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# ASILO IN EUROPA



## ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020

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# MISSION

Since 2013, our primary mission has been the promotion of the right to asylum through the dissemination of knowledge and expertise on asylum issues at EU and national level. We pursue this through three main areas of activity:

## INFORMATION



Information about asylum seekers' countries of origin (COI) is crucial in the recognition of international protection. Professionals have free access to updated and verified COI thanks to our database, unique in Italy.

## RESEARCH



We examine legal and policy developments in the field of asylum in Italy and abroad. We collaborated with prestigious partners such as the European Council on Refugees and Exiles and the Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority.

## TRAINING



We organise and participate in training, conferences, and seminars for asylum practitioners. Our training modules and other events, open to the general public, adapt to audience needs and current issues.

# VISION

## WE BELIEVE IN KNOWLEDGE



AiE is committed to sharing accurate, up-to-date information about asylum legal and policy frameworks, both at the national and EU level. This will ultimately empower migrant populations and guarantee their access to fundamental rights.

## WE STRIVE TO BUILD A WELCOMING CULTURE



We recognise asylum as a fundamental right. We are inspired by principles of participation, non-discrimination and equal rights of all people, regardless of their legal status, nationality, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and political opinions.

## WE ENDORSE THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES



We hold humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence as our core values. We are conscious of the great impact that our actions can have on individuals and on public opinion. We hold ourselves accountable for our work before those we seek to support and those from whom we accept resources.

# FOREWORD BY OUR PRESIDENT



2020 was certainly a tough year for everyone and Asilo in Europa has not been exempted from this. Travel restrictions and lockdown measures prevented us from meeting in-person and from organising in-person events. The pandemic impacted the lives of our volunteers at personal and professional levels. Yet, being dispersed across Italy and other European countries well before the pandemic, we found ourselves quite prepared to the new conditions of remote working, so we could build on this strength.

We were thus able to continue our important COI activity as well as our research, notably through the publication of our study on the work of the Tribunal of Bologna in field of international protection.

Although we were obliged to give up on some in-person events we had been planning, we took the lockdown as an opportunity to strengthen our digital presence and broaden our audience through the organisation of an online webinar series. This has been a success so far, contributing to an informed debate on relevant developments in the field of asylum in Europe and beyond.

The challenges ahead of us are exciting. Our Association has grown considerably in recent years, both in terms of members and followers. Our goal is now to strengthen our management structure, improve our working procedures and consolidate our activities, while also acquiring a more pronounced international dimension.

We also intend to expand our digitalisation and communication activities. The situation of asylum seekers and refugees in the world is ever more intolerable. We will continue to raise awareness, disseminate knowledge and build a welcoming culture, with the quality, distinctiveness and dedication that has characterised our work so far.

Lorenzo Vianelli

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorenzo Vianelli', written in a cursive style.

We are proud  
of us

In less than 10 years, AiE has achieved a significant impact in both Italy and Europe.

Our freely accessible COI database, unique in Italy, has become a key reference for practitioners. It includes 210 COI fact sheets featuring 14 countries.



## A C H I E V E M E N T S



### COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION (COI)

We published 19 new fact sheets in our database, adding new countries (Bangladesh, El Salvador, Venezuela, Tunisia) and keeping up-to-date those already covered.

We also produced 3 COI fact sheets upon request on the justice system in Ghana, the situation in Erbil (Iraqi Kurdistan), and mental health policies in Bangladesh.

A lawyer who commissioned our COI fact sheets stated:

*"The work of Asilo in Europa crucially enabled me to understand the problems of my clients and to defend them before Tribunals as well as the Ministry of Interior. In several appeals lodged by my law firm, and still pending, we could assist every single appellant thanks to the collaboration of Asilo in Europa. Their work was excellent. It allowed me to consider thoroughly every individual case"*

## We are proud of us

On its social media platforms, AiE counts on a fast-growing network of almost 13,000 followers. In 2020, our website was visited 30,798 times, mostly by young users (below 35 years of age).

On the Emilia Romagna Regional Authority's website, the section on asylum seekers and refugees to which AiE largely contributed has been visited 1,711 times. The content produced by AiE received 72,9% of the total number of views (1,249)

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

In 2020 alone, we estimate we reached at least 4,360 people through our online training and public events



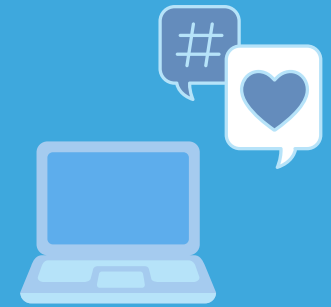
Our followers said:

*"Thank you, this is information, do more live broadcasts, you are great!"*

*"It is unacceptable that this is happening in Europe. Thank you for your contribution, information, and awareness-raising. To these young, brave professionals and volunteers: well done!"*

*"Independent monitoring is essential, we are with you. Thank you for this live stream!"*

*"Very important meeting, on a topic about which little is known. I hope to be able to watch it again in replay."*



One of our partners said:

*"For years, our organisation has been cooperating with Asilo in Europa - a reliable partner in the field of asylum and migration - particularly with respect to COI research to support our legal team and training for our social workers."*

*Up-to-date knowledge and the real possibility of exchanging with different experiences in the European context are key strengths of their work."*

*The recent training module on the situation in Ghana and in Serbia received a positive evaluation by our legal and reception officers, who found it useful for their daily activities"*

*(Legal Team and Training Office - Arca di Noè Soc. Coop. Soc.)*

# We are proud of us

AiE has 49 members and is run by an Executive Board composed by 7 members, including the President. In 2020, all its members were volunteers.



While most members live in different areas of Italy, AiE is also present in Spain, France, Belgium, Malta, and the UK, amongst other countries.



The vast majority of AiE members are women (81.6%), also occupying 6/7 of the Board seats.



68% of us are young people, aged less than 35 years old.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### ADVOCACY

On September 23rd, the European Commission published the "New Pact on Migration and Asylum", thereby presenting five proposals for regulations and three recommendations. AiE published a technical analysis of these documents, which is freely accessible online.



### RESEARCH

In 2020, AiE published a study on the decisions made by the Court of Bologna on international protection appeals lodged between August 2017 and December 2018.

The study stems from a collaboration between AiE, the Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority, the Court of Bologna.

The research is based on quantitative and qualitative data, and it also includes a focus on applicants from Bangladesh and Nigeria. Research findings have been presented in a number of public events.

### OPEN KNOWLEDGE

More than 350 documents are available and freely accessible on AiE's website: fact sheets, comparative analyses, legal commentaries as well as academic theses on international protection.





"Asilo in Europa represents a very important part of my professional experience. Our purpose, in 2013, was to provide Italian social workers and civil servants with some information on EU law and policy on asylum, which was strangely absent from the debate within the Italian asylum community. I did not expect such an interest. Thanks to Asilo in Europa I had the opportunity to meet amazing people and to grow professionally."

- Alessandro, Founding member and former President (2013-2017)

## TESTIMONIALS

Our volunteers talk about their experience with AiE in 2020, their intentions for the future, and what is great about being part of the organisation. Nothing we have accomplished in this complex year would have been possible without them. Thank you, team!

"AiE gives me the opportunity to engage with a group of professionals with different skills and points of view on topics I care about. It's inspiring and I learn so much!

The main challenge of 2020 was the impossibility of seeing each other and organising public events.

In the future, I'd like to see the other members again for a weekend meeting, and expand our COI activities by replicating the partnership we had with the Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority in other regions."

- Giulia, COI team

"Being part of AiE means to contribute to the promotion of in-depth knowledge and information sharing on relevant international protection issues; the creation of opportunities for discussion and exchange of views at national and European level; the advocacy of asylum policies that respect fundamental rights and freedoms.

In 2020, AiE had to quickly readjust its methodology of work in order to continue its activities. Succeeding in organising online webinars was a great achievement of this year!"

- Federica, Board member





## Share the knowledge

Join the supporters of Asilo in Europa: defend the fundamental rights of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.

Help us grow, maintain our databases up to date and expand the resources available on our website.

Contribute to the development of our dissemination activities, allowing us to organise new training and events.



# GOALS

## DATA PROTECTION POLICY



We respect the fundamental rights to privacy and data protection, which ultimately safeguard individual dignity. Therefore, AiE fully commits to the rules set out in the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). As many activities are now carried out online due to anti-Covid measures, AiE is facing new challenges in protecting the privacy of data subjects. To address these issues, we will develop a more comprehensive privacy policy.

## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



We intend to further expand and diversify our membership by recruiting new members from different parts of the world and with diverse cultural and professional background.

## PROXIMITY



We plan to develop surveys and other evaluation tools in order to systematically collect and analyse feedback from the recipients of our work. We also intend to develop specific measures to safeguard our volunteers and stimulate their participation.



## TRANSPARENCY



We want to further increase the transparency of our activities and organisation. The publication of the annual report is the first step in this regard, which will be followed by other measures, such as the permanent improvement of our website and the definition of an accountability policy towards our beneficiaries.

## ETHICS



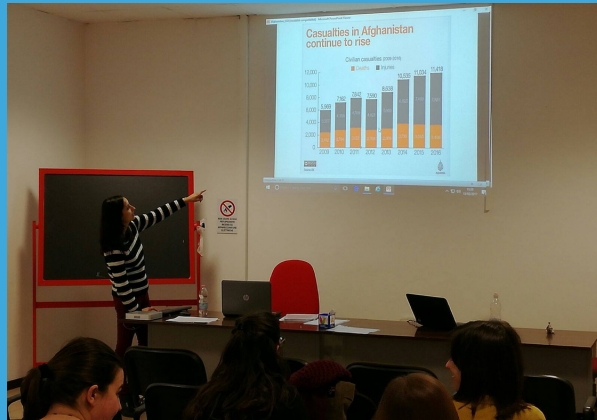
We aim to adopt a code of conduct with specific rules on internal and external communication. The adherence to shared ethical guidelines fits with AiE's scope of action: the promotion of in-depth knowledge and information sharing to the benefit of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.

# TREASURY REPORT

## INCOME

- 1) Income from ordinary activities 2,106.05 €
  - From projects 0,00
  - From public bodies 592,05 €
  - From members and associates 380,00 €
  - From non-members 1,134.00 €
  - Other income 0,00
- 2) Income from fundraising activities 0,00 €
- 3) Income from ancillary activities 0,00 €
- 4) Financial and property income 0,00 €
- 5) Extra income 0,00 €

TOTAL INCOME 2,106.05 €



## EXPENSES

- 1) Expenses for ordinary activities: 3,774.11€
  - Purchases/Goods 80.00 €
  - Services 1,927.29 €
  - Staff 0,00
  - Other management expenses 1,766.82 €
- 2) Expenses for promotional and fundraising activities: 81,40 €
- 3) Expenses for ancillary activities: 0,00 €
- 4) Financial and property expenses: 78,14 €
- 5) Extra expenses 0,00 €
- 6) Expenses for general management: 170,68 €

TOTAL EXPENSES 4,104.33 €



## BALANCE SHEET

Assets 13,251.19 €  
of which  
Receivables next 12 months 0,00  
Deposit accounts and cash 13,251.19

Liabilities and net equities 13,251.19  
of which  
Retained earnings (losses) 15,249.47  
Current earnings (losses) -1,998.28

## REVENUE ACCOUNT

Income 2,106.05 €  
Costs 4,104.33 €

Thank you  
for following us



9,383 followers on Facebook  
3,653 followers on Twitter

+9,445 attendees at training  
and public events

+368 documents on  
international protection, freely  
accessible online

## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

Asilo in Europa is a non-profit  
organisation, unique in Italy.

We make an impact both locally and  
internationally, thanks to our Europe-  
wide network.

Together, we are building and  
strengthening a welcoming culture  
towards asylum seekers and  
beneficiaries of international protection.

We would like to thank all the people,  
institutions and organisations that  
cooperated with us in 2020:

Arca di Noè Soc. Coop. Soc.  
ASP Città di Bologna  
Chiara Menicatti  
Consorzio l'Arcolaio  
Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority  
European Council on Refugees and  
Exiles (ECRE)  
Forum per Cambiare l'Ordine delle Cose  
Tribunal of Bologna  
Università degli Studi di Bologna

Special thanks also to the guests of our  
2020 webinars:

Alessandro Fiorini - Asilo in Europa  
Alessandro Tolomelli - UNIBO  
Arrigo Pallotti - UNIBO  
Bruno Riccio - UNIBO  
Catherine Woollard - ECRE  
Francesco Maiani - Univ. de Lausanne  
Francesco Damiano Portoghese - A Buon  
Diritto Onlus  
Giuseppe Nicolini - ASP Città di Bologna

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the photographs we used in this report!

