Ruta Grigaliunaite CESIE, Italy

Child agency and integration of unaccompanied minors in Sicily

















CHILD MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION: TRENDS AND CHALLENGES, International scientific conference June 2nd – 4th 2022, Ljubljana, Slovenia

## Content

- CESIE & MICREATE
- Legislative and policy framework concerning unaccompanied minors in Italy
- Italian good practices in the field of reception and integration of unaccompanied foreign minors
- 4. MiCREATE research in reception facilities in Sicily and main findings
- 5. **Q&A**













## **CESIE & MICREATE**

















This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°822664.



#### About us

CESIE is a European centre of studies and initiatives established in 2001, inspired by the work and theories of sociologist Danilo Dolci (1924-1997).



#### **Our Mission**

To promote educational innovation, participation and growth.



#### **Our Vision**

The world is only one creature.

### Our Units & Objectives



Higher Education and Research

Fostering progress, sustainable and responsible research and innovation in Higher Education and Research Systems.



Rights and Justice

Promoting equality, protecting the rights of people, preventing and developing responses to violence and discrimination.



Adult

Upgrading lifelong learning in adult education, boosting innovative practices and developing key competences for adults.



Migration

Developing effective and inclusive approaches for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.



School

Improving quality and efficiency in school education.



Youth

Enhancing active citizenship, training, education, and mobility of young people.



# Higher Education and Research Unit

Established in 2012.

Holds the primary responsibility for fostering higher education and applied research in Europe and Partner Countries, contributing to creating and developing an innovative and knowledgeable society.

Has a role of a mediator between R&I actors and the wider public, establishing a closer link between them to understand and share the needs, values, and foster knowledge exchange.

## Main interventions



Innovative, inclusive and reflective societies



Sustainable tourism and agriculture



Health and wellbeing



Information and communication technologies



Environment and resource efficiency



Renewable and efficient energy



Smart and sustainable transport



Cultural heritage

### Our Approach



#### **Studies**

Research connected with the testing of **new educational methodologies** aimed at answering social needs and challenges.





#### Initiatives

Implementation of **projects** in different educational fields aimed at involving people, civil society, private and public institutions.









#### Our team



**70 individuals** with a wide range of qualifications, skills and professional profiles;



150 external experts;



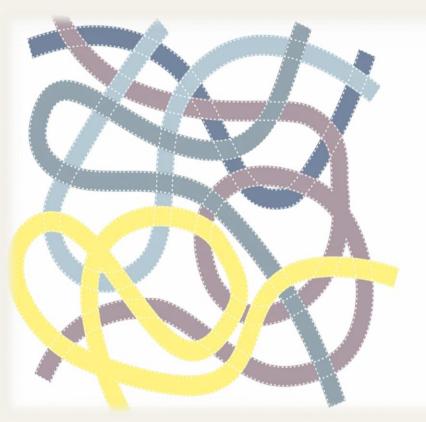
**100 interns and volunteers** who join us every year.

Moreover, CESIE benefits from a **broad network** of partners with more than 3000 civil society organisations, universities, schools, research centres, public authorities and private entities, youth centres, companies and entrepreneurs in the world.

Along with other institutions and organisations, CESIE is currently implementing over 100 projects in more than **80 countries**.



## Deadline: 30 June 2022



## DARE TO MEND

WHAT COLORS AND SHAPES WOULD YOU USE TO MEND THE FABRIC WORLD?

Art and Act - Marie Marzloff Award

#### INTERNATIONAL ART COMPETITION III EDITION

drawing. illustration. painting. digital art. photography. comics. collage. mixed techniques



www.artandact.org



## Zampa Law, 2017



### **Definition**

First definition of unaccompanied minors

### Identification

First step in assessment of the age that leads to protection measures

## Recognition

Recognises minors as vulnerable subjects with rights

## Awareness raising

Within broader community and carers on the rights of UAMs











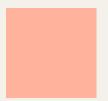


## 14,025 UAMs in Italy (30 April 2022)



4,758 UAMs in Sicily (June 2019)











# 03

## **Good practices** in the field of reception and integration

fostered processes of integration of unaccompanied minors, the social cohesion, the protection of their rights, the path towards independence.

















## Some examples



Homocultural foster care, supported by Zampa Law



Ciclofficina project, by Municipality of Udine and Association "Nuovi Cittadini Onlus"



**Sporting activities** for foreign minors, by ANCI and CONI



right to education, by Ministry of Education and Ombudsmen for children and adolescents

**Guidelines for the** 





Palermo



**Voluntary guardians**, established by Zampa Law



## "Ragazzi Harraga"

### Social

creation of a

platform with

each minor

information

social folders for

featuring all the

integration

## Housing

development of an active policy for labour market

**Professional** 

setting up temporary and affordable housing solutions



















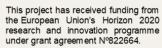
















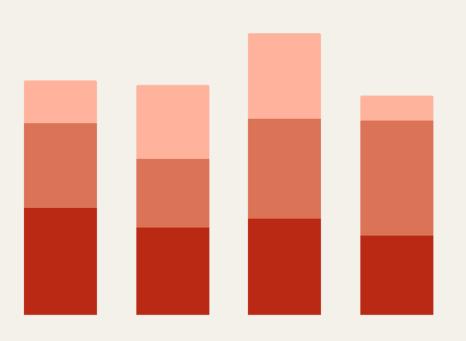
## MiCREATE research

- September 2020 April 2021
- 4 reception centres in the South, West and central Sicily
- Research team: researcher and intercultural mediator
- Covid-19 containment measures
- MiCREATE methodology, focus on the best interest of the child and child-centered approach
- 12 online interviews with social workers working in the reception centres and 33 interviews migrant children



to collect information and testimonies about the specific life experiences faced by migrant children in transition in Sicily

## Main findings I



## Lack of awareness about institutions

that are responsible to guarantee the well-being of UAMs

## Atypical relationship with professionals

similar to parent-child and high expectations towards community manager

### **Bureaucratic obstacles**

that prevent children from obtaining residence permit

## Main findings II



## The right to education

is not granted hindering possibility to attend training courses or traineeships

## Lack of regular job opportunities

leading to illegal work

## Changes with the age of majority

when every support measure ceases

## Attention to basic needs only

not taking into the consideration the right to be heard or other participatory rights



## Final considerations



#### THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD

not much taken into the account

### MORE RESEARCH NEEDED

to provide the recommendations for the application of child-centered approach in the reception system

#### INTERCULTURAL MEDIATORS

are essential for reacher activities to create comfortanble and trustful environment



## Thank you! Any questions?



















Contact me at: ruta.grigaliunaite@cesie.org