



STRUCTURE OF THE COMPARATIVE REPORT

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- The national reports on Italy, Greece, Denmark and Spain, produced in the context of our project, provide an overview of the following issues:
- -The national, demographic and cultural context on immigrants and refugees, including recent developments.
- -The legal framework and policies on immigrant population.
- -The situation and specific profile of unaccompanied foreign minors, with focus on issues of social and educational integration.
- -The structure of the national education system and the challenges faced in the education and training of minors and migrant pupils.
- -The identification and description of good practices on social and educational integration of the immigrant and refugee population.

The legal framework and policies regarding the immigrant population (including unaccompanied foreign minors) of Italy, Greece, Denmark and Spain have many common features. It is logical that this is so, as all four countries are integrated into the European Union and constitute democratic regimes. However, there are also many differential features, due to the diversity of national contexts, state legal frameworks, diversity and migration management policies, education systems and specific profiles of immigrants in general, and unaccompanied foreign minors in particular.

The four countries have undergone significant social, cultural and political change over the past 20 years as a result of the arrival of immigrants and asylum seekers. This increase in the foreign population has brought great cultural diversity to the four countries. In recent years, and particularly since the crucial refugee crisis resulting from the war in Syria and other conflicts, the strong migratory pressure on all the countries of the European Union has led to the development of very diverse national policies in response to the massive arrival of immigrants and refugees. Southern European states such as Greece, Italy and Spain have clearly transformed from being countries that send migrants to being states that receive a considerable amount of immigrant population. Italy and Spain each have around 5 million people of immigrant origin by 2020. Greece has also experienced a massive influx of immigrants and refugees, with more than 800,000 refugees arriving in Greece from Turkey, considering only the period 2015/2016. There is no need to stress the importance for these countries of properly managing migratory flows, always in the wider context of the European Union. Diversity is now a central feature of European societies, due to the cultural, linguistic and religious variety of the different groups living together in the European area.

In recent years, Italy, Greece, Denmark, and Spain (as well as the rest of the European Union countries) have experienced a double process, not exempt from contradictions and conflicts. On the one hand, a great variety of policies aimed at immigrants and refugees have been developed and deepened, regulating the social integration, rights and education of the foreign population. On the other hand, legal norms have been approved that attempt to limit the arrival and settlement of immigrants and refugees. These restrictive legal norms have reduced the right to refuge and asylum and residence permits, allowed for some "hot" returns at the border, and enforced the exclusion of immigrants from a number of benefits in social, health, economic and other areas. This dual dynamic is evident in all European countries. Denmark is a clear example of this. On the one hand, Law 140 of February 2019, in continuity with the restrictions approved at the end of 2015, has transformed the regulatory framework for refugees, giving priority to the return of asylum seekers to their countries of origin. On the other hand, the *Venligboerne* movement (The kind inhabitants) has favoured the constitution of more than 100 local groups that develop voluntary activities to favour the integration of refugees and immigrants. These groups emphasize the importance of meeting other people, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, age or political orientation.

- UFM is considered to be: Young people usually between 15 and 17 years, who come alone to other country in search of a better life, in some cases voluntarily, and in others motivated by their families. However, their profile varies as they are minors who come from vulnerable and impoverished countries. They are young people attracted by new lifestyles or driven by a migration project that is determined by economic opportunities, job opportunities and a better life. They leave their country with an idyllic vision and find themselves with a very different and hard reality.
- The number of unaccompanied foreign minors in Europe has increased considerably. Spain is a good example of this trend, as in December 2019 there were 12,417 unaccompanied foreign minors. Faced with this situation, strategies by the European countries must be devised for reception and integration, and new responses must be devised to manage the protection system, health, and education.

After analysing the legal situation in each country, it can be concluded that the four countries involved in this project have been interested in paying attention to this problem of unaccompanied immigrant minors through the elaboration and implementation of regulations, offering better care and guarantee respect for the rights of minors, through new actions, undertaken by public authorities and interdisciplinary teams.