



# Refugee projects University of Trento experience

Paola Bodio Nataša Vučković



#### Introduction

- **▶2015**: THE PROPOSAL BEGAN ON BEHALF OF THE VICE RECTOR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICIES, PROF. BARBARA POGGIO, DUE TO THE INCREASING NUMBER OF MIGRANTS IN OUR REGION (Trentino − North of Italy); NUMBERS: arrivals until April 4, 2018: 1.604 (Trentino has about 540.00 inhabitants)
- **2016**: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI TRENTO) TO WELCOME **5 STUDENTS PER YEAR OVER 5 ACADEMIC YEARS**
- ➤ A.Y. 2016-17: PROJECT START FIRST COHORT: LAMIN (Gambia), CHEICK (Ghana), ISLAM Pakistan) E CHRISTELLE (Camerun) ARRIVED
- ➤A.Y. 2017-18: SECOND COHORT: LAURIE (Ivory Coast), EVELYN (Ivory Coast), FARAKABA (Guinea), JUAN (Venezuela) and AYAD (Iraq)
- ➤ A.Y. 2018-19 (beginning in Sept.): 12 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR 5 SCHOLARSHIPS

Right now we have **7 students enrolled to degree programs or to single courses**:

- 4 males and 3 females between 21 and 28 years old
- 2 Refugees, 3 Humanitarian protection and 2 Asylum seekers; They are followed by peer guidance councilors and colleagues of the University support Offices: International office, Academic career office; our office E&D coordinate the whole project.





### **Welcoming Process**

- OCTOBER: CINFORMI (Immigration Center of the Provincia Autonoma di Trento dealing with the arrivals of refugees in the Region – deal with the degree and interests based selection for the University
- **NOVEMBER:** International Support Division of the University evaluates academic qualifications
- <u>DECEMBER:</u> Guidance Office organizes orientation activities (groups and individual) to help choose their academic interest
- JANUARY: 1-on-1 meeting with the Vicerector, with the staff of Equality and Diversity office
- From FEBRUARY: transversal courses for all selected students:
- Italian language courses at University Linguistic Center (FEB-MAY);
- Preparation for the admission test (APRIL and AUGUST);
- IT courses;
- Participation at courses of their academic interests they choose (second semester FEB-MAY)
- Take a Seminar on the legal implications of foreigner's conditions in Italy at the Law Department (APRIL)





#### **Selection**

University of Trento Restricted\_Admission

 $\rightarrow$ 

<u>5 additional positions reserved</u> for the registration of the asylum-seeker and/or refugee students



2 sessions of admission test: April and/or August/September

the <u>applicants</u> to the Project <u>must pass an</u> <u>admission test reaching the minimum score of</u> competence established by the faculties



The first 5 who pass the test are registered



If <u>less than 5</u> people <u>pass</u> the test <u>the remaining positions are assigned based on the drafting of a ranking list</u> after the publication of the results of the admission test/the score of the admission test in September.



One out of the 5 places is reserved to the under-represented gender (Until

now: women)

The **ranking list** is drawn up taking into consideration:

- The reached level of *Italian*;
- The computer skills;
- The **results** of the **course examination** "The legal status of the foreigner";
- The grade of the admission test.



On equal credit the following criteria are taken into consideration:

- the under-represented gender;
- the behavior and *participation* (commitment);
- the reached level of *Italian*;
- the owned **status** (asylum-seekers or refugee);
- the motivation.

Those who did not pass the test but were selected according to the ranking list, have the **opportunity** to take the classes by **registering** to each <u>single course</u> of the chosen bachelor's degree.

Within <u>a year</u> they still <u>must pass the test, otherwise</u> they must abandon the project.





#### **Benefits**

Each academic year, the **5 registered** ones have **these benefits**:

- tuition fee exemption;
- accommodation (single bed in a double room) at the Student House;
- meal card for breakfast, lunch, dinner;
- unisport card + 1 course of choice;
- transport card;
- library card;













- the possibility to carry out 150 to 400 hours of paid part-time working activities from the first year
- and because the 150 hours are helpful but not a solution, it was necessary to activate a fundraising to bear the costs of basic commodities/essential goods;
- general and specific tutors;
- the possibility to take free language courses at the CLA.







The most difficult aspects of this project is the social integration between them and the other students and the studying organization.



#### **Other project for Refugees**

Beside the main project, **other projects have been developed** in collaboration with territorial associations.

These are the **projects and the associations that we work with**. For more information you can refer to <a href="http://www.unitn.it/ateneo/55763/progetto-richiedenti-asilo-alluniversita">http://www.unitn.it/ateneo/55763/progetto-richiedenti-asilo-alluniversita</a>

#### Computer literacy for refugees







Basketball: a world in a word









Progetto SuXr



Local Associations involved:
Centro Astalli Trento
Atas Onlus
Fondazione Comunità Solidale
Kaleidoscopio
Punto d'ApprodoInfusione
Cooperativa Arcobaleno
Associazione More
Il gioco degli specchi
Famiglia materna





Progetto Teatro





## Thanks!

Contacts:

Paola Bodio paola.bodio@unitn.it Nataša Vučković natasa.vuckovic@unitn.it

E&D Office equitadiversita@unitn.it FB: UniTrento Equità e Diversità Web site: www.unitn.it/equitadiversita