

THE EUROPEAN DREAM ROAD TO BRUXELLES

UN PROGETTO

IN COLLABORAZIONE CON

**CORT
ONA
O
N THE
MOVE**
fotografia in viaggio



Salvation for many people means chasing the European Dream. There are many stories about people who have been forced to flee from their home country but were unable to find shelter due to restrictive laws, poor information about the reasons for their exodus and lack of sensitivity within the host country.

Alessandro Penso has spent a lot of time with these refugees, documenting their stories in photographs. A large container truck will depart on a symbolic journey to visit those locations which have become "The European Dream" for so many people.

Penso's work will be on display in the truck in a photographic exhibition and the faces, objects and life scenes he has depicted will all end up in Brussels as a symbolic message aimed at the European Union.

A dream for a Europe that listens, helps and gives shelter.

Rincorrere il sogno europeo per tanti significa salvezza. Esistono tante storie di persone costrette a fuggire ma che non trovano accoglienza per via di leggi restrittive, scarsa informazione circa le cause della loro fuga, poca sensibilità da parte dei paesi ospitanti.

Alessandro Penso ha raccolto le storie di queste persone in un lavoro fotografico.

Un Camion partirà e percorrerà un viaggio simbolico attraverso le tappe di quello che per tanti è "The European Dream".

Sul camion sarà presente la mostra fotografica del lavoro di Penso: volti, oggetti, scene di vita che raggiungeranno simbolicamente Bruxelles per dare un messaggio all'Unione Europea.

Il sogno di un'Europa che ascolta, che aiuta, che accoglie.

MAIN SPONSOR



SPONSOR



PARTNER



CON IL PATROCINIO DI



RETRO

Trends at a Glance. 2013 in review

↗ 28%

An estimated **612,700** **asylum applications** were registered in 2013 in the 44 industrialized countries covered by this report, some 133,000 claims more than the year before (+28%). This is the third consecutive annual increase and the second highest annual level of the past 20 years.

↗ 32%

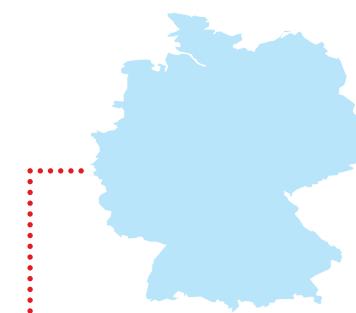
The **28 Member States of the European Union (EU)** registered 398,200 asylum claims in 2013, a 32 per cent increase compared to 2012 (301,000). EU States together accounted for 82 per cent of all new asylum claims submitted in Europe.

↗ 22%

Among regions in Europe, an overall increase of 22 per cent in annual asylum levels was reported by the **five Nordic countries** which received 76,400 asylum requests during 2013. The increase was uniform among all countries in this region. Reporting the second highest level on record with 54,300 asylum applications, Sweden was the main destination country accounting for 70 per cent of all new claims registered in this region.

484,600

Europe received 484,600 claims, an increase of 32 per cent compared to 2012 (368,400 claims).



109,600

With 109,600 new asylum applications registered during 2013, **Germany** was for the first time since 1999 the largest single recipient of new asylum claims among the group of industrialized countries.

+32%

1. GER 4. SWE
2. USA 5. TUR
3. FRA

58%
others **42%**

The **United States of America** was second with an estimated 88,400 asylum applications, followed by **France** (60,100), **Sweden** (54,300), and **Turkey** (44,800). The top five receiving countries together accounted for nearly six out of ten new asylum claims submitted in the 44 industrialized countries.

↗ 49%

In **Southern Europe**, the number of newly registered asylumseekers increased by 49 per cent to 89,600, the highest on record. Turkey was the main recipient of asylum applications in the region (44,800), followed by Italy (27,800) and Greece (8,200).

Top 5

1. SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
2. RUSSIAN FEDERATION
3. AFGHANISTAN
4. IRAQ
5. SERBIA (AND KOSOVO: S/RES/1244 [1999])

The **Syrian Arab Republic**, the **Russian Federation**, **Afghanistan**, **Iraq** and **Serbia (and Kosovo: Security Council resolution 1244 [1999])** were the five top source countries of asylum-seekers in the 44 industrialized countries in 2013.

(1) Henceforth referred to in this document as "Serbia (and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999))".

Adolescence Denied: Youth migrants in Greece (Alessandro Penso)

Hundred, thousands. Hiding in the abandoned industrial areas surrounding the port of Patras, in the defunct railway station in the centre of Corinth, in the slum areas around an Athens hard-hit by the economic crisis. These are the youths that I have documented in my work, some of whom are little more than kids. They arrive after desperate journeys of escape from wars that torture their homelands. However, those wars are just the start of their trials. Refugees from the Middle East and Central Asia attempt to reach Europe via Greece, its eastern doorway. But when they reach Greece they are blocked by ever-tightening security controls and a widespread racism that often degenerates into neo-nazi violence.

Many of them hope to re-create a life that would be quite unthinkable in their country of origin. The young Afghan boys who I encountered are fleeing from the forced militarisation program that was initiated by the Taliban in Afghanistan after the war that broke out in 2001. Yet others are fugitives from the raging revolts of North Africa. It is their hope that the civil rights they were denied in their countries of origin, due to the radicalisation of violence, will be recognised here.

The official acknowledgement of religious, ethical or political persecution could help them obtain a refugee status in EU countries, though certainly not in Greece.

As a result these young refugees are forced into hiding: if the Greek military authorities registered their names it would end their dreams of a safe haven in Europe once and for all. I learned that this may be a consequence of the Dublin Regulation, the EU law which assigns responsibility for assessing asylum claims. According to the regulation, the country where the person entered may be responsible for assessing the claim using EU laws.

Not only have the Mediterranean countries been the worst affected by the influx of these young refugees, but they are also the countries with the least economic resources available to manage the influx. The tough social conditions existing within these countries has given vent to a cultural rejection, to xenophobia and to violence that, for the incoming refugees, represents an insurmountable obstacle to obtaining even the most basic of human rights.

Centinaia, migliaia. Nascosti nelle aree industriali abbandonate che circondano il porto di Patras, nella vecchia stazione in disuso nel centro di Corinto, nei 'buchi urbani' che punteggiano il paesaggio di Atene ferita dalla crisi.

Sono i ragazzi, alcuni giovanissimi, che ho seguito in questo lavoro. Arrivano dopo viaggi disperati dalle guerre che negli ultimi anni hanno martoriato i loro paesi. La guerra però, per loro, non è stata che l'inizio della tragedia. Coloro che provengono dal Medio Oriente e dall'Asia centrale tentano di raggiungere l'Europa attraverso la sua porta orientale, la Grecia.

Qui restano bloccati, tra controlli di sicurezza sempre più aspri e un razzismo dilagante che spesso degenera in violenza neonazista.

Per molti c'è la speranza di poter ricostruire una vita impossibile da vivere nel paese d'origine. I ragazzi afgani, giovanissimi, che ho incontrato, fuggono dalla militarizzazione forzata praticata dai talebani in Afghanistan, successivamente dalla guerra che ha coinvolto il paese nel 2001. Molti altri, in fuga dal rovente Nordafrica in rivolta, nella speranza di potersi vedere riconosciuti i diritti negati dalla radicalizzazione della violenza nei paesi di provenienza. Persecuzioni a causa di motivi religiosi, etnici, di opinione politica potrebbero far ottenere loro lo status di rifugiati nei Paesi dell'Unione, ma certamente non in Grecia.

Per questo motivo sono costretti a nascondersi, perché un'eventuale schedatura da parte della polizia greca significherebbe la fine del sogno di un'accoglienza sicura in Europa. Lo dice il regolamento di Dublino, la legge Ue sulla competenza in materia di concessione dell'asilo, secondo cui il primo Stato in cui si viene identificati è quello a cui spetta il diritto e il dovere di decidere se concedere lo status di rifugiato o meno, indipendentemente da dove viene presentata la domanda.

I paesi dell'Europa del sud si sono ritrovati ad essere contemporaneamente i più colpiti dall'affluenza e anche i più poveri di risorse economiche per sostenerne la gestione. Le difficili condizioni sociali interne hanno dato origine a fenomeni di chiusura culturale, di xenofobia e di violenza che rappresentano per chi arriva un ostacolo invalicabile per raggiungere il godimento dei più basilari diritti umani.

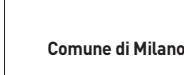
MEDIA COVERAGE



CON IL PATROCINIO DI



IN COLLABORAZIONE CON



**CORT
ONAO
N THE
MOVE**

fotografia in viaggio

