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**The path towards integration. An administrative law analysis of the migration flows management**

Abstract

Migrations are the expression of an innate desire of human beings: the pursuit of happiness. Migration flows have dramatically increased inside Europe, thus enlightening that this innate desire has to deal with a concrete issue: reception and integration capacities of the destination countries. On the other hand, the situation experienced by the European Union fits worldwide, to the large majority of democratic “western” countries, seen as safe havens by any kind of migrants, legally or illegally crossing the borders in order to satisfy their desire. Therefore, all around the globe the crisis of boundaries is not the only consequence of this growing migration phenomenon. States cannot limit the management of migration to borders protection and entrance regulation: they must provide tools of reception and integration, necessary to protect the undeniable fundamental rights that any individual “carries with himself” everywhere he goes. All of these tools can be collected in just one expression: an efficient administrative structure able to guide and assist migrants on their path inside the new society, towards integration. This research follows migrants’ life (refugees, asylum seekers but also economic migrants) from their first step in the country of reception, to their integration (or non-integration), analysing the above- mentioned administrative tools and their outcome on the foreigners’ social conditions. Starting from the reception of migrants, it must be emphasized the importance of efficiently organized “*hotspots*”, in which rapid, simplified and effective administrative procedures are essential to satisfy the different interests involved: the rights to life, to health and personal freedom of migrants, on the one side, and the need for identification, access control and public safety of the State, on the other. Once the reception stage is over, a second and even more problematic phase starts: the “first” integration in the receiving society. On this step, all the actions directed to stabilize migrants’ condition should be taken: finding a first housing solution, teaching the language of the receiving country, introducing to work, etc. The cost and complexity of these activities highlight the need for accurately planned solutions, but also for an efficient distribution of the responsibility between central and local government, and between public and private operators. The recourse to the private sector introduces also the topic of public procurement. A third phase is the one related to the “full” integration of non-citizens in the hosting community. This full integration passes through a reconsideration of the legal concept of citizenship and through migrants’ access to public services. In this kind of research, comparison plays a fundamental role: a worldwide phenomenon means worldwide approaches to the problem. The comparison of the different national reception and integration methods allows to better highlight the weaknesses and the strengths of each system, reflecting on the possibility to export the best practices.

Italy and Canada can be the terms of this comparison. These nations are apparently two worlds apart. The first represents one of the most extended southern borders of Europe, and its position in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea makes it one of the first destinations of migrants escaping from conflicts and political crisis in Africa and Middle East. The second, instead, finds itself surrounded by the ocean and by an affluent neighboring country: this gives Canada the possibility to choose most of its immigrants and refugees directly from their countries of origin, through resettlement programs. If the first country keeps on managing migration phenomenon as an emergency, the other is characterized by a sharper planning of this management. Nevertheless, diversity does not prevent comparison. The geographical distance of the two nations gives an occasion to stress the proximity of the issues. Only a well-functioning system of administrative management of refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants is be able to satisfy all the interests involved in this field, such as respect of human rights, protection of public safety, cost-effectiveness of services. Furthermore, their satisfaction is an expression of the broader duty of our societies: supporting the pursuit of happiness of their members, both the “old” and the “new” ones.

Key words: integration, migrants’ management, administrative law, Italy, Canada