



# UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BERGAMO

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New Challenges and new Faces for Cooperation*

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**Circular Economy, Migration and Development:  
Italy and Countries with Strong Migratory Pressure**

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# *Aim*

This work aims at highlighting (inclusive and) sustainable development paths in Italy, Europe and countries where the largest immigrant communities come from, looking at them not just as a “useful labour force”, but as a “constituency force” equally entitled to express their potential and play a central role in development policies

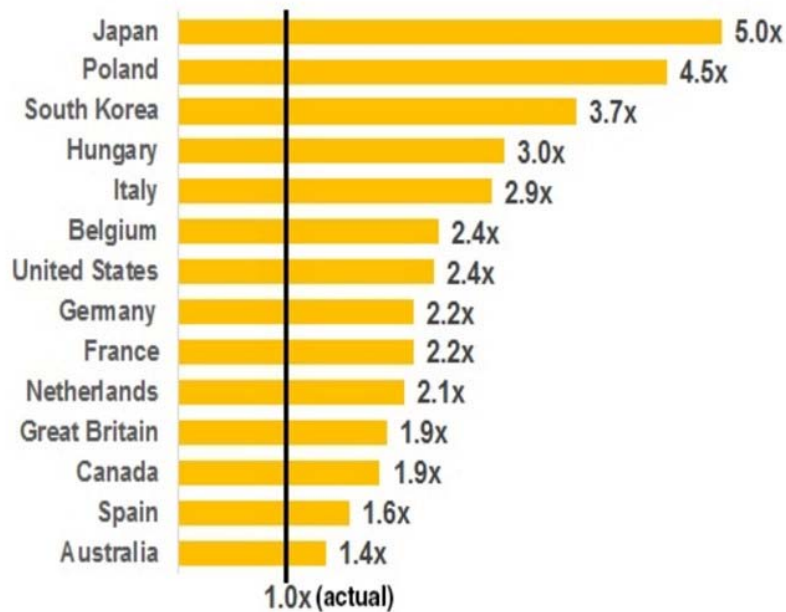
#decent works #inclusive and sustainable development  
#social innovation #income equality #quality education  
#lifelong learning #circular economy #circular mobility  
#circular development

# Outline

- Immigration in Italy: four cardinal points
  - The general framework: *a global narrative without a global governance*
  - The Italian legal framework: *(lack of) strong political will and hard decisions?*
  - The collective consciousness: *the Italian dream adrift*
  - The magnitude and trends: *the Euro-African communicating vessels*
- Circular development: *a paradigm for regional sustainable growth*
  - Circular economy: *a regenerative capitalism model*
  - Circular migrations: *fluid movement of interconnected people*
  - Circular development: *a “common playground” for Europe and Africa*
  - Circular development and innovation: *driving forces for and equitable growth*
  - The role of institutional actors
  - Three key elements for a circular development implementation
- Six memos for Italian policy making on immigration
- Conclusions

# *The general framework: a global narrative without a global governance*

*Percentage of population people believe are migrants (Gallup, 2016)*



- In 2015 (WB, 2015):
  - over 1 billion people in the world were migrants;
  - International migrations peaked at 244 million, that represents 3.3% of the world population;
  - The sum of financial remittances amounted to USD 581.6 billion (75% to developing countries, more than 3x the foreign aid received by such countries in the same year).
- There is a need of a **structured multinational debate** where the normative reflection could be treated within the grounds-of-justice.

# *The Italian legal framework: (lack of) strong political will and hard decisions?*

- Law nr. 943 - 30/12/1986 which was an attempt to regulate the work integration of migrants and their families.

*(Foreign residents in Italy 450,000).*

- Law nr. 39 - 28/02/1990 (Martelli) which acknowledged stable residency for migrants that live and work in Italy. Rights are not just related to working status but also human rights.

*(Foreign residents in Italy 781,138).*

- Law nr. 40 - 6/03/1998 (Turco-Napolitano) which also included social integration issues emphasising rights and duties of foreign residents (children's' protection, family reunifications, indefinite leave to remain, healthcare, education, anti-discrimination). It was a turning point since the spirit of the law shifted from the will to control migration flows linked to the domestic labour market, to a social inclusion system based on the migrants will to design a life plan in Italy.

*(Foreign residents in Italy 1.240.721)*

Today, there are very narrow routes for people from developing countries **to officially access Italy**. This can generate **social exclusion** and make public issues, from security to health, more uncontrollable (OIM estimates 10-15% of **illegal immigrants** worldwide in 2015).

Social exclusion is generated also among **refugees**, when not included in integration programmes.

The **international protection system** needs to be reformed and the **EU** should find an agreement that shares responsibilities fairly beyond the unattended Dublin regulation.

**Italy** should come up with an original strategy to deal with people on the move.

# *The collective consciousness: the Italian dream adrift*

The **collective imagery of Italians** on immigration has been forged through events that can't be deleted from its memory.

Bari 1991, Rosarno 2008, Lampedusa 2013.

We need a **new narrative on migrations** that inform about the reasons that push people on the move and about the scale of global transformations.

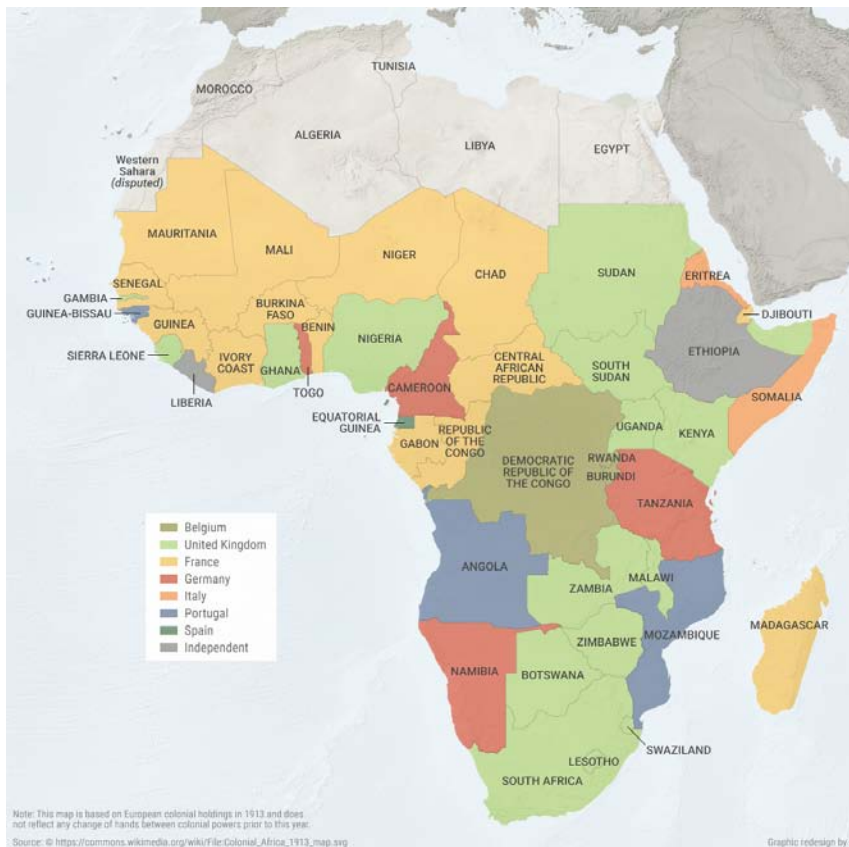
*The landing of 20,000 Albanians in Bari by the 8th August 1991 (London Review of Books 2015)*





# The magnitude and trends: the Euro-African communicating vessels

*Colonial powers influence in Africa  
(Geopolitical Futures, 2016)*



In **Italy**, migrants account for 8.8% of the 15-64 age range, 11% of the work force, 10.6% of employees and generate 120 billion euros GDP (8.7%) (IDOS, 2015).

Migrants will increase by **8 million in 2062** compared to 2012 (becoming 23% of Italian population) (ISTAT, 2016). Migrants from Sub-Saharan countries are the fastest growing segment.

What **the future migrant jobs** would be like then?

If they will still be *dirty, dangerous and demanding occupations for low salaries*, Italy will probably have lost its battle for competitiveness. If they will be innovative occupations, unleashing the whole immigrants potential, their energy, resilience and diversity, surely Italian economy will be stronger.

The Italian-African relations are **the core of both sides future development**.

# Circular economy: a regenerative capitalism model

*The circular economy scheme  
(European Union, 2017)*



A circular economy is a **regenerative system** able to minimize both input and output in productive processes, differently from a linear economy which is a 'take, make, dispose' model of production (Geisdsdoerfer, M., Savaget, P., Bocken, N.M.P., Hultink, E.J., 2017)

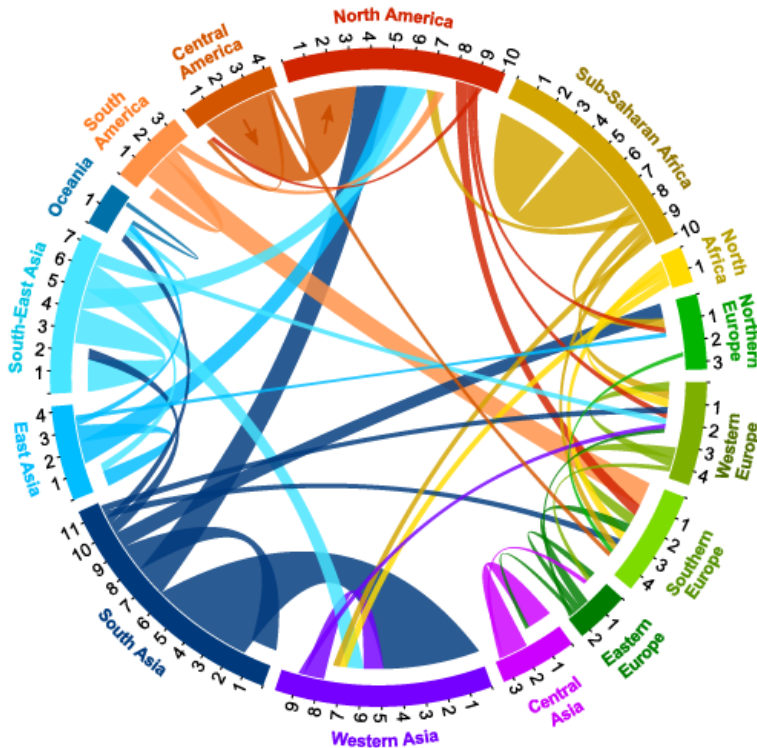
All this leaves no choice to **institutions** than supporting circular economy with sensible policies.

What is still underdeveloped is a robust model that capitalizes on circularity. What is at stake is a systematic change towards a **“regenerative” capitalism** (Fullerton, 2015, Jacobs, M., Mazzuccato, M. (eds), 2017) that shed new light on the importance of **fairness**, and the **unsustainability of high and growing inequality**, maintaining the dynamism of a **truly free enterprise system** that taps into the unique essence of individual human creativity and drive.



# *Circular migrations: fluid movement of interconnected people*

*Circular plot of migration flows between 50 countries in 2005-10 (Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, 2014)*



Immigration has never been so **fluid** and both hard (demography, jobs, income, costs generated) and soft (cultural, political and societal changes) impacts on societies is difficult to grasp.

What is new is the perception that **novel, urban, technology savvy, cross cultural, community based economies** could be more capable to capture the potential of temporary communities and help build upon it.

# *Circular development: a “common playground” for Europe and Africa*

*View of Africa from Gibraltar (credit:  
Terrameridiana, 2017)*



A **circular development** can be obtained as the integration of the virtuosity of the circular economy and circular migrations.

Given the deep implications of Euro-Mediterranean interconnections at every level, it is not exaggerated to talk of a **possible (a necessary?) co-development**.

# *Circular development and innovation: driving forces for and equitable growth*

*A Warka Water tower installation  
([warkawater.org](http://warkawater.org))*



**Innovation** hardly happens in isolation.

Circular development is the **perfect setting for contaminations of distant communities** (i.e. North-South) **and different sectors** of the same one (activists, tech savvy, businesses, universities).

The open source culture can create a common base of scientific knowledge and data, and opportunity for conversations to become dense. This **circular knowledge** allows **circular innovations** to rise even in deprived contexts

# The role of institutional actors

*Treaty of Rome signing by 25th march 1957  
(Gazzetta di Napoli, 1957)*



Of course such a circular development relies also on **institutions** that ignite and overview its governance.

Such institutions should promote an environmentally friendlier productive systems, a more equitable resource allocation, a wider and more qualitative job market, an open access to data, a more democratic process for corporate decisions, a global welfare system.

It takes rethinking sovra-national, national and sub-national policies in a **multi-level, multi-sector, multi-actor perspective** on the horizon of the SDGs.

# Three key elements for a circular development implementation

## Designing

Co-designing a stronger economic cooperation, focused on **circular economies**.

Italy should share its excellences in **clean energy and recycling** in African countries so that new jobs are generated.

Governments should create bilateral policies to allow **African students, workers, entrepreneurs to join Italian economies**.



## Reusing

The circular stream of products and processes, should be extended to **knowledge and communication**.

There are segments of the **Italian labour force** currently underused, that have lost their potential or still haven't gained enough, that can otherwise be key players in African economies. This would be the case for **junior graduates, researchers, technicians, workers displaced or young retirees**, that are willing to cross-adapt their competences in different environments.

## Producing

Growing African economies and Italy will increase their mutual prosperity with new circular economy schemes that will help African countries to **rationalize energy, avoiding waste mismanagement, increasing food security and developing tourism**.

**Italian universities, innovation centres, think tanks and fab labs with African counterparts**, can co-create technology based “zero impact machines” specific for rural communities increasing local jobs and business opportunities for Italian investors. Industrial symbiosis allows **waste or by-products of one industry to become inputs for another**.



# Six memos for Italian policy making on immigration

## Employment

### WHAT'S THE GROWTH STRATEGY?

Migrants need to be involved into the stream of more **qualitative economic systems**. Circular economy isn't just good at such but create spaces out of the *dirty, dangerous and demanding jobs*.

## Demography

### WHEN WILL THE DEMOGRAPHIC PYRAMID BE BALANCED?

It is vital to create a **family friendly environment** that facilitates youth autonomy and work life balance for all.

## Information

### HOW'S THE PUBLIC DEBATE GOING?

**Racial and religious misinformation** and **fake religious and ethnal news** are inflaming the public opinion. Institutions and citizens should actively leverage on the rule of law and their consumer power to make a change.

## Culture

### WHAT'S THE ITALIAN MODEL?

**Assimilation, multiculturalism** and **melting pot** failed elsewhere. Migrants and hosting communities, when **reciprocally interested**, can expose their values to different perspectives. The education system is key to develop a positive intercultural perspective.

## Politics

### WHO'S IN CHARGE FOR INTEGRATION?

Urgent measures are needed for unaccompanied **minors; second generations; NEET; undocumented immigrants**.

## Engagement

### WHERE DO WE START?

Any long-term strategy would need to engage **as many stakeholders as possible**, but certainly Governments, businesses and unions, educational and vocational systems, cultural agencies, non-profit institutions and media.





## *Conclusions*

An Euro-Mediterranean circular development strategy would be an opportunity to enlarge markets, achieve a fairer redistribution of wealth, reduce inequalities inside and between countries, decrease exploitations of natural resources, accelerate transfer of scientific knowledge, widen digital spaces.

**Are all actors ready to slow down the growth rate by using *capital* more patiently? Are they willing to achieve a more equitable/sustainable development also making human circulation more functional?**

THANK YOU!

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