



Italy, Turin - 'No one is a stranger'- Welcoming Migrants

In a block of flats in the city of Turin, 40 families from all over the world, mostly single mothers with children, are learning to live together with the help of AIC volunteers. Different services are on offer to help them with social integration, gaining independence and entering the job market: personal support, language classes, professional training, administrative assistance and other activities to encourage integration. For the children, the volunteers offer help with homework and recreational activities.

Context

For several years now, Italy has had to cope with the arrival of a lot of migrants, who are often very poor, from a wide range of places, but especially from Africa. Faced with this new form of poverty, several groups of AIC volunteers have organised projects to welcome the migrants and facilitate their integration. In shared places of residence, cultural diversity often makes cohabitation difficult, so integration activities are essential.



Project Theme and Activities

"Nessuno è straniero" (No one is a stranger) is a project which aims to welcome and integrate migrant families, mostly single mothers with children. Started in 2011 by a group of AIC volunteers from Turin in the north of Italy, the project notably includes the following activities:

- Listening sessions with development and follow-up of life projects and various types of support, especially with administrative formalities.
- Italian classes; checking that residents have a basic level of education; professional training courses and participation in small income-generating activities to facilitate entry on the job market.

- Organisation of integration activities, notably through discussions on the topic of integrating foreigners.
- School support for children and recreational activities for the youngest ones.
- Other services on offer: food parcel distribution; medical and dental care; a babysitting service run by the migrant mothers who aren't working; a library.

Key Figures

- 40 families accommodated
- 60 children aged 4 to 14
- 1500 hours of listening services per year
- 1600 hours of after-school support to children per year



Partnerships

- The municipality of Turin
- The *Don Mario Operti* Foundation
- Other groups of volunteers in Turin

Future Prospects and/or Impact

The number of migrants arriving in Italy is constantly growing. The help that AIC volunteers can provide them through personalised support designed to make it easier for them to integrate, become independent and find a job therefore continues to be highly valuable.

Other initiatives currently under consideration in order to improve the services on offer: a "time bank" which will allow everyone, according to their skills, to contribute to activities that are useful to all residents; IT classes; story reading for children.