRENDS
IN CONTEMPORARY MIGRATIONS

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1. **Initial moment of recollection (prayer or singing)**

2. **Objectives od Handbook 1:**
   - What are the main causes of migration?
   - How do different types of migration stand out?
   - What are the main areas of origin and destination of migration today?
   - What are the main migration corridors?
   - What is return migration?

3. **Glossary of the most important terms (see keywords)**

4. **The development of this formation tool**

   The formation session may be carried out in one or more sessions. It is appropriate to distribute the text in advance, so that it is already known before coming together. The facilitator can screen short videos of the migration situation in the various continents.

5. **Final sharing can revolve around the following questions:**
   - what are the concepts that have best clarified my knowledge of the migrations?
   - which aspects in common language or mass media are constrasting the most with what was presented?
   - what needs to be investigated further?

6. **To learn more**
   It is advisable to watch a film or to read literature taken from the bibliographical indications.

7. **Evaluation**
   Fill in the short form that is distributed

8. **Conclusion** with a prayer or a song

A true story - *Lamin is a boy from Guinea and is 22 years old. At the age of 18 he left his country in early 2016. But he didn't go on vacation, he didn't go on a study trip... Lamin escaped, escaped extreme poverty and government repression. From Guinea he went to Mali (about 750 km), from there he moved to Algeria. For a week he walked along the streets of Mali, then arrived at the desert... along with 100 other people... very few survivors: "many can't stand the pain... then there was no food and no water," Lamin repeats. He, however, with some friends arrives in Algeria, but undocumented and after a period of as clandestine, they are captured, brought back and abandoned in the desert. Lamin arrives in Libya, where traffickers charge to smuggle people in. Thus, begins a long period of prison, slavery. Lamin is sold several times before being able to get the money and "the opportunity" to embark for Italy. In the middle of the sea the Libyan guard finds them and takes them back to prison. A long period of prison and slavery begins again, until he manages to escape again and take a boat to Italy. After a 14-hour journey, on a plastic leaking boat, and thanks to a ship that saves them all, Lamin arrives in Sicily in January 2017, after a year of hardships. Here another odyssey begins in reception centers, EX-SPRAR/SI-PROMI, asylum applications, denials, humanitarian protection... It is not a different story from many others, and perhaps it is not even the most tragic. Lamin is strong physically and psychologically and now lives and works in Italy. This story, however, brings out the many questions to which we will try to find answers. Answers that in the case of human migrations always remain "open", partial and dynamic, but that help to clarify the confused contours of a phenomenon that every day challenges us to defend humanity that connoted it but that many, too many, political and media actors try to fade, hide, camouflage behind a "liquid" and instrumental use of information, data and reasons for contemporary migrations.*

Listen to Lamin's video interview: https://www.facebook.com/FondazioneCSER/videos/575354716393767/

1. Which are the main causes that give origin to migrations?

Early comprehensive theories on migration were focused on:
- push factors: problems within the country of origin (e.g. famines, political oppression) that push people to emigrate;
- pull factors (attraction): characteristics of the destination countries (e.g. work, civil rights, social welfare, services) that attract Immigrants.

Today, many migration scholars are adopting a "systemic" approach model, that is, the global migratory models are seen as products of interactions between macro and micro processes.

From this point of view, migration is part of the trade of various factors (economic, political, cultural, linguistic) between two or more countries.

Populist political propaganda, prevalent in the Western world, pushes back what, in the scientific sphere, is recognized as the structural fun-

Fig. 1 - Main Mediterranean routes from Africa to Europe, 2016 - 2019 (in red Lamin's route)
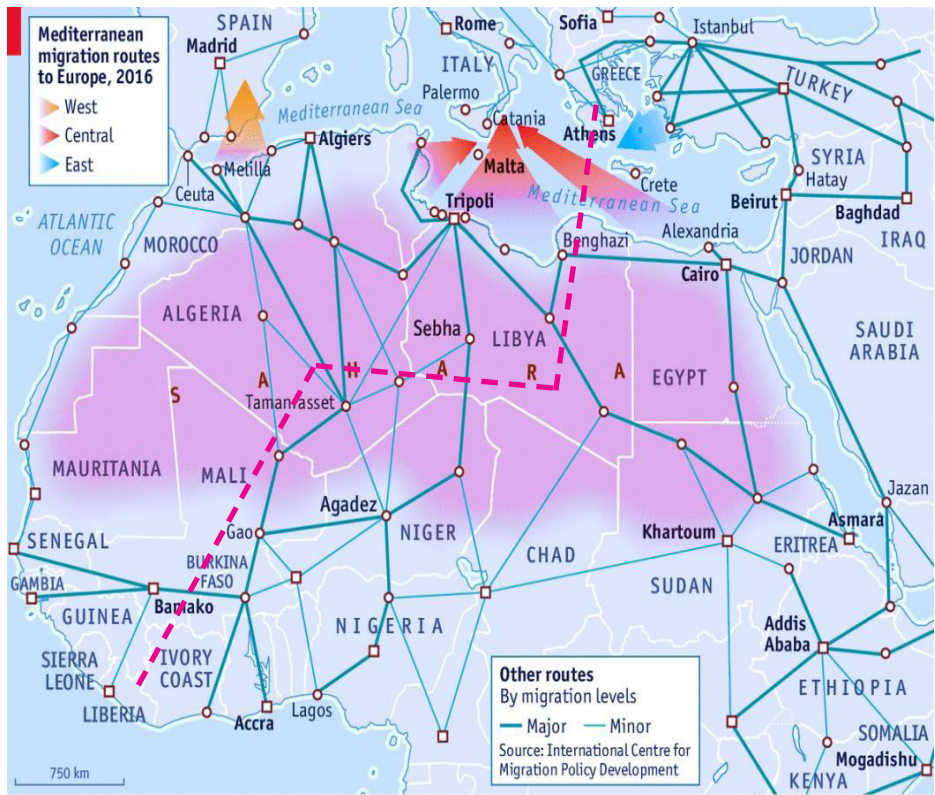
KEY WORDS: #migration #routes #Africa #Europe #Libia #Mali #Guinea #SPRAR #SIPROMI #ASYLUM SEEKER

ction that the immigrant workforce assumes in countries with advanced economies both for the survival of economic systems and welfare and for demographic balance (Harris, 1995). The structuralist approach, however, takes up - although in a positive way - the ambiguous dichotomy "immigrants-danger" vs " immigrants-resource ", a model of cost-benefit analysis that considers migration as a mere displacement of the workforce (think of the migrations of the twentieth century that affected Italy to the Americas and European countries). The economic approach excludes the human dimension, looking at the phenomenon only from the point of view of the country of arrival. It also neglects the social, cultural and psychological conditions which drive the human being to migrate.
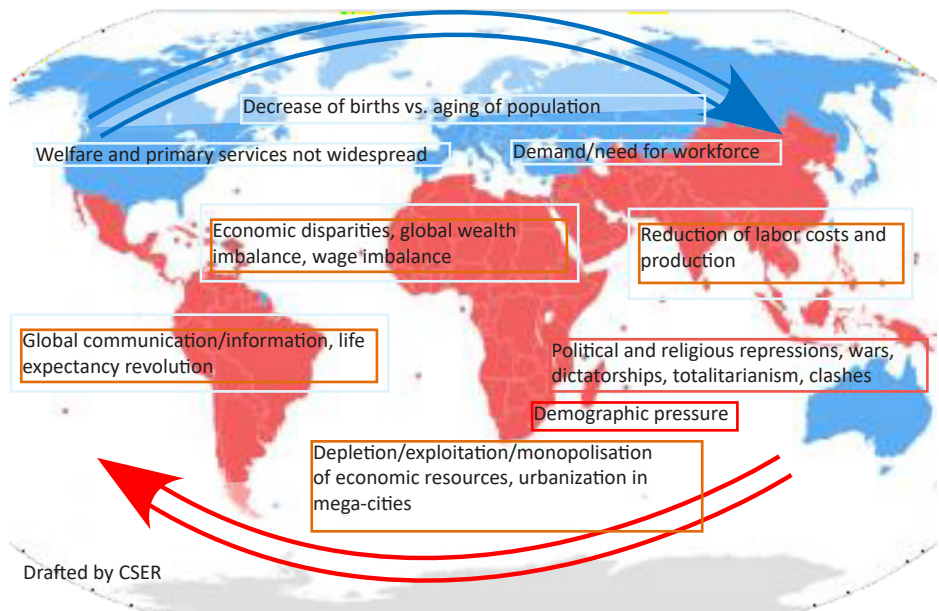
Broadening the sociological view of the phenomenon requires considering the migratory experience as building new life opportunities

denied in the country of origin or perceived as unreachable in a given historical-social context. This approach has the merit of clearly bringing out migration as a life project and a journey in which the migrant brings with him a cultural, formative, experiential and value background. It's a multidimensional approach that doesn't want to be reductive, it considers the migratory experience in all its aspects, at the same time highlights its structural aspects such as demographic and economic impact aspects, of social change in the countries in which migrants settle, activating effects on the context of integration as well as on the migrants themselves, eliciting different international relations between countries of departure and arrival, stimulating a system that is constantly stimulated by migratory flows and that changes with them.

Marcel Mauss (1924), proposed to consider migration as a total social fact. The migration phenomenon is involved in the whole of human practice, which is articulated in the interaction with the economic, social, political, cultural and religious universe in which man lives, and with his representations of the world (Marra, 2019).

KEY WORDS: #push #pull #systemic approach #multidimensional approach #total social dimension

If we were to synthesize, thanks to the systemic theory, the causes of current international migrations we could do it by imagining the world divided into critical areas (in red) and areas of greater socio-economic-political stability (in blue). The factors in blue are similar to those

Decrease of births vs. aging of population

Welfare and primary services not widespread

Demand/need for workforce

Economic disparities, global wealth imbalance, wage imbalance

Reduction of labor costs and production

Global communication/information, life expectancy revolution

Political and religious repressions, wars, dictatorships, totalitarianism, clashes

Demographic pressure

Depletion/exploitation/monopolisation of economic resources, urbanization in mega-cities

Drafted by CSER

considered by the sociology of migration as "pull" and those in red as "push"; in the center mixed factors, of an economic, social and psychological nature but also political, both push and pull that systemically related areas of the world and migration. See image on the following page.

2. HOW DO DIFFERENT TYPES OF MIGRATIONS STAND OUT?

Migration is a complex phenomenon, which is difficult to fit in a single scheme.

Table 1 - Classification of migrations

Variable	Type of emigration
Direction	Emigrants - Immigrants - Migrants
Time	Permanent - Long-term - Temporary (Seasonal)
Decision	Voluntary - Forced: displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees
Distance	Internal - International - Border migration
Qualification	Migrant workers - Highly skilled migrants
Visa	Working migrants - family reunification - students (tourists)
Procedures	Regular migrants - Irregular migrants - Victims of trade and trafficking

However, in order to understand them, historians, geographers and anthropologists have repeatedly tried to classify them in order to highlight some basic elements that are necessary for their understanding. The following diagram identifies four areas of reference, relating to: quantity of people on the move – causes – places of destination – time frame.

Types of migratory movements are identified on the basis of quantitative and qualitative indicators that qualify them.

Table 2 - Classification of migratory movements

ENTITY	MOTIVATION	DESTINATION	DURATION
Population movements	Spontaneous migration	Internal migration	Temporary migration
Mass migration	Organized migrations	International migration	Permanent migration
Migrations by infiltration	Forced migration	Displaced persons	Lifelong migrations

Diverse are the types of migrants:
- Immigrants for work
- Seasonal immigrants or contract workers
- Qualified immigrants and entrepreneurs (skilled migrations; ethnic entrepreneurship)
- Family members in tow (family reunification)
- Asylum seekers, refugees, holders of international protection; displaced persons (more widely:
- "forced migration")
- MSNA: Unaccompanied Foreign Minors - Asylum Seekers
- Irregular immigrants, "clandestines", victims of human trafficking
- Second generations and people with migration backgrounds
- Returning migrants

N.B. According to the United Nations Recommendations on Migration Statistics (UN, 1998), every person who changes his habitual country of residence is an international migrant: among them are "short-term" migrants, who travel to another country of residence for a period of at least 3 months and less than one year, and "long-term" migrants, who travel to another country of habitual residence for a period of at least one year.

Forced migration concerns refugees, i.e. every person who fears, with good reason, that he or she will be persecuted on grounds of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a certain social group or his political views, who is outside the country to which he belongs and who cannot or, because of his fear of being persecuted, does not want to appeal to the protection of his country; asylum seekers and displaced persons, those who are forced to take refuge within their own country, mainly because of conflicts, violence, human rights violations or disasters.

KEY WORDS: #forced migration #refugees #displaced persons #types of migration #duration #quantity #quality

3. Which Are Today's Main Areas of Origin and Destination of Migrations?

According to UNDESA data- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as of September 2019, there were 271.6 million international migrants in the world (of which 130.2 million (47.9%) women; 38 million, (14%) under 20 years of age) or 3.5% of the global population, which then was 7 billion and 800 million (a figure that has changed little in percentage terms since 1970.

In absolute terms, there were 51 million more migrants in 2019 than in 2010. If we include irregular migrants, the percentage rises to 4%. SSE also includes those who, after emigrating, have returned to their coun-

try, it reaches 5%. This means that 95% of the world's population has never emigrated outside their own country. On the other hand, there are far more people moving within their own country (there were about 740 million internal migrants in 2009, according to the UNDP).

Table 3 - International migrants from 1970 to 2019

Year	Number of migrants	% of world population
1970	84,460,125	2.3
1975	90,368,010	2.2
1980	101,983,149	2.3
1985	111,206,691	2.3
1990	153,011,473	2.9
1995	161,316,895	2.8
2000	173,588,441	2.8
2005	191,615,574	2.9
2010	220,781,909	3.2
2015	248,861,296	3.4
2019	271,642,105	3.5

Source: UNDESA, 2008, 2019a, 2019b

41.3% (112.2 million) of international migrants have settled in one of the countries of the South of the world. In Asia there are 83.4 million (30.7% of the total), in Europe 83.3 million (30.67%), in the Americas 69.9 million (25.7%), in Africa 26.3 million (9.73%), in Oceania 8.7 million (3.2%).

Half of these migrants live in 10 countries including: The United States with 50.78 million, Saudi Arabia and Germany with 13.1 million each, Russia 11.6, Great Britain 9.6, United Arab Emirates 8.6, France 8.3, Canada 8, Australia 7.6. In tenth place is Italy with 6.3 million immigrants having just overtaken Spain with 6.1 million people.

In the Gulf countries, thanks to oil extraction, migrants are more than then natives and occupy two out of three jobs. In only six countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar) there is less than 1% of the world's population, but about 11% of the planetary migration stock (over 30 million people).

Very high percentage incidences are reached, in addition to countries with an intense presence of refugees (such as Jordan 33.6% and Lebanon 27.2%), also in historic countries of immigration (Australia 30.3%, Switzerland 30.2%, Israel 23.3%, New Zealand 22.5%, Canada 21.5%, Germany 15.8%, United States 15.5%) and in newly European countries

of recent immigration (Sweden 20.1%, Austria 20.0%, Ireland 17.3%, Norway 16.3%).

Out of 271.6 million international migrants, 2/3 of a million, i.e. 108 million were born in Asia (where India is the leading exporter of migrants with 17.5 million, followed by China with 10.7 million, Bangladesh 7.8 million, Pakistan 6.3 million, Philippines 5.4 million).

Europe is the second largest export area for international migrants (65 million among whom we find almost 5.3 million Italians in the world, in addition to the 10.5 million Russians and 5.9 million Ukrainians), followed by Africa (40 million) and Latin America and the Caribbean (38 million, including 11.8 million Mexicans. Relatively few international migrants were born and come from North America (6 million) or Oceania (2 million).

Figure 3. Top 20 destinations (left) and origins (right) of international migrants in 2019 (millions)

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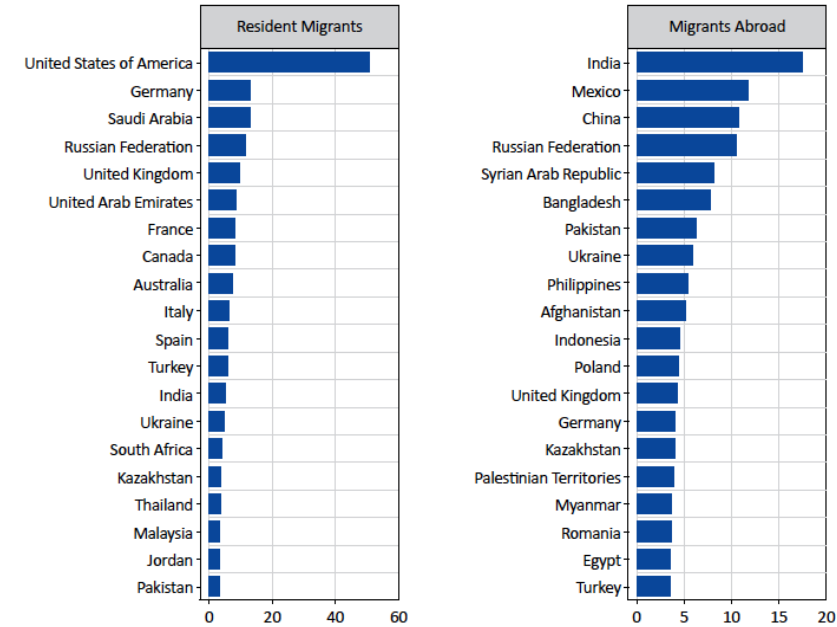
Source: UN DESA, 2019a (accessed 18 September 2019).

Syria has 8.2 million international migrants, the consequence of the decade-long conflict. In fact, record rates of emigration are found in countries most affected by wars of occupation or mass persecution, such as

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Palestine (the diaspora accounts for 80% of the population), Bosnia and Herzegovina (49.7%), Syria (48.5%) and Armenia (32.7%).

In recent years, especially, we have seen a sharp increase in people movements, both internal and cross-border, due to civil and transnational conflicts as well as terrorist acts. The figures speak of 70.8 million forced migrants (they were "only" 43 million 10 years ago): of these 41.3 million are displaced within their own countries (6.2 million Syrians; 7.8 million Colombians and 4.5 million of the Democratic Rep. of Congo), 25.9 million refugees with status (20.4 under UNHCR protection and 5.5 of under UNRWA) and 3.5 million are asylum seekers.

Four out of 5 find refuge in countries close to their country of origin. It is this the case of Turkey, which holds 3.7 million refugees (of which 3.6 million Syrian), Pakistan with 1.4 million (coming almost exclusively from Afghanistan), Uganda with 1.2 million (789,000 from South Sudan and 303,000 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Sudan with 1.1 million (852,000 from South Sudan) and Germany, with 1,063,800 (of which more of half, that is, 532,000, from Syria, followed by other countries such as Iraq with 136,000, and Afghanistan with 126,000).

Fig. 4 - Flows of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons: countries of origin and reception
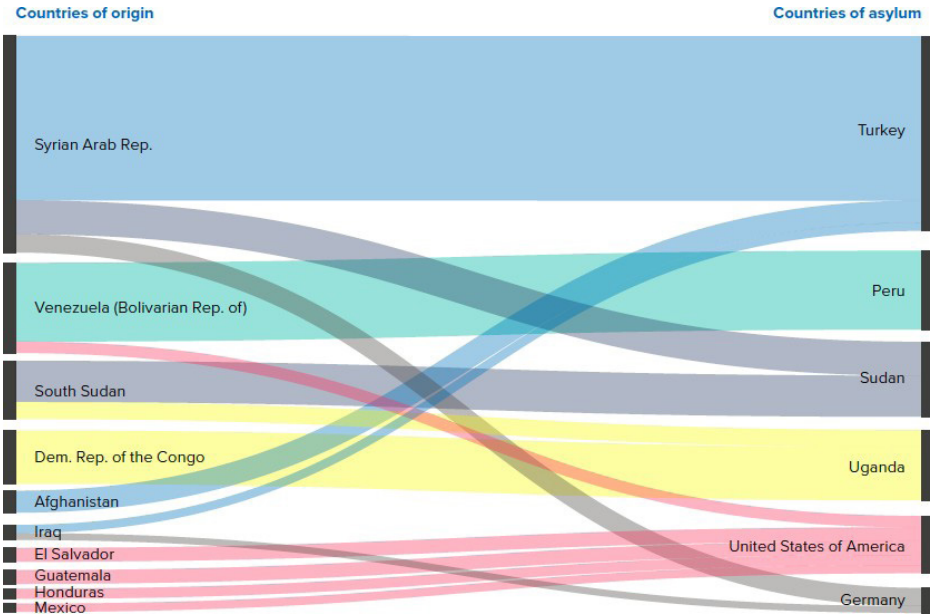
Source: UNHCR

One aspect not to be overlooked is also that of the very young age of refugees: of the 25.9 million refugees, more than half are under the age of 18. There are also millions of stateless people who have been denied nationality and access to fundamental rights such as education, health, work and freedom of movement.

These numbers tell of a world in which every two seconds a person is forced to leave their home due to conflict or persecution.

Table 4: Countries of origin and reception of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons (2018)

REFUGEES				ASYLUM SEEKERS				
Countries of origin		Countries of destination		Countries of origin		Countries of destination		IDPS
Syria	6,654,639	Turkey	3,681,658	Venezuela	464,209	USA	716,970	Colombia	7,816,472
Afghanistan	2,681,232	Pakistan	1,404,008	Afghanistan	310,094	Germany	369,236	Syria	6,183,920
South Sudan	2,285,286	Uganda	1,165,636	Iraq	258,687	Turkey	311,682	R. D. Congo	4,516,865
Myanmar	1,145,144	Sudan	1,078,275	Syria	139,534	Peru	230,790	Somalia	2,648,000
Somalia	949,612	Germany	1,063,765	D. R. Congo	133,401	South Africa	184,188	Ethiopia	2,615,800
Total	20,356,406	Total	20,356,406	Total	3,498,943	Total	3,498,943	Total	41,408,938

* Whose application has not yet been settled at the end of the year.
Nb. 5.5 million Palestinian refugees are excluded, under the mandate of UNRWA.
Source: Center of Studies and IDOS Research.

KEY WORDS: #area/country of origin #area/country of destination #total population #percentage

4. WHICH ARE THE MAIN MIGRATION CORRIDORS?

Three of the five most important "corridors", or trajectories, crossed by international migrants, are intra-regional. The "Europe-Europe" route, with 42 million people, covers more than 15% of the total, that of "North Africa-West Asia" (about 19 million migrants) or that within Sub-Saharan Africa (18.3 million people). Most international migrants therefore move within countries in the same region.

The most popular route for migration flows is from Mexico to the United States (12.7 million people in 2017: since the beginning of 2019 almost 500,000 migrants have been stopped in Mexico in an attempt to cross the U.S. border; in 2018, 283. migrants died on the US-Mexico border), followed at a distance by that from India to Saudi Arabia (3.3 million). The exodus of 3.3 million Syrians living in Turkey is also relevant: a presence that was equal to zero in 2000. 3.3 million migrants follow the

Russian-Ukraine corridor and another 3.3 the reverse path from Ukraine to Russia.

Table 5: The 5 Main Migration Corridors of International Migration, 2019

Origin	Destination	Number (million)	% of total
Europe	Europe	41.9	15.4
Latin America	North America	26.6	9.8
N. Africa and W. Asia	N. Africa and W. Asia	18.9	7.0
South and Central Asia	N. Africa and W. Asia	18.5	6.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa	18.3	6.7
Total 5 corridors		124.2	45.7

Source: UNDESA, 2019

In this context, despite the media campaign, it is not wrong to support the numerical irrelevance of the Mediterranean route in relation to the other migratory corridors and thus highlight the recent political exploitation in Italy and Europe. In fact, except for the year 2015, when there was the peak of Syrian refugees (1 million people arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean), in the following years we find 373,000 in 2016 (and 5,096 deaths), 185,000 in 2017 (and 3,139 deaths), 141,000 in 2018 (and 2,277 deaths) 123,000 in 2019 (1,319 deaths), up to 13,835 arrived in 2020 (as of February 24, 2020), as accounted for by the UNHCR (6,127 in Greece, 4,235 in Spain, 2,345 in Italy, 883 in Malta, 191 in Cyprus and 54 in Bulgaria, with 99 dead.

KEY WORDS: #migration route #intraregional #Mediterranean route

5. What is return migration?

"Returns" are one of the aspects of migration – which concerns both the project and the outcome of the migration path – which have always existed, but studied only since the 1960s/70s, in European countries and in North America, by different socio-economic disciplines and approaches. The definition of "return" is more complex than that of "migrant". In fact, if the "departure" dimension is inherent in the concept of "migrant", the "return" dimension is not so important, so much so that the administrative statistics of the countries "worry" much more about keeping records of the entrances and much less of the returns.

The literature on the decision for voluntary return suggests that non-economic factors tend to have a greater weight than economic ones: in the choice of return rational and individual elements are mixed with family and community needs and necessities, as well as socio-political-econo-

mic elements of the place of settlement and return contexts (King, 2000; Black et al. 2004).

The transnational approach has called into question the concept of return at the temporal and circular level with respect to the migratory flow. In this case, "coming back" may not necessarily mean a permanent return but rather a transitional phase, connoting varied continuity between the countries of the of origin and destination: from the economic one to the community/social and personal-relational one. For this reason, the study of the return migration brings into play both the theme of the enhancement of the social, human, economic capital accumulated by the migrant in the country of destination as well as the funneling of the production remittances, when the return represents an opportunity to realize an entrepreneur project and a local economic development or a personal project which involves an economic investment in the country of origin.

A first element of distinction is found between "returns" and "repatriations", and therefore the intentionality of the former with respect to involuntary nature (and coercive character) of the latter. In any case, the phenomenon of return to the country of origin expresses complexity and difficulty in studying the causes and effects.

From the point of view of the person who lives this experience, the return at home can be perceived and experienced as reintegration, reacquisition (improvement) or as a loss of its role and status prior to migration. Likewise, compared to the community of origin, the experience of return can identify in the migrant the figure of one who has been successful abroad and which sees his return recognized by the family and community of origin as an economic social and cultural advancement. On the other hand, the return may also represent a personal and family failure, especially in relation to the strategy of having invested family resources (Stark 1985; 1995) in the migration project, where the socio-economic difficulties encountered abroad did not allow the hoped-for success to be achieved.

Battistella (2018) distinguishes four types of return:

"Return of achievement", the return of those who have achieved the prefixed result in the migration project (in fact the return of success);

"Return of completion", i.e. the return not voluntary but due to the termination of the employment contract or the conditions that allowed the stay abroad;

"Return of setback" a voluntary return but not for having reached/completed of the migration project, but rather for psychological reasons of unhappiness/non-inclusion/inadequacy of the evaluation between expectations and results;

"Return of crisis (forced return)" caused by situations such as political upheavals, environmental disasters, economic crises. It's a totally

involuntary return: the migrant is forced to leave for reasons of security or political decisions taken by the country of origin or destination: this scenario may include the return of irregular migrants.

In analyzing returns and re-insertions in the country and context of origin it is important to identify the causes and motivations of these flows, the actual phases of the return movement, possible conditions all improvement or deterioration in relation to one's socio-economic condition and the role and status before departure, affecting both the individual effect and the collectivity.

KEY WORDS: #return #repatriation #migration project #success #failure #reintegration

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