

U-IMPACT DEBATE

Immigration: from stereotypes to common goods

Tallinn, Nordic Hotel Forum!
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1. Cittadinanzattiva/Active Citizenship Network presentation
2. An overview of the phenomenon in my country: Italy, among syndrome of encirclement and the fight to stereotypes
3. The message of the civil society: Europe, wake up!
4. The commitment of my organization and our recent projects
5. The citizen immigrant, among “precariousness of rights” and the need of protection: common challenges

Cittadinanzattiva & Active Citizenship Network

- **Cittadinanzattiva** (Active Citizenship) is an Italian civic participation movement founded in 1978 that advocates for protection of citizens' rights.
- Since 2001, at the European and international level Cittadinanzattiva has promoted its ranch Active Citizenship Network (ACN).



- **ACN** is part of a widespread, open and flexible European network of more than 100 civic, consumer and patients organizations, addressed to encourage active participation of citizens in European policy-making.

- ✓ Promote the protection of citizens' rights and their empowerment;
- ✓ Encourage active participation of citizens in European policy-making in order to promote the construction of a European citizenship as an “active citizenship”, meaning the exercise of powers and responsibilities of citizens in public policies. This includes:
 - recognizing the primary role of citizens and civic organizations in the care of the common good;
 - supporting citizen's participation in policy making at local, national and EU level;
 - involving them in the defense of their fundamental rights as citizens, patients, consumers, passengers, users, savers, etc.
- ✓ Share abroad all the successful experiences achieved by Cittadinanzattiva in Italy. For this reason, ACN mirrors Cittadinanzattiva's Italian policies, such as patients' and consumers' rights, civic activism, education, etc.



ACN's strategy is to promote the point of view of European citizens in all public policies areas, focusing on healthcare, consumers and corporate social responsibility issues, citizenship.

- This point of view is always based on civic information, i.e. civic audit, monitoring, data collected and analyzed by citizens' organizations themselves.
- For further information on the policy of Cittadinanzattiva on immigration, please [read more](#).

Since its inception, the partnership within the network has been enhanced by the activities of partners in common projects, discussions and participation in initiatives founded on strong co-operation ties. Over the past 10 years, ACN has promoted several political activities and carried out 30 EU projects together with partners from 27 EU Countries, working as leader coordinator, partner in a consortium or consultant as civic advisor.

This network of diverse civic organizations is both the strength and the uniqueness of ACN and makes it one of the most extended communities of active civic associations in Europe.

ACN is also official member of....

- “EU Health Policy Forum”, led by DG Health & Food Safety, an EU platform dealing with health and patient’s rights
- “Active Citizenship Structured Dialogue Group”, led by DG Home, an EU platform dealing with civic participation

....and active at international level in Colombia since 2009, with a Citizen Advisory Centre on Public Services and Health.

- 2002: drafting of the **European Charter of Patients Rights** which has become a reference for EU citizens' rights in the healthcare.
- 2005-2006: in collaboration with FONDACA, drafting of the **European Charter of Active Citizenship** to bridge the gap among the EU rules about the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities of civic organizations acting in public policies.
- 2007: launching of the **European Patients Rights Day**, celebrated every year on 18th April with local, national and EU events all over Europe.
- 2007: awarded the **Civil Society Prize of the European Economic and Social Committee** for its work on citizens' rights.
- 2009-2012: in Colombia, **technical advisor to the United Nation Development Programme** for the development of activities in the field of civic participation.
- 2011: proclamation of the **First Charter of Patients Rights in Colombia**.
- 2015: promoted inside the EU Parliament the MEPs Interest Group "**European Patients' Rights and Cross-Border Healthcare**".

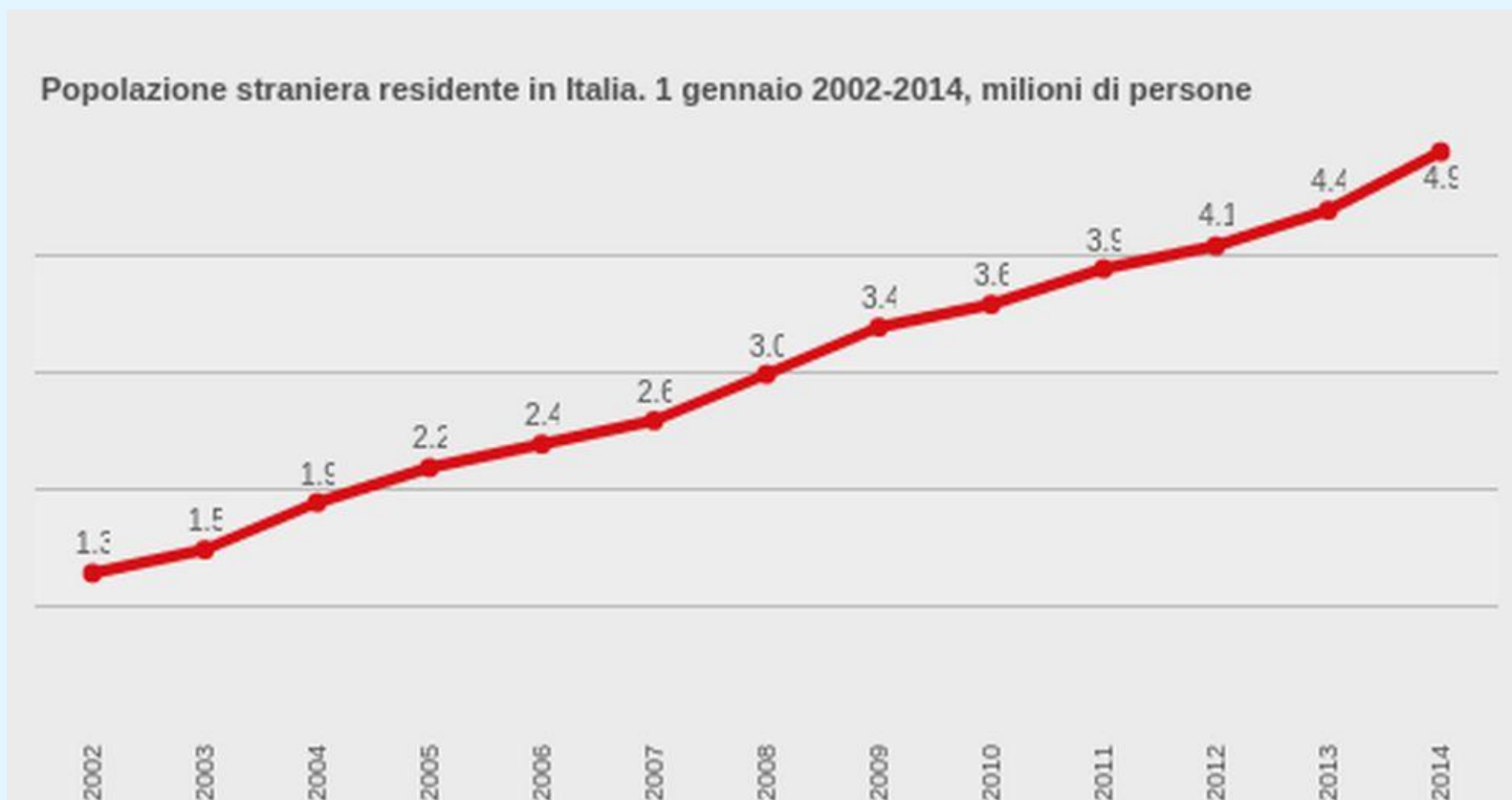


Acn was awarded the second *EESC Civil Society Prize* for its contribution to the promotion of **European integration and identity**

Syndrome of encirclement

- Foreign population in Italy amounted to 4,922,085 persons;
- Clandestine: estimates range from 300 to 650 thousands;
- Immigrants account for over 9% of the resident population in the country.

- Over the past 15 years, the number of foreign citizens in Italy has more than quadrupled: from 2007 to 2013, immigration has increased of 69%, from 2.6000000 to 4.4000000 people.



Fighting stereotypes

- “All migrants come here”
- “They take away our jobs”
- “They receive 40 euros a day and stay in hotels”
- “Migrants commit crimes”
- “They receive all public housing”
- “They take most of the state subsidies”
- “They bring epidemics such as Ebola”

- Between 2000 and 2013, more than 23,000 people have died trying to reach Europe by land or sea.
- 28 April, 2015: a tragic death for 700 people near Sicily.
- 244 migrants and refugees already dead in the sea in 2016.
- In 2013, the Italian government has initiated the “Mare Nostrum” program, which provided for the deployment of vessels and aircraft to rescue the boats in distress.
- From November 1, 2014 the Community program “Triton” entered into force.



- Civil organizations are aware that behind tragedies we can find not only poverty, disease, dictatorships and wars, but also political and economic interests at international level.
- Wars, poverty, environmental/economic/commercial exploitation and dictatorships are the causes of contemporary migrations.
- Being free to move and migrate should be a conquest of humanity, not a constraint.
- Europe must build an answer of peace, coexistence, democracy, social and economic well-being, applying the principle of solidarity and abandoning the security policies, austerity, too much liberal trade agreements, privatization of common goods.
- Europe needs to invest on decent work, social justice, democracy and the sovereignty of peoples.

- [“InCAStrati” Campaign](#)
- [Agreement signed between Cittadinanzattiva and the Rebibbia prison](#)
- [Informed maternity: a guide for migrant mothers](#)
- [Three laws for justice and human rights: torture, prisons, drugs](#)
- [“Stop massacres” Campaign](#)
- [The immigrant consumer protection](#)



Modern society has seen the rise of a new main actor, the citizen immigrant:

- precariousness of rights
- need of protection
- request for participation: the need to play an active role in civil society

On this basis, we believe that every debate, any political decision, should first of all address the issue of immigration in view of the construction of common goods.

Civil organizations identify the following common challenges:

- Put aside any emergency approach.
- Be aware of the presence of migrants as an integral part of our society.
- The European Union owes its future to the ability to promote a common policy on immigration and migrants.

Thank you for the attention!



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