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Secondary Movements in Italy/Brenner & Sweden

Serena Caroselli & Isabelle Johansson

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INSigHT
Building Capacity to
Deal with
Human Trafficking and
Transit Routes in
Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

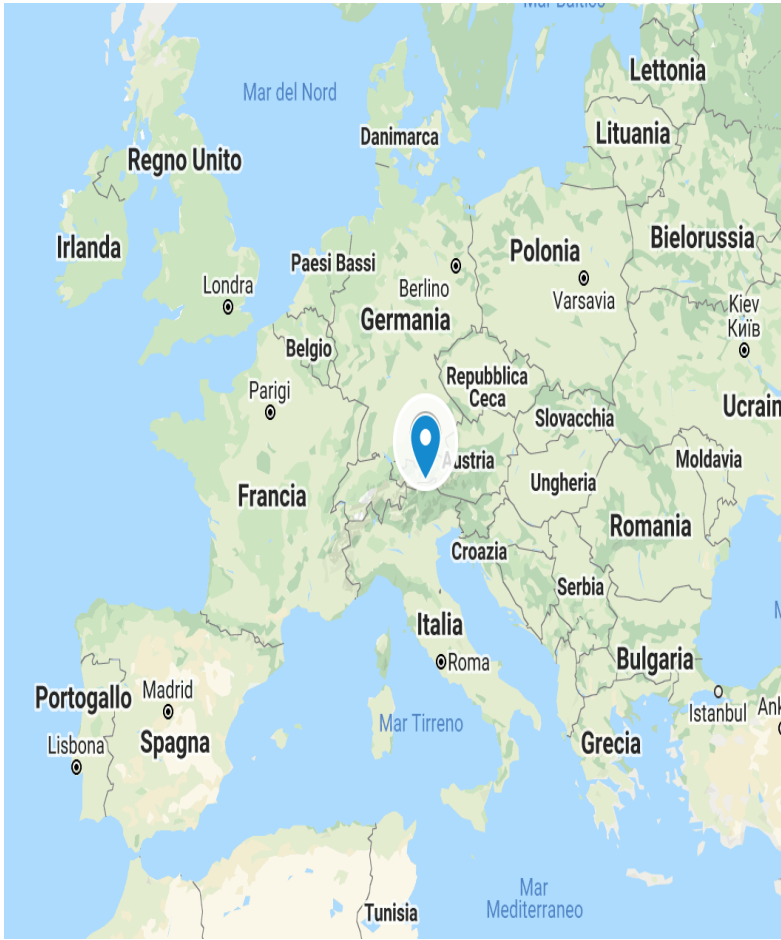
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Secondary Movements

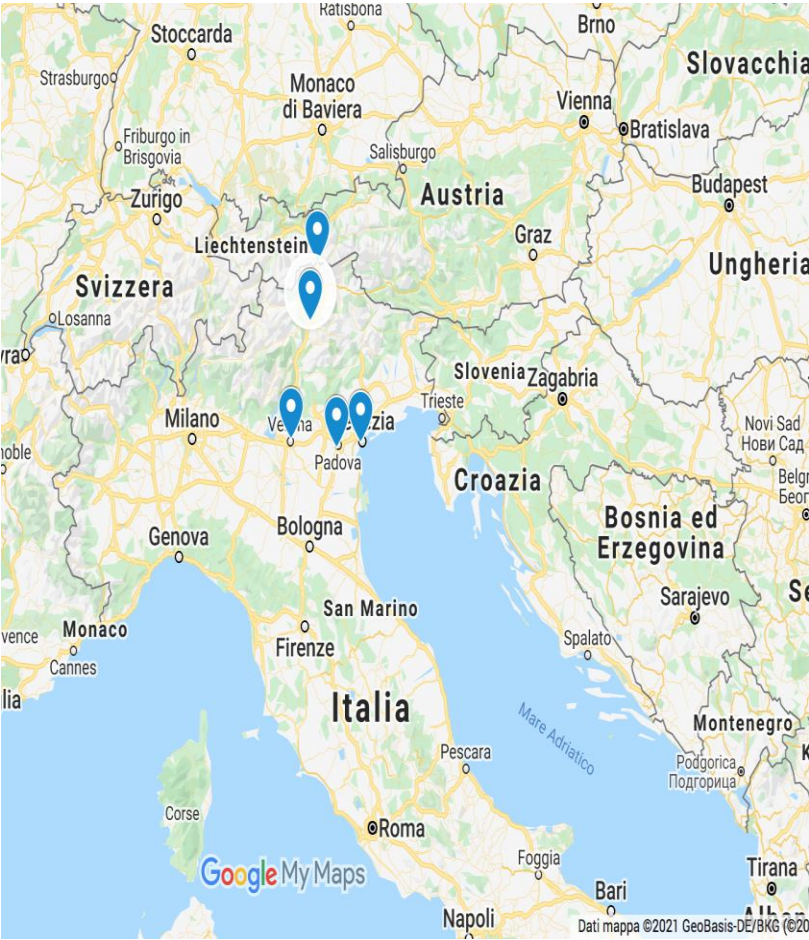
The movement of migrants who move from the country where they first arrived to seek protection or permanent resettlement to a different country (EC, n.d.) The reasons for movements vary, as do the modes of travel.

- Dublin procedures (Dublin readmissions to Italy);
- Readmissions from Brenner (formal and informal);
- Circular mobility between European countries - the role of trafficking networks and serious exploitation for crossing borders.

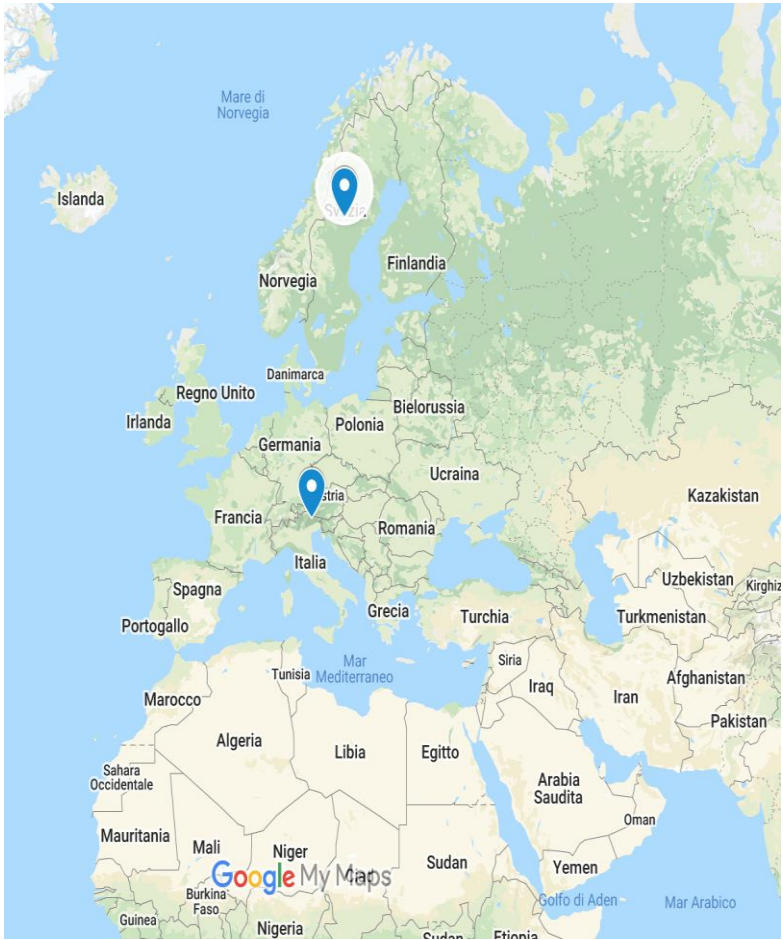
Increase in secondary movements within the EU/Schengen area the past 3 years (Frontex, 2020).




Bolzano - Brennero




Rotta del Brennero



Italia - Svezia



Brenner border – City of Bolzano



- Trilateral Agreements Italy - Austria - Germany (1997 - 2014 - 2017 *art.25 Schengen Border Code*);
- No rapid system of identification of victims of trafficking (women and minors);
- Border law enforcement - referring to Questura in Bolzano (for regularisation);
- Geographical border extended over to Bolzano that becomes an “internal border” (access to Questura - access to/admission to reception);
- Reception system in Bolzano/Brenner is de-structured – differential inclusion (Circolare Critelli 27/09/206 - quota system – temporary reception for autonomous arrivals);
- Problematic reception for “out-of-quota arrivals” (hotels - 2018 mega mixed centres - reception facilities outside city/region).



The Alba antitrafficking project (*Volontarius - La Strada Derweg - CONSiS*)



- Three entities/areas: outreach/emergence - reception - inclusion;
- Critical issues in evaluation/identification of Nigerian women asylum seeker and potential victims of trafficking (2017-2020): virtual case managers - no mediation - no psychological support;
- “Concentre case-module” for referral between antitrafficking and asylum system/Integration Protocol/ System of referral;
- Need for a pre-emergence centre for women arriving in Bolzano (often Nigerian mothers with children/ informal re-admissions/ victims of sexual exploitation in Europe/ victims of trafficking/ exposure to criminal networks)

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Dublin System

- In the Italian normative framework, victims of trafficking are recognised as «**vulnerable people**» with specific reception needs (Directive 2011/95/UE; Directive 2013/33/UE), hence any transfer should be organised with due consideration for individual guarantees of protection and to ensure reception standards;
- Victims of trafficking subject to the Dublin procedure should be ensured adequate assistance to prevent returns to and/or re-trafficking from the country of origin; hence an effective collaboration between the Dublin units in various Member States is crucial as well as the effective functioning of the **National Mechanisms of Referral**;
- In the first months of 2019 the number of asylum seekers **transferred to Italy** with the Dublin procedure has been higher than the number of arrivals via Mediterranean;
- The Alba project has developed a coordination with the **KOK antitrafficking project** based in Berlin (Germany) to promote dialogue and exchange of practices and the development of a network to manage «Dublin cases».



Sweden: A Country of Secondary Movement



- Sweden = country of secondary movement, with migrants passing through several countries before reaching Sweden.
- Vis-à-vis human trafficking, Sweden = primarily a destination country (GRETA, 2018).
- Peak in human trafficking convictions in 2018 (15).
- Crimes often been committed elsewhere, ex. Greece, France, Italy, Spain and Libya, and can be difficult to investigate in Sweden (Policy Authority, 2019).
- A well-functioning system for transnational collaboration is essential to ensure support to individuals identified as victims of trafficking (VoT) in Sweden.



Nigerian Women & Girls VoT in Sweden

- Nigerian women and girls as a known group of VoT.
First acknowledged by the police in 2007-2008.
- Nigerian women and girls VoT have come to Sweden after having been in EU-countries like Italy, France, Spain and Greece.
However, anti-trafficking stakeholders have come into contact with few Nigerian children.
- In 2019, 298 individuals were identified as VoT (/potential VoT) in Sweden (Gender Equality Agency, 2020a; 2020b).
Most prevalent countries: adults = Romania (53) & Nigeria (36); children = Romania (14) & Morocco (12).
36 Nigerian adults (35 women, 1 man) and 3 children (2 girls, 1 boy).
Registered Nigerian asylum seekers in the Swedish Migration Agency's system 2019: 244 men, 145 women and less than 20 children.

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The National Referral Mechanism (NMR)

- The NRM describes the responsibilities of different actors, agencies and organization who may come into contact with individuals VoT.
- Set up in 2016 – a positive development in Sweden's work with human trafficking (GRETA, 2018). 2019, modificato X
- The NRM is composed of six steps:
 - 1) Identification; 2) Emergency Protection; 3) Initial Support; 4) Long-term Support; 5) Criminal Proceedings; 6) A Safe Return.
- The NRM is geared towards the prosecution of offenders and the return of individuals identified as VoT to their country of origin/residency right.

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The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

- In the current NRM, protection and support measures are greatly dependent on participation in criminal proceedings.
- No formal system for identifying VoTs outside the realms of criminal proceedings.
- Residence permits dependent on collaboration with law enforcement.

The 30-day reflection period permit, allowing individuals to consider collaboration with law enforcement, requires the initiation of a preliminary investigation as only preliminary investigation leaders (PIL) can apply for it. PIL cannot apply for the permit unless there is a chance to bring about charges against an accused offender (in Sweden).

- Lack of long-term support as returns remain the final outcome of the NRM.

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Nigerian Women & Girls VoT in Sweden

- Nigerian women and girls have arrived in Sweden after having been in exploitative situations in other EU-countries, but exploitation has also occurred in Sweden.
- Nigerian women and girls have sought asylum in Sweden after having been exploited in Sweden and/or other EU-countries.
- Only a few cases where Nigerian women have received asylum or another form of protection in Sweden.

Their chances are limited, especially if they are “Dublin”.
- The focus of the Swedish National Referral Mechanism (NMR) partly accounts for their limited prospects of protection and support.

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Conclusions

- Along the Brenner route, the invisibility of victims increases and access to protection is made complicated by a fragmented intervention system;
- Sweden's main objective is criminal proceedings and the return of individuals identified as VoT to the country of origin/residency right;
- Do the European policies and their variations in the countries studied manage to break the mechanisms of circular mobility and criminal networks?
- Does the current Dublin system protect victims?
- The research shows that the systems in place do not sufficiently guarantee the protection of victims, and that well-functioning transnational collaboration must take place in order to avoid returns and re-trafficking from countries like Nigeria.



Grazie/Thank You!

scaroselli@iuav.it
mlijohansson@iuav.it

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