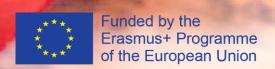


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## PRIDE AND PREJOUDICE? BEING **MIGRANTS AND LGBTIs**

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# LGBT Refugees & Migrants:

the situation in GREECE AND in EUROPE

May 9, 2017 | PRESIDENT HOTEL



## Italy - Key data



- Italy: country receiving high migration flows first arrival country
- statistic data on SOGI claims are not collected
- LGBTI asylum seekers → are considered an "social at-risk category
- Concerning the SOGI claims for international protection, Italy is actually considered as a good practice as far as the judicial review process is concerned. (Fleeing Homophobia)

#### Italy – Existing supports



- Growing attention but still no dedicated shelters in the protection system
- Some initiatives:
  - dedicated web pages (such as "Il Grande Colibrì")
  - help desks in some of the local offices of the national association ARCIGAY
  - MIGRABO LGTBI

### Italy – Literature review



Very few results (only one significant study from Pozzoli & Lelleri, which dates back to 2009):

- LGBTI migrants might be forced to hide being homosexual with the originating family and social networks. Consequently "there is an high risk of losing the support crucial in migration- of the fellow countrymen network".
- Double risk of discrimination: "a series of obstacles: biases, socio- economical differences, 'cultural' differences, etc.
- On the other hand, this could be balanced by seeking support in the LGTBI community, building solidarity networks, "not homo-ethnical, but for example, homo-sexual".

## Italy – Field research methodology



- focus group with 5 LGB from migrant backgrounds (3 men and 2 women) Syria, Venezuela,
   Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria
- **7 individual interviews** to refugees not available to share their own experience with the group or who are no longer living in Italy (two transsexuals, one lesbian women and four homosexuals men)
  - Bangladesh, Palestine, Morocco, Iran, Tanzania, Algeria, Pakistan
- **3 interviews to privileged witnesses** (a national expert of LGTBI migrations, a lawyer with an expertise in international protection requests and an operator in the field of the asylum seekers reception).

### Italy - Field research



- linguistic and cultural barriers: often support workers are not able to explain what does it means to ask for asylum for persecutions based on sexual orientation in a way that can be actually fully understood by asylum seekers.
- legal operators have inadequate training (be they ONG operators or lawyers) to effectively support their clients in the process.
- Feeling of unsafety in shelters: for most LGBTI the only solution to feel safe is actually to conceal their own gender identity or their own sexual orientation

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#### **Project Coordinator**



#### **Project Partners**







